



He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:31

Bible Study:



Read Acts 21-28. Paul went to Jerusalem, even though he knew through the Holy Spirit that he would be arrested and jailed. After being falsely accused by some zealous Jews who wanted him dead, Paul was arrested and was a prisoner for the rest of his life. But God comforted him, telling him that even his imprisonment would result in the Good News of Jesus spreading to Rome. Through imprisonment, God gave Paul many opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus to soldiers, religious leaders, and even Roman rulers and kings. He did this by sharing his Good News Story of how he came to know and love Jesus. And he also did this by writing letters of encouragement to the churches (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and Philippians in particular)!

The gospel in the story:



Jeff Vanderstelt puts it this way: There is ONE dominant Story that all stories will ultimately find their place in and finally be complete because of GOD'S STORY – THE Gospel. His Story precedes, finishes, corrects and ultimately makes sense of ALL other stories. This dominant Story has 4 major themes: **Creation** - God made all things perfect. **Fall** – Sin, which entered the world through Adam and Eve's rebellious act, has caused a brokenness in **all** of creation. The Bible tells us that *all* have sinned and **NEED** a rescuer (whether we admit it or not, everyone longs for rescue). **Redemption** – God's Love is so great that He graciously provided the rescuer. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Restoration** – Our stories of being reunited with God continue into eternity. Here on earth, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, God calls us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. And one of the **MOST IMPORTANT** aspects of that is to simply be witnesses of God's transforming work in our lives until we breathe our last breath.

Application:

Head: What did we learn?

Q: Why did Paul go to Jerusalem even though he knew the outcome was jail? A: He trusted God

Q: How did Paul manage to tell the gospel to so many people while in jail? A: He told his Good News Story

Q: What are the four parts to a Good News Story? A: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration

Heart: Memory Verse

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Hands: How does this affect the way I live?

Like Paul, every follower of Jesus has a Gospel story to tell. The more true followers of Jesus (which he refers to as disciples, **which means learner**) realize that our story **IS ALL ABOUT GOD!** The better we know: who God is, our sinful state, what he has done, and who we are now... the better we are at speaking the Gospel when we share our story.

Read and pray Psalm 119:65-72 (which Paul quotes, along with Isaiah 6:9-10) in his final testimony in Acts 28. Pray for boldness in sharing our faith with others!