

# The Story at Home

**Timeless Truth:** Jesus saves us if we believe in him. I can choose to believe.

**Bible Verse:** "He asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus.'"

Acts 16:30

**Key Passages:** Acts 16:1-40; 1 Thess. 1:2-5; 3:9-13; 4:16-18; 5:16-28; 1 Cor. 1:10; 12:12-18, 27; 13:1-7; 15:21-22; 16:23-24; Gal. 5:22-25; 6:18

**Resources:** *The Story for Children* Ch. 29: "Paul's Mission"



Grades 5/6

Grades 2/3/4

Paul endured many trials for his faith. Through everything, he remained hopeful and thankful.

Gather pieces of colored construction paper, scissors, markers or pens, and glue. Explain that Paul spent a lot of time in chains, but it didn't let anything dampen his faith. Paul said, "How can we thank God enough" (1 Thess 3:9). Create a thankfulness chain as a family by cutting construction paper into 8" strips that are about 1.5" wide. Have each family member write down something they're thankful for on each strip. Then glue the ends of the strip together to create a chain link. Make sure the words are on the inside of the link. Try not to say what you're writing down on your chain. When everybody's finished and a long chain is created, hang it over a doorway. Leave it hanging for a few days and then plan a time to get together as a family again. Tear off a link of the chain and read what's on the inside. Have the person who wrote that message explain why they're thankful. Keep going until you've totally dismantled the chain. Thank God for breaking the chains in your life and giving you so much to be thankful for!

•Paul suffered a lot for Jesus Christ. He was blinded, beaten, stoned, and jailed. But he said suffering was good because it creates perseverance, character, and hope. Have you ever suffered for something and then come out better in the end?

•Paul warns Christians to stay away from sinful acts, such as sexual immorality, impurity, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, jealousy, fits of rage, drunkenness, etc. Do any things in this list stand out as extremely bad or not so bad sins? In God's eyes is all sin the same?

•Looking at the above list, talk about specific ways you can overcome certain sinful behaviors. With all the pornography on the Internet and sexualized commercials on TV, is it harder today to stay pure and sexually moral?

•Paul writes some great things about love. It's patient and kind. It's not envious, boastful, or self-seeking. How does this kind of biblical love differ from the love that boyfriends and girlfriends have for each other?

•What's your favorite part of Paul's definition of love? (Look up 1 Corinthians 13:4–7.)

God doesn't want us to live half-heartedly for him. He wants our total commitment. He wants us to be passionate about the things he's passionate about. He wants us to have the faith to persevere like Paul. Go to YouTube and watch "Ray Vander Laan—Run!"

•Why don't we live passionate lives for Jesus?

•Why is it easy to fall into part-time discipleship?

•How can we live as Christian Olympians?

Don't hold back in your Christian life. How we live shows others that God is King!

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