

Paul Was on Trial

The Gospel Project: Unit 35 Session 2

Acts 22-23

Midweek Bible Class

Week of April 13th, 2025

Christ Connection: Paul trusted God and believed that God, who showed His love for the world by sending His Son to die on the cross and rise again, would use the danger Paul faced to get Paul to Rome. We too can risk everything to share the gospel with courage because we know that God loves us and will care for us.

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: Think back to when you were in high school. Was there a class that you struggled with because no matter how hard you tried you just couldn't understand the material? Maybe math just didn't click with you, or you preferred to have a solid answer more than one left up to interpretation like in English class.

We have all struggled at one point or another to understand parts of the Bible. It truly can be hard to understand when we don't know how to break down what we are reading. The first excuse we might give to ourselves for not getting into God's Word is that it's too "over" our head. The words are big, the concepts are sometimes

hard to grasp, and honestly it was written so long ago. It's easy to give this excuse because those are all understandable arguments.

When we study God's Word, it involves time, discipline, and effort, but it is so worth it! Today we will be teaching kids that God's Word gives us wisdom. Wisdom in the Bible is the God-given ability to judge what is right and pleasing as we go through life.

An easy way to break down text and learn from is by asking four simple questions: 1) Who wrote this? 2) How does it point to God? 3) What lesson can I learn from this Scripture? 4) How can I apply this to my life moving forward? If you are struggling to comprehend some of the stories, there are a number of commentaries and study Bibles that can assist you in this process. Be encouraged to go the extra step, ask the extra questions, reach out when you don't understand. All of the wisdom God has for us is in the Bible- direct words from God. All we need to do is seek Him, and we will find understanding. Take some time to pray and ask God to guard you against using the excuse of not understanding as a way to avoid studying the Bible. Ask that when you seek wisdom, He will give it to you. Pray that God would guide you today as you prepare to share about the knowledge and wisdom that the Bible holds for all of 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.

[Learn About Bible Study](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Ask, ***"What is a spiritual discipline?"***

Say, ***"A spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action, that helps us grow in love for God and godliness."***

Ask, ***"What are some of the spiritual disciplines we have learned about?"***

Worship, prayer, Bible study, generosity, service, fellowship, rest, evangelism, celebration, fasting, and silence.

Group Demonstration: Personal Recipes

Materials: cookbook, paper, pencils

Hold up a cookbook and ask the kids what it is used for. Explain that we can look through a cookbook to find recipes, which tell us how to make different meals and foods. Give each kid a piece of paper and something to write with. Challenge them to create their own recipe, including ingredients, steps, and a picture of the final dish. After the kids have had a few minutes to create their recipes, invite them to share with the group.

Say, ***“Now, what if I decided to cook food without a recipe and just used whatever ingredients came to mind and followed whatever steps popped into my head? It may turn out OK, but there’s also a pretty good chance I would end up with some weird tasting food. That’s why a cookbook is so helpful! Someone has already tested and perfected the recipes, so we know that they’ll work when we follow the directions. When we have a hard situation or a decision to make, we don’t have to come up with a solution all on our own. We can look to the Bible for wisdom, advice, and instruction. In the Bible, God has given us the instructions for how life works best. Much like we trust the author of a cookbook has given us the instructions for how life works best. Much like we trust the author of a cookbook has given us the right steps to make a recipe, we can trust that God has given us the right steps to live life as He intended. We cannot rely on our own abilities, but we can rely on the One who created us!”***

Review the Discipline of Bible Study

Materials: none

Ask, ***“What spiritual discipline are we studying right now?”***

Say, ***“That’s right, we’re focusing on the spiritual discipline of Bible study. Last week, we learned that the Bible is our***

foundation for life. The Bible holds the words of God. If we build our lives on the instructions and wisdom that the Bible offers, we will grow in our relationship with God and we will gain insight.”

Ask, “The Bible gives us wisdom. Does anyone know what wisdom it?”

Say, “Wisdom is knowing the instructions God offers us in the Bible and choosing to live our lives based on them. The Bible gives us knowledge, truth, and stories that we can relate to, but we have to make sure we read it and follow what it says.”

Follow Up on Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Say, “Last week, our challenge was to ask someone to help us memorize either the books of the Old Testament or the books of the New Testament in order.”

