

**TEACHER NOTECARDS LEVEL 4, QUARTER C—  
VALIANT VOYAGERS**

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching *Explore Scripture*. Choose the outline form or narrative form based on your teaching style and preference.\*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

\*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture* sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit encourages Christians to faithfully help each other.**

**Acts 18** [outline form]

Intro: *Early believes helped and encouraged each other.*

Ask: *Who helps and encourages you?*

1. Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

- *Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla (picture 4C.1). . . . . Acts 18:2-3*
- *Paul preached to the Jews who lived there . . . . . 18:4-5*
- *The Jews opposed Paul, so he turned to the Gentiles . . . . . 18:6-8*
- *Jesus sent a vision to Paul, encouraging him to stay. . . . . 18:9-10*

2. After more than a year and a half in Corinth, Paul left for Syria.

- *Priscilla and Aquila accompanied Paul to Ephesus. . . . . 18:18-21*
- *Paul moved on to Caesarea and Antioch . . . . . 18:22*
- *He continued to strengthen churches in various places. . . . . 18:23*

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3. Aquila and Priscilla stayed behind in Ephesus.

- *Apollos was a man with great knowledge of Scripture. . . . . 18:24*
- *He was very passionate, but was ignorant of important facts. . . . . 18:25*
- *Priscilla and Aquila taught him more fully (picture 4C.2). . . . . 18:26*
- *Apollos went on to encourage and strengthen the Church . . . . . 18:27-28*

Conclusion: *Paul helped Priscilla and Aquila. Timothy and Silas supported Paul. Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos. Find someone whom you can strengthen and encourage!*

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit encourages Christians to faithfully help each other.**

**Acts 18** [narrative form]

*Where was Paul when he met up with Aquila and Priscilla (picture 4C.1)? (Corinth.) What kind of work did Paul do with Aquila and Priscilla? Do you think Aquila and Priscilla already knew about the Good News, or do you think they learned it from Paul? How often did Paul teach in the synagogue?*

God sent Paul even more help! Remember Silas and Timothy, who worked with Paul earlier? When they came to help Paul, he was encouraged to focus all his time on preaching God’s Word. *How did the Jews receive Paul’s message? What does it mean that Paul shook out his clothes? Where did Paul go after the Jews rejected him? He was not a Jew, but he already believed in God. What was the message Paul had for him? In this one visit, how many people believed? Even Crispus, the synagogue ruler, believed!*

Paul received encouragement directly from God. *How did Paul hear from God and what did He tell Paul to do? How long did Paul stay in Corinth teaching God’s Word?*

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The Jewish people and their synagogue ruler took Paul to the Proconsul of Roman rule requesting Paul be charged for teaching against Roman law. *Why do you think the Proconsul didn’t want anything to do with this? Encourage responses.*

Paul left Corinth and went to Ephesus, accompanied by Aquila and Priscilla. *Did Paul stay in Ephesus? (No.) What did he do? Antioch was Paul’s home. He had finished his second missionary journey.*

After spending some time at his home church, Paul started out on a new journey. He left Antioch and traveled back to Ephesus, stopping off to visit the churches he had already planted. *Why did Paul take this journey? While Paul was traveling, Aquila and Priscilla were in Ephesus telling others the Good News! Who was Apollos (picture 4C.2)? Why did Priscilla and Aquila invite Apollos to their home? How did Apollos respond to this new information?*

Paul was committed to obey the Lord’s request that he speak out about Jesus’ message. He was most effective because he had help. Aquila, Priscilla, Timothy, and Silas all helped make Paul’s job easier and his mission more effective. The Holy Spirit encourages Christians to faithfully help each other. Let’s agree to help each other speak out about the Good News of Jesus Christ!

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit frees people from the bondage of idolatry to turn to Jesus.**

**Acts 19** [outline form]

Intro: *In response to Jesus' gift, people change their lives completely.*

Ask: *How has your life changed since submitting your life to Christ?*

1. Paul enjoyed a powerful ministry in Ephesus.
  - *He encountered believers who had not heard of the Holy Spirit . . . . Acts 19:1-2*
  - *Paul laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit . . . . . 19:4-6*
  - *Paul proclaimed Jesus to everyone in Asia . . . . . 19:10*
  - *God did extraordinary miracles through Paul . . . . . 19:11-12*
  
2. Some Ephesians tried to duplicate Paul's miracles.
  - *Their lack of faith bore terrible fruit . . . . . 19:14-16*
  - *The Ephesians responded in fear of the Lord . . . . . 19:17-18*
  - *They burned their sorcerous scrolls in repentance (picture 4C.3) . . . . . 19:19*



3. Paul's success in Ephesus made many people angry.
  - *Idolmakers were upset about losing business . . . . . 19:23-27*
  - *They incited a riot that gathered at the amphitheater (picture 4C.4) . . . 19:29*
  - *Friends warned Paul not to face the assembly. . . . . 19:30-31*
  - *A city clerk quieted the crowds . . . . . 19:35-41*

Conclusion: *Through Paul, God turned the city of Ephesus upside-down. Imagine what exciting changes Jesus will make in your life when you commit to follow Him!*



Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit frees people from the bondage of idolatry to turn to Jesus.**

**Acts 19** [narrative form]

These twelve men were receptive to the Gospel, but didn't fully understand it. They were willing to repent, but didn't know that the Holy Spirit could empower them to live new lives in Christ. When they heard this, of course, they were eager to receive Him. *Why do you think they had only heard a small part of the Gospel?*

When the Gospel was presented, some believed and some were antagonistic. Paul's patience and persistence are worth noting. When the synagogue was no longer a place where his teachings were welcome, Paul found another location and kept plugging away. Among believers, "The Way" had become a common term for Christianity.

