

# LESSON 11



## PAUL SAILS TO ROME

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Paul's Journey to Rome

Paul took his third missionary journey between AD 53-57. On his return trip, he decided to stop by Jerusalem. Although he was warned about the upcoming dangers, he did not turn back. After being arrested, he was tried by the Sanhedrin. Because of a plot to kill him, Paul was transferred to Caesarea. He remained imprisoned there for about two years before his request to see Caesar was granted. Paul set sail from Caesarea in the summer of AD 59. Later on, the ship met with fierce storms that caused a shipwreck on the island of Malta. This occurred in late October to early November. Because of the winter weather, they had to stay on the island for three months to wait for the sailing season to open in late February or early March (Acts 28:11). Leaving on another ship, Paul landed on the coast of Italy in the Bay of Naples soon after. He was met with a delegation of Roman Christians who had heard of his coming at the port. Eventually, Paul arrived in Rome, some seventy miles from the port. There he remained under house arrest for two years, preaching the good news about Jesus to all who came to visit him.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Paul was one of the greatest Christians who ever lived. But being a Christian did not mean all of his problems would suddenly disappear. Paul journeyed through a very difficult road, having to constantly run for his life. But he never gave up or quit. He knew that God would always protect him.

To your students, it may seem unfair that Christians have to suffer at all. Sometimes, they may feel that they are being unjustly punished or going through trials for no reason. They may even begin to complain. Explain to them that God has His reasons for everything that happens. He knows what is best. Encourage your students never to lose their faith. He may just be reminding them to pray and rely on Him more. Let them know that, as a class, everyone will pray for one another. Perhaps it is possible to set up a time every night when everyone can pray together so that the prayers will be more powerful. Just as Paul cared for the other passengers, your students can also care for one another. Through this community build-up, they will be encouraged and can remain faithful at all times.

### BIBLE TEXT

Acts 21:27-36; 23:11-24, 27;  
28:1-2, 8-23, 30-31

### BIBLE TRUTH

Paul was arrested, tried and shipwrecked before reaching Rome.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

To be faithful to God under all circumstances.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season."

(2 Timothy 4:2a)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for keeping us safe this past week. We know that You are always looking after us and protecting us. But sometimes, we may still encounter problems. We need to remember to trust in You. No matter how difficult the situation, You will always show us a way. We thank You for Your love and guidance. May all glory be unto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

## VOCABULARY

**missionary:** messenger, apostle, evangelist

**trial:** case, hearing, prosecution

## REVIEW

Last week, we learned about Paul's second missionary trip. This time, he went with Silas. They went to many places, telling everyone about Jesus. When they preached in Philippi, they met with some interesting events. They baptized many people, including a woman called Lydia. She later opened her home to the two missionaries. Then, Paul cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl. Her masters were upset because she could not help them make money anymore. So, they had Paul and Silas arrested after they were severely beaten. But while they were in jail, there was a great earthquake. The jailer who was looking after the prisoners was about to kill himself when Paul told him to stop. None of the prisoners had escaped even though the cell doors were open. The jailer saw God's power, and he and his family believed and got baptized right away. The next day, Paul and Silas were set free. We learned to praise and pray to God under all circumstances, like Paul and Silas did. God will always protect us.

## BIBLE STORY

### Paul Travels to Jerusalem

After traveling with Silas on his second missionary journey, Paul returned to the Antioch church. After spending time with the believers there, Paul began his third missionary journey. He did not want to waste time because he knew how important it was to tell others about Jesus. He traveled to more places and spread the gospel to many people. Boys and girls, do you know how long it took Paul to complete his third missionary trip? Take a guess. This third journey took him about four years to complete. When he got near the end of this long missionary trip, he decided to go to Jerusalem to see the believers there. It had been such a long time since he had been there last.

When the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem knew that Paul was coming, they became excited. They had heard about all the good things he had done for Jesus. Now they could see him for themselves. Soon, Paul arrived and he spent time with them. He told them about his three trips. Everyone praised God after hearing about all the people who believed. This is similar to when we hear testimonies from church ministers who have gone to many places around the world to preach the gospel. We also like to know how the believers of True Jesus Church are doing in other parts of the world.

### A Riot in Jerusalem

But the brothers and sisters were not the only people who had heard that Paul was in the city. The Jews who didn't like Paul had also heard. They tried to find a way to stop him from spreading the gospel.

One day, Paul went to the temple to worship. When the Jews saw him, they thought that this would be a good opportunity to capture him. The troublemakers followed Paul into the temple and began to shout loudly.

"Help, men of Israel!" they cried. "This man is teaching

others not to obey our Jewish law. He has even brought Gentiles into the temple. He has done terrible things!"

When other people heard the noise, they gathered around Paul and the troublemakers. These men were telling lies about Paul. He had not done anything wrong. But the people believed the Jews and began to shout against Paul, too. They became so angry that they dragged him out of the temple and began to beat him. They made so much noise that the commander of the Roman soldiers heard it. He quickly gathered some of his men and ran to the huge crowd. When the people saw him coming, they stopped beating Paul.

