



THE GOSPEL PROJECT JR. Unit 34 Lesson 2: Paul before Rulers

Date: Sunday Sept 15, 2019 **Teachers:** Amberly B, Owen B, Owen S, Olivia B

CIRCLE TIME: (volunteer with little ones, Owen S, Olivia B) **(10 min)**

Welcome kids, sitting on chairs in circle (Lead Teacher)

Review Rules:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Three Chances to Obey (1st. warning 2nd. remove from activity 3. call parent)

INTRO BIBLE STORY: (materials: sheet provided with the lesson)

Invite a preschoolers to come forward and use a finger to trace the lines between Paul and different rulers. In today's Bible story, Paul was not able to preach about Jesus to large crowds of people, but that did not stop Him from sharing the good news. Paul told all kinds of people about Jesus. He told everyone—even kings—that only Jesus has the power to save people from sin.

THE BIBLE STORY (VIDEO)

BABY GOSPEL GEMS (use the pictures of Paul to share the Gospel Gems/have kids hold the pictures provided with the lesson)

Paul told rulers and leaders about Jesus.

Paul wanted everyone to hear and believe the good news.

We can tell people about Jesus.

SING A SONG:

Sing to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?":

"God is with us, God is with us everywhere, everywhere!

He will never leave us; He will always help us.

Trust in Him, trust in Him!"

Say: God chose Paul to tell people about Jesus. God was with Paul. God is always with us, and He loves us.

ACTIVITY: Encourage preschoolers to march like a soldier, salute like a commander, stand like a guard, walk like a king, wave like a queen.

Say• When Paul was in prison, he saw soldiers and guards. He was also taken to talk to rulers and kings.

The leaders wanted to learn whether Paul had done anything wrong. God chose Paul to tell all kinds of people about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: () (play the key passage video)

“To live is Christ.” Philippians 1:21

Say• Paul was not afraid to tell anyone about Jesus—even kings. He was willing to do anything to share the gospel. Paul knew that if he died, he would be with Jesus. With Jesus is the best place anyone can be.

(DISMISS TODDLERS TO PLAY AREA)

ACTIVITY:) “Follow the Leader!” *materials:*)

Form a single-file line. The first child in line is the leader. Preschoolers must follow the leader around the room imitating his actions. After a short amount of time, tell the leader to move to the back of the line. The person in the front of the line is the new leader. Continue play as time allows.

Say• Leader is another word for ruler. Leaders, or rulers, are people in charge. Paul preached about Jesus to rulers in our Bible story today. He hoped they would turn from their sin and believe the truth about Jesus. Paul believed Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do anything to share this good news.

OPTIONAL CRAFT IDEA:

Place a toddler’s hand with fingers splayed onto a sheet of paper. Trace around each toddler’s hand with a crayon so the child’s wrist is the base of a crown. Provide stickers or adhesive jewels for toddlers to stick on their crown. Write the Main Point on each child’s paper.

Say: Paul told rulers and leaders about Jesus. We can tell people about Jesus too. God is always with us.

PRAYER: *God, thank You for giving Jesus power to save us from sin. Make us like Paul so we will believe the good news about Jesus and be willing to do anything to share it with others. Amen.*

ACTIVITY/SNACK/CRAFT/ PLAYDOUGH: (Fishy crackers/animal crackers) **Activity/Colouring sheet** (last 15-20 min divide time between craft/snack)

The BIBLE Story
Paul Before Rulers

Acts 24:22-27; 25:1-14; 26:24-32

Paul had narrowly escaped death in Jerusalem. The Jews planned to kill Paul, but the Roman soldiers took him away to Caesarea, where he would be safe. However, Paul was still a prisoner. **The Roman leaders wanted to figure out why the Jews hated Paul so much. So Paul met with rulers to try to explain what was going on.**

First, Paul met with Felix the governor. Felix knew what Paul believed about Jesus, and he agreed to listen to him. Felix ordered the Roman guard to watch Paul but to also give him some freedom by letting Paul's friends come and serve him.

A few days later, Felix and his wife came for a meeting with Paul. **Paul talked about faith in Jesus. He talked about righteousness and self-control, and he explained that one day God is going to judge the world. Felix was afraid of what Paul said. He sent Paul away, but he met with him many times for the next two years. When a new governor came into power, Felix did not release Paul from prison.**

The new governor was named Festus. He traveled to Jerusalem to meet with the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders asked Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem. They were still planning to attack Paul and kill him. But Festus wanted Paul to stay in Caesarea. He invited some of the Jewish leaders to go with him to see Paul.

Paul stood before Festus. "I have not done anything wrong," Paul explained again. "If I have done something that deserves death, then I will die. But these men can prove nothing. I want to see Caesar!" Caesar was the emperor of Rome, and as a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to take his case to him. **Festus agreed.**

While Paul was waiting to go to Rome, King Agrippa and Queen Bernice visited Festus and Paul. Paul told the king how he became a believer. He explained that Jesus died to bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

"Paul, you are out of your mind!" Festus said.

"No," Paul said. "I am speaking the truth. I wish you—and everyone who is listening—might believe in Jesus."

King Agrippa, Festus, and the others with them got up. They agreed that Paul had done nothing wrong. The king was ready to free Paul, but Paul had already asked to go to Rome.

Christ Connection: God had chosen Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. (Acts 9:15-16) Paul met with people again and again to tell the good news about Jesus. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Because Jesus has the power to save people from sin, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.