The power of God brought about some very unusual miracles. *Do you believe miracles still happen? What did the evil spirits say about Jesus and Paul? Do you think the evil spirit will go to heaven because he knows who Jesus is?* It is not enough to know who Jesus is—we must personally know about Him and have a relationship



with Him.

These verses are very exciting (picture 4C.3). Emphasize the extreme turnaround these people were making in their lives. Superstition, sorcery, and idolatry were woven throughout every part of their culture and lives. To burn their scrolls was a powerful display of a true life-change. *Do you think people today would be willing to burn their CDs, DVDs, video games, books, TVs and other things that might be idols?*

(picture 4C.4) Help kids understand the impact the Ephesians' conversion had on the local economy. Note the crowd's devotion to idolatry as they cheered their false deity for two hours. This could have been a very bad situation for Paul and the believers. *How can you see the Holy Spirit at work in what happened next?*

God's message spread widely and grew in power. God can do miracles through a believer who is willing to serve Him and obey His Word. Be careful not to get involved in pretend religions or superstitions or things that waste your time. Keep Jesus the God of your life. *How can we really have a real relationship with Jesus Christ, the one true God?* Encourage responses.



Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit builds trust among believers, strengthening the Church.**

**Acts 20** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul worked tirelessly to strengthen new believers.*

Ask: *Why is it important to help new believers?*

1. Paul traveled extensively to encourage and strengthen the churches (picture 4C.5).
  - *He encouraged people in Macedonia* . . . . . Acts 20:1-2
  - *Paul stayed three months with believers in Greece* . . . . . 20:3
  - *Paul and seven others (including Luke) traveled to Philippi* . . . . . 20:4-5
  
2. Paul arrived in Troas.
  - *One night, Paul preached until midnight* . . . . . 20:7
  - *Euthychus fell asleep, fell out a window, and died (picture 4C.6)* . . . . . 20:9
  - *Paul threw himself on Euthychus and proclaimed him alive* . . . . . 20:10
  - *The people were greatly comforted* . . . . . 20:12

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3. Paul hurried back towards Jerusalem, to arrive by Pentecost.
  - *At Miletus, he met with the Ephesian elders* . . . . . 20:17
  - *Paul reminded them of his faithfulness* . . . . . 20:18-21
  - *He declared his intentions to obey God* . . . . . 20:22-24
  - *Paul commissioned the elders to watch over their flock* . . . . . 20:28-31

Conclusion: *Everything Paul did advanced the Gospel and strengthened the Church. Resolve today to commit yourselves to the same tasks!*

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit builds trust among believers, strengthening the Church.**

**Acts 20** [narrative form]

*Why did Paul send for the disciples to come to him (picture 4C.5)? Paul spent three months in Greece. What did he do while he was there? Why didn't he travel to Syria? As he returned to Macedonia, Paul had several disciples with him. How many people accompanied Paul and Luke on the ship? (Seven.)*

*When they left Macedonia, who went first to Troas? (The seven disciples.) Luke and Paul stayed in Macedonia, observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread, sailed to Philippi, and met up with the others in Troas.*

*Something unusual happened during the seven days in Troas. Why do you think Paul was teaching so late? Encourage responses. What happened to Eutychus? What was Paul's reaction (picture 4C.6)? How did the others respond?*

*Why was Paul hurrying to Jerusalem? Why was Pentecost special to Christians?*

*Whom did Paul invite to this meeting? As you listen to Paul's farewell speech, look*

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*for examples of how Paul proved that he had been trustworthy in his actions while serving the Lord. Read Acts 20:18-35. Ask kids what examples of Paul's trustworthiness they caught in those verses. What advice or words of encouragement did you hear Paul give to the Ephesian leaders that earned their trust in Paul? (Keep watch, shepherd your church, be on your guard against distortions of the truth from within your own churches, help the weak, remember the words of God.)*

*Put yourself in Paul's place—he is saying goodbye to people he may never see again. If you were a missionary whose work had only just begun, what would your biggest concern be? Encourage responses. What were the people most concerned about? (Paul's well-being.)*

*Do you think Paul proved he was a trustworthy example for people to follow? Encourage responses. Why do you think trust is important for the Church's work? The Holy Spirit builds trust among believers, strengthening the Church. What can you do to prove to others that you are trustworthy? Encourage responses.*

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit comforts Christians who obey God no matter what.**

