

PAUL'S TRAVELS

God chose Paul to spread the good news about Jesus all over the Roman world.

Why Paul?

First of all, Paul was really, really **SMART**. Remember, he was a Pharisee, and Pharisees were smart because they spent years studying and memorizing God's laws and the stories of Israel. But Paul was even smarter than the average Pharisee. Paul was like a super-Pharisee!

Paul spoke Hebrew, the language of Israel, so Paul could talk to **EVERYONE** in Israel about God and His Son, Jesus. But Paul also spoke Greek, the language of the Roman Empire, because he had grown up in Tarsus, which was part of the Roman world.

There was one more thing that made Paul **PERFECT** for this job. He was a Roman citizen.

Today, if you're born in a country, you are automatically a **CITIZEN** of that country. You get special rights and freedoms of being a citizen of a country.

But in Paul's day, it was very special to be a **ROMAN** citizen. Very few people in the Roman Empire, and almost no Jews, were actually citizens. Being a citizen was a huge help to Paul as he began sharing the good news. *How?*

Well, if you were a Roman citizen, you could travel **ANYWHERE** in the Roman Empire without any trouble at all. So, Paul could go anywhere and talk to **ANYONE** about Jesus.

If Paul was ever arrested for talking about Jesus, he couldn't be killed the way Jesus was killed, because he was a Roman citizen.

And finally, if a Roman citizen was arrested and put on trial and didn't think the trial was fair, he could "appeal to Caesar." The trial would end, and he would be taken to Rome to appear before Caesar himself, the king of the whole Roman Empire!

There was no bigger king than Caesar, and all Paul had to do to go see him was say, "I appeal to Caesar!" Which, a few years later, is exactly what he did.



Paul started traveling all over the Roman world telling people about Jesus. Jesus followers started popping up everywhere. They began meeting together in groups that we now call **CHURCHES**.

Soon, there was a new name for these followers of Jesus. Since they wanted to be just like Jesus Christ, people started calling them **CHRISTIANS**, which means “little Christs.”



Paul **LOVED** telling people about Jesus, even though it didn't always go very well. Two times Paul was on a ship that sank in the sea.



He was attacked by groups of people who wanted him to stop talking about Jesus. He was bitten by a poisonous snake. He was arrested and thrown in jail.

But even in the hard times, Paul was filled with **JOY**. God gave Paul the strength to be happy if he was full, or if he was hungry. If he had money, or if he had none. If he was free, or if he was in prison. No matter what happened, God was with Paul. God was Paul's **FRIEND**. And Paul was happy.

The Pharisees and Sadducees, on the other hand, were **NOT** happy. Paul was supposed to be arresting Jesus' followers, and instead more and more of them were showing up all over the Roman Empire!



The Pharisees and Sadducees got the Roman governor to arrest Paul because he was a troublemaker. While Paul was in jail, he discovered the Pharisees were planning to kill him. So Paul decided to do something really bold.

“I APPEAL TO CAESAR!” he said.

And sure enough, because he was a Roman citizen, Paul was put on a boat and sent all the way to Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire. Now all Paul had to do was wait for his turn, and he would get to tell Caesar all about Jesus!

Caesar, though, was a little busy.

Paul sat in a Roman jail, waiting to talk to Caesar, for at least two whole years.

What did he do while he waited? What would you do?

While he was waiting to meet with Caesar, Paul wrote letters.

LOTS of letters. Some of which you’ve probably read!

PAUL’S TRAVELS

FAMILY CONNECTION

ACTS 25



FUN FACTS

Paul took four important missionary journeys during his life as a messenger of God’s good news. He visited more than forty-five cities throughout his ministry of over thirty years. For a map of Paul’s travels, turn to page 316.

TALK

What are some reasons God chose Paul to spread His good news?

Why do you think Paul was able to have joy, no matter what?

Dear God...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You that we can have joy in good times and bad. Show us ways we can joyfully share Your good news with others. Amen.



PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . .”
Matthew 28:19 (NIV)



JOURNEYS	DATE	TRAVEL PARTNER	WRITINGS
— First Journey	AD 48-49	Barnabas	Possibly Galatians
— Second Journey	AD 51-53	Silas	1 & 2 Thessalonians
— Third Journey	AD 54-57	Various Disciples	1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans
— Journey to Rome	AD 59-60	Julius the Centurion and other prisoners	Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

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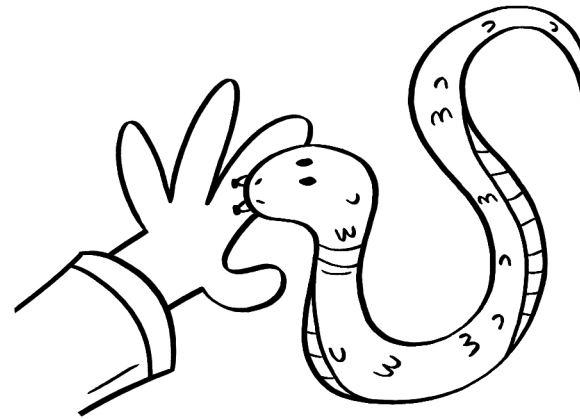


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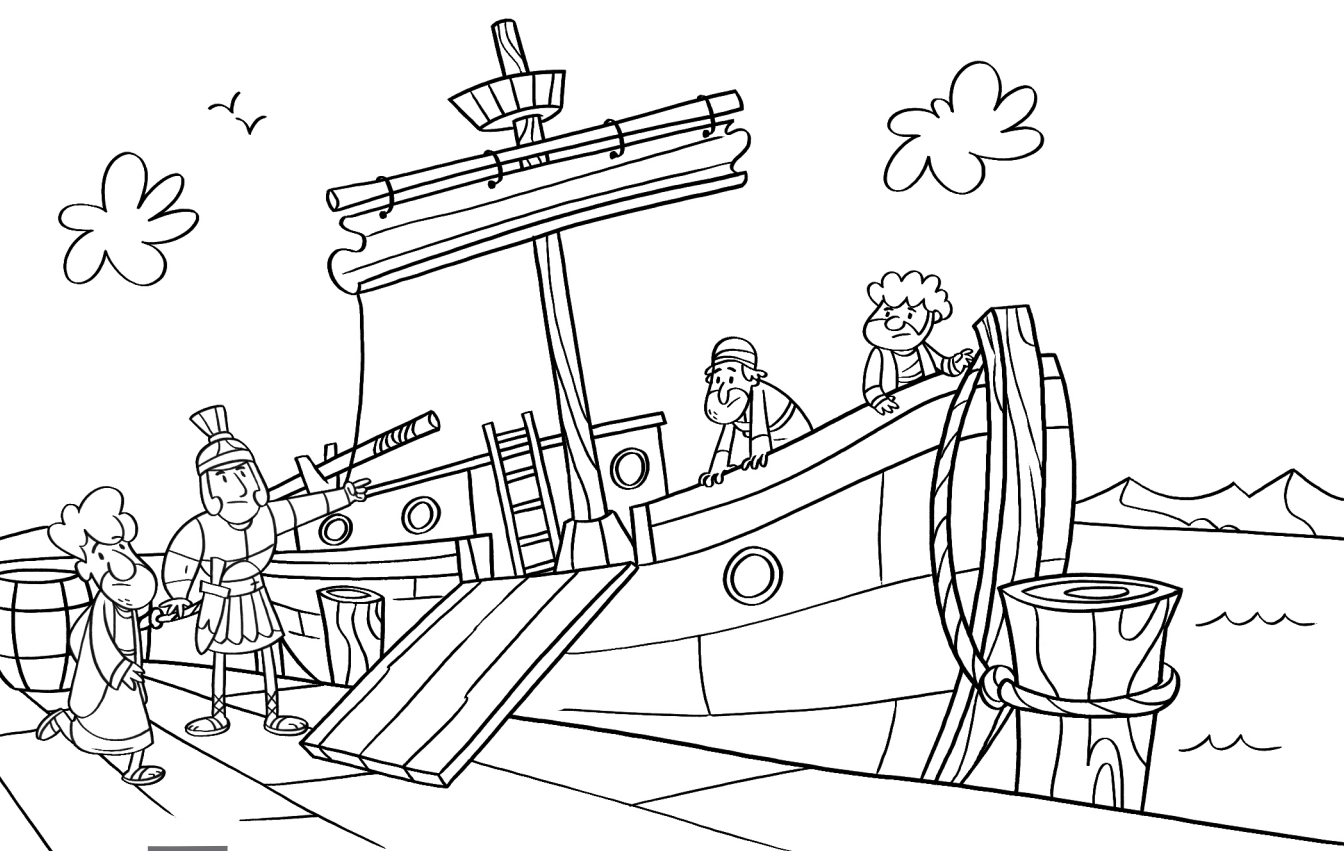
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