



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** God in the Storms of Life  
Spring Year 4, Lesson 58

# Paul in Rome

**Take Home Point:** \*Help link others to Jesus!

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 28:16-31, Philippians 1:12-14

**Key Verse:** Acts 28:31, "He spread the message about God's kingdom and taught very boldly about the Lord Jesus Christ..."

**We will help kids know:**

- Paul helped "link" others to Jesus even though he was under house arrest.
- While imprisoned he brought many to the Lord through his letters to churches that are now books in the Bible.
- They can "link" others to Jesus through their prayers, encouragement, and witness.
- God can use hardships in our lives for his purposes and bring others to Jesus.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Surprised that God used what seemed to be bad for purposes of good.
- The desire to pray for and talk to others about all God has done for them.

**We will help kids do:**

- Play a game that reminds kids they are "links" to others.
- Identify people who have made a positive impact in their life.
- Identify family, friends and others that they can help "link" to Jesus.
- Make a paper chain as a take home project or classroom decoration.

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids play the game “Link Tag” to learn how they are the “link” between people they know and Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8  10  11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy the Master Passer”—Gordy thinks he is the Master “it” Passer in Link Tag. However, he learns that when Paul was imprisoned, instead of feeling trapped by the chains, Paul saw himself as a link to help others get free.  <b>Video:</b> <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i> —Acts 28:16-31  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy, the Link”—Gordy realizes that he is an important “link” in bringing others to Jesus, just like Paul.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• rain gear such as a 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.gocccc.com/vi/biacdvd1of.html">http://www.gocccc.com/vi/biacdvd1of.html</a></li> <li>• paper chain made of ten links</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5	Kids make a paper chain with the names of people they can “link” to Jesus by sharing his love.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11” x 2” strip of paper for each child</li> <li>• ten to fifteen 8 ½” x 2” strips of paper for each child</li> <li>• transparent tape or stapler</li> <li>• markers or pens</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.

After all kids have gathered, introduce the game “Link Tag.” Have kids form a circle and hold hands. Say:

**See how we are all linked together? Instead of having a person be “it,” we will pass “it” around the circle by squeezing a hand.**

**I will start by squeezing the hand of the person to my right. I have now passed “it” along to this person. He/she will now pass “it” on to the person on his/her right by squeezing that person’s hand. I wonder how “it” will travel around our circle.**

**So we can trace “it” better, I would like you to say “it” when you receive “it”—that is, as soon your hand has been squeezed and before you pass “it” on to the next person. We should hear “it” being said all the way around the circle. Let’s try the game.**

After practicing one round, continue.

**Now that we have practiced, we will pass a silent “it” around the circle. The “it” can only go one direction, but this time we will not say anything as we pass “it” along. Are you ready to try?**

After this round, say:

**This time, one person will sit in the middle of our circle and will try to capture “it”. This person should look at our hands to see if she/he can see who squeezed a hand and who now has “it”. To make this a little harder, you do not have to pass “it” on right away. “It” can be held on to for a little while. Just remember that you do not want to be caught with “it”. We all want to secretly pass “it” along without the person in the middle noticing the squeeze.**

**Let’s give it a try. Who would like to be in the middle first?**

Choose a child to be in the middle. Have him/her close his/her eyes while you choose another child to start “it” around the circle. Give the child in the middle three chances to capture “it.” The child who had “it” last, will be in the middle next. If “it” is not captured after three guesses, the person in the middle gets to choose someone to replace him/her.

**Are you ready? Now, remember, I am not starting “it” around the circle this time. So watch very closely. Let’s go.**

Begin the game. Play three or four rounds of the game.

Afterward, ask kids to tell about someone in their lives, other than a parent, who has helped them become a better person. This might be a friend, teacher or a relative.

After the discussion, say:

**The people we have just talked about have passed something to us that helped us. They have been “linked” to you and have influenced you for good.**

**Did you know that God wants you to also be a “link” to others? He wants you to pass along something more important than just being a better person. He wants you to pass along the good news of Jesus so that others can “link” to him.**

**When we know Jesus, it is like holding his hand. We are “linked” to him. With our other hand we can “link” to others. Then the “it” we pass along is the love of Jesus. Today we want to learn to *\*help link others to Jesus!***

## **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:** “Gordy the Master Passer”—Gordy thinks he is the Master “it” Passer in Link Tag. However, he learns that when Paul was imprisoned, instead of feeling trapped by the chains, Paul saw himself as a link to help others get free.

**Video:** *Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 28:16-31*

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy, the Link”—Gordy realizes that he is an important “link” in bringing others to Jesus, just like Paul.

# 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?

To review the Bible event, have kids refer to Acts 28:16-31 in their Bibles.