**Acts 21:1-36** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul knew that God was with him, whatever he faced.*

Ask: *How does the Holy Spirit comfort you in times of distress?*

1. Paul’s third missionary journey came to an end.
  - *Christians in Tyre tried to persuade Paul not to continue* . . . . . Acts 21:4
  - *Agabus prophesied that Paul would be arrested (picture 4C.7)* . . . . . 21:11
  - *Paul said he would obediently face whatever God willed* . . . . . 21:12-13
  
2. Paul arrived in Jerusalem to the warm greetings of the Church.
  - *The Jerusalem leaders had concerns from Jewish believers* . . . . . 21:21-22
  - *They suggested that Paul undergo Jewish purification* . . . . . 21:23-25
  - *Paul submitted to the church leaders’ authority.* . . . . . 21:26



3. Devout Jews were not happy to see Paul in Jerusalem (picture 4C.8).
  - *They accused Paul of breaking their laws* . . . . . 21:28
  - *A riot broke out, and the people intended to kill Paul.* . . . . . 21:30
  - *A Roman commander intervened* . . . . . 21:32
  - *He arrested Paul, protecting him from the crowd* . . . . . 21:33-36

Conclusion: *God was with Paul every step of the way—from dire warnings about what would take place in Jerusalem, to the riot of the Jews, to Paul’s predicted arrest. Gain strength knowing that God is with you—in every situation!*



Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit comforts Christians who obey God no matter what.**

**Acts 21:1-36** [narrative form]

Today we will be joining Paul as he finishes his third missionary trip. Paul’s friends had dire warnings for him. *Were the Christians just speaking their own opinions to Paul? Why do you think the Spirit would tell them about the trouble ahead in Jerusalem if Paul was supposed to go there anyway? What evidence do you see that Paul was loved and respected?*

*Who hosted Paul and the others in Caesarea? Philip, the evangelist. What do you suppose “one of the seven” means? Who was Agabus? Why did Agabus bind his hands and feet with Paul’s belt (picture 4C.7)? This isn’t the first time that Paul and Agabus had met. Let’s read Acts 11:27-28 to remember the situation. How did Paul’s friends respond to this prophecy? How do you think Paul felt when everyone kept trying to persuade him not to go to Jerusalem?*

James and the elders listened to a report from Paul. *What did Paul tell the Christians in Jerusalem? How did they respond to this news?* The church leaders then



talked with Paul about a problem they had. *What was the problem?* (People were saying that Paul taught Jews to turn away from Moses’ Law.) *Was this accusation true?* (No.) *What did the leaders want Paul to do?* (Go through the purification rites—shave his head.) *How did Paul respond?* (He was willing to do it to show them the rumors weren’t true.)

(picture 4C.8) *Who caused the riot?* (Unbelieving Jews.) *How was Paul’s life saved? Who came and stopped Paul’s beating?* (The Roman commander.) *When he asked the people what Paul had done, what was their charge?* (The crowd was unable to give a truthful answer! They shouted “Away with him!”)

Paul obeyed God and went to Jerusalem, knowing something bad was going to happen. He made the right choice and obeyed his Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus was with Paul, giving him strength to face any experience. The Holy Spirit comforts Christians who obey God, no matter what. We can trust and obey Jesus regardless of what may happen.





Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit empowers believers to boldly testify about Jesus.**

**Acts 21:37—22:29** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul spoke about Christ to people who wanted to kill him.*

Ask: *How can you gain boldness to share your testimony with others?*

1. A Roman commander arrested Paul just as the crowd turned violent.
  - *Paul asked the commander for permission to speak* . . . . . Acts 21:37
  - *The Roman commander mistook Paul for an Egyptian upriser* . . . . . 21:38
  - *Paul asked to speak to the crowd* . . . . . 21:39
  
2. Paul addressed the angry crowd (picture 4C.9).
  - *Paul explained his Jewish background* . . . . . 22:3
  - *He admitted to persecuting Christians* . . . . . 22:4-5
  - *Paul described his encounter with Jesus* . . . . . 22:6-15

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3. Paul told the people how he responded to Jesus.
  - *Ananias explained God's will and had Paul baptized* . . . . . 22:16
  - *In Jerusalem, Christ appeared again to Paul* . . . . . 22:17
  - *He told Paul to minister to the Gentiles* . . . . . 22:18-21
  
4. The crowd became furious at Paul's words.
  - *The commander took Paul away* . . . . . 22:24
  - *As he was about to be interrogated, Paul announced his Roman citizenship* (picture 4C.10) . . . . . 22:25-26
  - *The soldiers left Paul alone* . . . . . 22:29

Conclusion: *When faced with an angry mob, Paul chose to speak out rather than run and hide. May his example inspire us to speak boldly about our faith!*

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit empowers believers to boldly testify about Jesus.**

**Acts 21:37—22:29** [narrative form]

Paul had just been saved from an angry mob by being arrested by Roman soldiers! He could have let them lead him to the safety of a jail cell, but Paul instead asked to speak to the crowd. The Holy Spirit emboldened Paul so he could give his testimony to these people.

