

PAUL WITNESS AND WINNER

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

Text: Jennifer Haaijer

Illustrated by: Alison Brown

Text published by:

CEF® of Ireland
199 Templemore Ave
Belfast
BT5 4FR
N. Ireland

CEF® of Ireland
40 Mountain Close
Cartron View
Sligo
Ireland

www.cefireland.com
www.cefeurope.com



Copyright © 2008 Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Ireland.
All rights reserved worldwide. May be reproduced for
personal, nonprofit and non-commercial uses only.
Visit www.teachkids.eu for full details of permission.

Table of contents

Lesson		Page
Introduction		3
Overview		5
Lesson 6	Freed from Satan	7
Lesson 7	Uproar in Jerusalem	15
Lesson 8	Witnessing to kings	23
Lesson 9	Shipwreck	33
Lesson 10	Finishing the race	41
Ready to tell (Carry-over activity - lesson 8)		47
God's promises (Carry-over activity - lesson 9)		48
Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ		50

Introduction

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked “CT”. These are also marked out in the lesson plan.

You will notice that the central truths are marked with a “U” or an “S” to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as, “If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ...” or, “Christian, you ...”.

The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. For example, the application may use a boy’s name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. If you are teaching the lessons as a series over five weeks it would be advisable to choose two or three verses to teach well, which the children will then remember. If you try to teach all five, the children may not really know any of them well.

Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for each lesson; back it with flannel or pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

Additional helps

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle, and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Freed from Satan Acts 19:8 - 20:1	Satan is powerful, but the Lord Jesus is all-powerful	Unsaved: He will save you from sin and Satan when you trust Him Saved: Trust Him to help you defeat Satan	"... He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" 1 John 4:4b
Uproar in Jerusalem Acts 21 - 23	Nothing can separate God's children from the love of God	Unsaved: You will experience this love when you trust Jesus Christ Saved: Believe this wonderful truth	"For I am persuaded that (neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,) shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:38-39
Witnessing to kings Acts 23:26-30 Acts 24 - 26	God wants every Christian to be a witness	Saved: Take every opportunity to tell others about the Lord	"... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ..." 1 Peter 3:15
Shipwreck Acts 27:1 - 28:11	God can never fail	Saved: Trust Him in the storms of life	"He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" Deuteronomy 32:4
Finishing the race Acts 28:11-31	Be like Paul, finish "the race"	Unsaved: Begin "the race" by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour Saved: Remember, God gives you all you need to finish "the race"	"... Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ..." Hebrews 12:1-2

Lesson 6

Freed from Satan

Scripture for teachers

Acts 19:8 - 20:1

Central truth

Satan is powerful, but the Lord Jesus is all-powerful

Application

Unsaved: He will save you from sin and Satan when you trust Him

Saved: Trust Him to help you defeat Satan

Memory verse

“... He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” 1 John 4:4b

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6
- ◆ Map showing places Paul visited on his third missionary journey
- ◆ A long strip of cloth that could be tied around the head like a sweatband, and workman’s apron

Lesson outline

Introduction

Have you ever slept in a tent?

Progression of events

- 1 Paul in Ephesus
 - In the synagogue
 - In Tyrannus’ school
- 2 God does unusual miracles of healing ... **CT**
... and casting out of Spirits **CT**
- 3 Seven exorcists try to use the name of Jesus
- 4 The evil spirit challenges them
- 5 The man overpowers them **CTU**
- 6 Many burn their books **CTU, CTS**
- 7 Many believe
- 8 Demetrius stirs up the silversmiths
- 9 A riot breaks out **CTS**

Climax

Town clerk calms the people

Conclusion

Paul leaves Ephesus **CTU**

Lesson

Have any of you ever slept in a tent?

Allow children to tell their experiences.

Flashcard 6-1

Paul, the great missionary, was a tentmaker. Even when he was travelling around preaching, he often spent part of each day making tents. In this way he earned some money.

Indicate on map.

We catch up with Paul in Ephesus, where he probably spent some time making tents. It wasn't long before Satan showed that he was working against Paul, who at first preached to the Jews in the synagogue. Some Jews hated to hear about Jesus and spoke evil things about Jesus, and Christians, to the crowds. After some time, Paul left the synagogue. He was able to get another place to meet. Probably he rented the room. It was in a school whose main teacher was a man called Tyrannus, meaning "tyrant". What a name for a teacher! Perhaps Paul started his day working at tent-making. After that, he spent several hours telling others the Gospel. Many came to listen and talk. Some believed and shared the Good News with friends and neighbours.

God chose to do some **very unusual** things through Paul. People would come and take a sweatband Paul was wearing, or the apron he wore when he was tent making. They carried these to sick people and the moment the cloths touched the sick, they were made better immediately. Can you think of the sicknesses people may have had?

If possible show sweatband and workman's apron.

Allow children to participate.

Were these magic cloths? No! Was Paul a superman or magician? No! Paul would have been the first to say, "It is not my power, it is the power of Jesus Christ!" Jesus Christ is God's only Son. He has all power. He can do anything He wishes. When He was here on Earth, He made dead people alive, He gave blind people sight, He calmed storms. It was His power in Paul that made the sick well.

CT

In Ephesus there were also people who were controlled by evil spirits. When Paul's sweatband or apron touched them, the evil spirit had to go away. This shows us very clearly that Jesus Christ is more powerful than the devil.

CT

Flashcard 6-2

The doctors of Ephesus must have been amazed. So too were the people whose job it was to get evil spirits to leave people. There were seven brothers who worked at putting evil spirits out of people. They were simply amazed at the power of Jesus Christ.

"Let's use His name and we'll be able to do this too," they planned.

But they were not believers in the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus had not given them the authority to use His name.

One day, a man controlled by a powerful, evil spirit came to them.

“Now’s our chance,” they thought.

“By the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches about, we command you to come out!” they said.

This is what happened. I’m reading from the Bible.

Read Acts 19:15 from your Bible.

“And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’”

The man who had the evil spirit jumped on the seven men. He was too strong for all of them. Their clothes were torn off, they were wounded and they only just managed to escape.

Think about what happened and answer these questions:

1 *Who was Satan more powerful than? How do you know?*

2 *Who was Jesus more powerful than? How do you know?*

Satan and sin are always too powerful for you and me. That is why we find it so easy to do wrong. It’s not hard to swear, cheat or steal. We can even enjoy looking at bad movies or magazines. Only Jesus Christ is more powerful. This is what He said.

Read Matthew 28:18b from your Bible.

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

He is more powerful than anyone, including the devil. That is why He is the only One Who can set you free from sin and Satan. That is what the Bible means when we read that He came to give “liberty to the captives” (Luke 4:18). The people at Ephesus saw that for themselves. Listen to what happened.

Read Acts 19:17b from your Bible.

“Fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”

Flashcard 6-3

Many of these people had followed Satan. They had practised magic and witchcraft. Others had charms, which they trusted in to keep them safe. They had paid a lot of money for them and they treasured them. But Paul came to their city with the Gospel. They heard that their sin cut them off from the one true God. They heard about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Who had come down to Earth for thirty-three years. He had lived a perfect life. He had done many miracles. But He died on a cross and was punished for sin, as if He had done it. He was more powerful than sin and death for He came back to life.

CTU

Let's pretend to visit a family where the people believe in spells.

The father says, "I am sure what Paul says is right. I want to believe in Jesus Christ."

"If you do, you can't keep your book of magic and you paid a lot of money for it," his older son points out.

"That may be so, but truth is truth. I need to be right with God. I'm finished with these charms!"

The father gathers up his witchcraft book and charms.

"Where are you going?" asks his wife.

"I'm going to burn these," he explains, "Jesus Christ is my Lord now!"

Flashcard 6-4

Many people brought out their spells, books and charms and burned them. These things had cost thousands of Euros and they all went up in smoke. Jesus Christ had broken Satan's grip on many lives. He showed that He is more powerful than Satan.

CTU, CTS

Sometimes boys and girls have things, which the Lord Jesus would want them to get rid of if they follow Him. Think about your bedroom. Do you have CDs, DVDs, posters, comics, clothes or jewellery which honour Satan more than God? God wants those who believe in Jesus to be finished with these things.