Ask, “How did it go? Does anyone want to share the list of books they memorized so far?”

Say, “Great job! We don’t just memorize for the sake of knowledge or for the chance to impress people. We memorize information like the books of the Bible so that we can better use God’s Word.”

Read the Bible

Materials: Bible

Open your Bible to James 1:5. Take the time to help kids locate the verse in their Bibles as well. Read the verse aloud to the group.

Say, ***“How can we gain wisdom? This verse tells us that we just need to ask God and He will give it to us. In fact, He has already given it to us. Where can we find it? (Allow responses.) That’s right, the Bible! The Bible is one of God’s ways of talking to us and giving us advice. We might find ourselves in situations where we are unsure of what to do, but when we take time to study the Bible we will be able to recall the stories and characters who teach us what wisdom looks like as a follower of Christ.”***

Ask, ***“What is some wisdom you’ve learned from the Bible?”***

Say, ***“Absolutely! And the beautiful thing about the Bible is that the Holy Spirit continually teaches us through it. We can continue to learn from it each time we read God’s Word. God can use stories we’ve heard many times to teach us something new.”***

Group Game: The Ten Commandments

Materials: none

Lead the kids to spread out around the room. Explain that you are going to read a list of commandments. If the kids believe that one of them is part of the Ten Commandments, then they will jump up and down. But if the commandment is not one of the Ten Commandments, then they will lie flat on the ground. Use the following list, and feel free to add your own silly commandments to the game. (The bold commands are part of the Ten Commandments.)

- **Do not worship anything or anyone but God.**
- Only wear red clothes.
- **Do not make anything more important than God.**

- Read the Bible five hours a day.
- **Do not take the Lord's name in vain.**
- **Keep the Sabbath day holy.**
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- **Honor your parents.**
- **Do not murder.**
- When chewing bubblegum, blow five bubbles.
- **Keep your promises.**
- Do the chicken dance every time you brush your teeth.
- **Do not steal.**
- **Do not lie.**
- Get eight hours of sleep every night.
- **Do not be jealous of others.**

Say, ***“In our world it can be hard to know what’s wrong, what’s right, who to be friends with, how to spend your time, and what to do in tough situations. It’s easy to seek advice from friends or loved ones who are right next to you, but we often forget that we have a book with the greatest words of wisdom right at our fingertips. The Bible guides us and shows us what’s right. The Bible shows us commandments from God that teach us how to live a life pleasing to Him. Today’s verse reminds us that all we need to do is ask for wisdom, and God will show us through the Bible.”***

Christ Connection

Materials: none

Say, ***“God is the ultimate source for wisdom. He knows the perfect solution for every situation. When Adam and Eve brought sin into the world by disobeying God, it seemed like all hope was lost. But God had the perfect solution! In God’s***

wisdom, He planned for Jesus to come to earth hundreds of years later to be our Savior and bring us back into relationship with Him.”

Love God by Practicing Bible Study

Bible Binoculars

Materials: construction paper, tape, hole punch, string, scissors

Give each kid a piece of construction paper. Show them how to fold it in half and cut down the line so they have two equal sized pieces of paper. Roll each piece into a cylinder and tape it to hold the shape. Tape the two cylinders together, side by side. Punch a hole on either side of the binoculars. Tie a piece of string in each hole so kids can hang the binoculars around their necks as they go home. Encourage them to use their binoculars as a reminder that they can look to God’s Word for wisdom.

Bible Study Plan

Materials: paper, pencil

Give kids a piece of paper and something to write with. Lead each kid to write out the seven days of the week across the top of their paper. Then ask them to write out their schedule for each day, including commitments like school, family, extracurriculars, and church. Encourage kids to find a book or passage of Scripture they would like to study this week. Some reading suggestions include Ephesians, Psalm 119, or Psalm 23. Show them how to break it into smaller passages and assign a chapter or few verses each day. Guide them to choose a time of day and write in that day’s Bible passage. Challenge them to follow through with their Bible study plan this week.

Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Challenge kids to memorize James 1:5 with their families this week.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer, pray in your own words, or have a student pray.

Say, ***“God, thank You for giving us Your words so we don’t have to guess about how to live life. Help us when we are tempted to follow worldly advice from those who do not follow You. Give us the desire to spend more time in Your Word and help us grow in our relationship with You. Amen.”***