As this scene opens, the crowd is still upset with Paul (picture 4C.9). Paul boldly shared his testimony to an angry mob. *Do you think it was easy or hard for Paul to be a witness for Jesus in this situation? Explain your answer. Why did Paul begin by talking about where he was from and his religious training?* (Paul established his Jewish roots and knowledge of the Law.) *How did Paul treat Christians before?*

Paul described his life as a hater of Christians. Next Paul experienced something that changed his life. *Whose voice did Paul hear? What fears might Paul have had during this encounter?*

*How do you think Ananias felt when God told him to go to Paul the persecutor?*

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Encourage responses. *What brought the change in Paul?* (Paul heard the voice from heaven, had a conversation with Jesus, and was blinded and then healed.) *What did God choose Paul to do?* (Paul was chosen to know God's will, see the Righteous One, hear words from His mouth, and be His witness.)

The Bible doesn't tell us what Paul's traveling companions thought of his change. *What happened in Jerusalem when Paul fell into a trance?* (Paul heard the Lord tell him to leave Jerusalem.) *Where did the Lord say Paul should go?* (Paul was to go to the Gentiles.) *Why didn't God send Paul to the Jews?* (Few Jews would accept his testimony.)

Read Acts 22:22-29. The Roman soldiers were going to torture and question Paul (picture 4C.10). Once again the Holy Spirit was with Paul. *What did Paul tell the centurion that stopped his torture?* (Paul was a Roman citizen.)

Paul took every opportunity and boldly testified about Jesus. He explained how Jesus transformed him from being a hater of Christians to becoming a servant of Christ who devoted his life to telling others the Gospel. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to boldly testify about Jesus. It is part of the transformation that takes place when we come to Jesus for new life and the forgiveness of our sins.

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Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit protects Christians from the enemy's attacks.**

**Acts 22:30—23:35** [outline form]

Intro: *God protected Paul from angry Jews who wanted to kill him.*

Ask: *How does God protect you?*

1. The Roman commander took Paul to the Sanhedrin.
  - *The High priest unlawfully ordered Paul to be struck . . . . . Acts 23:2*
  - *Paul stated his belief in the resurrection . . . . . 23:6*
  - *The Pharisees and Sadducees argued over Paul's words . . . . . 23:7-9*
  - *God promised to keep Paul safe until he arrived in Rome . . . . . 23:11*
  
2. Jewish leaders had vowed together to kill Paul.
  - *They plotted to kill Paul en route to the Sanhedrin . . . . . 23:15*
  - *Paul's nephew overheard the plot and told Paul (picture 4C.11) . . . . . 23:16*
  - *Paul sent his nephew to inform the Roman commander . . . . . 23:17-21*

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3. The Roman commander responded to news of the conspiracy (picture 4C.12).
  - *He prepared a group of 470 soldiers to escort Paul to Caesarea . . . . . 23:23*
  - *The commander wrote a letter to Governor Felix . . . . . 23:26-30*
  - *Paul arrived safely in Caesarea . . . . . 23:33*
  - *The governor placed Paul under house arrest until his accusers arrived . . . . . 23:35*

Conclusion: *God used various people to protect Paul from those who wanted to harm him. When we diligently serve the Lord, He will protect us also!*

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit protects Christians from the enemy's attacks.**

**Acts 22:30—23:35** [narrative form]

The Sanhedrin was the highest court in Jerusalem. Its members were made up of elders, lawyers, Pharisees, and Sadducees. *While questioning Paul, what law did the high priest break?* (The high priest illegally ordered Paul to be struck on the mouth.) *What unlikely group came to Paul's defense and why?* (The Pharisees sided with Paul because he believed in the resurrection.) *What resulted from the fighting between the religious groups?* (The Romans carried Paul away to safety.) *Who encouraged Paul in prison?* (The Lord appeared and told Paul he would testify in Rome.) *Why would that message encourage Paul?* (It meant they wouldn't kill him.) God protected Paul through the soldiers and through Paul's quick thinking.

*What oath or promise did the Jews make?* (They vowed to not eat or drink until they killed Paul.) *What conspiracy did they form?* (They would request Paul to be taken to the Sanhedrin for questioning. On the way to the courts, Jews would ambush and kill Paul.) *How do you think Paul's nephew felt when he heard the plot? When he told Paul (picture 4C.11)? When he told the Roman commander? What did the*

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*commander tell the boy?* (Not to tell anyone that he had reported this.) *Why was the boy given this warning?* (The commander didn't want the conspirators to have any idea that Paul would be moved during the night.) God protected Paul through his nephew and through the commander's actions.

*How many soldiers protected Paul (picture 4C.12)? Do you think Paul felt safe because of the soldiers, or was there another reason he could feel safe? What did the Roman commander say in his letter to Governor Felix?* (He explained what had happened and asked him to hear the case.) *What was the governor's response?* (He agreed to hear the case when Paul's accusers arrived.) *Where was Paul kept under guard?* (He stayed at Herod's palace.) God protected Paul through the commander and Governor Felix.

