

# Parent's Guide (Children's Church and Sunday School alternative)

Session: Paul Before Rulers

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

Main Point: Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings.

## Before the lesson starts...

### Younger Kid's Activity page

Invite kids to complete the "Hidden Words" activity page. The kids will find and arrange the words of the main point.

Say • Can you imagine getting to speak in front of a group of really important people? Would you be nervous or excited? Today we're going to hear the story of Paul's sharing the gospel in front of governors and kings.

### Older Kid's Activity page

Invite kids to complete "A Message for Everyone" on the activity page. Kids should follow each letter's path to the connecting number and fill in the corresponding blanks.

Say • What message did Paul want everyone to believe? (*Jesus is Lord.*)

## Introduction

Ask your kids to share if they have ever met someone famous and how they felt when they met that person.

Say • Some of us have met famous people—musicians, politicians, athletes, or even actors. Sometimes when we meet people who are famous or powerful, we feel excited or nervous. We will learn today that even while Paul was a prisoner, he boldly spoke about Jesus to the religious leaders, governors, and kings. Their position of power didn't intimidate Paul because he believed that God is the most powerful.

### Session starter

Defend your point (you'll need the family)

Form two opposing sides. Give the first group a point to defend. (Examples: *Football is the greatest sport or hot dogs are better than hamburgers.*) Challenge the second group to try to break down the argument that the first group is trying to defend. With each claim from the second group, the first group should defend its point.

SAY • The more you know about something, the easier it is to defend it. If you don't know a lot about football, it's hard to argue that it's the greatest sport.

In the Bible story we will hear today, Paul defended the gospel before important rulers. Paul knew Jesus; Jesus had changed his life. Think about how well you know Jesus and the Bible. Could you defend the truth before people who are against it? Think about that as you hear about Paul's experience.

## Transition to teach the story

### Recap

Say • Last week, we learned that Paul was arrested for telling people about Jesus. Paul had dedicated his life to sharing the message of the Bible, that God saves sinners through His Son, Jesus. **When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he**

## could preach about Jesus.

Paul was in prison for a long time! During that time, he met with some important leaders. Today's Bible story is about what he told them. It's time to hear about "Paul Before Rulers."

### Tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Acts 24:22-27; 25:1-14; 26:24-32 and read aloud together. Then show the Bible story video "Paul Before Rulers" which can be found on our website at [www.calerabaptist.org/thisweek](http://www.calerabaptist.org/thisweek).

Say • **Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings.** We heard about three main leaders here. First was Felix, the governor of Judea. Judea was an area controlled by the Romans. For two years, Felix met with Paul, but he never decided if Paul was guilty of a crime or not. When Felix's time as governor was over, Felix did not let Paul go free. He left Paul in prison!

The next governor of Judea was named Festus. The Jews wanted Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem so they could kill him. Instead, Festus went to visit Paul. Paul asked to be taken to Caesar, the emperor. Since Paul was a Roman citizen accused of a crime, it was his right to stand before Caesar.

Then Paul met with a third leader, King Agrippa. Paul explained to the king why he had been arrested, and Paul told him about Jesus. King Agrippa thought Paul was crazy, but he agreed that Paul was not a criminal. King Agrippa was ready to set Paul free, but since Paul wanted to go to Caesar, the king was responsible to get him there.

So Paul got ready to go to Rome. God had told Paul in a dream that he would go to Rome. [See Acts 19:21; 23:11.] Now God was keeping His promise in an unexpected way. Paul believed the gospel, and he wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. ***When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.***

### Christ connection

Say • Paul knew that Jesus is the true ruler of all. God had chosen Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. 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.

### True/False questions to ask about the story:

The first governor Paul met with was named Felix. (*true, Acts 24:22*)

Felix would not listen to Paul. (*False, Felix listened many times; Acts 24:24,26*)

When Felix and his wife heard what Paul had to share about Jesus and judgment, they laughed at Paul. (*False, Felix was afraid; Acts 24:25*)

The new governor's name was Felix II. (*False, his name was Festus; Acts 24:27*)

The Jews wanted Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem so they could kill him. (*true, Acts 25:2-3*)

Paul asked to be brought before King Herod to hear his case. (*False, he appealed to Caesar; Acts 25:11*)

Paul hoped that everyone listening might believe in Jesus. (*true, Acts 26:29*)

Paul would only do the easy things to share the gospel. (*False, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel; Acts 26:29*)

Our key passage is found in the Book of Philemon. (*False, it is found in Philippians; Phil. 1:20-21*)

### Key passage

Read together Philippians 1:20-21.

Say • Paul boldly told the rulers that if he had done anything wrong they would be right to kill him, but he had not broken any laws. Paul believed that even in death, Jesus is worth any suffering he might face.

### Digging Deeper and Prayer

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?  
How does this story help me to live on mission better?

**Pray together as a family - encourage your kids to be the ones to pray.**