

THE  
**GOSPEL**  
**PROJECT**  
FOR PRESCHOOL<sup>®</sup>

**All Things New**

*Preschool Worship Guide*

VOLUME 12



# THE GOSPEL PROJECT<sup>®</sup> FOR PRESCHOOL

## Table of Contents

### UNIT 34: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

—	<b>1:</b> Paul's Third Journey .....	<b>6</b>
—	<b>2:</b> Paul Was Arrested .....	<b>16</b>
—	<b>3:</b> Together in Jesus .....	<b>26</b>
—	<b>4:</b> Running the Race .....	<b>36</b>

### UNIT 35: FINISHING STRONG

—	<b>1:</b> Paul Before Rulers .....	<b>48</b>
—	<b>2:</b> Paul's Shipwreck .....	<b>58</b>
—	<b>3:</b> Brothers in Christ .....	<b>68</b>
—	<b>4:</b> Children of God .....	<b>78</b>
—	<b>5:</b> Defending the Faith .....	<b>88</b>

### UNIT 36: COME, LORD JESUS

—	<b>1:</b> John's Vision of Jesus .....	<b>100</b>
—	<b>2:</b> Letters to the Seven Churches .....	<b>110</b>
—	<b>3:</b> Before the Throne .....	<b>120</b>
—	<b>4:</b> Jesus Will Return .....	<b>130</b>



Write the dates for each session here! —

*The Gospel Project for Preschool:  
Worship Guide*

## All Things New

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# Unit 35: Finishing Strong

## Unit Description:

Paul's life is evidence that God is faithful, and He keeps His promises. Throughout his ministry, Paul encouraged believers facing hardship to stand strong in their faith as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Key Passage:

Philippians 1:6

## Big Picture Question:

What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## Session 1:

### Paul Before Rulers

*Acts 24–26*

**Story Point:** Paul told rulers about Jesus.

## Session 4:

### Children of God

*1 John 2–3*

**Story Point:** People who are God's children love one another.

## Session 2:

### Paul's Shipwreck

*Acts 27–28*

**Story Point:** Paul trusted God to keep him safe.

## Session 5:

### Defending the Faith

*Jude*

**Story Point:** Jude said to remember what is true about Jesus.

## Session 3:

### Brothers in Christ

*Philemon*

**Story Point:** Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.



## **Paul Before Rulers**

Paul told rulers about Jesus.



## **Paul's Shipwreck**

Paul trusted God to keep him safe.



## **Brothers in Christ**

Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.



## **Children of God**

People who are God's children love one another.



## **Defending the Faith**

Jude said to remember what is true about Jesus.

Use Week of:

## Unit 35 • Session 1

# Paul Before Rulers

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Acts 24–26

### STORY POINT:

Paul told rulers about Jesus.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 1:6

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

**TEACH THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
PAGE 52



**EXPERIENCE THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 54



**REVIEW THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
PAGE 56



**Leaders, grow on the go!** Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or LifeWay's Digital Pass:  
[ministrygrid.com/gospelproject](http://ministrygrid.com/gospelproject) | [gospelproject.com/podcasts](http://gospelproject.com/podcasts)

## LEADER Bible Study

Paul was in custody in Caesarea, the capital of the Roman province of Judea. The Jewish leaders had brought serious charges against him, so Paul now stood before Felix, the governor. Felix listened to Paul's defense but delayed a ruling. He met with Paul off and on for two years. When his time as governor ended, Felix left Paul in prison because he did not want to upset the Jews.

Festus succeeded Felix as governor. The Jews presented their accusations against Paul and asked Festus to bring him to Jerusalem. They hoped to ambush Paul as he traveled and kill him. But Festus invited Paul's accusers to make their case in Caesarea. When Festus heard Paul's case, he asked if Paul wanted to be tried in Jerusalem. Paul, knowing his rights as a Roman citizen, appealed to be heard by Caesar.