**Who did Paul invite to visit with him in his house in Rome?** (*Acts 28:17. The most influential Jews in Rome.* )

**In verse 23, the Bible says that a larger number of influential Jews than expected went to the place where Paul was staying. How long did they visit with him?** (*From morning until evening.*)

**What did Paul talk about?** (*Acts 28:23. He tried to convince them about Jesus.*)

**What was the result according to verse 24?** (*Some of them were convinced, but others continued to disbelieve.*)

Read Acts 28:30-31.

**How long did Paul rent a place in Rome and what did he continue to do?** (*He lived there for two years and welcomed everyone who came to him. He boldly spread the message about Jesus and no one stopped him.*)

**What were other results as recorded in Philippians 1:12-14?** (*The guards understood Paul was imprisoned because of Christ and many other believers spoke about Jesus more boldly and fearlessly than ever.*)

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

**How do you think Paul felt about living in chains?**

**How did God use Paul's circumstances for his glory?** *(Paul was a Roman citizen, so was protected by a guard. Even though he was under arrest, people could come and visit him. No one stopped Paul from sharing the Good News of Jesus while he was there.)*

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

**Even though Paul was imprisoned, instead of feeling trapped by the chains, Paul saw himself as a link to help others get free.**

**Today's key verse, Acts 28:31 says, "He (Paul) spread the message about God's kingdom and taught very boldly about the Lord Jesus Christ..."**

**Can you think of any hardships we may face that God can use for his purposes and bring others to Jesus?** *(Answer to prayers in difficulties, healing from sickness, even testimony of belief in Jesus and receiving everlasting life when one is on his/her deathbed.)*

**Think of people you know that you can share the message of Jesus with.**

**Sometimes we share the whole message of Jesus and what he has done for us by dying on the cross and coming alive again. Sometimes we can share the message to believers and remind them that God loves them and cares for them. Sometimes they need our prayers or a friend who will listen.**

**In any case, we are a "link" that can connect others to Jesus just like a chain.**

### Application Activity:

*Supplies: ten to fifteen strips of construction paper (8 ½" x 2") to make a chain, one larger strip (11" x 2") per kid, markers or pens, transparent tape or staplers*

Hand out the large strip of paper and have kids write "Jesus" on it. Make a link by taping, gluing, or stapling the ends together.



Then have kids take the other strips of paper and write the names of people they know whom they can share the love or message of Jesus with. Encourage them to think of ten to fifteen names. Have them make a chain of these names by linking them together.

Finally, have kids write their own name on a paper strip and use it to link the chain of names to the Jesus link.



**How can you “link” others to Jesus?** (*Through prayers, encouragement, and witness.*)

**Today, we learned that we can\* *help link others to Jesus! We can be bold like Paul and not let circumstances prevent us from doing so.***

#### Closing Prayer:

Have kids spend a little time praying silently for a few people on their chain. Then ask God to help all to be bold in their love, witness and encouragement to help link these people to Jesus.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

*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.*

## **Gordy Is the Master Passer** Puppet Presentation

*Supplies: paper chain with approximately with ten to fifteen links*

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

*Kids: Gordy... Gordy... Gordy!*

**Presenter: Hi, Gordy!**

Gordy: Hi, everyone. Hey, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert presenter's name), put it there.

Gordy extends his hand.

**Presenter: Oh, you want me to give you five?**

Gordy: No, you're a grown-up. Give me a hand shake.

**Presenter: Okay, Gordy, here's a hand shake. How are you today?**

Gordy: Fine...You're "it"!

**Presenter: Oh, you mean like the game Link Tag we just finished playing?**

Gordy: I am really good at that game! I am the MASTER "IT" PASSER! I am lightning fast!

**Presenter: I'm sure you are.**

Gordy: I got so good at passing one "it" that I had to pass on more.

**Presenter: What?**

Gordy: I just took the person's hand next to me and squeezed, squeezed, squeezed! I sent a whole train of "it's" down the line.

**Presenter: I bet that was confusing!**

Gordy: It was fine until they all came back to me. There were "its" flying everywhere!



**Presenter:** Gordy, do you know why we played Link Tag?

Gordy: Yeah! It was to show that I am the best “it” passer there is.

**Presenter:** Absolutely right!

Gordy: What?!

**Presenter:** The game Link Tag reminds us that you are an important link that passes something on to others.

Gordy: You mean an “it”?

**Presenter:** More than just an “it,” Gordy.

Gordy: So, what is it?

**Presenter:** It is the message of Jesus and what he has done for us.

Gordy: That’s it?

**Presenter:** That’s it! Let me show you something.

Show Gordy the paper chain.

**What I have in my hand is a chain. Paul was arrested and probably chained to his guard in Rome where he spent the last years of his life.**

Gordy: That’s terrible.

**Presenter:** It sure seems like it to us. But, Paul knew that God could use his hard circumstances for something more important.

Gordy: What?!

