



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 55

Paul Tells His Story

Take Home Point: *Tell what Jesus has done for
YOU. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 26

Key Verse: 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (NIV)

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Paul telling about his encounter with Jesus before the court of Festus and Agrippa.
- If they trust Jesus, they, too, have a story of how Jesus has helped them.
- They can tell their story as a witness to others about Jesus.




We will help kids feel:

- Courage to talk to others about Jesus.
- Confidence to tell their story.

We will help kids do:

- Play a game in which they will create a fictitious story.
- Investigate the Bible and discover how Paul told his story.
- Tell their own story in which Jesus helped them in a specific situation.
- Identify friends and certain situations in which they can tell their story.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids create a story by filling in the blanks as the shepherd points to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group 	5 9 11 13	Overview Puppet Presentation: “The Flying Purple Elephant”—Gordy loves to use his imagination to tell stories but he learns he has a real story about Jesus to tell to others. Video: <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i> —Acts 26 Puppet Conclusion: “The Real Story”—Gordy learns what it means to hear “Their Story,” and then tell “My Story” and “His Story.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • rain gear such as raincoat, umbrella, boots, and goggles • squirt gun or spray bottle • video, <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International—order from http://www.goccc.com/vibiacdvd1of.html • three poster boards, each with one of the following written on it: 1) Their Story, 2) My Story, 3) His Story
Small Group Application 	5	Kids practice listening to “Their Story,” and learn to share “My Story” and “His Story.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none

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.

Begin by saying:

Today we will create our own one-of-a-kind story. It will take everyone's creative imagination to invent such a story. When I point to you, I would like you to fill in the part of the story with whatever comes to mind. You will have to listen closely to all the previous parts of the story so that you can add something that will help make the story grow. This will make more sense as we get started.

Randomly point to each child to fill in a missing piece while reading the story.

Oscar Finds Help

The forest was full of animals that loved to work and play together. This story is about one of those special animals named Oscar. Oscar was a... (point to a child).

What made Oscar different from all the other animals was he... (point to the next child). ***The other animals talked behind his back and said mean things. Sometimes he overheard them whisper things like, "Look at Oscar, he..."*** (point to the next child). ***This made Oscar feel...*** (point to the next child).

When Oscar felt this way he often would go alone to a special place. This place was... (point to the next child).

One day while Oscar was in his special place, he received a visit from the most respected animal of the forest. His name was Mobi. This kind of animal ... (point to the next child) ***was considered a very wise animal.***

Mobi asked Oscar, "What's wrong?"

Oscar explained his problem. He told Mobi... (point to the next child).

Mobi said, "I know what you need to do. You need to visit three animals in the forest and listen to their advice for you. The first animal you need to visit is a..." (point to the next child). ***The second animal is a...*** (point to the next child) ***and the third animal is a...*** (point to the next child).

Oscar immediately set off to find these animals. I wonder what kind of advice these animals would give him. When he found the first animal, a... (fill in the animal mentioned previously), he shared his problem.

This is what she had to say. "Oscar you need to... (point to the next child). Oscar thought to himself, "That is very interesting. I wonder what the next animal will tell me."

Oscar hurried off to find the second animal, the (fill in the second animal previously mentioned). This animal gave this advice... (point to the next child).

"Wow, that is really interesting," said Oscar. "Now I am really curious about what the next animal will tell me."

He ran very fast to the place he knew he would find the third animal, the... (fill in the name of the third animal mentioned previously). Oscar found him and explained his problem. This is the advice given to him... (point to the next child).

After listening closely to the advice of these animals, Oscar went to find Mobi. Mobi asked him, "What did you learn from the advice given to you?"

Oscar thought a little while. Then he responded to Mobi. "After I listened to all three animals and thought about my problem, this is what I think I should do. I should... (point to the next child).

"That is a wonderful idea, Oscar," said Mobi. "Are you ready to try it now?"

"Yes. I want to try it right away," Oscar replied. He rushed off to... (point to the next child).

The next day Oscar returned to Mobi to explain that a great thing happened to him. He told Mobi, "It is all different now because after I left you yesterday this is what happened... (point to the next child).

"Splendid!" said Mobi, "I hope we can all learn from this!"

Together, we have created a very interesting story. Did you notice how easy this story would be to remember? I bet when you come back next week you will still be able to tell me the details.

Did you know that each one of you has many stories in your life? These stories describe how you have been helped and the changes you have made in your life.

Today we will learn one of the apostle Paul's stories. He shared how he was helped and the incredible changes that happened in his life. The person that helped Paul was someone very special...Jesus. Because Paul met Jesus, his life changed.

Today you will think about your story and how Jesus helped you. You will learn to **tell what Jesus has done for you.*

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: "The Flying Purple Elephant"—Gordy loves to use his imagination to tell stories, but he learns he has a real story about Jesus to tell to others.

Video: *Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 26*

Puppet Conclusion: "The Real Story"—Gordy learns what it means to hear "Their Story" and then tell "My Story" and "His Story."

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 26 in their Bibles for the following questions.