Several days later, King Agrippa visited Festus and heard about Paul. He asked to listen to Paul's defense himself. Festus wasn't sure how he would justify his sending Paul to Caesar without substantiated charges, and he hoped this hearing would provide stronger evidence against Paul. Festus told Paul he was out of his mind, but they determined Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

With these events, Paul was positioned to go to Rome, just as God had said he would. (See Acts 19:21; 23:11.) God had chosen Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. (See Acts 9:15-16.) Paul was confident that Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.

As you teach preschoolers, prompt them to consider how Paul might have felt as he spoke before rulers and remained in custody for two years. Lead them to consider how God was at work to keep His promises.

# The BIBLE Story

## Paul Before Rulers

*Acts 24–26*

Paul was in prison, but he was safe for now. A group of Jews in Jerusalem **had tried to hurt him**, and the Roman soldiers took him away to meet with **important leaders**. The leaders **wanted to figure out** what was going on and **why people were angry with Paul**.

**First, Paul met with Felix, the governor.**

Felix told the jail guards to let Paul's friends visit him. Then, a few days later, Felix asked Paul to come speak to him and his wife. **Paul talked about faith in Jesus**. He told them about being right with God and having self-control. **Paul said that one day God is going to judge the world.**

Felix was afraid of what Paul said. He sent Paul away. For two years, Paul stayed in prison and sometimes met with Felix to talk. But Felix did not let Paul go free.

Then a new governor came, and his name was Festus. Festus met with Paul and Paul said, "I have not done anything wrong. I want to see Caesar!" Caesar was the emperor of Rome. As a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to take his case to

him. Festus agreed.

Before Paul went to Rome, Agrippa—king of Judea—and the queen came to visit. Paul told the king about how he became a believer. He



told the king that Jesus died to bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

“Paul, you are crazy!” Festus said.

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

The king and other leaders got up. They **did not think Paul had done anything wrong**. The king was ready to let Paul go, **but Paul had asked to go to Rome, so they had to send him there**.

*Christ Connection: God chose Paul to tell all kinds of people—even kings!—about Jesus. Even when people were against him, Paul did not stop. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Paul believed Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do anything to share this good news.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

### **· Invite children up:**

Act as Paul making his defense before rulers as you tell the story, inviting various preschoolers to sit on a stool up front to represent the various leaders.

### **· Wear different**

**hats:** Put on a different hat each time you mention a new ruler in the story.

# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Paul Before Rulers

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 24–26

**STORY POINT:** Paul told rulers about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What will happen for all Christians in the future?

One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## Welcome and worship with song

- “The Gospel Is for Everyone” song
- “Keep On Keeping On” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “The Gospel Is for Everyone” to engage and welcome them. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in the theme song “Keep On Keeping On.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Paul Before Rulers” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster
- Giant Timeline

Tell preschoolers about a time you experienced something that took an unusually long time. Ask volunteers to tell about something they experienced that took a long time.

**SAY** • Things can often take longer than we think they will.

When Paul was arrested, the Lord came to him and told Paul that he would and tell people about Jesus in Rome, but Paul was in prison for more than two years before he went to Rome. Listen to the story.

Open your Bible to Acts 24. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “He Who Started (Philippians 1:6)” song

Place the key passage marker at Philippians 1:6. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read it aloud. Create motions for children to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

**SAY** • Paul knew that Jesus was with him and was completing the good work He had begun in him. Paul shared the good news of Jesus with everyone he met while in prison.

Sing the key passage song “He Who Started” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • *What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.* Paul knew what would happen to him in the future. He knew that one day, he would see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever. This gave Paul courage to keep serving Jesus and telling about Him even while in prison.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **Paul told rulers about Jesus.** God chose Paul to tell all kinds of people about Jesus. Even when people were against him, Paul did not stop. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Paul believed Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do anything to share this good news.

• Story Point Poster  
• “Keep On Keeping On” song  
• “Children of the Kingdom” song  
• “Wherever I Go” song  
• offering basket

Sing “Keep On Keeping On” and “Children of the Kingdom” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever I Go.” Collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for starting a good work in Paul and continuing it throughout his life. Even while he was in prison, Paul helped others by telling them about Jesus. Help us to believe that Jesus died in our place for our sin and rose again to save us. Amen.

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# EXPERIENCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Paul Before Rulers

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 24–26

**STORY POINT:** Paul told rulers about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What will happen for all Christians in the future?