People in Ephesus were amazed and impressed. They saw the bonfires, they saw the difference Jesus Christ made in people's lives and they listened more to Paul. Many, many believed.

But Satan was not going to give up without a fight. Ephesus was famous for its temple, which had a statue of the goddess Diana. People believed that the statue had dropped out of the sky. Most of the people had a little silver statue of the goddess in their homes. When people visited Ephesus, they usually bought a silver statue and took it home, believing Diana would keep them safe. Satan was pleased about all of this. So too were the silversmiths, who made a lot of money. When people began trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ however, sales went down. Can you think why?

Allow children to participate.

The silversmiths became worried. One of them, Demetrius, called a meeting of all those who made the silver statues and spoke to them.

"You know that we get our wealth from making these images. This Paul has been telling people everywhere that idols that are made with hands are not gods. If this goes on, nobody will want to buy silver statues of Diana. We will be bankrupt! Before long the temple of Diana will be laughed at!"

Flashcard 6-5

The silversmiths became angry and excited.

“Great is Diana of the Ephesians!” they shouted.

Others came to see what was causing all the noise and before long, a huge crowd had gathered. They grabbed two of Paul’s companions, two Christian men, and ran with them to the great theatre of Ephesus. This was a huge place, like a sports stadium, which held 25,000 people.

Satan was fighting back - he always does. He always works against the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are saved, the devil is against you. He will tempt you to stop following the Lord Jesus. He will get people to laugh at you, or he may make it hard for you to get to Good News Club®. He is powerful. But your Saviour is all-powerful. Tell Him about those things and with His power you can defeat Satan. Remember, “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4b).

Paul knew that Satan was busy, but he also knew His Lord and Saviour was all powerful!

“I’m going out to the theatre to speak to the crowd,” Paul told his friends.

“No, you musn’t. It’s too dangerous!” they replied.

“I’m a Roman citizen, they will listen to me,” Paul argued.

“No, you must not go!” they insisted.

Flashcard 6-6

Perhaps they could hear the dreadful shouting coming from the theatre. A Jewish man got up to try to calm the people, but they would not listen.

They screamed and shrieked, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians! Great is Diana of the Ephesians! GREAT IS DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS!”

This went on for two hours! Was Satan going to win?

Suddenly the town clerk (rather like the Lord Mayor) appeared in the theatre. He managed to quieten the crowd and then he spoke to them.

“The whole world knows that Ephesus has this statue of Diana. Nothing will change that. The two men whom you have dragged here have done nothing wrong. Demetrius and the silversmiths can take their case to court if they wish. Finally, all of you have been breaking the law. You will be charged with civil disorder if this riot does not end immediately. You are dismissed.”

CTS

Allow Christian children to share how Satan has “got at” them.

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

You could use a helper or older child to make the town clerk’s speech.

CTU

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Review game**Complete the word**

We have been learning about happenings at Ephesus. Write the following in large letters on two cards, one per team.

E p h e s u s

The child who answers correctly may draw one straight line.

The aim is to see which team is first to complete the word.

Take the first answer from each team. If it is wrong, offer the question to the other team.

The people moved out of the theatre quickly and went home. Satan's plan had not worked!

Paul called all the Christians together. They must have thanked God that Satan had been defeated. Paul told them that he must move on to another place. They would really miss their dear friend and teacher, but their Lord and Saviour would be with them and they had each other too. There were more Christians in Ephesus than in many other places. The Lord Jesus Christ had shown His power in many lives. He can do the same for you. He can rescue you from sin and Satan. He can change you and help you to live for God. The Bible says that "He is also able to save to the uttermost [or completely] those who come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25a). Perhaps you have to turn away from something that has to do with evil. Do it! Satan is only interested in ruining your life for ever. Trust the mighty Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you and give Him your life.

Review questions

- 1 Who did the people of Ephesus worship? (The idol Diana.)
- 2 How did Paul earn some money? (Making tents.)
- 3 What is the difference between the power of Jesus Christ and the power of Satan? (Jesus has unlimited power, Satan has limited power.)
- 4 What did the people do with Paul's sweatbands and aprons? (Brought them to sick people and they were healed, or to people who were controlled by evil spirits and they were freed.)
- 5 By whose power were the people healed? (Jesus Christ's power.)
- 6 Who decided to use the powerful name of Jesus? (Seven brothers who tried to cast out evil spirits.)
- 7 Why did this not work? (They were not followers of Jesus Christ.)
- 8 Who said, "Jesus I know, Paul I know; but who are you?" (The evil spirit in the man.)
- 9 Who burned their books full of spells and magic? (People in Ephesus who trusted Jesus.)
- 10 What things, that are linked with Satan, might you have to give up, or get rid of, if you are going to honour God? (Various answers, depending on your group. Examples given in the text include CDs, DVDs, posters, comics, clothes and jewellery.)
- 11 How can the devil give a Christian a hard time? (Various answers.)
- 12 How do we know Satan can be defeated when he attacks Christians? (God says so in the Bible, eg 1 John 4:4.)

Carry-over activity

The people in Ephesus tell what they saw and heard

Write the following on pieces of paper:

- ◆ Paul
- ◆ Sick person
- ◆ Silversmith
- ◆ Child playing outside the theatre
- ◆ Town clerk
- ◆ One of the seven brothers
- ◆ Child of man who had books about magic
- ◆ Tyrannus

Give each child a piece of paper and explain that they are all people in Ephesus. They will each tell one thing they saw or heard during Paul's visit.

They begin by saying, "I am ____ (*read the name on the paper*) and I saw/heard ..."

Lesson 7

Uproar in Jerusalem

Scripture for teachers

Acts 21 - 23

Central truth

Nothing can separate God's children from the love of God

Application

Unsaved: You will experience this love when you trust Jesus Christ

Saved: Believe this wonderful truth

Memory verse

"For I am persuaded that (neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,) shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:38-39

We suggest that for the younger children you substitute the word "nothing" for the section of the memory verse, which we have included in brackets.

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5 and 7-6
- ◆ Belt or long strip of cloth
- ◆ Map showing places Paul visited on his final missionary journey

Lesson outline

Introduction

Bind a child to show what would happen to Paul

Progression of events

- 1 Paul goes to Jerusalem **CT**
- 2 Paul goes to temple
- 3 Asian Jews cause trouble and attack Paul **CTS**
- 4 Soldiers come and rescue him **CTU**
- 5 He addresses crowd **CTU**
- 6 Paul is almost scourged
- 7 He is tried at Jewish Council
- 8 Lord Jesus appears to him in the night **CTS**
- 9 Enemies plot to kill Paul
- 10 Plot told to commander **CTS**

Climax

Paul escorted to Caesarea

Conclusion

Plot fails **CTS**

Lesson

Take a belt or long strip of cloth, tie a child's feet together and with the same cloth tie his hands together, as Agabus did with himself in Acts 21:11.

Paul was visiting some Christians and one of them took Paul's belt and used it to tie up his own hands and feet as I have done with ____ (add child's name).

This Christian, a man called Agabus, said, "The Holy Spirit has shown me that the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt."

Paul's friends pleaded with him, "Please, don't go to Jerusalem. They will hurt you!"

They wept at the thought of Paul being badly treated.

"Don't cry," answered Paul, "I am not afraid. I am ready for this to happen, or even to die for the Lord Jesus. But to Jerusalem I must go."

"God's will be done," his friends answered solemnly.

Release child.

If you have older children, show on a map the distance from Ephesus to Caesarea.

Paul had done a lot of travelling since his time in Ephesus. Soon he would reach Jerusalem, where he was sure God wanted him to be. He was sure of two more things - he expected a hard time, and he knew that God loved him. Whatever happened in Jerusalem, nothing could separate him from the love of his Heavenly Father. God had given His only Son to die for him, that was how much God loved him. His love for Paul began even before there was a world, and it would go on for ever. The same is true for you; if you are saved, God says to you, "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). Paul too knew these words from the Bible, perhaps they often comforted him.

CT

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 7-1

Ask the children what Paul would have told about his time in Philippi, Athens and Ephesus. If you have previously taught the lessons "Paul - Persecutor and Preacher" show visuals from lessons 4, 5 and 6 to jog their memories.