The commander asked his soldiers to take Paul away and put him in chains. Then he turned to the people and asked them what Paul had done wrong. The people all shouted at once, some saying one thing and others saying another. It was so noisy that the commander couldn't tell for sure what Paul had done. So, he just ordered his men to take Paul to the prison. As Paul was being carried away, the people kept shouting, "Away with him!"

The soldiers followed the order and put Paul into jail. But Jesus was with Paul this whole time. In fact, Paul saw the Lord standing by him in the cell and he heard God say, "Have courage! You have preached about Me in Jerusalem and now you will preach about Me in the city of Rome, too." When Paul heard this, he understood God's plan for him. So he waited patiently in prison. He knew God would open a way for him.

### A Plan to Kill Paul

In the meantime, the Jews tried to think of a way to kill Paul. They did not want to wait for him to go to trial in case he might be freed. So they came up with a plan to take Paul away from the soldiers while they were taking him to the judges. But Paul's nephew learned of their plot.

So, he quickly went to tell his uncle.

"The Jews are planning to kill you. They have formed a group of forty people to take you away from the soldiers when they are taking you to see the judges. They also vowed not to eat until they kill you," the nephew said.

Paul then said, "You must help me. Go and tell the commander what you have just told me. He will know what to do."

So his nephew immediately went to find the commander and told him everything he knew. After listening to the young boy, the commander thanked him.

"You have done the right thing by telling me," the commander said, "Don't worry. Just keep this a secret and I will take care of your uncle."

After this meeting, the commander called two of his officers and said, "Get two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen ready. Then take Paul out of the city at nine o'clock tonight."

That night, the soldiers took Paul away to another city called Caesarea.

Boys and girls, do you think it was by chance that Paul's nephew happened to hear the plot to kill Paul? No, it was not by chance at all. It was God's special guidance and His protection toward Paul. God protected Paul from this group of evil people in the same way that God protected Paul during the riot in Jerusalem. From here, we can learn that when we work and testify for the Lord, He will protect us and bring us out of difficult situations and danger.

### **Paul Sets Sail for Rome**

After arriving in the new city, Paul was given a trial. The governor did not really understand why Paul was in prison. But just to please the Jews, he left Paul in prison. But after two years, there was a new governor and Paul was given a new trial. During that trial, Paul asked the governor to allow him to take his case to the city of Rome, where the highest court was. The governor agreed and ordered a guard to take him there.

Soon, Paul was on a boat with other prisoners, all on their way to Rome. At first, the trip was very smooth but soon, they met with fierce winds and high waters. When they reached a small island, they decided to stop over for a while to wait for better weather. Much time had been lost and sailing had already become dangerous. Paul spoke up and pointed out the dangerous risks of continuing to sail. But the captain did not want to wait out the entire winter at the small island. Instead, when he saw the winds were blowing in the right direction, he put the ship back to sea.

### **A Big Storm**

At first, the ship sailed in the right direction, enjoying good weather. But not long after, the winds began to pick up. Soon the skies turned dark, and it started to rain. The rain then turned into a full-blown storm, whipping the ship back and forth on the waters. The soldiers tried hard to keep

the ship afloat. The storm kept on for many days and everyone became afraid. But Paul prayed for them, asking God to take care of everyone.

One day, Paul wanted to encourage the passengers.

He said, "Men, you should have listened to me and stayed at the island. But now that we are here do not be afraid. God spoke to me last night and He will take us to Rome. We will lose the ship and end up on another island first but everyone will live."

The others were comforted a little after hearing Paul's message, but the storm still scared them. The next night, the storm was just as fierce and the ship sailed very close to some large rocks. Some of the people wanted to lower a lifeboat into the water and escape before the ship crashed into the rocks, but Paul told the soldiers that unless everyone stayed on board, no one would be saved. So, they forced the people to stay on the ship. Paul knew that they would soon see land so he encouraged everyone to eat some food. He took some bread, thanked God, and passed the food to others.

### **Paul Reaches Rome**

This land was called Malta. The people who lived there were very friendly. They took care of Paul and the others, giving them food and a place to stay until they could take another ship to Rome. While Paul was there, he also told the people about Jesus. Three months later, another ship was ready to take Paul to Rome. After saying good-bye to the people of Malta, they set sail. This part of the trip was much smoother than before. Soon, they reached Rome.

After Paul talked to the Jewish leaders in Rome, they did not find anything terribly wrong with Paul's work. But they did not want to set him free either, in case the other Jews became upset. So, they let him live by himself, with a soldier guarding him day and night. But during this time, he was allowed to preach to the people who wanted to see him. So in this way, Paul stayed in Rome for two years, telling whoever came to see him about Jesus Christ.