One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## LOW PREP

### Sing a song to review

Sing the lyrics below to the tune of “Where is Thumbkin?” If you are unfamiliar with the song, look it up online before the session. Let the thumb of one hand represent Paul in prison. Let the fingers of the other hand represent the different rulers who came to visit Paul.

“Where is Felix? Where is Felix?

Here I am! Here I am!

How are you today, Paul? Very well I thank you.

Trust in Jesus. Trust in Jesus.”

Repeat using the names *Festus* and *Agrippa*.

**SAY** • Felix, Festus, and Agrippa were all rulers that visited Paul. He told them all about Jesus. He wanted them all to see Jesus and live with Him forever. *What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.*

## LOW PREP

### Send preschoolers to Rome

Form a circle on the floor. Walk around the circle. Gently touch the shoulder of each child while saying, “Stay.” Then tap one child and say, “Go to Rome!” Guide the child to move to the wall and back to his spot. Play as time allows.

**SAY** • After being visited by rulers in prison, Paul was sent

to Rome. **Paul told rulers about Jesus**, and would continue to tell others about Jesus in Rome.

## Visit friends in the classroom

Guide children to stand in a circle. Stand in the center of the circle, say the name of a child, and then go to that child, and have a short conversation.

**SAY • Paul told rulers about Jesus.** While Paul was in prison, several rulers visited him, just like I visited you. Paul told them the good news about Jesus.

**LOW  
PREP**

## Play “Ruler Says”

Play “Simon Says” according to traditional rules, but replace *Simon* with *ruler*. Give each child a turn at being ruler.

**SAY •** A ruler is a person in charge. Each of you got to be a ruler in our game. **Paul told rulers about Jesus** when they visited him in prison.

**LOW  
PREP**

## Build a prison

Invite preschoolers to create a prison with blocks or cardboard boxes. Play out the story, assigning preschoolers to be Paul in prison and the rulers who visited him.

**SAY •** How would you have felt if you were in prison? Paul might have felt sad or scared, but it didn't keep him from telling the rulers about Jesus. He knew that Jesus would take care of him. ***What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.***

· blocks  
· cardboard boxes  
(optional)

## Transition to review the story

· countdown video  
(optional)

# REVIEW the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Paul Before Rulers

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 24–26

**STORY POINT:** Paul told rulers about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What will happen for all Christians in the future?

One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## Review

Point to the giant timeline as you review today's Bible story.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Where was Paul in today's Bible story? (*Paul was in prison.*)
2. What type of people did Paul meet with while in prison? (*Paul met with rulers.*)
3. Whom did Paul talk about with the rulers? (**Paul told rulers about Jesus.**)
4. Did the leaders think Paul had done anything wrong? (*No.*)
5. Where did Paul ask to go? (*Paul asked to go to Rome.*)
6. ***What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.***

**SAY** • While he was in prison, several rulers visited Paul. Paul told them all about Jesus. He knew that Jesus has the power to save all people from sin, and so he told everyone the good news about Jesus.

Sing the theme song "Keep On Keeping On" or key passage song "He Who Started."

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline
- Story Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Keep On Keeping On" song (optional)
- "He Who Started (Philippians 1:6)" song (optional)

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, You sent Jesus to die for our sins and come back to life! We know He is alive and that You hear our prayers. Help us trust in You on good days and bad days, like Paul trusted You while in prison. Help us be bold and tell others about Your good news. Amen.



## Missions moment

**SAY** • Missionaries tell people about Jesus. One missionary went back to his home of Puerto Rico to tell people how Jesus changed his life.

Show the missions video. Close in prayer for missionary Jorge Santiago and his family.

• “A Changed Heart”  
video

## Stand for truth

Share simple statements with the preschoolers, such as “It is a hot day today,” or “We are at the park right now.” Invite preschoolers to stand if you say something true and to sit if you say something false. End with “Jesus saved us from our sin by dying and coming back to life.”

**SAY** • Good job telling the difference between what is true and what is not true! **Paul told rulers about Jesus.** Paul only told the rulers true things about Jesus.