When Paul arrived in Jerusalem he went to meet with the leaders of the church. They were very happy to hear of God's work in the lives of many Gentiles (non-Jews).

Paul went to the temple in Jerusalem, but some Jews from the places in Asia (Turkey) where he had preached, spotted him. These Jews had seen Paul in Jerusalem with a Gentile Christian and they thought he had brought this man into the temple. According to Jewish law, Gentiles were allowed in one part of the temple only. The Jews saw their chance to get Paul into trouble; they caused an uproar.

"Help!" they cried. "This man goes everywhere teaching against our religion. He has even brought Greeks into the temple!"

They grabbed Paul. Others came running from all directions. Soon there was a huge mob. They dragged Paul out of the temple, closing

the doors behind them. They beat Paul and were determined to kill him.

What about God's love for Paul? Listen to these words from the Bible.

Read Romans 8:38-39 from your Bible.

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Guess who God used to write these words! It was Paul! Satan wants Christians to think that God doesn't love them if difficult things happen. He'll whisper, “If God loved you, you wouldn't be so sick,” or, “If God loves you, why does He let it be so hard in school?” or, “There you are quarrelling with your Dad and you're supposed to be a Christian.” But remember, young Christian, the Bible says nothing can separate you from the love of God. God loved Paul and God had His own loving reasons for allowing Paul to be caught by the crowd.

CTS

Flashcard 7-2

News of the trouble reached the nearby army garrison. Immediately the commander and some of his soldiers ran to the temple. When the crowd saw them they stopped beating Paul.

“Bind him with two chains,” the commander ordered his men. “Who is the man?” he asked the crowd.

Their answer was an angry roar, some saying one thing, others yelling something else. The commander had no idea what they were saying.

“Take him to the barracks!” he ordered.

His men moved around Paul and took him towards the barracks. The crowd pressed in on them. By the time they were near the barracks steps, the soldiers had to carry their prisoner.

The angry mob started to chant, “Away with him! Away with him!” (Acts 21:36).

Do you remember another crowd who chanted that about another Man? Yes, that is what the Jews shouted about the Lord Jesus before His death. Did you know that when the Lord Jesus, God's only Son, died, He **was** separated from the love of God. As He died He suffered God's anger and punishment because that is what our sins deserve. He was punished, so that those who trust Him as Lord and Saviour, will never be punished by God for their sin. He was cut off from the love of His Father, so that those whom He saves, will never be separated from God's love. Nothing can separate you from the love of God which is in **Christ Jesus**. You have to know

John 19:15.

CTU

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Jesus Christ in order to experience this love. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). If you believe in Jesus Christ, you will not perish. You will have eternal life and be sure of His love for ever. The love of God comes to you in Him. (See memory verse.) The angry cries of the mob did not separate Paul from God’s love.

Flashcard 7-3

At the barracks Paul asked to speak to the commander, who was amazed that Paul spoke Greek.

“But I thought you were that rebel Egyptian who led a rebellion some time ago.”

“No, I am a Jew,” Paul explained, “please let me speak to these people.”

The commander gave permission and Paul stood on the steps, signalling for silence. Quietness fell and Paul addressed the crowd in their own language. He told them about himself, that he was a Jew taught by Gamaliel. He had persecuted believers in Jesus until Jesus Christ met him on the road to Damascus. His whole life was changed. Paul explained that the Lord said, “Go, I will send you to the Gentiles.”

At that moment there was a mighty roar of protest. The crowd went crazy! People threw off their cloaks and threw dust into the air.

“Away with him! He is not fit to live!” they shouted.

CTU

These people did not want God to love anyone but Jews. But God loves people from every country. The Bible says in John 3:16, “God so loved the world.” It does not matter what colour your skin is, if you are rich or poor. When you trust Jesus as your Saviour, you know for sure God loves **you**. Perhaps you want to trust the Lord Jesus, but you are not sure how and you have questions. I will be happy to talk with you. Come and talk at the end of the club; I will be ... (*designate place*).

Those angry Jews showed no love as they demanded the death of Paul.

Flashcard 7-4

“Take the prisoner inside and give him a scourging!” the commander ordered, anxious to get the angry mob calmed.

Scourging was a dreadful punishment. The soldiers would use a scourge which was made with bits of iron attached to leather straps that were tied to a handle. It would leave a prisoner very badly injured.

Paul was probably tied to a post and the instrument of torture was taken out.

Paul spoke up, "Is it legal for you to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen?"

There was a shocked silence. The officer hurried to the commander.

"This man says he is a Roman citizen," he explained.

The commander was astonished, this prisoner was full of surprises!

"Are you a Roman citizen?" he asked Paul. "I had to pay a fortune for that privilege."

"I was born a Roman citizen," Paul replied.

In "double quick" time Paul was loosed from the pole and the scourge was put away. But Paul was not yet free.

Next day he faced a trial by the Jewish leaders. It did not go so well for the Jews who ended up arguing with each other. During the trial, however, Paul was rude to the high priest but when he realised what he had done, he apologised.

Paul was returned to the barracks as a prisoner. It was very difficult to be hated so much. Perhaps he felt bad about his behaviour at the trial. Perhaps he was depressed and discouraged.

That night the Lord Jesus Himself came, stood by Paul and spoke to him. This is what He said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome" (Acts 23:11).

The Lord Jesus was there in the barracks and made a promise to Paul. He knew he was in God's care. Whatever happened he would get to Rome.

When you were three or four years old, perhaps you went to playschool. One day you fell and cut your knee. You really wanted your Mum but she was at work and she did not know what had happened. She loved you very much but she couldn't be there with you. It is never like that with God. Distance doesn't keep Him away from His children. He loves His children, and He is always with them. Sometimes you feel Him most close when things are hard. You are never alone; nothing can separate you from His love.

Paul was even surer about that after the Lord Jesus came and spoke to him. During the days and months that followed, Paul often thought of that wonderful night.

Flashcard 7-5

His enemies were still determined to get him. Next day, forty of them met together and hatched a wicked plot.

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

“We will not eat or drink until he is dead,” they promised each other.

They asked the Jewish leaders to request that Paul be brought to their council once more.

“On his way we will ambush him,” they explained.

The Jewish leaders went along with the plot and forty men planned exactly where they would attack.

No visual

Somehow a nephew of Paul got to hear of the plot. He was able to visit his uncle and told him what he knew.

Paul called an officer, “Please take this young man to the commander, he has something to tell him.”

They found the commander who took the young man aside so that no-one would hear as they talked. The young man explained about the plot and the commander became very serious.

“Tell nobody that you have told me this,” he instructed.

Then he let the young man go.

Don’t you see that God was working for Paul and against his enemies? In Paul’s life sometimes God allowed him to suffer a lot, sometimes He rescued him from trouble. Whatever God did, He did it out of love for Paul. If you are saved, it will be just the same for you. When God allows you to have disappointments and difficulties it is because He loves you. Nothing can separate you from His wonderful, mighty love. The same was true for Paul, even when his life was in danger.

CTS

Flashcard 7-6

The commander acted quickly.

“Get two hundred soldiers ready to march to Caesarea,” he ordered, “and seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen. Take a horse for Paul to ride. You are to take him to Felix the Governor.”

The commander wrote a letter to explain the situation to the governor.

At around nine o’clock that evening Paul, with the escort of well armed infantry, cavalry and lancers, left the barracks. The city gates were opened for them and then closed so that no attackers could follow. It was about 100 km (60 miles) to Caesarea, where the governor lived. Once out of danger, some of the soldiers returned and the others journeyed on with Paul, until he was safely delivered to his destination.

Flashcard 7-5

Perhaps the forty plotters saw the huge escort move out of the city. Can you imagine their anger and frustration? They were going to be **very** hungry if they kept their oath!

There is no love like God's love. His love for His children never ends. He always does what is best for His children. He is always with them. This love comes "in Christ Jesus" (see memory verse). It is only when He is your Saviour and Lord that you know this very special love that God has for His children. If you are His child, why not mark Romans 8:38-39 in your Bible, or write it on a page and stick it up in your bedroom where you can see it? "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." When you feel as if nobody loves you, read these verses. When you feel as if God couldn't love you, believe these words.

