

ACTS CHAPTERS 24:1 - 25:12

God's Sovereign Plan to get Paul to Rome



21

July 31, 2005
2.ACT21

Lesson Goal

Students will understand that God has a plan for every event that takes place in our lives.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain who brought charges against Paul before the governor.
- Explain what the governor did with Paul while he was in prison.
- Explain what Felix wanted from Paul.
- Explain how God is going to get Paul to Rome

Memory Verse

Acts – Review previous memory work

Application

- God is sovereign over all circumstances
- Don't miss an eternal opportunity. Turn to Christ today.
- Is your heart hard towards the Gospel.

TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

HOOK

Time

BOOK

Time

LOOK

Time

TOOK

Time

Materials Needed:

ACTS CHAPTERS 24:1 - 25:12

God's Sovereign Plan to get Paul to Rome



21

1st–3rd Grade
July 31, 2005
2.ACT21EL

MEMORY
VERSE
REVIEW
✪

Acts 1:8;
2:32; 4:12;
5:4b-5; 5:29;
7:60a; 8:1b;
9:15; 10:34-
35;
12:24; 14:27;
15:11; 16:31;
17:24; 18:9;
19:18; 21:13;
23:11

✪

SHOOK

God Cares (Color Page). Last week students learned what the word “sovereignty” means. It is a word we use to describe God’s care and control in our lives. As students color the page, discuss ways that He cares for us. Remind them of God’s providence in the life of Paul. Today they will hear of yet another instance of how God took care of Paul, **2.ACT21EL.GF1**.

Opportunity Knocks (Personal Story). Teachers share stories of missed opportunities. A person might miss a special event or a chance to earn money or maybe a chance to help someone or make a friend. It’s a shame to miss an opportunity, and it’s a tragedy to miss a really important opportunity. Have students look up the following passages:

Hebrews 3:7-8 Hebrews 3:15 Hebrews 4:7 2 Corinthians 5:21- 6:2
What is the very most important opportunity of our lives? If possible, have a teacher share about a time before he or she became a believer, when he rejected an opportunity to respond to the Gospel. He should also give a brief account of how he eventually came to know Christ, but he might want to create some suspense by waiting until later in the class period. God is patient with us and sometimes gives more chances when we reject the Gospel, but we never know when an opportunity will be our last. Tell the students that in today’s story, someone will miss the opportunity of a lifetime. We don’t know if he ever got another chance to come to Christ.

An Opportunity to Remember (Review Game). An opportunity is a chance to do something when the time is right. Make three copies of the memory verse cards, **2.ACT21EL.GF2 Pgs. 1-5**. Number the first copy of each card, “1”, the second copy, “2” and the third copy, “3.” Cut the cards apart and shuffle. Divide the class into two or more teams to take turns. The teacher will draw a card and read the reference of the verse. The first two words may be read for younger students. The number on the card indicates the number of “opportunities” the team has to say the verse perfectly. The team can confer and choose a member to make each attempt. Keep a tally of points. (Modify numbering of cards according to the abilities of the students by numbering the cards ‘2’, ‘3’ and ‘4’.)

All Rise (Discussion). See how familiar students are with a courtroom trial. What would one find in a courtroom today? Discuss the roles of judges, lawyers, juries, witnesses, etc. What do the words “plea,” “verdict,” “acquittal,” “adjourn” and “appeal” mean? Tell the students that today they will hear of Paul standing before two Roman governors. Did they have lawyers back then? Tell them that in today’s Bible adventure they will see how God worked through a trial type situation so that Paul could continue on his journey to Rome.

Presentation Ideas

Paul's Trial Before Felix and Drusilla (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 24:1-27, 2.ACT21EL.GF3.

Paul's Trial Before Festus (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 25:1-12, 2.ACT21EL.GF4.

Bible Adventure for 1st-3^d grades

Last week we talked about the sovereignty of God. Can someone give me a definition? God's sovereignty is His care, guidance, and rule over all things. We've seen it demonstrated many times in the life of the Apostle Paul, and we'll continue to see it in today's Bible Adventure as we look at Acts 24 and 25.