What was Paul's problem or situation? (Acts 26:1-2, 7-8. He was standing and speaking before King Agrippa to defend himself against the

accusations the Jews brought against him. He believed that God would bring dead people back to life.)

Who would like to retell the story of Paul's conversion? Have kids retell or summarize Paul's "My story" from Acts 26:4-15. *(Paul was a Pharisee. He used to do lots of things to oppose Jesus of Nazareth. He locked Christians in prison, punished them, forced them to curse the name of Jesus, hunted them down and voted to have them killed. Then on his way to Damascus, he saw a bright light and fell to the ground. He heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul Why are you persecuting me?")*

What did Paul say about Jesus or how did he tell "His story?" Read or have kids read Acts 26:15-18.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How did this experience change Paul's life? *(Acts 26:19-23. Paul spread the message of Jesus to people in Jerusalem and then to the whole country of Judea. He even felt confident to stand and testify before King Agrippa. (See verse 22.))*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

In today's discussion, we need to be sensitive to those kids who may not have a relationship with Christ or are not close to God. Those that do not feel comfortable describing how God has worked in their lives shouldn't be asked to, or be expected to, share. This discussion needs to be completely voluntary.

How does Paul's story encourage you? How does his faith in Jesus and his confidence that God is always with him, help you?

Paul knew for certain that God always keeps his promises and will always be with us. God sent Jesus to take our punishment for sin and to free us from death, too.

How does believing that Jesus saved you make you feel?

The key verse from 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (NIV)

What is the hope that you have when you accept Jesus as your Savior? (*Eternal life.*)

Now we will practice the take home point: **tell what Jesus has done for you.*

Let's pretend that I am a friend of yours from school. I am going to share "Their Story" with you. Then we will talk about how you could possibly share "My Story" and "His Story" in each situation.

Application Activity: Stories and Situations

- 1. Here is the first situation: "I got in trouble in school. I was sent to the principal's office and feel really terrible about it."**

Is there anyone here who at one time felt really bad about something that happened in school? Maybe you didn't go to the principal's office, but you still felt bad about something. Would anyone like to share a "My Story"?

Allow as many as would like to share.

Now let's talk about "His Story." Who can tell us about what Jesus has done to take away any of the bad things we have done?

Allow kids to share leading them to talk about God's forgiveness.

- 2. Here is another situation. "I am so angry because a bully pushed me at recess today."**

Is there anyone who felt really angry when someone did something mean? Tell us your "My Story."

Now, let's talk about Jesus' story and how he helps in this situation.

Lead the kids to talk about God's power of protection and the power to stand up for themselves in a non-violent way.

- 3. Our next situation deals with family. "I am going through a hard time because my parents are fighting a lot."**

Who would like to share about a time their family had a hard time?

Let kids share.

Now how can we talk about God's power of forgiveness that might help a family? (*God can help us forgive other members of the family that can help a family begin again.*)

4. "All of my friends were playing soccer today, but no one asked me to play. I feel very sad about being left out."

Is there a time that you felt left out? Please share your "My Story."

Let kids share.

God is always with us. How can we tell our friend about "His Story" that could be helpful to him/her? (*God helped me feel better when I was left out because he promises to always be with me.*)

5. "I have to read my book report in school and I am really worried about messing up."

Does anyone have a "My story" about worry?

Can anyone share a "His story" about a time when God helped you trust him?

Share a personal example of trust with the kids. Allow anyone to share who may have an example.

We can be like Paul and when someone tells "Their Story" you can share your "My Story" and then offer hope by telling "His (Jesus') Story." Remember today we learned to: **tell what Jesus has done for you.*

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, please help us listen to our friends. Help us share our stories, but most importantly, help us to share your story with them. Give us the words to say that will help them have a relationship with you. Thank you for sending your Son to die for us on the cross. Thank you that he rose again to conquer sin and death and that we do not have to go through life on our own because you promised to always be with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The Flying Purple Elephant 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: Boys and girls, should we call Gordy?

Kids call Gordy. Gordy... Gordy... Gordy!

Gordy enters.

Gordy: Hi, everyone.

Presenter: Hi, Gordy. Tell me, how did your story go in small group today?

Gordy: Our story was the coolest.

Presenter: Why do you think that?

Gordy: Because I bet it was the only story here with Oscar as a flying purple elephant.

Presenter: I wonder who would have picked a flying purple elephant as a forest animal?

Gordy: I would!

Presenter: What kind of forest has a flying purple elephant?

Gordy: The forest in my head. That's some pretty good imagination, don't you think? Maybe *you* need to work on that.

Presenter: I think you have enough imagination for both of us. But tell me, did Oscar the flying elephant get his problem worked out?

Gordy: He did.

Presenter: What was his problem?

Gordy: No one believed he was real.

Presenter: How did he solve it?

Gordy: His friend Gordy helped.

Presenter: How?

Gordy: Gordy proved he was real.

Presenter: Really. How did Gordy prove it?

Gordy: Sometimes my homework ends up missing.

Presenter: Yeah, I know you have had a problem with that.

