

Adventures with GOD!

THE JOURNEY TO ROME (C.2.SPRING.12)

Biblical Reference	Acts 24-28 (selected passages)
Key Verse	Philippians 1:29
Key Concept	Following Jesus does not mean I won't experience suffering, but I can trust that God is with me in the middle of it.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the last details of the life of Paul 2. Say the memory verse and explain how it is a privilege to suffer in Christ's name 3. Draw an illustration of the last days of the life of Paul

Life Application

When Paul came to faith in Jesus, he had no idea how different his life would be. He didn't know the challenges and persecution he would face. But, for Paul the important thing was sharing the good news of Jesus with others. It didn't matter that it would bring suffering. Paul counted it a privilege to suffer in Christ's name. When we follow God, it doesn't mean that our life will be easy and free of suffering. But, God promises to be with us no matter what.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduccion		10 minutes
Group work	Paper, Bibles, pencils	15 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles, illustrations, passports	10 minutes
Activity	Maps, pencils, mural, markers	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Acts 28:17-23 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Introduction: Have a conversation with the children about how they feel when something bad happens or when they find themselves in a difficult situation. What are some situations they face that can be discouraging? Imagine what Paul must have felt as he so badly wanted to travel and share the good news of Jesus with others, but he was stuck in prison. He experienced persecution, but he never gave up on sharing the good news with others.

Team work: Today in groups they will look at the last few years of Paul's life, his ministry, the difficult situations he found himself in and how God continued to give him opportunities to share about Jesus with others. Break up into 3 teams. Have each team take a particular Bible passage: Acts 23:31-33 and 24:24-26, Acts 26:30-27:44, Acts 28:1-31. Have them answer the who, what, where, why, when, how questions. What does this tell us about Paul? Where was he? Who was with him? What was happening? Why was it happening? Was there suffering involved? Was there opportunity to share the Gospel?



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Give each group the information sheet which can be of help to them in terms of events in Paul's ministry and journey to Rome.

Bible exploration: When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he was the target of the Jews who wanted nothing more than to see him go away. He was arrested under false charges and remained under arrest for years. Even in Rome he was chained to a soldier when he preached to Caesar's family and others that were with them. Paul took advantage of every opportunity to share with others the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. He did not let being a prisoner slow him down. Even in the midst of very difficult circumstances Paul pursued the call that Jesus had given him.

Have each group present the circumstances Paul found himself in and how he continued to share the good news.

Remember that while Paul was in prison, he wrote letters to churches that had been established to encourage, challenge and teach them. Paul was killed around the year 67 A.D.

What is our commitment to share the good news of Jesus? What are things that make it difficult? What can we learn from Paul?

Activity: Have them finish working on their passports, tracing the route of Paul's last journey on his way to Rome. On the last page of the passport have them write the key Bible verse for today. Then, ask them to help finish the mural by adding symbols or drawings that represent Paul's last journey.

Next week the children will give a presentation of what they have been learning during the trimester. Invite the parents or other groups of children to listen to the presentation. Make invitations if you so choose. Make sure to have the mural and map ready for the presentation, as well as the passports. Use some of the dramas that the children have done to retell the story of Paul to the people who come for the presentation.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

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W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

