



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** God in the Storms of Life  
Spring Year 4, Lesson 54

# Paul Before Felix

**Take Home Point:** \*Follow God at all times.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 24

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 2:19 & 21, "God is pleased if a person is aware of him while enduring the pains of unjust suffering... God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Paul on trial before Felix.
- They are to follow God at all times, even if they unjustly suffer for their faith or have to wait for God's deliverance.
- Jesus also endured unjust suffering, but followed his Father's will. He gives them the power to do the same.

**We will help kids feel:**




- Courage to follow Jesus.
- Comfort in times of waiting for God's deliverance.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify times when it has been hard to follow God.
- Discuss times when they have had to wait, especially to wait for God's answer.
- Investigate the Bible and talk about what it must have been like for Paul to follow God while put on trial and imprisoned for two years.
- Make a craft that reminds them to follow God at all times.

Kingdom Quest, Year 4, Lesson 54 - 1

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION   | PAGE                          | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY  | SUPPLIES NEEDED  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Small Group Warm-Up</b><br>       | 3                             | Kids try to determine how long a minute is without looking at a clock. They discuss following God at all times.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• watch with a second hand</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Large Group</b><br>               | 4<br><br>7<br><br>9<br><br>10 | <b>Overview</b><br><br><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “No Time for Blaze”—Gordy is afraid to stand up for God because Blaze makes fun of him. He is tired of waiting for God to answer his prayer.<br><br><b>Video:</b> <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i> ---Acts 24<br><br><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Follows God, Not Delbert”—Gordy learns that God is pleased when we follow him even though it is tough and we might get laughed at. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• rain gear such as raincoat, umbrella, boots, and goggles</li> <li>• squirt gun or spray bottle</li> <li>• video, <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International—order from <a href="http://www.goccc.com/vibiacdvd1of.html">http://www.goccc.com/vibiacdvd1of.html</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>Small Group Application</b><br> | 4                             | Kids make a clock that reminds them to <i>*follow God at all times</i> .   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appendix page (<i>p. 12</i>) copied for each child</li> <li>• scissors</li> <li>• construction paper</li> <li>• brad fasteners</li> </ul>   |

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies: watch with a second hand*

**Today we will talk about time. Can you guess how long a minute lasts? After I say, “time begins,” raise your hand when you think one minute has passed.**

**It will be fun to see how many of you can guess how long a minute is and who is closest to being right. Are you ready? Time begins.**

Watch a clock or wristwatch with a second hand. Raise your hand as soon as the second hand reaches one minute. Who was the closest to the correct time?

Then ask:

**Tell me about something that you have had a hard time waiting for.**  
*(You might begin with prompts such as....Has it been hard to wait for a certain birthday, or to get a special privilege?)*

**Was there ever a time when it was hard for you to follow God?**

Start by sharing a time when it was hard for you to follow God. Allow kids to share.

**Have you ever had a hard time waiting for God to answer your prayers or to take you out of a difficult situation? For example one time I ...**

Share one of your experiences.

**Today we will learn how important it is to *\*follow God at all times*. We will see how Paul followed God at all times even when he was in prison for two years because of his faith.**

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “No Time for Blaze”—Gordy is afraid to stand up for God because Blaze makes fun of him. He is tired of waiting for God to answer his prayer.

**Video:** *Visual Bible: Acts---Acts 24*

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy Follows God, Not Delbert”—Gordy learns that God is pleased when we follow him even though it is tough and we might get laughed at.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 24 in their Bibles for the following questions.

**What did the Jews accuse Paul of doing wrong?** (Acts 24:5-6. “He starts quarrels among all Jews throughout the world. He’s a ringleader of the Nazarene sect. He also entered the temple courtyard in a way that violates our tradition.”)

**In Acts 24:21, what did Paul say the Jews were really upset about?** (Because he shouted, “I’m being tried in front of you because I believe that the dead will come back to life.” Remember last week we talked about this and that some did not believe in life after death.)

**What did Paul admit in Acts 24:14?** (That he was a follower of Christ.)

**How long did Paul stay in prison?** (Acts 24:27. Two years.)

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**So what do you think was the real reason the Jews wanted Paul to be imprisoned?** *(Because he was teaching about belief in Jesus and if one believed in him, they would have eternal life.)*

**Why do you think Paul never renounced Jesus, even though he remained in prison for so long?** *(He knew from both experience and God's word that Jesus was the Christ...that he fulfilled the prophecies of scripture.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Have you ever been tempted to renounce Jesus or not follow him? What circumstances were you facing that made you afraid to admit you follow Jesus?**

**The key verse for today from 1 Peter 2:19 and 21 says, "God is pleased if a person is aware of him while enduring the pains of unjust suffering....God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps."**

**How does knowing Christ suffered for you make it easier to endure hard times for him?**

**What is our reward for following Jesus?** *(God is pleased and we will receive his promises, especially eternal life with him.)*

### Application Activity:

*Supplies: appendix page for each child, construction paper, scissors, brads (one for each child)*

Hand out the craft materials. Have the kids cut out an hour hand and a second hand for the clock. Use a brad to fasten the hands on the cutout clock.

Ask kids while they are working:

**What times are hardest for you to follow God?**

**This clock you are making can be put up in your room or on your refrigerator to remind you to *\*follow God at all times.***

If time allows, have kids take turn giving examples of how they might follow God as they move the hands around the clock.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he sent his Son Jesus to suffer for us. Ask God for Jesus' power to  
*\*follow God at all times* even if it means we will have to suffer.

