



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for August 29, 2010
Released on Wednesday, August 25, 2010**

"Keep On in Faith"

Lesson Text: Acts 28:16–25a, 28–31

Background Scripture: Acts 28; Philippians 4:15–23

Memory Verse: "Paul... received all that came in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:30–31).

Acts 28:16–25a, 28–31

16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

17 And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans:

18 Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me.

19 But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had aught to accuse my nation of.

20 For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

21 And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came showed or spake any harm of thee.

22 But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

25a And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word.

.... ..

28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Using Paul as an example, encourage the children to stay true to Jesus no matter what happens.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Paul teaches us to trust God in both good times and bad.
2. God can use what seems bad to us to bring about something good.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, bring pictures of Paul, Roman soldiers, a king, and a small crowd of Jewish leaders.

For Helping to Remember, each pupil will need crayons and a half sheet of white construction paper.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Scramble/Word Search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 59-61

Place: Rome

In a way, this week's lesson revisits Paul's exhortation in Philippians 4:1: "Stand fast." The verse urges us, as well as the Philippians, to be steadfast, unmoved from our trust in Jesus, whatever situation we face.

Our lesson this week presents Paul himself as an example of one who did that. He was imprisoned. He was unable to do what he felt God had called him to do. But his faith was unshaken.

He is an example for boys and girls as they stand at the beginning of the varied experiences of life. This lesson will say to them, "Keep trusting God throughout life. Never give up. Stay true to the Lord. God can use every experience for good."

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Every Friday, Bobby's father visited Mr. Filby. He was in a kind of hospital for older people, and Dad said he went to cheer him up. One day Dad took Bobby along.

On the way home, Bobby said, "But Mr. Filby did not act like he needed cheering up. He was smiling. He told jokes. He acted happy already."

"Mr. Filby likes to have visitors," Dad said. "But you are right. He was happy already, even if he will never be able to get up and do the things he used to do. You see, God can take even unhappy times and use them to make good things happen. Mr. Filby knows that. He is staying true to Jesus."

Bobby thought about that. "So he is staying true to Jesus even though he is sick."

Dad nodded. "He is staying true to Jesus no matter what."

TELLING THE LESSON:

Somebody else stayed true to Jesus no matter what happened. That was His friend Paul. (Show Paul.)

Paul had been going everywhere telling the news that Jesus died and came alive again. That must have been a wonderful time for Paul, because he liked telling people about Jesus.

But some men did not like what Paul was preaching. They told the Roman ruler Paul had done something wrong. The ruler's soldiers took Paul and locked him up. (Show soldiers.) That must have been a sad, lonely time. Now Paul could not do the preaching he wanted to do. But he stayed true to Jesus anyway.

The Roman ruler did not think Paul had done anything wrong, but he still wanted to please the Jewish leaders. So Paul asked to go to the king for him to decide whether Paul had done anything wrong. (Show king.)

A soldier had to stay with Paul while he waited to see the king, but this time he did not have to be in a jail. The captain let him rent his own house and live there. That was the good part of being locked up. But he still could not be where he wanted to be—out where the people were, talking about Jesus. That part was not good, but Paul stayed true to Jesus anyway. (Show Paul.)

Can you guess what God did? God began sending people *to* Paul. You see, Paul was allowed to have visitors; so he invited some leaders of the Jewish people to visit him. (Show crowd.)

He told them about the ruler who thought he had done nothing wrong and wanted to let him go. He told them some of his own Jewish people would not let him go; that was why he was asking the king to decide. (Show king.) And he said the real reason he had been arrested was that he had been preaching about the One that God the Father had promised to send—Jesus.

His visitors said they would come back another day. They seemed to want plenty of time to hear all about what Paul had been preaching.

God sent many more people to hear Paul. (Show crowd.) It was a happy time for Paul, because from morning until dark they sat listening. He told them who Jesus was. He told them what Jesus had done and how God had promised many times that He would come and do those things.

After listening, some of them said, "No, that is not true." But others believed that Jesus is God's Son. They got to hear of Jesus and come into God's family *because Paul had been locked up*. Think about that.

Paul stayed in that house a long time (about two years) while waiting to see the king. In one way, being locked up made it a sad and lonely time for him. But Paul stayed true to Jesus anyway, and God kept sending people to visit him. (Show crowd.) He told all of them that Jesus had come to take away their sins.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Like Paul, you will have happy times and sad times in your life. Everybody does. Whatever happens, Paul would say, "Stay true to Jesus." God can use the bad times in your life to make good things happen too.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the class draw a sunny scene on one side to suggest the happy times when Paul could tell about Jesus. On the other side, have them draw the same place on a stormy day to remind them that Paul stayed true to Jesus even in times of trouble.

The lesson activity contains keywords from the lesson (as a review activity) – provide a copy for each student.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Paul... received all that came in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:30-31).

Many people came to visit Paul while he was under arrest. He was glad to see every one, because then he could talk to them about what God was doing and why He had sent Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Not everything will be easy for us as Christians, but with God's help we will do well. If we are committed to the Savior and do what He wants us to do, we will be supported by the good hand of God. Everyday will not be a Sunday school picnic, but we can trust that we do not walk alone and will have many opportunities to serve. So keep trusting God and never give up!

PRAYER

Father in Heaven, thank You for being with us always! Help us to keep trusting You in every situation, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week begins a new quarter, and the lesson will deal with God's revelation to Moses. Study Exodus 3:1-22.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SCRAMBLE / WORD SEARCH

“Keep On in Faith” (Acts 28:16-25a, 28-31)

(1) Unscramble each of the following keywords from the lesson.

(2) Then find each in the word search.

UPAL	TAHIF	EOUHS	SRDAERTE
HRNGIAEPC	ECTHA	EPXEMLA	
EEELBIV	DEOSLSIR	TRSOIISV	

D O A E T E L E A D S E E R A E H R P S R I L
E E A I E A V L N H E O L B L E S P A G T E A
I S A M L U P O H N A E S R O T I S I V O E C
O E H R D A P E G T A T H I I L H H O U S E P
E F E R V E E A A L R I T O A R S C L E I T L
V S U I S H E I U I R S I I E H E E A I L R V
C H D X D N D S I L E R A T E C I S A E A A D
R C I A S S D T E C S E F S I B T S R E T L A
S E P E S R R G O S T P E R A V R H L R I H X
V H E L T S E C T E E H G N I H C A E R P R E
I A P P C A I I I F D H H V T A D P L O P E A
L G M M H A R R D B E L I E V E L S D E R D S
H H L A O I X E V L R P I H L A F O T P M U E
H E H X F T E R N G O E E D O R S N O E E T T
V E G E T R A A S E B S B F F I A T E S C I I
C G E E E A D R E R D H S E E G O A E U U I H

Solution to Word Scramble / Word Search

“Keep On in Faith” (Acts 28:16-25a, 28-31)

PAUL	FAITH	HOUSE	ARRESTED
PREACHING	TEACH	EXAMPLE	
BELIEVE	SOLDIERS	VISITORS	

S R O T I S I V

P A H H H O U S E
 A R T C
 U R I A
 L E A E
 S S F T
 E R T
 L E E G N I H C A E R P
 P I D
 M D B E L I E V E
 A L
 X O
 E S