Paul had been sent to Caesarea by Commander Lysias because some of the Jews in Jerusalem had been plotting to kill him. The governor, Felix, ordered that Paul be placed under guard until his accusers arrived from Jerusalem. When the high priest Ananias, some of the elders, and a lawyer named Tertullus, arrived, they said that Paul broke Roman law by stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. Tertullus then accused Paul of being the ringleader of the Nazarene sect (meaning Christians). Tertullus tried to make it seem as though this sect was a danger to Rome. The third charge was that Paul tried to defile the temple.

Felix then gave Paul the chance to answer the charges against him. First, Paul said, he had gone to Jerusalem just twelve days before to worship, and then spent the last five days in Caesarea. That was hardly enough time to start a riot. Second, his accusers could not come up with proof of one instance where he had caused any kind of disturbance. But he would confess, Paul said, to being a follower of The Way (a Christian), worshiping the God of Israel, and believing everything written in the Law and the prophets.

Now Felix was faced with a difficult choice. Lysias' letter had told him that Paul had not been found guilty of any crime. The Asian Jews who accused him had failed to show up to testify against him. The Jews who did show up could offer no evidence to back up their charges. The right thing to do would be to let Paul go. Afraid of angering the Jews, Felix said he would make a decision when Commander Lysias came to give his testimony.

Felix allowed Paul's friends to visit him and provide for him. After a brief time, Felix and his third wife Drusilla, had Paul brought before them, hoping Paul would offer Felix a bribe to get out of jail. Paul spoke instead about his faith in Christ, righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come. Felix hearing about the Gospel and knowing his own sinfulness asked Paul to leave missing the first opportunity to come to Christ. Because of Felix's greed he invited Paul to talk with him often still hoping for a bribe.

Paul was held for two more years until a new governor, Festus, was appointed over Caesarea. It was during this time period that Paul most likely wrote the books of Philippians, Colossians and Ephesians, and possibly Philemon as well. It

is almost certain that during this time Luke was free to travel and to research and begin to write his gospel and part of the book of Acts.

Felix left the governorship without granting Paul his freedom. Shortly after arriving in Caesarea, Festus went to Jerusalem. The Jews asked Festus to send Paul to Jerusalem, secretly planning to wait along the road to ambush him and kill him. But Festus said that Paul should remain in Caesarea and that he would hear charges against him there. Again the Jews made accusations they couldn't prove, and again Paul defended himself. Festus, who like Felix, wanted to make points with the Jews, asked Paul if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem for another trial.

Paul knew the Jews wanted to kill him so he reminded Festus of his status as a Roman citizen and his right to be judged in Rome. He said "I appeal to Caesar." This would get Festus off the hook. So he said, "You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!"

What will God allow to happen in Paul's life next? You can bet He had a plan and that all these events in the Apostle's life served a purpose and were part of that plan. The plan included having Paul appear before Felix and share the Gospel. Do you remember how he reacted to it? First he was uncomfortable, then his greed for money kept him from really hearing Paul's words. Felix wasted a valuable opportunity. He is yet another example of how a person may be drawn to the Gospel but refuses to turn to God. The message about Jesus Christ put fear into Felix's heart, and yet he did not accept it. For over two years he spoke with Paul, but as far as we know, he never took the step of faith.

In churches around the world there are people like Felix. They sit week after week, hearing the message, but never responding. Despite many false preachers, the basic truth of the Gospel is readily available in the U. S. today. But you can fill your head with knowledge and still let a heart of disobedience hold you back from being truly born again. Felix missed the opportunity to accept Christ and be transformed. There could have been a hundred reasons why he did not accept Christ – possibly worry that it would end his career or worry that his wife might not understand. Felix chose to be comfortable instead of choosing Christ.

Are you a Felix? Do you come to church Sunday after Sunday, but you've never committed in your heart to follow Jesus? One of the dangers of being raised in a Christian home can be the danger of a missed or ignored opportunity. Like Felix, you may think you have time to coast and decide about Jesus later. You might coast until your heart is so hard that you actually think you are a Christian because you've heard it all so many times—but in truth you are not. Your heart has never changed. You have never really repented of your sin; you're only sorry when you get caught. Your Bible sits on your shelf, waiting for you to "get around to it," and your relationship with Jesus is nonexistent. Don't be a Felix. This opportunity to respond to the Gospel, if lost, has deadly consequences. It will cost you eternity.