Being arrested and kept in prison looked like bad situations for Paul, but God was protecting him from people who wanted to harm him, even kill him! His arrest also led to something Paul had longed for—he would soon be going to Rome! The Holy Spirit protects Christians from the enemy's attacks today in the same way He watched over and protected Paul. Whenever you are faced with difficult situations, trust that the Holy Spirit is with you and that it is all part of God's larger plan.

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit helps believers defend their faith and actions.**

**Acts 24** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul defended himself before the Jews and Governor Felix.*

Ask: *How would you “defend” your faith in Christ?*

1. Ananias the High Priest and other Jews accused Paul before Governor Felix.
  - *The lawyer, Tertullus, flattered the governor.* . . . . . Acts 24:2-4
  - *He accused Paul of three crimes.* . . . . . 24:5-7
  - *The other Jews joined in his accusations.* . . . . . 24:9
  
2. The governor gave Paul a chance to defend himself (picture 4C.13).
  - *Paul refuted the three accusations* . . . . . 24:12-13
  - *Paul admitted to worshiping the God of the Jews* . . . . . 24:14
  - *Paul declared his conscience clear before God and other people* . . . . . 24:16
  - *Paul restated his belief in the resurrection of people.* . . . . . 24:21

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3. Governor Felix kept Paul under arrest while he decided Paul’s case.
  - *He visited Paul with his wife, but was disturbed by Paul’s words.* . . . 24:24-25
  - *Felix was secretly hoping Paul would bribe him* . . . . . 24:26
  - *In the end, he left Paul in prison* (picture 4C.14) . . . . . 24:27

Conclusion: *Paul defended what he had done in serving God with a clear conscience. God will reward our integrity!*

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit helps believers defend their faith and actions.**

**Acts 24** [narrative form]

Order in the court! Today we are going to hear the evidence in the court case of Paul. Whenever a witness is called to testify, he or she is asked, “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?” *Why is telling the truth so important in a court case?*

*Who were the people involved in bringing the case against Paul?* (Ananias, Tertullus, and some elders brought charges against Paul.) *What do you think Tertullus, the lawyer, tried to do in his opening remarks?* (He flattered Felix with praise.) *What charges were brought against Paul?* (Paul was accused of being a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews, leading the Nazarene sect or Christians, and desecrating the Temple.)

Paul chose to defend himself honestly and respectfully (picture 4C.13). *Why didn’t he use flattery or complain about his mistreatment?* (Possible answers: he knew God was protecting him, he knew he was right, he didn’t need to flatter because God was on his side, etc.) *Do you think the Jews who accused Paul could say that they had*

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*a clear conscience? Why or why not?* Now that both sides have presented, let’s find out the verdict.

*What was Felix’s decision?* (He decided to let someone else decide the case.) *What does his decision indicate about his character?* (Possible answers: he doesn’t want to be responsible, doesn’t like to make decisions, doesn’t want anyone mad at him, etc.)

*What three topics did Paul and Felix discuss?* (Righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come.) *Was Felix really trying to understand these things?* Support your answer. (No, he was hoping to get a bribe—verse 26.) *How long was Paul left in prison* (picture 4C.14)? *Why did Felix leave Paul in prison?* (He wanted to do the Jews a favor, and this would make them happy.)

The Holy Spirit helps believers defend their faith and their actions. If Paul had paid a bribe and Felix had released him, he would have been back in the hands of the people who wanted to kill him. Paul was stuck in jail, but his conscience was clear, and he knew he was still accomplishing God’s will. Each of us is an example to others who are watching. We must always consider how our words and actions affect others. God will reward our integrity with treasures in heaven.

2



Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit provides patience to Christians who wait on God.**

**Acts 25** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul waited two years in jail only to sit through an inconclusive trial.*

Ask: *How do you deal with times that require great patience?*

1. The new Roman governor, Festus, toured the region.
  - *The Jewish leaders still wanted to ambush and kill Paul.* . . . . . Acts 25:1-3
  - *Festus wanted Paul to remain at Caesarea (picture 4C.15)* . . . . . 25:4-5
  - *The Jews could not prove their charges against Paul* . . . . . 25:7
  - *Paul defended himself and appealed to Caesar (picture 4C.16)* . . . . . 25:8-12
  
2. King Agrippa and his wife visited Governor Festus.
  - *Festus discussed Paul’s case with the king.* . . . . . 25:14-17
  - *Festus explained how he did not understand the case* . . . . . 25:18-20
  - *King Agrippa wanted to meet with Paul* . . . . . 25:22

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3. Soldiers brought Paul before King Agrippa and many high-ranking officials.
  - *Festus publicly restated the Jews’ petition against Paul.* . . . . . 25:24
  - *Festus gave his own opinion of Paul’s innocence* . . . . . 25:25
  - *He asked Agrippa and the others to investigate Paul.* . . . . . 25:26-27

Conclusion: *Throughout his ordeal, Paul was patient, respectful, and firm in faith. The Holy Spirit will supply us also with patience for times that we wait upon the Lord.*

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit provides patience to Christians who wait on God.**

**Acts 25** [narrative form]

Can you imagine spending two years of your life in prison for something you didn’t do? Paul had been in prison in Caesarea for two years, and he didn’t even know what was going to happen to him (picture 4C.15)! Finally, the man who left him there, Felix, was replaced by a new governor, Festus.