Review questions

- 1 Why did Agabus tie himself up with Paul's belt? (To show what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem.)
- 2 Why did Paul go to Jerusalem? (He knew God wanted him there.)
- 3 What can separate God's children from His love? (Nothing.)
- 4 What did the Jews say Paul had done wrong in the temple? (He brought Greeks into the temple.)
- 5 Who rescued Paul from the mob? (Soldiers.)
- 6 Who are the people who know and experience God's love? (Those who trust Jesus Christ as Saviour.)
- 7 Why was Paul not scourged? (He asked if it was legal to scourge a Roman citizen.)
- 8 What special promise did the Lord Jesus make to Paul when He came to him in the night? (Paul would go to Rome and witness about the Lord there.)
- 9 What are the differences between human love and God's love? (Unlike human love, distance makes no difference to God's love, God's love never changes and God's love lasts forever.)
- 10 What oath had Paul's enemies made? (Not to eat until Paul was dead.)
- 11 Who discovered the plot to kill Paul? (His nephew.)
- 12 Read Romans 8:38-39. Who did God use to write these words in the Bible? (Paul.)

CTS

Review game

Answer and draw

Have 12 pages of A4 paper and a felt tip.

When a child answers a question correctly, he gets 10 points for his team.

He then quickly draws a picture of something in today's story.

If his team guess correctly first time, they get 10 extra points.

If his team gets it on the second attempt, they get 5 extra points.

After that they get no extra points!

Carry-over activity

Nothing can separate a Christian from God's love

Ask the children to think of bad things that could happen to Christians.

List these on a long piece of paper.

Leave space to write "None of these can separate us from God's love."

Lesson 8

Witnessing to kings

Scripture for teachers

Acts 23:26-30

Acts 24 - 26

Central truth

God wants every Christian to be a witness

Application

Saved: Take every opportunity to tell others about the Lord

Memory verse

“... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ...” 1 Peter 3:15

Gospel presentation

Please use the Gospel presentation “Three cards” at some stage in the programme, as the main emphasis of this lesson is for the saved child

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5 and 8-6
- ◆ Map showing places Paul visited on his final missionary journey

Lesson outline

Introduction

Letter to Felix

Progression of events

- 1 Paul on trial before Felix and Jewish leaders **CTS**
- 2 Paul speaks before Felix and Drusilla **CTS**
- 3 Felix hopes for a bribe **CTS**
- 4 Paul before the new governor, Festus and he appeals to Caesar
- 5 King Agrippa and Queen Bernice arrive
- 6 Paul appears before them **CTS**

Climax

Paul rattles his chains and says he wishes everyone followed the Lord

Conclusion

They say he is not guilty

Paul sowed seed in many lives **CTS**

Gospel presentation

Three cards

You will need a get well card, a Christmas card and a birthday card for this presentation.

I love to get cards in the mail - do you? I have three cards here. Let's take a look.

Show get well card.

When do you get a card like this? You get it when you are sick. Guess what? According to the Bible, we're all "sick". The sickness isn't like chickenpox or flu, but there is something wrong with each of us. We all have the same "sickness". It shows up in lots of ways, like telling lies, bad temper, being selfish, disobeying your parents, quarrelling. When you see those things, you know you've got this "sickness", which ruins our lives. Worse still, it keeps us away from God. We really need to "get well", but how? Perhaps the next card will help.

Show Christmas card.

Probably more cards are sent at Christmas than at any other time. The real celebration of Christmas is that God sent His only Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus did not have the sin sickness, not at all, never. But God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die for our sin. God put all our sin on His Son (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus took the blame and the punishment for our sin. He is alive again and alive forever. He is the only One Who can forgive us. He is like the doctor. Actually He is a specialist and the only One Who can take away our sin. When He does that for you, something else that is very exciting happens.

Show birthday card.

On your birthday you celebrate the day you were born into your family. When you trust Jesus Christ to forgive you your sin, to make you well from the sin sickness, you are born into God's family.

Read John 1:12 from your Bible.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

You become God's child and God is your Father in Heaven.

Do you want to be "well" from your sin sickness?

Show get well card.

Then trust Jesus Christ today.

Show Christmas card.

He is the only One Who can forgive you.

Show birthday card.

Based on
Matthew 9:12-13.

If you trust the Lord Jesus, you are born into God's family.

At some time during the programme, after the Gospel presentation, you should make yourself available for counselling. You might express it in this way ...

“If you really want to trust Jesus Christ, but you are not sure how, I will be happy to explain more from the Bible. Come to me after club. I will be ... *(designate a suitable place).*”

Lesson

Prepare the following letter as a scroll and have a helper read it aloud.

Claudius Lysias.

To His Excellency Governor Felix.

Greetings.

This man Paul was seized by the Jews. They were preparing to kill him, but I heard that he was a Roman, so I came with soldiers and rescued him.

When I asked the Jews what wrong he had done, they replied that he had broken some Jewish laws. But I cannot find him guilty of anything that deserves death or imprisonment.

When I discovered a plot against him I sent him to you at once. I also told the Jews to come and tell you what wrong he has done.

Farewell.

This letter was given to Governor Felix by the soldiers who escorted Paul.

Flashcard 8-1

Five days later the Jewish leaders arrived from Jerusalem. There were elders, the high priest and a lawyer. The lawyer told the court that the prisoner, Paul, was a trouble maker, a ringleader of the Nazarene sect. (Christians were called "Nazarenes" because Jesus came from Nazareth.) The lawyer also accused Paul of breaking Jewish law about the temple.

Then it was Paul's turn to speak.

"My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone in the temple in Jerusalem. They cannot prove anything they have accused me of. But I admit, I am a follower of the Way."

Paul would not deny that he was a follower of the Lord Jesus - even if saying he was a Christian made it more likely that he would be kept a prisoner.

CTS

God wants every Christian to be a witness. A witness in court tells what he has seen and heard. A witness for the Lord Jesus tells what he knows about the Lord. Perhaps your friend phones you on Saturday evening. "There are great bargains on computer games in ___ (name local shop). I'm going tomorrow morning, I'll call for you."

You plan to be in church on Sunday morning. How could you answer?

Allow children to make suggestions.

It is important to let your friends know that you are a Christian and why you want to go to church. We read this in the Bible. "... Always

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ..." (1 Peter 3:15). It may be difficult but God will help you, just as He helped Paul in the courtroom.

Felix listened carefully. It was clear to him that Paul was not guilty, but the governor did not want to offend the Jews. So the court hearing ended without a decision.

Flashcard 8-2

Several days later, perhaps because his wife Drusilla wanted to listen to Paul, Felix sent for the prisoner.

Again Paul spoke about his faith in Christ. Paul told Felix and Drusilla what he felt they must hear, rather than persuading them to free him. We read in the Bible what he told them about "righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come" (Acts 24:25). Paul told them how right and pure God is. Felix must have seen how different he was for he was a cruel cheat. Drusilla had left her husband to become Felix's third wife. Surely talk about self-control made her uncomfortable. Paul warned the couple that they would have to meet God as Judge.

Felix was alarmed and did not want to hear anymore.

"That's enough for now," he said, "you may leave. When I find it convenient I will send for you."

As far as we know, neither Felix nor Drusilla became Christians. Hadn't Paul been a good witness?

Don't be discouraged if you tell someone the Gospel and nothing happens. God is the One Who opens people's hearts and minds so that the truth can get in. When you share God's Word with someone you can be sure God will use it in the way He has planned. He promises that in the Bible. "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void [empty], but it shall accomplish what I please" (Isaiah 55:11).

Paul was not a failure when he witnessed to the governor and his wife.

Felix had a little thought, "If I keep Paul a prisoner, he just might pay me a bribe to get set free."

Do you think Paul would do that?

Discuss with children.

Paul would not be dishonest. In that way too he was a witness for the Lord Jesus. It is so important that your life shows that Jesus is real and important to you. Wouldn't it be sad if people in school could truthfully say about you, "She says she's a Christian, but she doesn't behave like one."

CTS

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Paul behaved like a Christian, even as a prisoner. And he was a prisoner for two long years, after which Felix was moved away and another governor, Festus, took his place.

Flashcard 8-3

He was a better ruler. Perhaps Paul would be freed.

