



The Plan to Stop Paul

Bible Story: The Plan to Stop Paul, Acts 23

Bottom Line: When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

Memory Verse: ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21 NIV

Christ Connection: Even when others threatened his life, Paul continued to obey Jesus. He believed that God, who showed His love for the world by sending His Son to die on the cross and rise again, would help him through hard times. We too can risk everything to share the gospel with courage because we know that God loves us and will care for us.

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Dots and boxes

What You Need: paper, different colored markers (1 for each kid)

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to form pairs.
- Give each pair a piece of paper and two markers of different colors.
- Lead each pair to draw a grid of dots—3-by-3 or 4-by-4.
- Players should take turns joining two neighboring dots with a horizontal or vertical line.
- When a player completes the fourth side of a box, she should write her initials in the boxes and draw another line.
- The player to complete the most boxes wins.

What You Say "Was it hard to stop your partner from winning? Today's Bible story is about a plan to stop Paul. Did God let this evil plan stop Him? Let's find out."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Spare Me

What You Need: 2 pool noodles, 30 marbles, sidewalk chalk (10 sticks), game instruction video, countdown clock

What You Do: 2 players that will work as team to knock down five pieces of sidewalk chalk. They will race marbles down the pool noodle to knock down the chalk.

What You Say: Just like the players in this game, Paul wanted to be spared and God protected him.

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage

¹² The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. ¹³ More than forty men were involved in this plot. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here."

¹⁶ But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." ¹⁸ So he took him to the commander.

The centurion said, "Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you."

¹⁹ The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, "What is it you want to tell me?"

²⁰ He said: "Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. ²¹ Don't give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request."

²² The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: "Don't tell anyone that you have reported this to me." **Acts 23:12-22**

Context:

The things Paul was teaching—that Jesus is God's Son and that a person can be saved by trusting in Him—did not sit well with the Jews. They did not agree with Paul's teachings, and they wanted to kill him. Thankfully, a commander of the Roman army came along and rescued Paul. And by rescued, I mean he put Paul into prison.

Paul sure was in a difficult situation here, wasn't he? Obeying God didn't make Paul's life easier, but Paul had a source for his strength and courage. What was that source? [Allow kids to respond.] The Lord supplied all the strength Paul needed.

Paul was under Roman protection when the Lord gave him a message: "Have courage! For as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so it is necessary for you to testify in Rome" (Acts 23:11).



When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus. God had a plan for Paul to preach about Jesus in Rome

Today's Takeaways

- **BL: When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.**
- Even when you are scared, you can tell others about Jesus.
- God will give you the words to share and He will give you the courage to tell others about Jesus.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes **SMALL GROUPS**: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- What do you share with people when you tell them about Jesus?
- When should we tell others about Jesus?
- When it is difficult to tell others about Jesus, what should you do?

Activity: Let's talk about missionaries

What You Need: information cards about local and global missionaries, prayer cards and note cards

What You Do:

- Pass out information cards (one for each kid)
- Talk about what difficult things these missionaries may face as they share Jesus with others.
- Then guide kids to pray for these missionaries, asking God to protect them and give them courage to honor Christ in all they do.
- Encourage boys and girls to read the cards and pray for the people of Atlanta, Georgia, USA; Romania; the United Kingdom; and Turkey. Pray for missionaries and other believers who are sharing the gospel in these places.
- Then those who would like to write a letter to a missionary to let them know they prayed for them can. Pass out the cards and envelopes. Collect the cards before the kids leave so your campus leader can mail them.
- Review the gospel with the kids. Explain how the Bible encourages all of us to be missionaries right where we are.

What to Say "A *missionary* is a Christian called by God who obeys and goes to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus. Missionaries may face persecution and be hurt or even killed for sharing the gospel. **When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.** Even today, missionaries risk their lives to tell others about Jesus. Let's pray for them as they trust and obey Jesus. Let's pray for our church leaders and each other as we learn to share Jesus wherever we are."

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, foam ball

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Show the memory verse poster and lead kids to read Philippians 1:20-21 aloud.
- Give a foam ball to one player in the circle.
- Explain that the player with the ball will say the first word in the key passage and then toss to ball to another player, who will say the next word, and so on until kids say the entire key passage and reference.
- Allow kids to refer to the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words.

What You Say "This is a bold statement made by Paul, but he could say this because he believed firmly in the love of Christ and trusted Him with his life."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Pray, thanking God for His Word and asking for strength and courage to share the gospel, even in difficult situations. Pray for joy and peace in obeying Jesus' command to share the good news with the world."

5 Minutes **HOME**: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share what they learned about missionaries. Ask the family if they know any missionaries. Encourage everyone to pray for others sharing Jesus wherever they are.



All Star Kids

June 24, 2018
3rd-5th grade