

**THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE WORLD:
Paul's Voyage to Rome and Imprisonment – Acts 27–28**

Memory Verses: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8 ESV).*

Background Helps:

We come now to the final lesson in our six-month study of "The Writings of Dr. Luke." Luke seems to have arranged the material in his two-volume work (Luke–Acts) in order to highlight two journeys: 1) In the Gospel of Luke it is Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (Lk. 9:51–19:28); 2) In the book of Acts, it is Paul's journey from Jerusalem to Rome (Acts 19:21–28:31). The book of Acts itself, which has been the focus of our study for the last three months, begins in Jerusalem (Acts 1) and ends in Rome (Acts 28), i.e., it begins in the center of the Jewish world and ends in the center of the Gentile world. In fact, Acts concludes with Paul once again turning from the Jews, who for the most part reject the gospel, to the Gentiles who will embrace it (Acts 28:17-31).

Lesson Helps:

1. Review: You will need to decide how extensive a review you will conduct: Luke's entire two-volume work, both his Gospel and Acts? Or, the whole book of Acts (see the memory verse, Acts 1:8)? Or, only Paul's ministry in Acts 13-28? Once you decide the scope of your review, decide the method. Here are three suggestions:
 - a. Oral drill (question-answer). Team competition adds to the enthusiasm and interest.
 - b. Written quiz. True-false or "Who am I?", etc.
 - c. Here's a different idea: Have each class member make up one question and drop them all into a hat. Pass the hat around give each student a chance to draw a question (not their own) and try to answer it.

2. Lesson on Acts 27–28. Paul's voyage to Rome is one of the most exciting narratives in all of Scripture. Plan to make it exciting for your class this week. Suggested aim: My students will learn about Paul's faith in God's promises during the storm at sea, so that they will claim God's promises in their own times of trial. Notice the promises which God gave to Paul – Acts 23:11; 27:23-24 – and Paul's confidence in those promises – Acts 27:25, 31, 33-35. See also his prayer request to the Roman Christians in Romans 15:30-32.

Suggested Methods:

- 1) Include a map study of Paul's voyage.
- 2) Storytelling: Here are some reminders on how to tell a good story:
 - a) Know your story well. Don't read it to your class, but relate it using a few notes and referring to a few key Scripture verses. Perhaps you could practice ahead of time on sympathetic family members.
 - b) Arouse interest at the beginning of the story.

- c) Use picturesque, vivid, descriptive, dramatic language.
- d) Use dialogue between the characters.
- e) Relate the story to your lesson aim.
- f) ABOVE ALL, DO NOT MERELY REPORT THE STORY, BUT RELIVE THE STORY BY DRAMATIC USE OF BOTH VOICE AND BODY.

Suggested Conclusion:

- 1) Ask, what are some "storms" that you face in your life?
- 2) Search out some appropriate Bible promises to claim in prayer for these storms.
- 3) Pray.

Alternative lesson aims:

- 1) My students will learn about the evidence of God's providence in Paul's journey to Rome, so that they will trust God to accomplish his purposes through the circumstances (even bad circumstances) of their lives.
- 2) My students will learn how Paul persevered in his witness for Christ once he arrived in Rome (Acts 28:17-31), so that they will persevere in their own witness until Jesus comes.

Home Assignment:

 None Listed

 None Listed