*What hint is given that Paul might not get a fair trial (picture 4C.16)?* (Jewish leaders urged Festus to grant them a favor.) *Why did the Jews want the trial held in Jerusalem?* (They planned to ambush and kill Paul there.) *What account did Paul give?* (He said he had done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews, the Temple, or Caesar.) *Paul was confident of his rights. What right did he claim as a Roman citizen?* (He appealed to Caesar.) *Why did he appeal to Caesar?* (Caesar was the highest authority.)

*As Festus explained the situation to King Agrippa, what bothered Festus about the Jews?* (They wanted Paul handed over before he could defend himself.) *What “crimes” did Festus find that Paul could be accused of?* (None, the dispute was over

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religious points and a man named Jesus.) *Why did Festus agree to Paul’s appeal to go to Caesar?* (He had no case against Paul—this would get Paul off his hands and please the Jews.) *Why did Festus ask Agrippa about Paul?* (Agrippa had a better understanding of the religious beliefs in question.)

*Whom did Festus say had petitioned him about Paul?* (He said that all the Jewish community in Jerusalem and Caesarea petitioned him.) *Why do you think Festus made such an exaggerated statement?* Encourage responses. *What reason did Festus give for having King Agrippa hear the case before sending Paul to Caesar?* (He wanted to find a charge against Paul for his letter to Caesar.)

Festus asked Agrippa to hear Paul and decide if there were indeed any solid charges to levy against Paul. Paul waited patiently while the Roman and Jewish leaders danced around the issue of the legality of his arrest. He trusted God’s will for his life and relied on God’s promise that he would testify in Rome. We can all request patience from God, especially while waiting for His plan to become clear.

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit directs believers to stand up for the truth.**

**Acts 26** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul spoke directly and honestly to the most powerful men in Judea.*

Ask: *How should our testimony change when speaking to important people?*

1. King Agrippa invited Paul to speak in his own defense (picture 4C.17).
  - *Paul respectfully acknowledged the king’s Jewish faith.* . . . . . Acts 26:3
  - *Paul described his own Jewish background.* . . . . . 26:4-5
  - *He explained that his faith was a fulfillment of God’s covenant.* . . . . . 26:6-8
  - *Paul confessed his persecution of Christians.* . . . . . 26:9-11
  
2. Paul related his encounter with the risen Christ.
  - *Jesus appointed Paul as a witness to Jews and Gentiles.* . . . . . 26:15-18
  - *Paul obeyed and preached salvation.* . . . . . 26:19-23
  - *Governor Festus impulsively declared Paul insane.* . . . . . 26:24
  - *Paul replied soberly and respectfully.* . . . . . 26:25

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3. Paul then turned his attention back to King Agrippa.
  - *Paul urged the king to respond to his testimony.* . . . . . 26:26-27
  - *The king refused to acknowledge Christ.* . . . . . 26:28
  - *Paul prayed that everyone there would come to know Jesus.* . . . . . 26:29
  - *Agrippa and Felix could find nothing wrong with Paul’s actions.* . . . . . 26:31
  - *They used Paul’s appeal to Caesar to send him away* (picture 4C.18) . . . . . 26:32

Conclusion: *Paul did not back down from the truth but rather told everyone what Jesus had done for him and how Jesus offers the same gift to them. Our job is the same today—to stand up for the truth and boldly proclaim Jesus to all who will listen.*

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit directs believers to stand up for the truth.**

**Acts 26** [narrative form]

In our courtroom we have the honorable Festus, his most excellent King Agrippa, her Excellency Bernice, and the leading men of the city. Paul is, of course, our defendant (picture 4C.17).

*In what manner did Paul address King Agrippa?* (He exhibited politeness and respect.) *Why was King Agrippa’s understanding of Jewish customs important to Paul?* (He would already know of the promised Messiah and be curious if Jesus was indeed the promised one.)

*Why did Paul talk about his Jewish background? Why would Paul want to bring up his terrible past?* (He was relating to his accusers by showing his sinfulness and need for a Savior.) *How do you think Paul felt as he retold the part about persecuting Christians?*

*Why do you think Paul included this in his defense?* Encourage responses. *How does Paul finally address the charges?* (He explains that the Jews were upset that

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he preached repentance to the Gentiles but he is merely obeying the vision he received from heaven.) Paul made it clear that he had not added to nor taken away from the truth. Because of his obedience, God helped him the entire time. Paul was sharing the Gospel message with King Agrippa and all the people present. He always took every opportunity to share the Gospel.

*If you were not a believer in Jesus, what parts of Paul’s testimony would you consider the most convincing?* Let children respond. *What might have kept Agrippa from accepting Paul’s testimony about Jesus and following Christ?* Paul wanted everyone present to hear the truth and become a believer like himself. He didn’t plead for his physical freedom, but rather for their spiritual freedom from sin. *What verdict was reached?* (Not guilty) *Was Paul released? Why or why not?* (picture 4C.18)

The Holy Spirit directs believers to stand up for the truth. In front of his most powerful audience to date, Paul gave his testimony about Jesus with passion and respect. He did not back down from the truth but rather told everyone what Jesus had done for him and how Jesus offers the same gift to them. Our job as believers in Jesus is the same today—to stand up for the truth and boldly proclaim Jesus to all who will listen.