The Jews were determined that this would not happen. They were quick to suggest to the new governor that Paul should be brought back to Jerusalem and put on trial there. They had a secret plan! Can you guess what it might have been? Yes, they planned another ambush. Festus refused their request and told them to come to Caesarea. They accused Paul of many things, but could prove none of them.

Festus asked Paul, "Are you willing to go to court in Jerusalem?"

Paul knew that he had no chance of a fair trial there so he answered, "If I have done wrong I am prepared to be punished, even by death. But if what the Jews say is not true, no-one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."

Where did Caesar live? Yes, in Rome. Paul was asking to be sent to Rome and tried there.

Festus talked with his advisors and announced, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

Paul was not, however, shipped off to Rome immediately.

Flashcard 8-4

A few days after Festus' decision, the governor had visitors - King Agrippa and his sister Bernice. These visitors were the son and daughter of King Herod, who had killed James and imprisoned Peter. They knew about Christians. Festus told them about his unusual prisoner. Agrippa was curious.

"I would like to hear this man myself," he said.

"Tomorrow you will," promised Governor Festus.

Next day the Governor's palace was buzzing with activity. King Agrippa and Bernice arrived for the court in great style, wearing their purple robes and golden crowns. Festus too looked rather grand in his official red gown. Following them were many important officials, army officers and VIPs from Caesarea. All of them took their places.

"Bring in the prisoner," commanded Governor Festus.

Paul was brought in - a little man, probably rather bald and wearing his prisoner's tunic. He was handcuffed. There he stood. God helped him to be quiet, confident and dignified. Governor Festus rose to speak.

Indicate Caesarea and Rome on map.

“King Agrippa and all who are here today, you see this man. The Jews want him to die. But I have found nothing that deserves death. He has appealed to Caesar, but when he goes to Rome, I want something to write about him. I need to be able to write about the wrong he is supposed to have done.”

Then he addressed the prisoner, “You have permission to speak for yourself.”

Flashcard 8-5

It must have been scary for Paul, but God helped him to be a faithful witness. First of all he told them that he had been a strict Pharisee, who worked against the Christians. Then he explained how the Lord Jesus met him on the road to Damascus (Acts 26:13-18). He said that he had obeyed his Lord and went to the Jews and Gentiles with the Gospel.

“Moses and the prophets foretold that Christ would come, that He would die but come alive again, that He would be a light to Jews and Gentiles.”

Paul knew what he was talking about. He had his facts right. This is important when you tell others about Jesus. As it says in our memory verse, we have to be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us. You need to understand the Gospel well, so that you can explain it. How can you make sure you have your facts right?

Discuss with children, showing that they learn the Gospel as they read their Bibles and listen in GoodNews Club.

It must have been clear to everyone that Paul really knew his Old Testament.

Suddenly the court was interrupted by a shout from Festus, “You are out of your mind! All your education has made you insane!”

Paul replied quickly, “I am not insane. King Agrippa knows these things that I have been speaking about.” Paul turned to the king and asked, “Do you believe the prophets?”

People must have gasped when Paul asked such a direct question.

Agrippa answered, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

Paul replied, “Short time or long time, I pray that everyone in this courtroom would be as I am, a follower of Jesus - except for these chains.” The prisoner lifted his hands and rattled the chains.

The Governor, the King, Bernice and all the important people rose and left the courtroom. They spoke with each other.

“He does not deserve death or imprisonment.”

King Agrippa said to Festus, “If he had not appealed to Caesar, he could have been set free.”

CTS

When Paul was just a new Christian, God had told him that he would witness before kings, and it happened. He was a faithful witness, even before rulers.

Flashcard 8-6

Witnessing is like planting seeds. God's Word is like a seed. In whose lives had Paul planted God's Word? Yes - Felix, Festus, Drusilla, Agrippa, Bernice, lots of soldiers, Jewish leaders, etc. It is the job of every Christian to tell the good news and so plant the seed in people's lives. It is our job to plant; it is God's to make it grow. When you tell someone about Jesus you plant a seed. Only God knows if, or when, it will grow. Paul planted God's Word everywhere he went. Sometimes it grew, sometimes it did not. Paul never stopped planting. If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour will you plant and plant as God wants you to?

CTS

Review game

Planting seeds

Witnessing is like planting seeds in peoples' lives.

Draw ten simple faces and cut them out.

On the reverse side of seven of them draw 1, 2, 3, or 4 seeds. Leave the other three blank.

Place them all, face upwards, on a table.

When a child answers a question, he gets ten points for his team.

Then he chooses a face and looks how many times that person has had a Gospel seed planted in them.

If it is one seed, the team gets one extra point, two seeds means two extra points, etc.

The team with the highest score wins.

Review questions

- 1 Who said, "That's enough for now. When it is more convenient, I'll send for you"? (Felix.)
- 2 Who said, "I wish everyone would be as I am, except for these chains"? (Paul.)
- 3 Why should you not be discouraged if you tell someone the Gospel and they are not interested? (It is your responsibility to witness, but only God can make people want to trust the Lord.)
- 4 When Festus suggested sending Paul back to trial in Jerusalem, what did Paul ask for? (To be sent to Caesar in Rome.)
- 5 What did Paul tell Festus, King Agrippa and Bernice? (How the Lord Jesus had met him and changed him.)
- 6 How can you get yourself ready to give a reason for your faith/tell others about your faith? (Read the Bible, memorise Bible verses, listen carefully in Good News Club.)
- 7 How is witnessing like planting seed? (God's Word is the seed, we plant and plant, God makes it grow.)
- 8 When did the Lord tell Paul he would witness before kings? (When he became a Christian.)
- 9 What does it mean to witness? (To tell what you know.)
- 10 Which Christians should witness about the Lord Jesus? (Every Christian.)

Carry-over activity

Ready to tell

Write out the "Ready to tell" page on a whiteboard or on a large piece of paper (see page 47). At "Name" write "Paul".

Discuss with the children how to fill in the rest and then do so.

Have a similar page for the children. Whoever wishes, may take it home and fill it in for themselves. Those who wish may read theirs out in club the following week(s).

Lesson 9

Shipwreck

Scripture for teachers

Acts 27:1 - 28:11

Central truth

God can never fail

Application

Saved: Trust Him in the storms of life

Memory verse

“He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He”
Deuteronomy 32:4

Gospel presentation

Please use the short evangelistic talk “Like a boat” **after** the lesson has been taught, as the main emphasis of this lesson is for the saved child

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5 and 9-6
- ◆ Map showing places Paul visited on his final missionary journey

Lesson outline

Introduction

Danielle’s disappointment **CT**

Progression of events

- 1 Paul sets out for Rome
- 2 Ship reaches Fair Havens
- 3 Julius decides to sail again **CTS**
- 4 Storm tosses the ship
- 5 The sailors take various measures **CTS**
- 6 Paul - “None will be lost” **CTS**
- 7 Storm continues, sailors think of escaping
- 8 Paul encourages to eat **CTS**
- 9 Ship is wrecked
- 10 Passengers all reach Malta **CTS**

Climax

Paul escapes death from snake bite **CTS**

Conclusion

Months later, Paul sails for Rome

Gospel presentation

Like a boat

You will need either a picture of a rowing boat, or to make a paper boat.

Today's Bible lesson was about the sea, a ship, lifeboats, a wreck. Let's think of ourselves as little boats.

Show picture of rowing boat or paper boat.

When you put a boat like this on the water, it just goes with the flow. It will be carried along in the direction the water is moving. You and I are like that. As we live, we go in one direction, we are carried along in the "sin current". We go in the direction that is away from God. It is so easy to be wrong in our thoughts and actions. God used Paul to write these words in the book of Romans in the Bible, "There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside" (Romans 3:11b-12a). This way can never lead us to God or Heaven.

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

A little boat on its own will never turn and float upstream. It needs someone strong to come, turn it and row it against the stream. It is the same with you and me. We need Someone to "come on board," to turn us around and take us the opposite direction.

There is only one Person Who can do that. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God's Son, so He is strong enough! He died for our sin on the cross and He came back to life. He loves you and He wants to come into your life. He will change your direction, He will lead you God's way. He'll "stay in your boat" and help you each day to keep going God's way, until at last He brings you to Heaven. Also in Romans we read, "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life, He will save you from the wrong way and turn you right around.

