

Paul Tells a Crowd About Jesus

Lesson 9



Scripture: Acts 21:27–22:29













Bible Memory: 1 Peter 3:15

Focus: ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Paul openly talked about Jesus and how his lifestyle had changed since following Jesus—even to people who weren't interested in what Paul had to say! Follow Paul's example and testify. Maybe some people will listen; maybe they won't. But no matter the response of the crowd, do your best to do what Paul did—show a better way to those who are not yet believers.

Lesson 9 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore what people tell about themselves to others.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step "Hello. My Name Is . . ."</p> <p> Option All About Me</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (optional: puppets, old cell phones) • drawing paper, markers • Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>tell what Paul told about Jesus when Paul spoke to a crowd.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Acts 21:27–22:29</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory 1 Peter 3:15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-on 4a, sheet 6 add-ons 9a and 9b, CD lesson 9 Bible Story Props printable file; <i>Teaching Picture</i> 9 • <i>Activities</i> p. 25, <i>Resources</i> CD lesson 9 Review Questions printable file • <i>Resources</i> sheet 8 Unit 3 Bible Memory Poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive • pencils • whiteboard, dry-erase marker and eraser, Bibles, reusable adhesive, beanbag
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>name things Jesus has done for them.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step My Story of Jesus</p> <p> Option Bright Colors</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 26 • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colored pencils • card stock, bright and black crayons, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, sharpened pencils • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>tell someone what Jesus means to them.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step My Story of Jesus 2</p> <p> Option Pass the Picture</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completed <i>Activities</i> p. 26 • <i>Resources</i> CD, <i>Teaching Picture</i> 9 • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • CD player • none

Focus In (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one of these activities to help children **explore what people tell about themselves to others**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 3 page.

Quick Step “Hello. My Name Is . . .”

Have children gather in a circle.

ASK: **When you meet someone for the first time, what do you want to know about that person?** (name, where the person lives, what the person likes to do, etc.)

SAY: **Let’s find partners and pretend we have never met each other before. Find out each other’s name, what the person likes to do, and what the person’s favorite food is.** Allow time for interaction and then let children tell what they have learned about their partners. SAY: **Sometimes we tell how other people have helped us. That’s what Paul did in today’s Bible story. ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.**

Option All About Me

Have children gather at tables. Distribute paper and markers. SAY: **Let’s make posters that show things about us. Write your first name in the middle of your drawing page. Then draw or write things around your name that tell about you—your favorite food, your favorite game or sport, your family, and so on.** Allow time for children to draw. Then ask volunteers to show their posters.

ASK: **Have you ever had something special happen to you that you couldn’t wait to tell others about? What happened?** Let children share a few experiences.

SAY: **In today’s Bible story, we are going to learn what Paul told a crowd about himself. ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.**

Bible Memory 1 Peter 3:15

ASK: **What are some things you hope for?** Encourage responses.

SAY: **People hope for lots of things. Some people hope to win money or prizes. Some hope to get better from a sickness. Maybe you hope to get a good grade on a test.** Read 1 Peter 3:15. **Our Bible Memory says we should be able to tell why we have hope. We have hope because Jesus helps us. He promises to forgive our sins. ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us. Then they will have great hope too.**

Focus

♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.

Materials

(optional: puppets or old cell phones)



Teaching Tip

If you know there are children in your class who are shy or have verbal limitations, provide another way to share information. Most children have fun talking to a puppet or pretending they are having real conversations on old cell phones.

Materials

drawing paper, markers
(optional: precut pictures of food items, games, etc. that children like; glue sticks)



Most learners will enjoy this activity option. Offer a choice to draw pictures or use precut pictures that can be glued onto the posters.

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what Paul told about Jesus when Paul spoke to a crowd.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Non-Jewish people were not allowed within the bounds of the court of Israel. If they were found there, they could be killed. Paul was accused of taking a non-Jewish person into this area. For this reason, the Jewish rioters wanted to beat Paul to death, and they might have succeeded had it not been for the intervention of the Roman commander and his soldiers.

