

Paul Went to Rome

The Gospel Project: Unit 35 Session 4

Acts 27-28

Midweek Bible Class

Week of May 4th, 2025

Christ Connection: Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue him from the storm. He encouraged the sailors to trust and obey God too. God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to invite others to believe this good news as well.

Big Picture Question: Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

Memory Verse: PS: Lord, I will praise Your name. Isaiah 25:1; Elem: Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Spiritual Discipline: Bible Study

Leader Bible Study: Take a moment to check in with yourself and how your view of Bible study has changed over the past few weeks. Have you been able to take time out of your schedule to study God's Word? Have you felt encouraged by leading others through the discipline of studying God's Word? If not, this excuse may resonate with you. Sometimes, maybe for no apparent reason, we just might not have the desire to study God's Word. This lack of desire can be rooted in many situations in life.

Think of a time when you didn't feel like going to a party you were invited to, doing a project that was due soon, or maybe attending a commitment you were no longer interested in. Then

think about the outcome when you actually completed the task or joined in on the fun. The reality of life is that sometimes we have to do things that we don't feel like doing, and usually the outcome proves to be worth it.

The devil tempts us to not see the exciting and interesting parts of the Bible. He wants to see us choose forms of entertainment or distraction over reading the Word. The devil wants us to see us hit the snooze button for 15 more minutes instead of getting up and having a quiet time. Some days, we have to fight against our own body and sinful nature to get to the Word of God, the Bread of life, our guiding light. And like many other aspects of life, we realize we're better off after reading it than we were before.

When we read the Bible, we feel closer to God and can more easily notice the temptations that the devil brings before us. Choose three days in your upcoming week where you will promise yourself to read the Bible and study it. Text those days to a close friend and ask them to hold you accountable to your commitment.

This week we will be teaching that when we read the Bible, we get to learn about salvation through Christ! We wouldn't want to miss out on that important truth just because we weren't feeling like reading the Bible. Take a moment to pray and ask God to give you the passion for His Word and the path to salvation that it reveals to us.

[Welcome](#)

Sing Songs

The Floor is Lava

Materials: random objects

Lay out objects on the ground such as hula hoops, floor dots, and pieces of construction paper. Let the kids wander around until you say "The floor is lava." Then count down from five, at which point the

kids must be standing on an object by the time you finish counting. Kids can share the same object by trying to all stand in one hula hoop or everyone trying to put one foot on the piece of paper. Anyone who doesn't make it in time has to sit out for one turn. You can make the game harder by giving a specific color for them to stand on and saying "The floor is lava...purple!"

What's On My Back?

Materials: index cards with one book of the Bible printed on each one, tape

Tape a card to the back of each kid. Challenge the kids to put themselves in order by the books on their backs, without telling the other kids which book is taped to their back. To make it easier, just challenge them to organize themselves based on whether the books are in the Old or New Testament. For an added challenge, ask kids to put themselves in the correct order without speaking at all.

Match It!

Materials: 2 sets of index cards with one book of the Bible printed on each one

Mix up the cards and lay them out in a grid. Encourage the kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time. If the cards match, then they keep the pair and get to take another turn. If the cards don't match, then it becomes the next kid's turn. The kid with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.

Change Places If...

Materials: none

Direct everyone to stand in a circle. Explain that you will say statements starting with "Change places if..." and then finish with an

action or description, such as “Change places if you’ve flown on a plane.” If kids have done that, they will run to a new spot in the circle. You can also invite kids to take turns picking out statements.

[Learn About Bible Study](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Ask, ***“We have been studying the spiritual discipline of Bible study. What are some other spiritual disciplines?”***

Say, ***“Those are great responses. Practices like prayer, worship, generosity, fasting, and many more are all considered spiritual disciplines. A spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action that helps us grow in love for God and godliness.”***

Group Game: Throw!

Materials: painter’s tape, paper

Establish two sides by creating a line down the middle of the game area with painter’s tape. Create two teams. Instruct the kids to crumple up pieces of paper and throw them on the floor on their team’s side. Explain that the goal is to get rid of all the paper balls by throwing them to the opposite side and vice versa. The team with the least amount of paper balls on their side when you call the game is the winner. Play several rounds.

Say, ***“It probably felt impossible to get rid of all of those paper balls. Every time you threw a ball to the other side, more would come flying back at you. Sometimes that’s what sin feels like. It can seem like we will never get away from our sin. It might even feel impossible, like maybe we have too much sin. But when we study the Bible, we see that Jesus has already come to the earth***

and take away all of our sin. It was an impossible task for us, but Jesus stepped in and took care of it! We can be free from that feeling of drowning in our sins! We don't have to worry about our past sticking with us when we are made new in Christ. Jesus completely wipes away our sin."