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

At some point in the programme, after you have taught this short evangelistic talk, make yourself available to concerned children by saying something like this:

Perhaps you know you are going in the wrong direction and you want to change and go God's direction. You want to "call on the name of the Lord", but you are not sure how. I will be happy to explain more about it from the Bible. Just wait behind ... (*designate time and place to meet concerned child*).

Lesson

“But you said I could go to see the ice hockey match today!” protested Danielle very loudly.

“I know, Danielle,” reasoned her mother, “but that was before the car broke down. I didn’t know it would give trouble. I didn’t know I would have to leave it in to be repaired.”

Danielle was bitterly disappointed. “It’s not fair. I told everyone I was going - and now I can’t!”

Why couldn’t Danielle’s mum keep her word?

Discuss with children.

God is the only One Who never finds Himself in a tight place where He cannot do what He promised. He is all powerful and always in control. We sometimes forget a promise or simply don’t keep it. God will never go back on His Word, for He is good and right, through and through. “A God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Paul knew God and knew that he could trust Him. God had promised that Paul would go to Rome and witness before the Emperor. As Paul left Caesarea for Rome, Paul had no doubts about it happening - God had promised, so it was as good as done!

Flashcard 9-1

A long sea voyage lay ahead of Paul. Julius, a centurion, was put in charge of Paul and other prisoners. After calling at a few seaports they all changed over to another ship which was carrying grain from Egypt to Rome. There were 276 people on board - the crew, Julius with his soldiers, the prisoners including Paul and Luke and another Christian.

The ship made very slow progress. The winds were making the journey difficult. At that time there were only sailing ships and rowing boats, so the weather made a big difference to the journey.

Paul’s thoughts must have often turned to Rome. He was a Roman citizen, so it would be exciting to be in Rome itself. Perhaps he knew of the Roman palaces, the theatres, the baths, the circuses - with their hair-raising chariot races. Even more important to Paul was the fact that he knew there were Christians in Rome. He had already written them a long letter, which we have in our Bible. It is called the book of “Romans”. Paul had written that he was really longing to see them.

But the ship struggled to get anywhere. At last they reached Fair Havens on Crete. Winter was approaching and everyone knew that sailing in winter seas was impossible.

CT

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Romans 1:11.

Indicate Crete on map.

Flashcard 9-2

Julius called the captain and sailors together.

“What should we do?” he asked. “Stay here for the winter here or move on?”

The sailors replied, “There is a better harbour on the other side of the island. We think we can make it through.”

Paul was listening and he disagreed. He spoke up, “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to end in disaster. Our ship will be destroyed, the cargo will be ruined and our lives will be in danger!”

Who would they listen to?

Julius came down on the side of the sailors. Perhaps he thought, “Paul is only a prisoner. What does he know about sailing?”

But Paul had made many sea journeys (approximately eleven). He knew the Mediterranean. God had given him wisdom to warn the crew, but his advice was not taken.

As they headed out to sea once more Paul must have thought, “A big mistake!”

Would this mistake mean that Paul would never get to Rome?

Neither the mistakes we make, nor the mistakes others make can stop God from keeping His Word. God promises every Christian, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5b). That promise stands even if you get on the wrong bus. Perhaps your big brother forgets to meet you from school. God keeps His promise. He will be with you. Paul, too, was sure God would keep His promise although he had no idea how God would do it!

At first the winds blew gently and everything seemed to go well.

Flashcard 9-3

Suddenly the wind changed to a hurricane. It shrieked in the ship’s rigging and tossed it like a leaf on the waves. The sailors worked frantically to steer the ship, but it was impossible. They could only let it go where the wind drove it. The men struggled to make the lifeboat secure. They then put strong ropes around the ship to try to prevent her from breaking up in the storm. They lightened the ship by throwing overboard some of the cargo and a huge mast. Can you imagine them yelling at each other as they worked, and the wind screaming in opposition? No-one had the faintest idea where they were. In those days sailors depended on the stars and sun for direction. In the day the sun was hidden by grey sheets of driving rain. At night there was only thick, black darkness.

Word went around the terrified, seasick passengers, “We’ll be lost, there is no hope!”

CTS

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Paul was on that ship, in that dreadful storm. God never said that Christians would escape the hard times, “the storms”, that come into people’s lives. Alice, a Christian girl, was in a “storm” when her brother was expelled from school for taking drugs. Can you think of other things which happen that are like a storm?

Allow children time to make suggestions - father loses a job, someone in the family is killed in an accident, parents split up, bullied at school, etc.

These things happen to Christians as well as to non-Christians. But every Christian can be 100% sure that God is with him or her. It is good to know God’s promises and to trust God to keep them. We’ve already mentioned Hebrews 13:5b - “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Think of Romans 8:28a - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.” That is God’s promise to His children and no matter what happens, it is true. No matter what happens, God cannot fail you. Paul knew that, even as the ship was tossed on the angry sea.

Flashcard 9-4

One day Paul stood before all the men on the ship. He must have been holding on to something to steady himself. He had something very important to say. I’ll read it from the Bible.

Read Acts 27:21b-26 from your Bible.

“Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island.”

What was going to happen? Why was Paul so sure?

Allow children to answer these questions.

Once more God repeated His promise to Paul. God was with Paul in the storm. He would keep His Word - God would not let Paul down. God could not fail. We read in the Bible, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). It is just the same for you, if you are God’s child. Perhaps right now you are in the middle of a big problem. You are not alone, God is with you. No-one can stop God’s plans for you. Nothing can stop God keeping His promise.

A Christian boy, Trevor, underlined a promise in the Bible. It was “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Life was difficult in Trevor’s home. His mum often drank

CTS

Read (or have a child read) Romans 8:28 from your Bible.

CTS

Read (or have a child read) the verses from your Bible.

alcohol. His real dad lived somewhere else. Sometimes other men stayed at their home. Often there were fights. Life was one big “storm” for Trevor. He wanted to live for God, but it was **so** difficult. At night he would repeat the promise “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” He would ask for God’s help and God gave it because God cannot fail. God helped Trevor get up and ready for school each day. He helped Trevor to find a church where Christians cared for him. God is faithful and true. He loves His children and nothing will ever separate them from His love. Paul was sure of that, even though the wind howled and the sea was threatening.

Flashcard 9-3 (again)

Perhaps now some people believed what Paul said. The storm, however, was as bad as ever.

One night, after being at sea for two weeks, the sailors sensed that they were near land. They dropped a line into the sea and discovered it was just 37 metres deep. A little later they dropped it again and this time it was 27 metres. The sailors dropped four anchors to keep the ship in position so that they would not be dashed against rocks.

Some of the sailors thought, “We could get into the lifeboat and head for the shore.”

Quickly they lowered the lifeboat, but Paul saw them and hurried to speak to Julius.

“Unless these men stay on board, you cannot be saved,” Paul insisted.

Julius took action immediately and the sailors had to cut the ropes and let the lifeboat go.

Flashcard 9-4 (again)

As day dawned Paul urged everyone on board to eat. “You have been under stress and not eating for two weeks now. Come and have some food - you need it to survive. No-one here will even lose a single hair from his head.”

Then Paul himself took some bread, thanked God for it and ate. The others followed Paul’s example and ate bread too. They could see that Paul really did trust God.

CTS

If you love the Lord Jesus and you trust Him in hard times, other people will take notice. This is another way you can show what it means to belong to the Lord. You can be a witness, just as Paul was.

Flashcard 9-5

The sailors decided to let the wind take the ship towards land. The battered vessel moved forward. Then ... thud ... crunch. The front part stuck in the sand. The back was not on land. The waves were pounding the back. Eerie creaks could be heard - the ship began breaking up.

The soldiers hurried to Julius, "Let's kill the prisoners, they might swim and try to escape!"

The soldiers knew that under Roman law if they allowed prisoners to escape they (the soldiers) would be killed.

"No," answered Julius firmly. Quickly he gave orders, "Anyone who can swim - overboard now and head for the shore. Non-swimmers grab a board or something. Quick! Move!"

All 276 men were soon in the icy water. Every one of them made it ashore - on the island of Malta. They were cold and shivering - but everyone was safe. God kept His Word. He always does. It is really important for Christians to know God's promises and to believe them. We have a chart of some of God's promises.

