



# PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

Date: 09.28.25 | Paul Under House Arrest in Rome  
Scripture: Acts 28

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- God values all people and calls Christians to live on mission for the sake of reaching the lost with the gospel.
- God continues to work in the world, and people are invited to join Him in His work.
- We are to be involved in reaching the nations through prayer, giving resources, acting with love, and sharing the gospel.
- The church is a fellowship of believers, and we are called to meet together regularly.
- The church is not a place or a building, but rather a community of people who belong to the family of God.

### HIGH SCHOOL:

- God values all people---born and unborn, young and old, male and female, all ethnicities, those of opposing faiths---and calls Christians to live on mission for the sake of reaching the lost through prayer, giving resources, acting with love, and sharing the gospel.
- God continues to work in the world, and as we join Him in His work, He uses people to accomplish His eternal purposes.
- We demonstrate honor for God when we respect the earthly authorities God has placed in our lives.
- The church is a community of believers called to gather regularly to study Scripture, pray, worship, serve, encourage one another, and proclaim the gospel to the world.
- The church is called to train and equip its members for works of ministry.



## MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. - Romans 1:16a

16 F l a n a o t g, f i i t p o G f s t e w b, - use this first letter memorization tool that aids in remembering text by using the first letter of each word as a cue.

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After nearly thirty years of Spirit-empowered ministry, the book of Acts closes with Paul faithfully serving the Lord in Rome. By God's grace, Paul was granted two full years of ministry in the heart of the empire ([Acts 28:30](#)). Despite the storms, shipwreck, snakebite, and false accusations that tried to derail his mission, nothing could stop God's plan. Paul's story in Acts is not so much about his own faithfulness as it is about the faithfulness of God—the One who called him, sustained him, and brought him to Rome just as He had promised.

After wintering on the island of Malta, Paul and his companions set sail when it became safe to travel again—around March ([28:11](#)). As they made their way north, they stopped at Puteoli, where Paul found fellow believers. Christianity had already spread across Italy by this time ([28:14](#)). Luke summarizes their journey with the phrase, “so we came to Rome” ([28:14](#)), even though the city was still 130 miles away. Along the road, Christians came out to greet Paul at the Forum of Appius, forty miles from Rome, and again at Three Taverns, twelve miles farther on ([28:15](#)). Paul had never been to Rome, yet when he wrote his letter to the Romans three years earlier, he greeted many friends by name ([Romans 16:1–16](#)). Now, he was encouraged to meet them face-to-face.

When Paul entered Rome, he was not treated as a dangerous criminal. Instead, he was allowed to live in his own rented quarters, though chained to a guard ([28:16](#)). This arrangement reflected his status as a high-level prisoner, as well as the support of local believers who likely helped provide for him. For the next two years, Paul welcomed visitors freely and preached the gospel boldly and unhindered ([28:30–31](#)). Though the messenger was chained, the message of Christ was not ([2 Timothy 2:9](#)).

Three days after his arrival, Paul invited the Jewish leaders of Rome to meet with him ([28:17](#)). He explained his innocence, stating that he had not broken the Law of Moses or betrayed his people. Though the Roman governors in Caesarea found no grounds for punishment ([Acts 24–25](#)), the opposition of the Jewish leaders had forced him to appeal to Caesar ([28:18–19](#)). Paul made it clear—he was in chains for believing in “the hope of Israel” ([28:20](#)), the long-awaited Messiah, whom he declared was fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth.

The Roman Jews had not received any formal accusations about Paul but were aware of the Christian movement, which many considered controversial. They arranged a second meeting to hear more ([28:21–22](#)). On the appointed day, a large crowd gathered at Paul's rented home. From morning until evening, he explained the Law of Moses and the Prophets, showing how Jesus fulfilled Israel's hope for the kingdom of God ([28:23](#)). Some were persuaded, but most refused to believe. This divided response echoed the pattern seen throughout Acts ([13:45–48](#); [17:4–5](#)).

As the Jews began to leave, Paul quoted [Isaiah 6:9–10](#), warning them that their stubborn unbelief mirrored their ancestors' rejection of God's prophets ([28:25–27](#)). Just as Isaiah's audience hardened their hearts, so too were many Jews in Paul's day. Yet their unbelief could not frustrate God's plan. Paul declared, “Therefore let it be known to you that this

salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen” (28:28).

Acts ends as it began—with the proclamation of the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ (1:3; 28:31). In chapter one, the risen Jesus promised His Spirit to empower His people as witnesses to the ends of the earth. Now, in the capital of the Roman Empire, Paul fulfilled that mission. He received all who came to him, both Jew and Gentile, proclaiming the gospel with boldness and without hindrance.

Though Luke does not tell us what happened to Paul afterward, his time in Rome was far from wasted. During these years, he wrote the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, strengthening churches across the empire. Later, after a release and further travels, he would write 1 Timothy and Titus. Finally, his last letter—2 Timothy—while awaiting execution, testifying, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

Ultimately, the true hero of Acts is not Paul. Still, the Lord Jesus Christ, who continues to build His church, as He promised (Matthew 16:18), has advanced the gospel from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, and ultimately to Rome, against all odds. And the story is not finished—for the same Spirit who empowered Paul and the early church is still at work in God’s people today.

As we close our study of Acts, we are reminded that this book is not simply church history—it is the story of the risen Christ continuing His work through His Spirit-filled people. From Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, and now to the very heart of Rome, the gospel has spread unhindered. Paul’s bold witness shows us that no hardship, no opposition, and no chain can stop the mission of God. And though Luke’s account ends, the mission does not. We are the continuation of this story—the Spirit still empowers believers today to proclaim the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ to all nations.

## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

Remind your group that we are studying the New Testament. Throughout the book of Acts, Paul undertook missionary journeys, sharing the Gospel and helping to gather groups of new believers into the first churches. Toward the end of the book, Paul devoted considerable time to defending the Gospel and the work of Christ in his own life, presenting his case in various settings and before a diverse array of civil leaders. In our story today, Paul finally arrives in Rome and spends his time under house arrest, sharing the good news of Jesus.



## TELL THE STORY - Acts 28:17-30

Paul was saved when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Then, God called Paul to become a missionary. Paul told Jews and Gentiles about Jesus, and he started churches. After Paul's three missionary journeys, he went back to Jerusalem. While he was in Jerusalem, he was arrested. While Paul was in prison waiting to go to Rome, Paul shared Jesus with Felix, Festus, King Agrippa, and Queen Bernice. Then, as he was sailing to Rome to see Caesar, he was shipwrecked.

Paul's life had many ups and downs, but no matter what, Paul trusted God and was faithful to share the gospel. Today, we will see how Paul shared the gospel of Jesus with those who would listen while he was under house arrest in Rome.

Paul stayed on the island of Malta for three months after the ship he was on wrecked while traveling to Rome. Paul healed people who were sick and shared the good news about Jesus with them. The people on the island were grateful for Paul's help. Finally, Paul and the other prisoners boarded another ship and continued their journey to Rome.

When the ship arrived in Rome, many people came out to meet Paul. He was still a prisoner, but instead of going to jail, Paul was allowed to live by himself in a house. A soldier stayed with him to guard him.

On his third day in Rome, Paul asked the Jewish leaders to talk to him. Paul told them, "I haven't done anything wrong. The Jews made me a prisoner in Jerusalem and handed me over to the Romans. The Romans wanted to let me go free, but the Jews objected, so I had to ask to speak to Caesar, the most important ruler in Rome. Still, I haven't done anything wrong.

The Jewish leaders had not heard any reports about Paul doing wrong, but they wanted to hear more about what he believed. They were aware that Paul was a Christian, and they knew that many people disagreed with the teachings of those who identified as Christians.

So the leaders agreed on a day to meet with Paul. On that day, even more leaders came to hear what Paul had to say. Paul taught all day about God's kingdom. He pointed to the Scriptures —the Law and the Old Testament prophets—to explain that Jesus is the Messiah. Some of the Jewish leaders agreed with Paul, but others didn't.

For two whole years, Paul stayed in the house and welcomed everyone who wanted to hear about Jesus. He talked about God's kingdom and about Jesus. He shared the good news of salvation. Many people listened to Paul's words and believed in Jesus. Some were Jews, and others were not. The people were filled with joy and hope because they found new life in Jesus.



Paul never stopped teaching about Jesus. Even while he was a prisoner, he wrote letters to various churches to encourage and remind them of God's love. Paul helped people and prayed for them. HE trusted in God, and the good news spread throughout Rome and beyond.



## **RETELL THE STORY**

Have students re-tell the story as best they can.



## **SHARE THE GOSPEL**

Even though Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he never stopped sharing the good news about Jesus. He explained from the Scriptures that Jesus is the promised Savior and the only way to be forgiven and have eternal life. Some people refused to believe, but many trusted in Him. For two years, while under house arrest, Paul boldly preached the good news to everyone who came to him. His example reminds us that no situation can stop the power of the gospel. Like Paul, we can share the hope of Jesus with others, knowing that everyone who puts their trust in Him will be saved.

## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

Paul suffered many hardships, but he continued to share the gospel. Even after his shipwreck, Paul shared the love of Jesus with the people of Malta and cared for their physical needs. When he finally arrived in Rome, believers greeted him. **What happened when Paul saw the believers? (Acts 28:15).** Paul was so happy to see them that he thanked God. Paul had written a letter to believers in Rome, and now he got to see these believers in person. As believers, we are to encourage one another to keep serving the Lord and living lives that bring honor and glory to Him.

**What did Paul say caused him to be in chains? (Acts 28:20).** Paul said that he was in chains because of the “hope of Israel.” **What do you think this means?** The “hope of Israel” is Jesus! Jesus is the Messiah God promised would come to rescue sinners. Paul was arrested because he preached the good news with boldness. Some will see the gospel as foolishness, but to everyone who is saved, Jesus is our hope.

**Why is knowing and studying God’s Word important?** When we read and study the Bible, we gain a deeper understanding of who God is and His plan of salvation. God’s Word helps us be prepared to share the good news of Jesus with others clearly. The Holy Spirit works through the truth of God’s Word to convict people of sin and open hearts to believe in Jesus.

**Is sharing the gospel always comfortable? Why?** People may think we are crazy or strange when we share our faith, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t share the gospel. We should not be concerned with pleasing people but with pleasing God.

Those who believed in Jesus were filled with joy and hope. **How has Jesus filled you with joy and hope?** Remember, Jesus has saved us to an eternal hope and will fill us with everlasting joy. No matter the struggles of this life, we can still find joy and hope, even now, as we trust in God’s promises.

**How can you encourage others to trust in God when they might be afraid?**

**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 live on mission?**

### PRAYER PROMPTS

*Thank You, God, that You always keep Your promises. Thank You for the way You care for us and for sending Your Son to rescue us from our sins. Please help us share this good news with others. Amen.*

### REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. - Romans 1:16a

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## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - God is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



## Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?





## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD ➡

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD ➡➡

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?