

Paul Writes Letters from Prison

Scripture Reference: [Acts 28:11-22, 28-31](#)



Suggested Emphasis: We can tell others about Jesus through the written word: bibles, tracts, correspondence courses, books, etc.



Background
Study



Story
Introduction



Telling
the Story



Review
Questions



Songs



Learning
Activities



Other Online
Resources

Story Overview:

For the two years Paul was in Rome he was allowed to live in his own rented house with Roman guards keeping an eye on him. While there he often invited the Jews to come to his house and hear about Jesus. Some of the Jews became Christians. Paul also spent time writing epistles (letters) to the churches he had visited. Paul wrote to them about how to live the Christian life. Many of these letters are the recorded books that we find in our New Testaments. This is the last record of Paul but many believe that he was released from prison and left Rome to go on more missionary

journeys.

Background Study:

[Click here for an overview of the Book of Acts](#)

When Paul arrived in Rome, he was not thrown in a prison. Instead he was allowed to rent a house to live in. He was then placed under house arrest. He was not allowed to leave the house, but he could move freely within it. There was probably a Roman soldier from the palace (Praetorian) guard chained to him at all times. This guard was changed every three hours except at night when they were asleep.




The palace guard was an elite group of soldiers. They were encamped just outside of Rome. Their primary purpose was to guard the emperor. Their secondary purpose was to guard prisoners waiting for trial in the imperial court. Paul spent time with at least five or six of these soldiers every day. They had no choice but to hear him preach.

Paul stayed in this situation for two years. A prisoner who appealed to Caesar as Paul had done was automatically taken to Rome for trial. He was kept under arrest until his accusers arrived. When they arrived, the trial would begin. If the emperor felt the charges were unwarranted (as these were), he would order the accusers executed instead of the prisoner. For this reason, many times the accusers would not show up. If they did not come to Rome to accuse the prisoner within two years, the prisoner was set free. He could never again be brought to trial by the same accusers for the same offense.

Paul used his imprisonment for Christ. Even though he was under arrest, he continued to preach to any non-believers who came to see him. He even preached to the soldiers with him. He continued to teach any Christians who visited him. He wrote letters to the churches he had already established on his previous missionary journeys to encourage and teach them. He used all his time for Christ in any situation.

It was probably during these two years that he wrote the books of Ephesians,

Colossians, Philippians and Philemon. With these and other writings Paul wrote thirteen of the Epistles that make up our New Testaments. Through the Epistles, God encourages and guides His people.

-  [What happened before this story?](#)
-  [What happens after this story?](#)
-  [List of all Bible stories and themes on this website.](#)

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Way to Introduce the Story:

Help the children find the book of Philippians in their bibles. Most bibles will have a note at the beginning that credits Paul with the writing of this book. Also note Paul's name in the first verse. "Letters were written in a different way when Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians. The letters (or epistles as they were called) did not begin with "Dear people in the church at Philippi" as we might write a letter. The person who wrote the letter often put their name at the beginning. This is what Paul (and Timothy, his helper) did. Next he wrote the name of the people he was writing to. Then he wrote a greeting. Paul wrote lots of epistles. Look at the next book of the bible (Colossians). Remember how the Lord told Paul that he would be going to Rome (Acts 23:11)? Today we are going to learn about what happened when Paul got there. He didn't just sit around doing nothing. He wrote some letters!"

*Depending on the age and attention span of your class you could go on and examine any of Paul's epistles (Romans, I & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, I & 2 Thessalonians, I & 2 Timothy, Titus, or Philemon).

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The Story:

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Ways to Tell the Story:

This story can be told using a variety of methods. Always remain true to the facts found in the Bible but help children connect to its meaning by using drama, visual aids, voice inflection, student interaction and/or emotion.

[Click here for visual aids and story-telling methods.](#)

Review Questions:

1. How did Paul get to Rome? In a ship.
2. What is an epistle? A letter
3. Where was Paul when he wrote many of the epistles? In prison in Rome.

Song Suggestions:

- Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day
- [B-I-B-L-E](#)
- [This Little Light of Mine](#)
- [I Can Be a Missionary](#)
- [Books of the New Testament](#)
- Refer to the [Song Page](#) on this website for more options.

Learning Activities and Crafts:

[\(How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation\)](#)

Activities:

- Find the city of Rome on a map
- Help the children find the table of contents in their bibles and point out all of the epistles that Paul wrote.
- Invite a guest speaker to class today to tell how they use the written word to teach people (people who send out correspondence courses would be good).
- Write notes or send pictures to someone to explain something from God's word.
- Older children could design their own newspaper ad for the church or for correspondence courses.

Crafts:

- Make a relief map of Paul's Journeys featuring the place in today's story. If you are studying about Paul's journeys over a few lessons then you could add more details to the map each time you learn about another stop on the journey. Instructions on how to make a relief map at <http://www.squidoo.com/salt-dough-maps>
- If you are teaching a series of lessons about Paul then you might draw an outline of him on a large poster or paper and then add descriptive words about him each time you study a new lesson ([printable picture here](#)). Alternatively, you might draw a new outline shape of him each week on a whiteboard or even with a stick in the sand (if you are outside) and guide children in adding descriptive words or events inside the outlined shape as a review. Lessons from the life of Paul are:



Instructions: Print a picture for each student. As you teach various stories about Paul the student writes facts about him in the margins. Alternatively, enlarge the picture and complete it as a class project.
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[Saul \(Paul\) Becomes a Christian](#)

- [The Antioch Church](#)
- [Paul's 1st Journey- Lystra](#)
- [Paul's 2nd Journey-Macedonian Vision](#)
- [Lydia Becomes a Christian](#)
- [A Jailer Becomes a Christian](#)
- [The Noble Bereans](#)
- [Paul Preaches in Athens-Mars Hill](#)
- [Priscilla and Aquila](#)
- [Paul's 3rd Journey- Ephesus](#)
- [Eutychus Falls from a Window](#)
- [Paul Goes to Jerusalem](#)
- [Paul's Nephew Uncovers a Plot](#)
- [Paul's Trial](#)
- [Paul's Shipwreck](#)
- [Paul Writes Letters from Prison](#)

Check the [Teaching Ideas](#) page on this website for ideas that are adaptable to any lesson.



Timelines



Story Cards



Bookmarks



Small Pics

[Click here for “Paul Writes Letters from Prison” printables to print \(A4 paper\)](#)

[Click here for “Paul Writes Letters from Prison” to print \(Letter size-USA\)](#)
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Other Online Resources:

- [Colouring page and puzzle worksheets- Paul’s ministry in Rome \(Calvary Curriculum\)](#)
- [Colouring page and puzzle worksheets- writing about faith- Romans \(Calvary Curriculum\)](#)
- [A good selection of printable puzzles as well as games and activities \(gardenofpraise.com\)](#)
- [Wordsearch of Books of New Testament \(christiananswers.net\)](#)
- [Review: Create a “passport” that covers the life of Paul. Good visual ideas and activities. Could be split up to go with several lessons or taught all together as a review of previous lessons concerning Paul \(kidsbibleobjackson.blogspot.co.nz\)](#)
- [Youtube video \(2 minutes 20 seconds\) about Paul’s Letters](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/marynnz/new-testament-epistlesbooks/>

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