Gordy: I have to tell my teacher what really happened.

Presenter: Of course.

Gordy: So, I tell her the truth.

Presenter: Which is?

Gordy: Oscar took it. The problem is he loves to eat my homework. As a matter of fact, it's his favorite food besides the peas that fall off my plate when no one is looking.

Presenter: I was right, Gordy. You have enough imagination for both of us. But today we are talking about personal stories.

Gordy: That is exactly what I am talking about.

Presenter: We are talking about every person's unique story.

Gordy: I know. I just told you one!

Presenter: No, I want to hear a story about Gordy that is for real—a story that helps other people.

Gordy: You mean that telling others about Oscar when they lose their homework won't help them?

Presenter: No. What helps people is sharing about times in which Jesus helped you.

Gordy: But, that's not a story.

Presenter: Yes, it is a very important story. Today we will find out that every person who knows Jesus has a story to tell. And we need to share that story with others.

Gordy: Are you sure *you* don't have an over-active imagination?

Presenter: No, I don't Gordy. Let's watch the Bible event on video. This is Acts 26. Listen to the story that Paul tells when he was still called Saul. At this time he persecuted Christians, but God changed his life... and his name.

Gordy exits.

Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. The clip covers Acts 26.

Video Review:

Supplies: three pieces of poster board—one has “Their Story” written on it, one has “My Story” written on it, and one has “His story” written on it

Refer to the poster board signs as you talk about “Their Story,” “My Story,” and “His Story.”

When we share Jesus, there are three stories. The first is “Their Story.” This is when we listen to someone else’s story and understand what they are going through.

The second is “My Story.” That is when we tell about something that has happened to us. This leads to the third story. This is “His Story.” This describes what God has done to help us with that problem.

Let’s see how this worked in today’s lesson. I need four volunteers to come up front and answer some important questions about today’s Bible event.

Choose four volunteers.

Are you sure you all listened very closely? I have a feeling that I will get to do the squirting today! Remember, if you give the incorrect answer, I get to squirt you. But if you answer correctly, you get to squirt me. One more thing, if you get stuck on the answer, you may ask a friend to help.

Ask the first volunteer the following question.

Question #1: First of all, we begin with “Their Story.” In the video, this was the ruler’s story. Why was King Agrippa interviewing Paul in the first place? What did they want to know from him? *(They were giving Paul the chance to speak for himself because the religious leaders made false claims against him.)*

Squirt according to if the question is answered correctly or not.

Question #2: Now it is time for “My Story.” When Paul tells his “My Story,” he tells about how Jesus met him on the road to Damascus. What was Paul doing to Christians when Jesus met him? *(Hunting them down, persecuting them, killing them.)*

Squirt according to if the question is answered correctly or not.

Question #3: We are now at “His Story.” This refers to Jesus’ story. What did Jesus do for Paul, and for all of us, so that our sins could be forgiven? *(Jesus died on the cross and rose again.)*

Squirt according to if the question is answered correctly or not.

Question #4: What starts with a “p,” ends with an “e,” and has one thousand letters in it? *(A post office.)*

Squirt according to if the question is answered correctly or not. Most likely, you will need to give a quick spray to the child.

The Real Story

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: Gordy, are you there? Come on out.

Gordy enters.

Gordy: Yeah, I’m here. I was just checking on the answer to that riddle.

Presenter: Did you find it?

Gordy: It was in a book that my flying purple elephant just ate. (Giggles.)

Presenter: There you go again with that wild imagination. We are talking about a real story today, Gordy.

Gordy: I know you are.

Presenter: This is the most important story that you could ever tell and it is true. It's about you and your friend Jesus. Do you know how to tell it?

Gordy: Not exactly. Can you help?

Presenter: Sure I can. First of all, you need to listen to other people and their stories. Sometimes they may share about going through a hard time, and they might be sad, scared or searching for God. Maybe they did something wrong and they feel really bad about it.

Gordy: I can understand that.

Presenter: Exactly. After you have listened to their story...

Refer to the "Their Story" poster.

...you can say, "Let me tell you my story."

Refer to the poster "My Story."

Share something that happened to you, Gordy, that was similar to what your friend shared. After "My Story" is shared, you can share "His Story."

Gordy: That's Jesus' story. He's the one who helped me when I did something wrong.

Presenter: Exactly! Jesus was the one who helped you.

Gordy: I could tell my friend how Jesus gave his life for me and, when I believe that and say "Jesus, be in my life," he's right there with me.

Presenter: He not only takes away the bad things we have done, but he helps us with problems every day. It could be when we are sad, afraid, lonely... or for any other need.

Gordy: That's what he does, all right.

Presenter: So, first you listen to "Their Story," share "My Story," and it leads to sharing "His Story." We will all practice this today in our small groups. It is so important that all of us share with others what Jesus has done for us. Would you pray for us, Gordy?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, we need your help to know how to do this. We need to listen to others and tell our story. Help us to talk about your story. You loved us so much that you gave us Jesus. Help each of us to think of one person that we can tell about your story. In Jesus' name. Amen.