

# Preschool Kid's Parent Guide

**September 6, 2020**

## Paul Before Rulers

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

Main Point: Paul preached about Jesus to rulers.

### 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. Agrippa told Paul he was out of his mind, but 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 24:22-27; 25:1-14; 26:24-32*

**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 upset with Paul**.

**First, Paul met with Felix, the governor.** Felix already knew what Paul believed, but he agreed to listen to him. 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!" the king 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.*

## Before the lesson starts...

### Activity page

Invite your preschooler to use a pencil, crayon, or a finger to trace the lines between Paul and different rulers.

Say • Good job tracing the lines! 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.

### Session starter:

#### Play a movement game

Encourage your preschooler to march like a soldier, salute like a commander, stand like a guard, walk like a king, wave like a queen, and so forth. Invite children to take turns leading the group.

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.

## Transition to teach the story

### Introduce the Bible story

Make several statements, some truthful and some untruthful. Ask your kids to give a thumbs-up if they believe the statement is true and thumbs-down if the statement is not true.

Say • Paul was taken before rulers who wanted to figure out why people were upset with him. Paul told the leaders he was telling the truth about Jesus.

### Watch or tell the Bible story

Say • The Bible is the most special book because it tells us the good news of Jesus. The stories we read in the Bible are true. Today's story is from the Book of Acts.

Show the video of the preschool Bible story, which can be found on our website at [www.calerabaptist.org/thisweek](http://www.calerabaptist.org/thisweek). You can also tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### Talk about the Bible story

Say • **Paul preached about Jesus to rulers.** 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.

Ask the following review questions:

Why was Paul in prison? (*for preaching about Jesus*)

Name some of the rulers Paul talked to. (*Felix and his wife, Festus, King Agrippa and Bernice*)

Whom did Paul say he wanted to see? (*Caesar, the emperor of Rome*)

What did Paul want all the rulers to believe? (*that Jesus is Lord and has the power to save people from sin*)

Did the leaders think that Paul had done anything wrong? (*No, so they sent Paul to Rome.*)

### Learn the big picture question

Say • Even when people were against him, Paul did not stop telling the good news about Jesus. ***When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.*** We should tell others about Jesus too so that they can be saved from

sin.

**Practice the key passage**

Read 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.

**Pray with your kids before finishing the lesson. There is also a coloring page for them if they want to color.**