Aim Questions:

- 1. Who came to bring charges against Paul before the governor? What was the governor's name? What did Paul say to him?** *The High Priest Ananias; Felix; Acts 24:13-"And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me."*
 - 2. How long did Paul wait in prison? What did the governor usually do with Paul?** *2 years; He kept him in jail and listen to Paul speak about the "faith in Christ Jesus" from time to time.*
 - 3. Who was Festus, and what did he do to Paul? What did Paul ask for that would send him to Rome?** *He was governor after Felix. He asked Paul to go back to Jerusalem to be tried. Instead Paul appealed to Caesar, so he continued on his journey to Rome.*
 - 4. How did Felix miss a great opportunity? Instead of the Gospel, what did Felix want from Paul?** *He didn't heed the message of the truth of the Gospel. He wanted money.*
 - 5. Tell all of the opportunities that you can think of that you have had to hear and accept the Gospel. How is it that you are unlike Felix?**
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**LOOK**

Felix Hangman (Game). Play this game as a class or in small groups. You will need a white board or some butcher paper to draw out the "hangman" game. Felix was afraid of three things about which Paul preached. What were they? Play hangman on an overhead or in small groups with helpers. *(Answers: righteousness, self-control, judgment to come)* Acts 24:25, **2.ACT21EL.GF5.**

Let Me Say It Once More! (Activity). God's sovereignty was again at work by Festus' refusal to transfer Paul to Jerusalem, where the Jews were planning to ambush him. Acts 25:6-8 tells us that once more Paul has to defend himself before the Jews. Have several students or helpers stand up one at a time and shout an accusation previously made by the Jews regarding Paul. Each time, have the students take Paul's defense by shouting back, "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." Discuss how Paul's appeal to Caesar protected him once more.

False Accusations (Worksheet). Of what four things did Tertullus accuse Paul when he presented his case before Felix? Have the students fit his explosion of words into the correct spaces to find out. Acts 24:5-6, **2.ACT21EL.GF6.**

Paul's Appeal (Dot to-Dot). Have the students find out to whom Paul wished to appeal by connecting the dots. What was Governor Festus' response? Acts 25:12, **2.ACT21EL.GF7.**

A.C.T.S. 24:1-25:12 (Worksheet). Use this worksheet to reinforce the Bible Adventure and on the memory verse, **2.ACT21EL.GF8.** *Answers: Paul; Caesarea; In prison; The Gospel; righteousness. Self-control, and the judgment to come; Because he was a sinner and knew it.*

Paul's Preaching & Appeal (Worksheet). As a class, read the story of Paul's Preaching & Appeal using words from the side columns to fill in the blanks and complete the story from today's lesson, **2.ACT21EL.GF9**.

Memory Verse/Memory Match (Game). Cut these verse cards apart, and add them to the cards (**2.ACT21EL.GF2**) from the HOOK section. Have the students turn all the cards face down on the table. Have students take turns matching the memory verses correctly. The student with the most correctly matched verses wins, **2.ACT21EL.GF10**.

How Do You Plead? (Worksheet). Tell the students that Paul was accused of many things, but he was not guilty of any wrongdoing. Ask them, "To which of these crimes did Paul plead NOT GUILTY?" Have the students cross them out. Of which deeds did Paul admit to being GUILTY? Have them circle these, **2.ACT21EL.GF11**.

Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT21EL.GF12**.



TOOK _____

Felix & Drusilla (Worksheet/Discussion). This worksheet, **2.ACT21EL.GF13**, defines the following: Faith in Christ, Righteousness, Self-control, and Judgment to come.

An Opportunity Not To Be Missed (Prayer Time/Invitation). "Felix sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus," Acts 24:24. Luke goes on to tell us that Paul talked to him about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. But Felix was afraid and sent Paul away. For the next two years, Felix sent for Paul frequently and talked with him, but we have no indication that the governor ever allowed God to change his heart. Could it be that there are students who have heard the Gospel many times but passed up these opportunities to repent and open their hearts to the Lord Jesus? Urge the students not to make the same mistake Felix did. We never know when a missed opportunity will be our last. Invite the students to be honest with God about the condition of their hearts as they pray. Encourage them to take this opportunity to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. Lead in prayer for the salvation of any who haven't come to know Christ, and allow some time for silent prayer. Have students talk with their teachers after prayer to ask questions or tell what Christ has done in their hearts.