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit delivers Christians from harm in order to achieve His purposes.**

**Acts 27** [outline form]

Intro: *God kept an entire ship's crew and passengers safe during a terrible storm.*

Ask: *How can you trust God to protect you?*

1. Paul, Luke, and others sailed for Rome under guard.
  - *The centurion, Julius, allowed friends to help Paul* . . . . . Acts 27:3
  - *The winds blew against the ship, and they lost time* . . . . . 27:4,9
  - *Paul warned the men of danger, but they did not listen* . . . . . 27:10-12
  
2. The ship headed out to open sea.
  - *A storm wind soon blew them off course* . . . . . 27:14-15
  - *The crew gave up hope of surviving* . . . . . 27:20
  - *Paul revealed that an angel had promised they would all be saved* . . . 27:23-24
  - *He encouraged them to share his faith* . . . . . 27:25-26

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3. The storm drove the ship toward land (picture 4C.19).
  - *Once again Paul encouraged the people onboard* . . . . . 27:33-36
  - *The ship ran aground on a sandbar just before landfall* . . . . . 27:39-41
  - *The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners, but Julius wouldn't allow it* . . . 27:42-43
  - *Everyone reached land safely (picture 4C.20)* . . . . . 27:43-44

Conclusion: *Paul's faith, courage, and leadership were instruments that God used to save the people on the ship. We can see how God orchestrates situations and circumstances to fulfill His purposes for His servants.*

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit delivers Christians from harm in order to achieve His purposes.**

**Acts 27** [narrative form]

Let's discover what happened on Paul's sea voyage. *Where was Paul headed and why?* (Paul was headed to Rome to stand trial before Caesar.) *Who was on the ship with Paul?* (The centurion named Julius, the ship's crew, soldiers under the command of Julius, other prisoners, Aristarchus, Paul, and Luke.) *Why do you think Julius showed kindness to Paul?* Encourage responses. *What things do you think Paul's friends might have provided?* (Food, possibly clothing.)

The ship had lost more time due to the strong winds. *How do you think Paul felt after spending two years in Caesarea waiting to go to Rome?* (Possible answers: frustrated, angry, tired of waiting, impatient, etc.) *What warning did Paul give the men on the ship?* (Paul said it would be disastrous and bring great loss to the ship, cargo, and to their own lives.) *How did Julius, the centurion, respond?* (He followed what the pilot and ship's owner said instead of Paul's advice.)

*What was the emotional state of the people on board the ship?* (Everyone but Paul had

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lost all hope.) *Why had Paul not lost hope?* (An angel told him he would go to Rome and everyone on the ship would live.) *What did Paul reveal would be the outcome from the storm?* (They would run aground on an island.)

*How many people were on the ship?* (276.) *What did Paul urge everyone to do? Why?* (They would need strength to survive.) The sailors planned to run the ship into shore. *What happened instead (picture 4C.19)?* (It struck a sandbar.)

*Why did the soldiers want to kill the prisoners?* (So they wouldn't swim away and escape.) *Why did Julius forbid that to happen?* (He wanted to spare Paul's life.) *How did God provide a way for everyone to reach safety (picture 4C.20)?* (They used planks and pieces of the ship to float to land.)

God delivers Christians from harm in order to achieve His purposes. Paul's faith and courage and the leadership he exercised among the skilled sailors were instruments that God used to save Paul and the rest of the people on the ship. We can see how God orchestrates situations and circumstances to fulfill His purposes for His servants. Just like Paul, we can rely on God to deliver us through the storms and shipwrecks of our lives. We can trust Him to work out our experiences for good. When we look back, we can see all God does to help us.

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit enables believers to witness to all people.**

**Acts 28** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul preached the Gospel to everyone he encountered.*

Ask: *How can you remember to talk about Jesus in all situations?*

1. The island Paul and the others had washed up on was Malta.
  - *A poisonous snake bit Paul, but did not harm him* (picture 4C.21). . . . Acts 28:3-5
  - *The people were superstitious—the miracle awed them* . . . . . 28:4-6
  - *Paul ministered to the sick on the island* . . . . . 28:7-10
  
2. After three months in Malta, Paul finally set sail for Rome.
  - *Christian brothers and sisters ministered to Paul on the way* . . . . . 28:14-15
  - *Soldiers placed Paul under house arrest* (picture 4C.22). . . . . 28:16

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3. Paul immediately began preaching in Rome.
  - *He began with the Jewish leaders* . . . . . 28:17
  - *Many Jews gathered to hear Paul speak* . . . . . 28:23
  - *Paul tried to convince them from Scripture about Jesus* . . . . . 28:23
  - *Some Jews believed, while others did not* . . . . . 28:24-25
  - *Paul continued to preach in Rome for two years* . . . . . 28:30