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# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## No Time for Blaze Puppet Presentation

*The presenter in this series is dressed in a raincoat with appropriate rain gear such as an umbrella, boots, and goggles. He/She needs a squirt gun or spray bottle to be ready for the “storms of life.”*

**Presenter: Kids, should we call Gordy?**

*Kids call Gordy. Gordy... Gordy... Gordy.*

Gordy enters counting.

**Presenter: Hi, Gordy.**

Gordy: Don't bother me now! Thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine...

**Presenter: What are you doing?**

Gordy: I said don't bother me. Now where was I? Thirty-nine, forty, forty-one...

**Presenter: Are you practicing your numbers?**

Gordy: I am practicing my minute. I am going to know exactly when a minute is over by the time I count to sixty. Forty-one, forty-two..

**Presenter: Gordy, I am sorry I interrupted you, but I think you already lost count.**

Gordy: No, I think you made me lose count.

**Presenter: I'm sorry. In small group, we were trying to determine how long a minute was so we could talk about how much of the time we will follow God.**

Gordy: You mean following God for just a minute.

**Presenter: No, *\*following him at all times*. For example, Gordy, when do you follow God? Do you follow him at all times?**

Gordy: I follow him whenever I am here at church.

**Presenter: That's great, Gordy. But, do you follow him in times when things get hard?**

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Presenter: For example, do you follow God when someone makes fun of you?**

Gordy: Oh, like Blaze Huntington.

**Presenter: Who is Blaze Huntington?**

Gordy: He's only the fastest kid in third grade. Everyone wants him on their kickball team because he's the BLAZE.

**Presenter: What does he have to do with making it hard to follow God?**

Gordy: Blaze makes fun of kids who go to church.

**Presenter: Does he make fun of you?**

Gordy: I've tried to keep it quiet.

**Presenter: Are you following God when you do that? What do you think would happen if you told him?**

Gordy: He would probably call me a sissy pants who believes in fairytales from the Bible."

**Presenter: But if that happened, you could follow God and tell Blaze that the Bible isn't fairytales. You could tell him how the Bible is about Jesus and how anyone can have a friendship with God if they trust in him.**

Gordy: Yeah, then he would laugh.

**Presenter: So.**

Gordy: Then I wouldn't be cool!

**Presenter: So.**

Gordy: Then I wouldn't be on his kickball team and I would be a sissy pants. Actually, Blaze has been making fun of me about church the whole third grade year. I have asked God to make him stop, but it just gets worse.

**Presenter: That is very difficult. It is hard to wait for God to answer our prayers sometimes. Today we will find out that we should *\*follow God at all times*, especially when it is hard. We should follow God even if we ask God to help and we have to wait for his answer.**

Gordy: I don't like to wait!



**Presenter:** And you probably don't like to have people make fun of you, either.

Gordy: Especially Blaze!

**Presenter:** Watch what happens today when the apostle Paul is brought before the ruler, Felix. I want you to listen for two things. First, did Paul do anything wrong that he should have been on trial for? Second, how long did Paul have to wait in jail?

Gordy exits.

## Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. The clip covers Acts 24.

### Video Review:

Address the audience.

**How well did you listen to the video this week? I need three volunteers to come forward who think they can answer the questions correctly.**

Choose three volunteers and have them come forward.

**Remember, if you answer the questions correctly, you get to squirt me, but if you are wrong, I get to squirt you. Are my volunteers ready?**

**Question 1: How long did Paul wait in jail? (*Two years.*)**

Squirt the volunteer if the question was answered wrong. If the question was answered correctly, let the volunteer squirt you.

**Question 2: What did the Jews accuse Paul of doing? (*Being a troublemaker, starting quarrels among all Jews, entering the temple in a way that violated tradition.*)**

Squirt the volunteer if the question was answered wrong. If the question was answered correctly, let them squirt you.

**Question 3: What has teeth but doesn't chew? (*A key.*)**

Squirt the volunteer. Then have kids return to their seats.

# **Gordy Follows God, Not Delbert**

## **Puppet Conclusion**

Gordy enters.

**Presenter:** You see, Gordy, Paul followed God even when it was hard and he had to wait for two years in prison.

Gordy: But that seems so hard.

**Presenter:** Of course it does. The Bible also tells us in 1 Peter 2:19-21, *“God is pleased if a person is aware of him while enduring the pains of unjust suffering. What credit do you deserve if you endure a beating for doing something wrong? But if you endure suffering for doing something good, God is pleased with you. God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps.”*

**Gordy, do you know how Christ suffered for you?**

Gordy: I think so.

**Presenter:** How?

Gordy: He died on the cross for me.

**Presenter:** That’s right. He was even beaten and punished unjustly. He did that to take away our sin.

Gordy: Even the times when we didn’t follow God?

**Presenter:** Yes, even the times we didn’t follow God. When we repent or confess our sin, God forgives us and gives us another chance.

Gordy: So, I guess that means I won’t worry about Blaze.

**Presenter:** I don’t think you need to. Instead, think about *\*following God at all times*, even when Blaze makes fun of you. It’s more important what God thinks of you than what Blaze thinks of you.

Gordy: I guess you’re right.

**Presenter:** Gordy, is Blaze his real name?

Gordy: No, his real name is Delbert.

**Presenter:** Oh, really. You know the next time he makes fun of you maybe you can say, "I don't have to listen to you...Delbert."

**Would you close in prayer for us, Gordy?**

**Gordy:** Sure. Dear Jesus, thank you for *\*following God at all times* even when people were mean and punished you unjustly. Thank you for giving your life for us and for being with us now to help us follow you. Help us follow you at all times and please help me not to worry about what Blaze, I mean Delbert, thinks. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Follow God All The Time