Review the Discipline of Bible Study

Materials: none

Say, ***"Today we will be learning about salvation. Where can we learn more about salvation? (Allow responses.) In the Bible, of course! Perhaps one of the greatest benefits to reading the Bible is gaining the knowledge of God's plan to restore our relationship with Him. His plan centered on sending His own Son, Jesus, to be a sacrifice for our sin. The Bible holds so many stories about Jesus' life here on earth before He died on the cross, stepping in as the perfect sacrifice that we could never give. By studying the Bible, we learn that there is forgiveness and freedom through Jesus."***

Follow Up on Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Say, ***"Last week, your challenge was to pick a favorite verse and share it with a friend. What were some of the verses you chose?"***

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles

Encourage kids to open their Bibles to 1 John 2:2. Point out that there are actually four books in the New Testament with John in the

title. The gospel of John, and then 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. Read 1 John 2:2 aloud.

Say, ***“We can learn about the life of Jesus by studying the Bible. Jesus was sent to us, by God the Father, to live a perfect life here on earth. Even though Jesus was perfect, he was still sent to die; He fully sacrificed Himself knowing He had not done anything wrong. Jesus knew He had to put Himself in our place as a sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 2:2 says that Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins and for those that come before us and those who will come after us. When we study the Bible, it encourages, guides, and teaches us, but the greatest gift of all is that it shares the knowledge of salvation with us.”***

Group Activity: Full Plates

Materials: paper plates, scissors, food-related magazines or catalogs

Give everyone a paper plate, scissors, and food-related magazine or catalogs. Lead kids to draw a line down the middle of the plate. Invite the kids to cut out pictures of food like candy, juice, water, and snacks and glue them on one side of the plate. They can also draw items on their plates if they can't find the food they are looking for.

Say, ***“How would you feel after eating these items? (Allow responses.) You probably wouldn't feel great. You would be asking for more pretty soon after eating because those foods are not nourishing or well balanced. It's OK to have those foods sometimes and they might taste good in the moment, but you wouldn't feel full for very long. If we ate those foods for every single meal, our body wouldn't feel very good. Let's fill the other side of the plate with foods that are more nutritious. Foods like***

vegetables, fruits, meats, grains, and eggs. We couldn't survive off of just the sweets and liquids."

Read Matthew 4:4.

Say, ***"This verse says we cannot live on bread alone, but we also need God's words to live our lives! If we lived our lives without reading the Bible, it would be like going through life without eating any fruits, vegetables, or the other nutritious foods we found. We need the Bible to help us live life the way God intended."***

Christ Connection

Materials: none

Say, ***"The Bible is where we learn about God's plan for us. God created a perfect world where everything was as He intended. But then Adam and Eve made the choice to disobey God, which brought sin into the world. Ever since then, all of humanity has been broken by the effects of sin. But God had a plan! He sent His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life and then die on the cross as the sacrifice for our sin. Through His sacrifice, we can be brought back into relationship with God by choosing to confess our sins and follow His plan."***

[Love God by Practicing Bible Study](#)

Rooted In Christ

Materials: craft items

Instruct kids to use the craft supplies to create a picture of a flower or tree. On the bottom of their paper they can write out 'The Bible helps us stay rooted in Christ.' On some of the leaves or flower

petals, encourage the kids to write some of the different Bible verse references that we have studied over the past few weeks.

Sticky Verses

Materials: pencils, sticky notes

Give each kid a few sticky notes. Lead them to write out encouraging verses such as: Psalm 37:23-24; Luke 12:32; Philippians 4:7; Deuteronomy 31:6; and Psalm 46:1-3. Prompt them to share the verses they chose with the group. Then give them a chance to trade verses with others in the class so they all have a mixture of different encouraging verses. Challenge the kids to put the stick notes in places they see each day, such as a bathroom mirror, a light switch, or an alarm clock. Encourage them to read the verses when they pass by those spots each day.

Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Challenge kids to share 1 John 2:2 with five people this week.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer below, pray in your own words, or ask a student to pray.

Say, ***“God, thank You for the greatest gift of all, the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for giving us an example of how to live through Jesus’ life. We are grateful for the truth of the gospel. Help us to remember that we are Your sons and daughters. Amen.”***