Hold up chart and have one available for each child.

There is one per day for a month. Put it up in your room. Tick it when you read the promise. But don't just read it, believe it. Tell God you are trusting Him to keep it - just as He kept His promise to Paul.

Flashcard 9-6

Some people from the island gathered around and got a fire going. Paul carried a bundle of firewood and threw it in. At that moment a poisonous snake came out of the wood and fastened itself into Paul's hand. People gasped in horror.

"Ah, he must be a murderer. He escaped from the shipwreck, but he's getting his punishment!" some said.

Paul shook his hand and the snake fell into the flames. Everyone watched, waiting for Paul to drop dead. It didn't happen. Why not?

Allow children to reach the conclusion that God had promised to take Paul to Rome.

The people quickly changed their minds about Paul.

"He's a god!" they said to each other.

Paul spent three months in Malta. During that time many sick people were healed and the people heard the Gospel. Three months was a long time to wait for another ship to take them on to Rome. Paul was happy to wait. He knew that God would work it all out in His time. Are you going to learn these promises and really trust God in hard times? God is like a big, solid rock - you can depend on Him.

Show on map.

CTS

CTS

At last Paul and the others boarded another ship. They were laden with gifts from the grateful people of Malta and once again, Paul was on his way to Rome.

Review game

Word score

In turn, each team chooses a question, ie they say a number between 1-12.

The teacher asks that question and if the team supplies the correct word, their score is determined by the number of letters in the word. For example, if the answer is "ship", the score is 4.

When all the questions have been answered, the team with the highest score is the winner.

Review questions

Teams supply the missing words.

- 1 Paul had already written a letter to the Christians in _____. (Rome.)
- 2 Paul travelled by _____. (Ship.)
- 3 The ship got caught in a terrible _____. (Storm.)
- 4 Christians will have _____ during their lives on earth. (Difficulties - or similar word.)
- 5 One night, during the storm, an _____ spoke to Paul. (Angel.)
- 6 God can _____ fail. (Never.)
- 7 At last the ship was wrecked on _____. (Sand.)
- 8 _____ the people on board made it to Malta. (All.)
- 9 Christians should know and memorise God's _____. (Promises.)
- 10 When the people of Malta saw the snake on Paul's hand, they said, "He is a _____". (Murderer.)
- 11 Paul stayed in Malta for _____ months. (Three.)
- 12 Deuteronomy 32:4 tells us that God is a _____. (Rock.)

Carry-over activity

God's promises

Give each child a "God's Promises" sheet (see page 48) and tell them that each day they can look up a promise in their Bibles. After reading the promise from their Bible, they can thank the Lord for it.

Alternatively you can use the promise sheets over a period in club during prayer time.

Lesson 10

Finishing the race

Scripture for teachers

Acts 28:11-31

Central truth

Be like Paul, finish “the race”

Application

Unsaved: Begin “the race” by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour

Saved: Remember, God gives you all you need to finish “the race”

Memory verse

“... Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ...” Hebrews 12:1-2

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-5 and 10-6

Lesson outline

Introduction

Patrick and Pippa arrived at last

Progression of events

- 1 Paul meets Roman believers
- 2 Paul kept in a prison house **CTS**
- 3 Visitors come, including Onesimus
- 4 Onesimus trusts the Saviour **CTU, CTS**
- 5 Paul witnesses to many and writes letters **CTS**
- 6 Paul enjoys two years of freedom
- 7 Rearrested and imprisoned in a dungeon
- 8 Writes to Timothy **CTS**

Climax

Soldiers march Paul outside the city

Conclusion

Paul is executed - he is with his Lord **CTU, CTS**

Lesson

Patrick and Pippa were **so** excited. They had been promised a trip to Disneyland at the end of primary school. All through that last year they had looked at brochures, they had looked up things on the internet. They had talked and dreamed about it. At last they were on their way.

The pilot announced, "We have started our descent ..."

The great moment had arrived.

Flashcard 10-1

It was rather like that for Paul. He had wanted to go to Rome. He knew that one day he would go to Rome, for God had told him so. He knew he would speak about Jesus Christ before the Emperor. But when? So many things delayed him - the shipwreck, the time in Malta.

With winter over they were able to set sail once more. They headed for Italy. The last part of the journey would be by foot.

About 65 km (40 miles) outside the city of Paul's dreams some people met Paul. The believers in Rome had heard of his coming and sent some people to welcome him. Paul was overjoyed to actually meet these Roman Christians. He had never before seen them, but he had been a great help to them in living for Jesus. How could that be?

Allow children to make suggestions.

Yes, he had prayed for them. Also, three years before he had written them a long, helpful letter. We still have it in our Bibles - it is called "Romans". There must have been tears of joy in Paul's eyes as he (embraced) hugged these Roman believers. We read in the Bible that "he thanked God and took courage" (Acts 28:15b).

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 10-2

What would happen in Rome? Would Paul be free to preach? No. Paul was still a prisoner. He was allowed to rent a house and stay there, but all day every day, a Roman soldier was chained to him.

Think about how it would be if you had a guard chained to you all the time. It was not easy, but Paul didn't complain. He didn't give up following the Lord. He was not a quitter. Paul knew that whatever happened, God was in charge. He could trust God. If you are a Christian, you can be sure of this too. When hard things come, God works them out as part of His plan. God saved you. He will keep you. God started His work in you and He will finish it. "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). It was Paul who wrote these words and he believed them!

CTS

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Paul settled into his “house prison”. He could not go out and preach, but people could come and visit him. The believers in Rome came and he taught them God’s Word. He had other visitors too. One was Onesimus. We don’t know exactly what their conversation was, perhaps something like this.

You may either have two helpers role play this conversation, or you may teach it as narrative.

Onesimus: “I’m Onesimus, a runaway slave.”

Paul: “Who was your master?”

Onesimus: “Philemon, but he’ll not want me back - not after what I did.”

Paul: “You mean because you ran away?”

Onesimus: “Worse than that. I stole from him too.”

Paul: “Onesimus, God can forgive you and change you. His Son Jesus Christ died for your sin, but He is now alive. Alive for ever!”

Onesimus: “But ... would He want me? Could He love me?”

Paul: “Yes! Yes! He knows what you are like. He will forgive you and make you a new person.”

Onesimus did trust the Lord Jesus and he actually went back to Philemon his master. Paul sent a letter with him, encouraging Philemon to welcome Onesimus and even offering to pay the money Onesimus owed!

Paul thought of the Christian life as a race. When the Lord Jesus saved him, he began the race. Onesimus was just starting the race. What about you? Are you in the race, or are you just a spectator? A spectator can know the rules, he can know what makes a good runner, he can give advice, but he’s not in the race. You must turn from your sin, like Onesimus, and trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. That is how to begin the race.

Onesimus was one of many who trusted the Lord Jesus. Paul lived for God and spoke for God in his prison. He didn’t give up. If you love the Lord, God wants you too to keep on sharing the Gospel with others. Sometimes you will have a chance to speak up for Him, but at all times you can “speak” by the way you live. Never give up being a witness. Be like Paul!

Can you think of other people he might have talked to about the Lord Jesus Christ?

Give the children time to think and to make suggestions.

Every day a soldier was chained to Paul, every day the guards changed. Over two years, that is 730 days, many soldiers were with Paul. He was a most unusual prisoner - gentle, thankful, joyful, forgiving, never complaining. These soldiers could listen to the

Based on the book of Philemon.

CTU

CTS

Philippians 1:12-13.

Gospel and they could see very clearly what a change the Lord Jesus had made in Paul. Many of these soldiers trusted the Lord Jesus and they in turn told other soldiers about Him. In fact, the whole palace guard heard the Gospel - that was thousands of men!

Flashcard 10-3

Paul kept himself busy. He probably did some tent-making to earn enough money to pay the rent of his "prison house". He also wrote letters to followers of the Lord Jesus. There are three of these letters in the Bible - Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. The Christians who read or heard these letters learned a lot about living for God. And for the past 1950 years, they have been read by Christians who have got to know the Lord better through them.

If possible, give a personal example of how a verse from one of these letters has been a blessing to you.