When the crowd heard Paul speak to them in Aramaic, they quieted down to listen to him. Paul addressed the crowd respectfully and gave the group personal information, including his Jewish credentials and his activity as a persecutor of Christians. He thereby opened the way to describe his conversion and ultimately set an example for a crowd that wanted to kill him.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 3 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard; dry-erase marker; Bibles;



Resources sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-on 4a, sheet 6 add-ons 9a and 9b, and CD lesson 9 Bible Story Props printable file; reusable adhesive (or self-adhesive magnetic strip); *Teaching Picture* 9



Before Class

Display the map on a wall, bulletin board, or whiteboard. If you are using a whiteboard, add magnetic strips to the back of add-ons 9a and 9b. Print the Bible story props from the CD. Cut out the signs, and display the "Temple in Jerusalem" sign by the map. Display the other two signs at different locations in the room.

Bible Exploration Acts 21:27-22:29

Write "Acts 21:27" on the board. Tell children to turn to the table of contents in their Bibles. They should look in the New Testament section and run their fingers down until they come to Acts. Help children turn to Acts 21:27, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

Have children move to where you have displayed the map and temple sign. SAY: **You can help tell today's Bible story. Let's pretend we are part of a crowd listening to Paul. Listen for what Paul told the crowd about himself and Jesus.**

Today's story begins at the temple in Jerusalem. Attach Paul 4a by Jerusalem on the map. **One day while Paul was in the temple, some men grabbed Paul and stirred up a crowd against him.** Attach the crowd 9a by Paul on the map. **The men claimed that Paul was doing wrong things. Soon all the people were shouting.** Have children act as though they are shouting at Paul. **They dragged Paul outside the temple area and shut the gates.** Travel to "Outside the Temple" sign; pretend to shut a gate behind you. **The people were going to kill Paul.** Children pretend to beat Paul. **Of course, Paul had done nothing wrong. He was only telling people about Jesus.**

The commander of the Roman army heard what was happening. He took some officers and soldiers and ran to find out what was going on. When the angry crowd saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Children stop beating.

The commander had Paul arrested. He ordered his soldiers to put chains on Paul. Attach chains 9b by Paul on the map. **Then the commander asked what Paul had done. Everyone started shouting different things.** Children shout. **The commander couldn't understand what anyone was saying. So the commander ordered that Paul be taken away and put in the army building. The angry crowd followed. The soldiers had to carry Paul up the steps because the crowd was still trying to hurt Paul.** Travel to "Army Building Steps" sign; continue shouting.

Then Paul spoke to the commander. Paul asked if he could please speak to the people. The commander gave Paul permission to do so.

Paul stood on the steps. He motioned to the people. When the people became quiet (stop shouting), **Paul spoke to them.** Show *Teaching Picture 9*. **Paul told the people where he had been born and who had taught him about the law of God. Paul told how he had arrested and killed people who followed Jesus. Then Paul told how Jesus had appeared to him. Paul told the people that he had been baptized and was now telling others about Jesus. The people listened. Some of the people still didn't like what Paul was saying, but Paul bravely told how Jesus had helped him.**

Bible Review Activity

ASK: What did Paul tell the people about himself? (He told where he was born and who had taught him about God's law. He said he had arrested and killed people who followed Jesus.)

What did Paul tell about Jesus? (Jesus appeared to Paul. Paul was now following Jesus.)

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Read the directions aloud and do the page together. Use the *Resources* CD review questions printable file for more questions about the story.

SAY: Paul told the crowd how Jesus had appeared to him and how Jesus had changed his life. We can be like Paul. ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.

Bible Memory 1 Peter 3:15

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Write "1 Peter 3:15" on the board. Help the children find the verse in their Bibles. Display the Bible Memory poster. Read the verse aloud, pausing to let the children say the rebus words. **SAY: Paul was prepared to tell the crowd about the hope he had in Jesus. Let's play a game and learn this verse. Together, ♥ we can tell others how Jesus helps us.** Have children sit in a circle. Pass a beanbag to the child on your right as you say the first word of the verse. That child should say the second word of the verse and pass the beanbag to the next person. Continue adding words one at a time as the beanbag is passed around the circle.

Materials

Activities p. 25, pencils,
Resources CD lesson 9



Review Questions printable file

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase
marker and eraser,



Bibles, *Resources* sheet 8

Unit 3 Bible Memory Poster,
reusable adhesive, beanbag (or
foam ball)

Optional Bible Skill Builder



Print copies of the
unit 3 Optional Bible Skills
Activity from the *Resources* CD.
Distribute pencils and copies of
the second page. Do the activity
together. Let children work as
partners to find the verses in
their Bibles.