Conclusion: *Paul preached the Gospel whenever he had the opportunity—even while in chains, during a shipwreck, or after a snakebite! Be prepared to share Jesus' gift of love and forgiveness when God gives you the opportunity.*

2

Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit enables believers to witness to all people.**

**Acts 28** [narrative form]

*How would you feel if you had just spent fourteen days on the raging sea, been shipwrecked and washed ashore? Paul was probably relieved that he had endured yet another brush with death. Little did he know that he was in danger again* (picture 4C.21). *When the poisonous snake bit him, what did the people think?* (Paul would surely die; he was being punished for his misdeeds.) *Do you think Paul was surprised that the snake didn't harm him?* Let kids answer. *How did the snakebite turn into an opportunity for Paul to minister?* (When the people saw that Paul was not affected by the snake poison, they brought him to their chief.)

The Holy Spirit gave Paul the ability to turn misfortunes and problems into ministry opportunities. *What miracle did Paul perform at his host's house?* (Laid hands on his father and healed him.) *How did the people react to this miracle?* (They all brought their sick to be healed.) *How did they honor Paul?* (Supplied everything they needed for the ship.) *How long were they in Malta?* (Three months.)

Paul was finally ready to sail the last portion of his trip to Rome. *What thoughts*

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*might he have been thinking?* Encourage responses. *Who was in Rome waiting for Paul?* (Brothers in Christ.) *How did this affect Paul?* (He thanked God and was encouraged.)

Read Acts 28:17-27. *Why did Paul want to speak to the Jews?* (He wanted to explain how he had done nothing deserving death and to explain about Jesus.) *How did the Jews react?* (Some believed and others didn't.)

Paul was a prisoner in Rome waiting for his trial. *Where did he live* (picture 4C.22)? (He lived in a rented house by himself with a soldier to guard him.) *How long did he live this way in Rome?* (Two years.) *How did Paul spend his time in Rome?* (Spoke with anyone who came to see him; preached and taught about Jesus; wrote letters to churches.)

The Holy Spirit enables believers to witness to all people. Paul preached the Gospel whenever he had the opportunity—even while in chains, during a shipwreck, or after a snakebite! Paul's life was dedicated to Jesus' message, and his eyes and ears were open to recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance and encouragement. We use our physical eyes to read the words written in the Bible. When we read with spiritual eyes, we look for what God wants us to see in His Word.

2



Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit sustains Christians to continually spread Jesus’ message.**

**Acts 1-28** [outline form]

Intro: *Paul was faithful to Jesus to the very end of his life!*

Ask: *How can someone remain faithful to God for such a long time?*

1. Paul’s final years on earth as determined by historians:

(picture 4C.23 & 4C.24)

- *Rome released Paul from house arrest. . . . . A.D. 62*
- *Paul traveled to and preached in Spain, Macedonia, and Asia . . . A.D. 62-66*
- *Fires destroyed much of Rome—Emperor Nero blamed Christians . . . A.D. 64*
- *Romans arrested Paul again, tried him in Rome, and beheaded him . . . A.D. 66*
- *Paul’s heavenly eternal life began! . . . . . A.D. 66*

Conclusion: *Even when disaster after disaster came his way, Paul never lost his trust in God or his desire to preach the Gospel message. May the Holy Spirit sustain us to be just like Paul!*



Big Idea: **The Holy Spirit sustains Christians to continually spread Jesus’ message.**

**Acts 1-28** [narrative form]

We have learned much about Paul’s amazing life. He accomplished great things for Jesus and lived through many exciting adventures. Briefly review key scenes from this quarter:

- Acts 18:3—Paul makes tents with Priscilla and Aquila.
- Acts 19:26—Paul causes a riot in Ephesus.
- Acts 20:7-12—Paul preaches, a young man falls from the window, and Paul heals him.
- Acts 21:30-32—Paul is in Jerusalem, and a crowd tries to kill him until the Roman soldiers stop them.
- Acts 22:24-29—Paul reveals he is a Roman citizen to the Roman commander.
- Acts 23:6-8—Paul testifies before the Jews, and they turn against each other because he mentions the resurrection.
- Acts 26:30-32—Paul politely testifies before Festus, King Agrippa and Bernice,



who find him guilty of nothing deserving death.

- Acts 27:23-25, 39-44—Paul’s ship is battered in a storm, and everyone makes it to the island safely.
- Acts 28:1-6—Paul is bitten by a snake, accused of being a murderer, and then called a god because the poison didn’t harm him.

(picture 4C.23) *What do you think happened next in Paul’s life?* Spend time allowing kids to suggest possible conclusions to the story of Paul’s ministry and life. *Even though the details of Paul’s last years on earth are not recorded in the Book of Acts, we are able to gain accurate information from Paul’s writings (the epistles or letters) and from other historical sources.*

(picture 4C.24) *How do you feel knowing Paul’s life ended this way?* Encourage responses.

*Of all the things that you’ve learned about Paul, what will you remember most about his life?* Paul was faithful to the very end of his life. Even when disaster after disaster came his way, Paul never lost his trust in God or his desire to preach the Gospel message. Conclude by reading 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