I am very thankful Paul didn't give up - if he had, we would not have had that part of the Bible. But Paul knew that God was with him and would never let him down. He had proved that over and over. Paul knew that Jesus Christ prayed for him day by day. Paul knew that the Holy Spirit lived in him, helping him every minute to stand up for the Lord. There was no need to give up.

CTS

It is the same for you if Jesus Christ is your Saviour.

- ◆ God is with you and cannot fail you.
- ◆ Jesus prays for you.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit lives in you.

Even when you don't feel like a Christian, don't give up. When it seems just too difficult, don't quit. Keep on loving God and living for Him and God will make you an encouragement and help to others, just as He did with Paul.

No visual

After two years in chains, Paul was set free. This was wonderful for him and for the friends he was able to visit. A few years later, his freedom came to a sudden end. He was arrested at Troas and returned to Rome in chains.

Flashcard 10-4

This time prison was very uncomfortable. He was put into a dungeon, a dark, dirty hole, not fit for anyone to live in. The only daylight came through a small grid in the ceiling. Paul looked worn and old, his hair and beard were white, and he was scarred from many beatings. Paul knew that very soon he would be put to death because he preached about Jesus Christ.

It seemed so unfair. But Paul was not angry with God. He loved God more than ever. He trusted God completely. He did not give up.

He decided to write to his dear friend Timothy, moving under the little grid to get some light. We have that letter in our Bibles - it is called "Second Timothy". This is what Paul wrote to Timothy.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6b-7 from your Bible.

"The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Paul was really saying, "I haven't given up!"

In his own strength, Paul could not have kept on following the Lord. In his own strength, he could not have become more and more like the Lord Jesus. The secret was that God didn't give up on Paul! Remember those words Paul wrote, "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). God gave him the strength to do what He asked him to do. God changed Paul day by day. If you belong to the Lord Jesus, remember God is not finished with you yet! He won't give up on you and that is why you won't be a "quitter"!

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Please try to come before the winter" (from 2 Timothy 4:21).

Flashcard 10-5

We don't know if Timothy got there in time. One day the dungeon cell was opened. Several Roman soldiers, acting on the Emperor's orders, took out the prisoner to execute him outside the city. Some soldiers carried rods and one carried a well-sharpened axe. Travellers who met the group knew another execution would soon take place. What they didn't know was that this prisoner was a great missionary and man of God.

Paul was stripped, beaten and beheaded. At that moment his soul, the real Paul, went to Heaven. He was welcomed by the Lord Jesus whom he loved so much. For Paul this was "far better" than living down here. He is in Heaven today and he will always be there. If you are a Christian you will meet with him in Heaven.

Flashcard 10-6

Paul had thought of the Christian life as a race. He had begun the race on the day the Lord Jesus met him on the road to Damascus.

Have you begun this race, by turning from your sin and trusting Christ as your Saviour? That is the only way to begin.

And it is only the beginning! Just as a runner keeps going, so must the Christian. Paul had many difficult times - his race was like an

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Philippians 1:23.

CTS

CTU

CTS

Read the verse from your Bible.

Review game

Start and finish

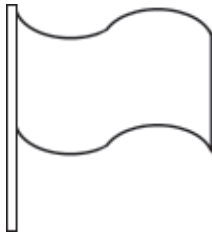
Make 20 flags as shown below.

Write "Start" on five and "Finish" on five. Leave the remaining ten blank.

Place them flat on a table, face down so that all look the same.

When a team answers a question, they choose a flag.

The first team to have a "Start" and a "Finish" flag wins.



Variation:

You may wish to write "Disqualified" on one flag.

If it is chosen, it must be returned, before that team can win. The only way to return it is to answer a question and, rather than choosing a flag, return the "Disqualified" one.

obstacle course! But nothing stopped him. He kept on going for God. The finishing line was when he died and went to live with his Lord and Saviour. He had kept his eye on the finishing line until he got there. That is what God wants you to do too. Don't give up! In that last letter to Timothy Paul wrote that if we keep going, we will also reign with the Lord Jesus. "If we endure, we shall also reign with Him" (2 Timothy 2:12a).

Review questions

- 1 Who met Paul outside Rome? (Roman Christians.)
- 2 How did the Roman Christians know there was a person called "Paul"? (He had written to them - the book of Romans.)
- 3 Tell me one bad thing about life in the house prison. (Paul was chained to a Roman soldier.)
- 4 Tell me one good thing about life in the house prison. (Paul could have visitors.)
- 5 How do you begin the race of the Christian life? (You turn from sin and trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour.)
- 6 Who did Paul witness to in the house prison? (Visitors, including Onesimus, and soldiers.)
- 7 Why did Paul not give up when it was so hard? (God did not give up on Paul, but gave him all he needed to keep going.)
- 8 When Paul was arrested again, where was he imprisoned? (In a dungeon.)
- 9 Who did he write to and ask to visit him? (Timothy.)
- 10 When did Paul "finish the race"? (When he was executed.)
- 11 Where did his soul go the moment he died? (To Heaven to be with the Lord.)
- 12 Name a Bible book, which God used Paul to write in prison. (Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians.)

Carry-over activity

The Christian race

Take a long strip of paper and together mark out the "Christian race".

Allow children to draw in the starting line and note how you start.

Allow them to draw a runner and different obstacles. Write what they might be, eg doubts, opposition, loneliness.

Mark the finishing line and write "death".

After the finishing line write "Heaven for ever".

Ready to tell

Carry-over activity - lesson 8

Ready to tell

Name: _____

How and when I came to the Lord: _____

Changes in my life: _____

Ready to tell

Name: _____

How and when I came to the Lord: _____

Changes in my life: _____

God's promises

Carry-over activity - lesson 9

God's Promises

God's promises are in the Bible. He can and will keep all His promises, because God is almighty and faithful. Each day read a promise from your Bible and thank the Lord for it. Begin with the two sails. Put a tick by each number to show you had a Quiet Time. Remember, many promises are only for those who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour!

Quiet Time Calendar

<p>3. God promises satisfaction. John 6:35</p>	<p>4. God promises freedom from condemnation. Romans 8:1</p>	<p>5. Everything works together for good. Romans 8:28</p>	<p>6. Christians are saved eternally. John 10:27-28</p>
<p>7. God promises help to defeat the devil. James 4:7</p>	<p>8. God promises help. Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p>9. You are never alone. Hebrews 13:5</p>	<p>10. God's Word is forever. Mark 13:31</p>
<p>11. God promises everything we need to live for Him. 2 Peter 1:3</p>	<p>12. God promises to be close when you come to spend time with Him. James 4:8</p>	<p>13. Jesus will come back. John 14:3</p>	<p>14. God hears and answers prayer. 1 John 5:14</p>
<p>15. God promises strength for whatever problems and worries. Psalm 55:22</p>	<p>16. God promises help to defeat the devil. James 4:7</p>	<p>17. Nothing can separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38-39</p>	<p>18. God promises strength for whatever problems and worries. Psalm 55:22</p>
<p>19. God promises strength for whatever problems and worries. Psalm 55:22</p>	<p>20. God will not allow a temptation that is too big. 1 Corinthians 10:13</p>	<p>21. One day, everyone will bow to Jesus. Philippians 2:9-10</p>	<p>22. Honour God and He will honour you. 1 Samuel 2:30</p>
<p>23. The seasons will continue while the world lasts. Genesis 8:22</p>	<p>24. God promises to be there when His people meet. Matthew 18:20</p>	<p>25. There will be no sorrow or pain in Heaven. Revelation 21:4</p>	<p>26. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. John 16:7</p>
<p>27. God promises strength for the weak. Isaiah 40:29-31</p>	<p>28. God promises wonderful things at the end of the world. 1 Corinthians 15:52</p>	<p>29. God promises protection. Psalm 34:7</p>	<p>30. There will be no sorrow or pain in Heaven. Revelation 21:4</p>
<p>31. It is never a waste of time to spread God's Word. Isaiah 55:11</p>	<p>32. God promises freedom from condemnation. Romans 8:1</p>	<p>33. Everything works together for good. Romans 8:28</p>	<p>34. Christians are saved eternally. John 10:27-28</p>

Copyright © 2007 Child Evangelism Fellowship. Permission is granted to photocopy this page.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).