

2024 - Family Devo

Oct 13 - a



READ: Acts 22:17-21

Main Idea: After Paul is converted to Christ, he goes back to Jerusalem and while at the Temple Jesus speaks to him in a trance. He tells Paul the people won't accept him there, but bigger plans await him. God would send Paul to preach to the Gentiles.

DISCUSS

Children: After Paul believed in Jesus he wanted to share with the Jews in Jerusalem about how Jesus is the Messiah that God had promised to send. While in Jerusalem God gave Paul a vision Paul felt that the Jews in Jerusalem would listen to him because there was proof that he had persecuted believers and even gave approval for the death of Stephen. However the Lord knew that the Jews would not believe Paul's testimony and He told him to leave Jerusalem immediately. God has a purpose for each follower of Jesus. He has work for each believer to do.

Teen: How does Paul's role in the kingdom differ from the other apostles? Was the desired outcome to bring people to Jesus the same for both Paul and the other apostles? Is it still that way today that we have different roles but the same goals? Paul spoke to God of his sin. Paul knew two things for sure. God already knew what he had done, and God had forgiven him for it. Are you standing before God with confidence knowing he knows and forgives? Why or why not?

Adult: Paul is told early in his ministry that the Jews would not accept his testimony. How do you think he felt about that? How would you feel if you were teaching family, only to find that they would not accept anything you said? How did he feel to be sent to the Gentiles?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 119:11 (ESV)
I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.



2024 - Family Devo

Oct 13 - b

READ: Acts 22:22-29

Main Idea: While Paul is giving his defense to the crowd of Jews ready to kill him, he tells the story of his conversion. They listen to him until the part where God told him to go preach to the Gentiles. At this, they raise their voices and the Roman military leader (tribune) has to save Paul. He orders that Paul be taken and whipped in order to find out why this crowd hated him so much. Paul then brings up the fact that since he's a Roman citizen, it is illegal to whip him uncondemned, as well as bind him (arrest him) which they had already done.

DISCUSS

Children: The crowd had listened attentively to Paul's testimony until he spoke these words about the Gentiles. This angered the crowd and they became rowdy again. The commander who was still standing with Paul saw the crowd out of control again and he ordered his soldiers to take Paul and beat him to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. The Holy Spirit helped Paul to be calm and patient in a difficult situation. As he was led away to be whipped by the soldiers he didn't fight or argue. As Paul was stretched out to be whipped, Paul calmly asks the centurion, "Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't been found guilty for committing a crime?" The Holy Spirit used Paul's words to stop the soldiers from beating him to report Paul's words to the commander. When the commander learned that Paul was a Roman citizen he did not allow him to be beaten.

Teen: Are people more willing to listen if they like what they are hearing? Does not liking it make it any less true? What protections do we have as a citizen in the kingdom of God?

Adult: Paul used the law of the Romans to avoid an unjust punishment. Have you ever thought Rom 13:1-2 means we should not resist anything which comes from the government? Are there examples you can find where Biblical people followed the law (e.g. Jesus paying the temple tax)? Have you ever had to use the law to defend your actions? How did that go?

PRAY

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