Focus

♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **name things Jesus has done for them.**

Materials

Activities p. 26, colored pencils (or markers)



Note

This activity page will be used again in Live It Out.

Teaching Tip

If you have an extra activity page, you or an adult volunteer in the class can draw a picture. The children will enjoy seeing and hearing how Jesus helps you and what you tell others about Jesus.

Materials

pieces of card stock, bright and black crayons, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, sharpened pencils (or jumbo paper clips) (optional: scratch art paper)



Teaching Tips

Demonstrate each step as children work.

Scratch art paper can be purchased online or is available at some craft and school supply stores.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 9



Quick Step My Story of Jesus

SAY: We've learned that Paul told a crowd how Jesus changed his life. Now it's time to think about times when Jesus helps or changes us.

ASK: Who taught you about Jesus?

What is your favorite story of Jesus?

What do you want other people to know about Jesus?

After discussing the questions, distribute the activity pages and pencils. Together look at the pictures and read what the children are telling about Jesus. Then let the children draw pictures of themselves telling about Jesus. Ask volunteers to show and tell about their finished drawings.

SAY: It's fun to hear how and what people have learned about Jesus.

♥ **We can tell others how Jesus helps us.**

Option Bright Colors



Before class, make a sample picture. Be sure to let kids know that they will be covering over their drawings using black crayons. Some student with special needs may struggle with scribbling over a carefully drawn picture. Prepare them for what is going to happen by showing the model you have prepared beforehand.

Distribute the card stock and bright crayons. Tell kids to quickly color their papers with the bright colors. As they color, talk about things Jesus does for them. (Examples: provides food, clothing, family, and friends; loves them; forgives them; cares for them)

Distribute black crayons. Have kids use black crayons to color over the bright colors to hide the bright colors. As they color, talk about times when they need Jesus' help. (Examples: when they are afraid or sad or lonely; when they or someone they know is sick)

Write "Jesus" on the board. Then have kids take a pencil (or an edge of a paper clip) and scratch the word "Jesus" on their papers. The bright colors will start showing again. **SAY: ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us. He helps us in happy times and not-so-happy times! He makes each day brighter when we follow Him.**

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

Ask children to name some things Jesus has done for them. Then read the rebus story "Perfect Time." Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let the children call out the pictured word.

SAY: We learned that Paul told others how Jesus helped him. In the story we just read, Najee told his teammates about Jesus. ♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us too.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **tell someone what Jesus means to them.**

Focus

♥ We can tell others how Jesus helps us.

Quick Step My Story of Jesus 2

Have children bring their completed activity pages to a closing prayer circle. Help them understand that there are many people they can tell about Jesus. They can tell friends, family members, and neighbors about Jesus. They can tell people who are sick or lonely about Jesus.

ASK: **How could using the pictures you have drawn help you tell about Jesus?** (Showing the picture could help start a conversation.)

SAY: **Let's pray and ask God to help us as we tell about His Son, Jesus.** Ask one child to name a person he will tell about Jesus and then pray for that child. PRAY: **Dear God, please help** (name of student) **tell** (name of person to tell) **about Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.** Repeat for each child in the class. Be sure to offer support to children who struggle with language. Remind children that when they make good choices and treat others kindly, they show Jesus' love without words.

After the prayer time, SAY: ♥ **We can tell others how Jesus helps us. Learning about Jesus can help them too!**

Option Pass the Picture

Have the children sit in a circle. SAY: **Paul told others how Jesus helped him, and ♥ we can tell others how Jesus helps us. I'm going to play music as you pass this picture of Paul around the circle. When I pause the music, whoever is holding the picture can tell a way Jesus helps you. Pass the picture when the music starts again.**

After everyone has had a turn, SAY: **It's good to practice telling each other how Jesus helps us. We should try to tell someone about Jesus every day!** Close with a time of prayer. Encourage all children to pray and ask God to help them tell about His Son, Jesus.

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 3 page.

Materials

completed *Activities*
p. 26 (optional: colored pencils or markers)



Note

If you did not do the activity page during Make It Real, distribute the pages and pencils and allow children to do the drawings now.

Materials

Resources CD track 1, CD player, *Teaching Picture 9*



Added Fun!

The *Resources* CD Game Time Music for this quarter uses the tune "I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N." Teach the words to the children and let them sing with the CD track. They will start slowly and speed up as the music continues!

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

