

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS  
JUNE 21, 2020

This week we are going to hear another story about Paul, who was a leader in the early church. Our story today is about a time when Paul had to depend on God –and other Christians—to make it through a tough situation. Below is a word search puzzle. See if you can find the words from our memory verse. If you don't remember the memory verse, the words are listed below.

Z	Y	Y	U	E	F	R	A	E	N	O	B	K	S	C
L	M	D	Y	R	R	E	L	I	F	G	F	E	C	O
E	R	U	D	N	E	R	L	M	T	I	G	O	N	I
O	W	F	T	E	E	T	Q	D	K	E	C	U	P	C
T	S	S	Q	W	H	B	L	T	A	Y	Q	H	E	G
H	G	C	O	E	C	B	D	Z	E	V	C	O	J	S
E	H	P	O	J	K	T	G	I	V	E	S	D	K	T
N	V	O	G	V	H	S	Y	M	I	R	V	Q	S	R
O	K	P	B	R	W	Q	P	A	N	C	I	U	A	E
Z	S	S	O	O	Z	J	Y	E	O	X	A	A	C	N
K	B	U	G	Q	O	J	G	S	Y	H	F	N	C	G
C	G	G	U	N	A	V	B	E	U	A	W	X	W	T
H	K	H	A	T	I	H	I	H	E	U	Z	Z	B	H
X	M	Z	S	B	W	H	S	T	L	L	H	A	Y	C
L	O	P	T	Y	C	G	T	X	Z	K	D	F	Q	A

I	THESE	POWER	WHO
CAN	THINGS	OF	GIVES
ENDURE	THROUGH	THE	ME
ALL	THE	ONE	STRENGTH

Our Bible story today shows that sometimes we all need a little help. For this week's Bible story we are back in the book of Acts. This is the book that tells us the stories of the earliest Christians. Paul was one of those Christians who helped start the church. Paul is sometimes called "Saul" like in today's reading. But we will continue to call him "Paul." Turn in your Bibles to Acts chapter 9, verses 20-25.

Why were the people confused by Paul's teaching in the synagogues? Why did people want Paul killed?

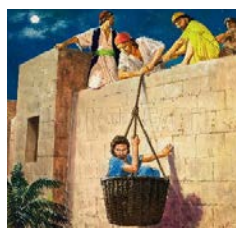
Paul seems to be having a hard time finding people who will believe him and not try to kill him. The disciples don't trust him, because he used to capture Christians. The Jewish leaders don't like him, because he is teaching about Jesus. I wonder how we would have reacted to Paul's appearance if we were with the disciples. Can you think of some reasons you might be suspicious of Paul?

Do you think Paul is trustworthy now? Why do you think that you can trust Paul now?

Given all of the evidence against and for believing Paul, the disciples probably had a lively discussion. What would you say about Paul if you were someone who believed he had changed?

What would you say if you were one of the people who did not think that Paul had changed and could not be trusted?

In order to get Paul safely out of Damascus, his friends had to sneak him out. Paul hid in a basket and his friends lowered him through an opening in the city wall. Here is a picture of what it might have looked like.



We are going to try and see what it might have felt like to carry Paul. For this activity you will need at least 2 people (more is better, if you have them) and an empty laundry basket or a towel or blanket. One person will set in the laundry basket or on the towel or blanket, the others will try to move this person to the other side of the room. You can pull or push rather than lift.

Once you get the first person across the room, switch places and someone else be the person in the basket or on the towel or blanket. The others should try to get this person back to the starting point.

How did it feel when you were the person in the basket or on the towel or blanket? How did it feel to have to depend on someone else to get you across the room?

When you were the one who was trying to move the basket or towel or blanket, did you have someone to help you move the person across the room? How did it feel to work together to move across the room? How do you think this is like what Paul and his friends experienced?

Paul was lucky his friends were willing to help him sneak out of town. We all need help from our friends sometimes.

The disciples believed that Paul was now a true follower of Jesus because their friend Barnabas, who they trusted, believed Paul. Since they knew Barnabas, they were more likely to include Paul. When we meet new people, sometimes it helps us if we know what friends or things we have in common.

Do you remember our memory verse, "I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, "**endure**" means "to undergo especially without giving in." It means that you can be strong even when things are hard; you can withstand troubles. Our verse says that we can endure because God gives us the power we need no matter what is going on.

What sort of things do you have to endure? What makes your hard days hard? Think about a situation or circumstance that requires you to endure. Write the following sentence: I can endure \_\_\_\_\_ through the power of the one who gives me strength.

Today people don't write letters often, so it might seem weird to have letters included in the New Testament. Think about how we communicate now. If you wanted to know what was going on in another part of the world, what would you do?

If you were having a big concert how would you tell others about it?

If you had two friends who weren't from the same area, how would you help them to meet?

The ancient world that Paul lived in was not as connected as our modern world is. So, in order to communicate, people depended on letters which usually were sent by messenger.

I know I said last week I would be sending you're a Bible bookshelf to fill in, but actually, next week's lesson will include the bookshelf, so I will be sending it next week.

Let's finish with a prayer. Thank you, God for giving us the chance to support one another. Help us to remember that you will give us the strength to endure all our hard times. Continue to keep us safe and we move into summer activities with our families and friends. In Jesus name. Amen.