**Presenter:** Instead of feeling trapped by the chains, Paul saw himself as a link to help others get free.

Gordy: How?

**Presenter:** He was a link that *\*helped others link to Jesus*. Let’s see this in our video. This is the last chapter in the book of Acts when Paul becomes a prisoner in Rome.

Gordy exists.

## Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 28:16-31*.

### Video Review:

**As you remember, we are in the *God in the Storms of Life* series where Paul went through many storms in his life. God not only rescued him, but used him in wonderful ways.**

**Who thinks they can answer one of my very tough questions correctly and squirt me? I was practicing early this morning getting my aim ready for those brave ones who answer the questions incorrectly.**

Choose four kids to come forward. Each kid will answer one question.

**If you answer the question correctly, you get to squirt me. But, if you are wrong, I get to squirt you. Are you ready?**

Introduce each child before you ask the question.

**Question 1: When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, where did he stay?**  
*(A rented house under a personal guard. Acts 28:30.)*

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

**Question 2: When Paul was a prisoner in Rome what did he do?** *(He met with people and told them about Jesus.)*

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

**Question 3: This question is true or false. Paul talked to many Jews. Some believed, but many of them did not. Since they did not believe, Paul said, “Until I can get all these Jewish people to believe I won’t talk about Jesus to anyone who is not a Jew.” Is this true or false?**  
*(False. He would talk to the Gentiles or non-Jews.)*

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

**Question 4: Now for our final question. As you know from previous weeks, this is always the hardest. Let’s see if our volunteer is up for this challenge. The question is: Why did the prisoner take a shower before breaking out of jail?** *(He wanted to make a clean getaway.)*

Squirt the volunteer unless he/she answers correctly.

## **Gordy, the Link**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

Gordy enters.

**Presenter: Gordy, I have a question for you.**

Gordy: I hope it's a riddle. I know them all!

**Presenter: Why was Paul in chains?**

Gordy: Hey, that's not a riddle!

**Presenter: No, but it is something very important. Why was Paul put in chains?**

Gordy: Because the bad guys chained him up and sent him to Rome.

**Presenter: Why?**

Gordy: Because they didn't like what he was saying.

**Presenter: Exactly! Remember that Jewish leaders falsely accused him because they didn't like what he said about Jesus. He preached that Jesus was the promised Savior and rose from the dead. So, he was arrested.**

Gordy: That's not fair. Why didn't Jesus just come down and bust those chains loose?!

**Presenter: You see, Paul knew that God could use those chains to help more people know about the message of Jesus.**

Gordy: No way. Not when he was locked up.

**Presenter: Because Paul was imprisoned in his home, Jews came to visit Paul and he told them about Jesus. Because of this, many came to know Jesus.**

Gordy: But not everyone believed.

**Presenter: No, not everyone believed, but many people did. Even some of the guards came to know Jesus. Something else very important happened because he was held captive in Rome.**

Gordy: What?

**Presenter:** He took time to write other churches letters that helped explain about Jesus.

Gordy: So, it was just a letter.

**Presenter:** Some of those letters are now books of the Bible.

Gordy: Wow! Which ones?

**Presenter:** The book of Philippians is one example. Let me read something to you from this book.

*Philippians 1:12-14, "I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what happened to me has helped to spread the Good News. As a result, it has become clear to all the soldiers who guard the emperor and to everyone else that I am in prison because of Christ. So, through my being in prison, the Lord has given most of our brothers and sisters confidence to speak God's word more boldly and fearlessly than ever."*

Did you hear what I just read? Because of Paul's example more people shared the message of Jesus boldly!

Gordy, have you ever been embarrassed to tell others what Jesus has done for you?

Gordy: Sometimes.

**Presenter:** Paul was so bold that he didn't stop even when he was chained and confined. That's because he knew how important it was to be a "link" to help others get connected to Jesus. Guess who else is a "link"?

Gordy: Uh-oh. You mean me, don't you.

**Presenter:** Yes, you. You are a "link" to others.

Gordy: But I don't know what to say to people.

**Presenter:** All you need to do is tell others what Jesus has done for you. What has Jesus done for you?

Gordy: He gave his life for me by dying on the cross, but then he rose from the dead three days later. Now my sins are forgiven and I can be his friend forever!

**Presenter:** That's it, Gordy. That is the message of Jesus. You can share that message with others and pray for them. You are a link to Jesus just like Paul.

Gordy: Wow!

**Presenter:** Today in our small group, we will make a paper chain that includes the names of people we can link to Jesus. We can share Jesus' message of love with them. These people might be members of our family, friends, and even people we barely know. Would you say a closing prayer, Gordy?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, help us be a "link" like Paul. Help us share the message of Jesus with others. Sometimes I feel embarrassed or don't know what to say. Help me be bold like Paul and help "link" others to your Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.