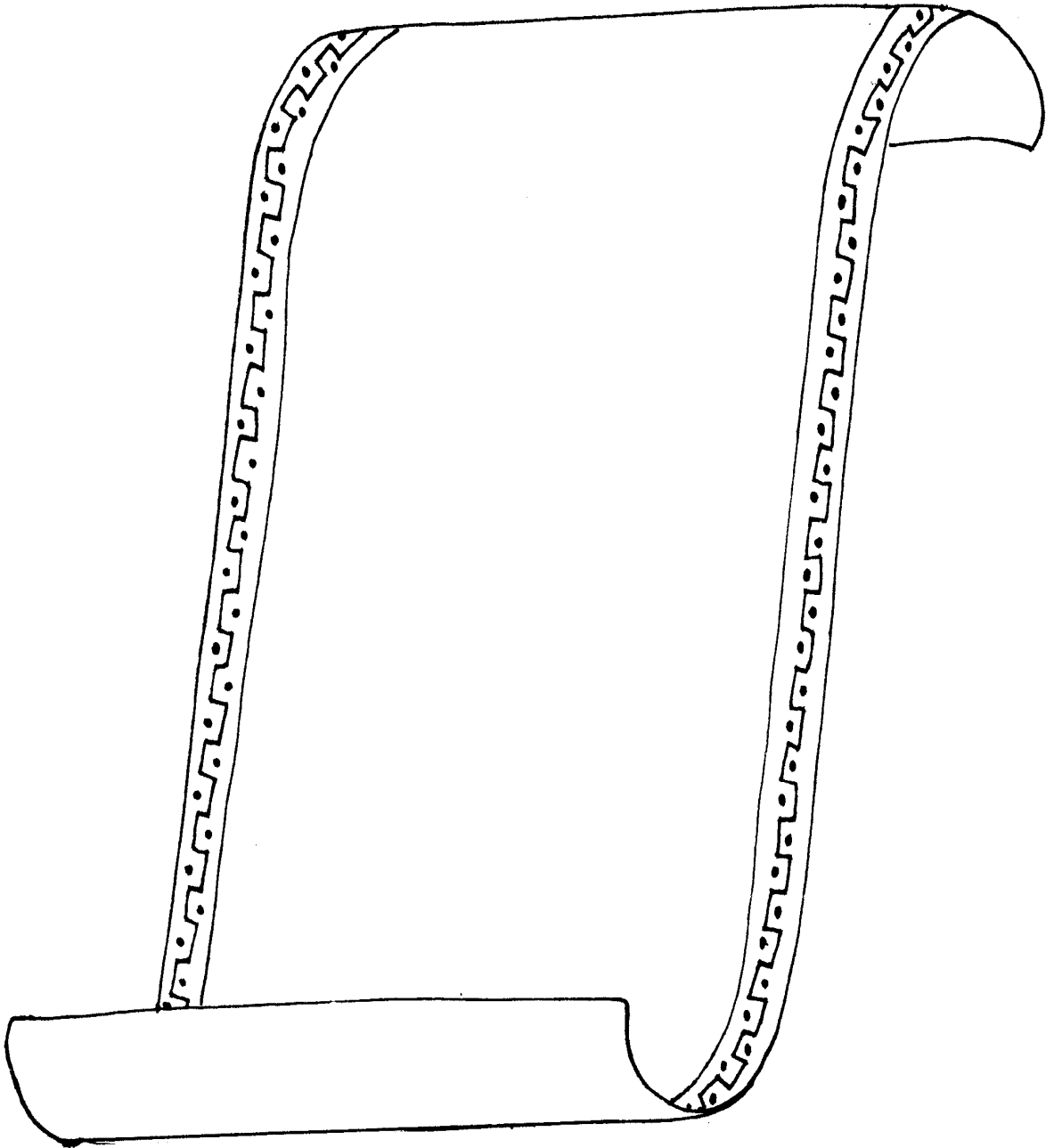
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen



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**PATTERN
INVITATION**



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INFORMATION SHEET

Paul's last journey

Jerusalem	Starting point
Caesarea	Acts 23:31-22, Pablo testifies before Felix and Drusilla, he was in prison for 2 years
Sidon	Acts 27:1-3, welcomed by friends, travel around the coast of Cicilia and arrived at Myra
Myra	Acts 27:5, travel along the coast
Fair Havens	Acts 27:5-8, sailed in a storm with winds against them.
Island of Malta	Acts 27:13-28:01, shipwrecked, Paul heals Publius's father
Syracuse	Acts 28:11-12
Rhegium and Puteoli	Acts 28:13, Paul is welcomed by believers
Rome	Acts 28:15-16, Forum of Appius, received by believers in Rome, testifying at the forum, under house arrest