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The crowd in Jerusalem was planning on killing \_\_\_\_\_ (Paul).
2. God told Paul that he would be going to \_\_\_\_\_ (Rome).
3. Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Paul? They didn't want him to be freed.
4. Paul was traveling to Rome as a free man. False; he was under arrest at the time.
5. How did Paul's nephew save his life? He told Paul about the plot to kill him.
6. Paul spent his time in Rome preaching to the people about Jesus. True.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2a)**

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; the sailors wanted to save themselves by escaping in a lifeboat.
2. True
3. So he could preach to the people there.
4. Paul's nephew
5. They accused him of teaching others not to obey the Jewish law and of bringing Gentiles into the temple.
6. He spent 4 years on his third missionary trip.
7. Malta
8. Yes, God was with Paul through all of his trials. He was always there.
9. Answers may vary.

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

[Hand out the worksheet on page 91 and go over the following with the students.]

### a) Paul's dedication in his service to God

One important thing we can learn from Paul is to be dedicated in serving God. Paul put in his greatest effort and energy, and his heart and soul to serve God. What do you think gave him the ability to do so?

**Worksheet:** List out a few things you can think of in the boxes and explain how they can relate to your life.

### b) Overcoming problems when doing God's work

Paul met with many different problems such as: people wanting to kill him; a big storm at sea; being put in prison; enduring beatings; and constantly having to move from one place to another to be put on trial. The reason why many problems occur when we work for God is because doing God's work is spiritual warfare. The evil one and people who belong to the world do not want the gospel of Jesus to be spread far and wide. Therefore, we will face a lot of opposition as we serve the Lord.

However, from Paul's journey, we can learn that it does not matter what the difficult situations are, the Lord will be by our side and help us overcome all these problems.

**Worksheet:** Please finish the following sentence and share how you would deal with these different situations.

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**ACTIVITY**

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**1****Paul's Final Trip to Rome****Objective:** To allow the students to have an understanding of Paul's journey to Rome.

Provide a map for each student. Highlight the places that Paul and the passengers of the ship visited. Trace the route from city to city to let the students know how long and difficult the journey to Rome was. Remind them of the incidents that occurred in each of the important cities.

**2****God's Missionaries****Objective:** To remind the students of the people who worked as missionaries for God.

**Instructions:** Read the following sentences. Which missionary is each sentence talking about?

**Philip****Peter****Paul****John****Barnabas****Silas**

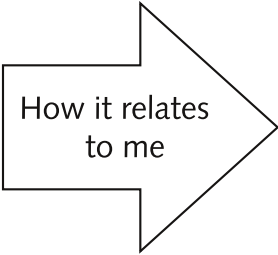
1. I was with Paul on his first missionary journey. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I helped a woman called Dorcas and preached to a man called Cornelius. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I was going to the temple with Peter to worship God when we healed a lame man. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I went to Samaria to preach to the people. I was also told by God to go preach to an Ethiopian eunuch. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I traveled with Paul on his second missionary journey. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I went to many places to tell people about Jesus, who changed my life when He spoke to me on the road to Damascus. \_\_\_\_\_



**A. Paul's dedication in his service to God**

One important thing we can learn from Paul is to be dedicated in serving God. Paul put in his greatest effort and energy, and his heart and soul to serve God. What do you think gave him the ability to do so?

List out a few things you can think of in the boxes and explain how they can relate to your life. The first box has been completed for you.

He wanted to repay God's grace in saving him from sin.	 <p>How it relates to me</p>	When I came to believe, I asked God for repentance and He forgave my past sins. So, I wish to serve God and thank Him for this.
Paul loved the brothers and sisters in the church.		

**B. Overcoming problems when doing God's work**

From Paul's journey, we can learn that it does not matter what difficult situation we are in, the Lord will always be by our side, helping us overcome all these problems.

Please finish the following sentences and share how you deal with these different situations.

When a friend starts to say bad things about you when you talk about your faith...

**What would you say to your friend?**

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**What would you say to your family members?**

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If your family members are not church members, and they do not want you to do holy work at church...

If you seem to have lots of problems and difficulties when doing God's work....

**How can you encourage yourself to keep doing God's work?**

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E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 11—Paul Sails to Rome

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** Paul was arrested, tried and shipwrecked before reaching Rome.

**Lesson Objective:** To be faithful to God under all circumstances.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(2 Timothy 4:2a)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## True or False

1. When there was a huge storm, the sailors on the ship wanted to throw Paul overboard in order to save themselves.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Paul told the soldiers that unless everyone stayed on the ship, no one would be saved. \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

3. Why did God want Paul to go to Rome?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who heard the plans of those who wished to kill Paul and informed the commander of them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the people accuse Paul of doing while he was in Jerusalem?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How many years did Paul spend to carry out his third missionary trip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the name of the island that Paul stopped at before he headed to Rome?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you think God was with Paul when he suffered through all his trials?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How do you know that God is always with you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_