Answer in the Form of a Memory Verse (*Memory Verse Review*). Review these memory verses from Acts. Divide the students into teams. Ask the following questions, and call on the first student to raise his hand. The student must recite the entire verse which contains the answer to the question. Award one point if the student attempts the correct verse. Award two points if he or she recites the verse correctly.

1. To whom had God opened the door of faith? (14:27)
 2. Who is the Lord of heaven and earth? (17:24)
 3. Paul asked the brothers why they were doing something. What was it? (21:13)
 4. Through whose grace are we saved? (15:11)
 5. If you believe in the Lord Jesus, what will happen to you? (16:31)
 6. Where would Paul testify as he had done in Jerusalem? (23:11)
 7. How did the Lord speak to Paul one night? (18:9)
 8. What was openly confessed in Ephesus? (19:18)
 9. For what was Paul ready, in addition to being bound? (21:13)
 10. Who were the ones who openly confessed their evil deeds? (19:18)
 11. In his vision, what did the Lord tell Paul not to do? (18:9)
 12. In what city was Paul ready to die? (21:13)
 13. In whom must a person believe in order to be saved? (16:31)
 14. Where does God NOT live? (17:24)
 15. What had Paul done in Jerusalem that he would also do in Rome? (23:11)
- "...and how HE had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." Acts 14:27
 - "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved." Acts 15:11
 - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31
 - "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands." Acts 17:24
 - "One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.'" Acts 18:9
 - "Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds." Acts 19:18
 - "Then Paul answered, 'Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'" Acts 21:13
 - "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome." Acts 23:11

God Cares



An Opportunity To Remember

Make three copies of the memory verse cards, **2.ACT21EL.GF2 Pgs. 1-5**. Number the first copy of each card, "1", the second copy, "2" and the third copy, "3." Cut the cards apart and shuffle. Divide the class into two or more teams to take turns. The teacher will draw a card and read the reference of the verse. The first two words may be read for younger students. The number on the card indicates the number of "opportunities" the team has to say the verse perfectly. The team can confer and choose a member to make each attempt. Keep a tally of points. (Modify numbering of cards according to the abilities of the students by numbering the cards '2', '3' and '4'.)

Acts 1:8; 2:32; 4:12; 5:29; 7:60a; 8:1b; 9:15; 10:34-35; 12:24; 14:27; 15:11; 16:31; 17:24; 18:9; 19:18

“What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.”

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.”
Acts 5:4b-5

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses

in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

“God has raised this Jesus to life,

and we are all witnesses of the fact.”
Acts 2:32

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name

under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
Acts 4:12

**“Peter
and the
other
Apostles
replied:**

**‘We must
obey
God
rather than
men!’”
Acts 5:29**

“ Then he fell on
his knees and
cried out,

‘Lord, do not hold
this sin against
them.’”
Acts 7:60a

“On that day a
great
persecution
broke out
against the
church at
Jerusalem,

and all except the
apostles were
scattered
throughout Judea
and Samaria.”
Acts 8:1b

“But the Lord
said to Ananias,
‘Go! This man
is My chosen
instrument to
carry My
Name

before the
Gentiles and
their kings and
before the
people of
Israel!”
Acts 9:15

“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show

favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.”
Acts 10:34-35

“But the word of God

**continued to increase and spread.”
Acts 12:24**

“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had

done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”
Acts 14:27

**“WE BELIEVE
IT IS
THROUGH THE
GRACE
OF**

**OUR
LORD JESUS
THAT WE
ARE SAVED.”
ACTS 15:11**

**“Believe
in the
Lord
Jesus**

**and
you will
be
saved.”
Acts 6:31**

**“THE GOD
WHO MADE
THE WORLD
AND
EVERYTHING IN
IT IS THE
LORD**

**OF HEAVEN AND
EARTH AND
DOES NOT LIVE
IN TEMPLES
BUILT
BY HANDS.”
ACTS 17:24**

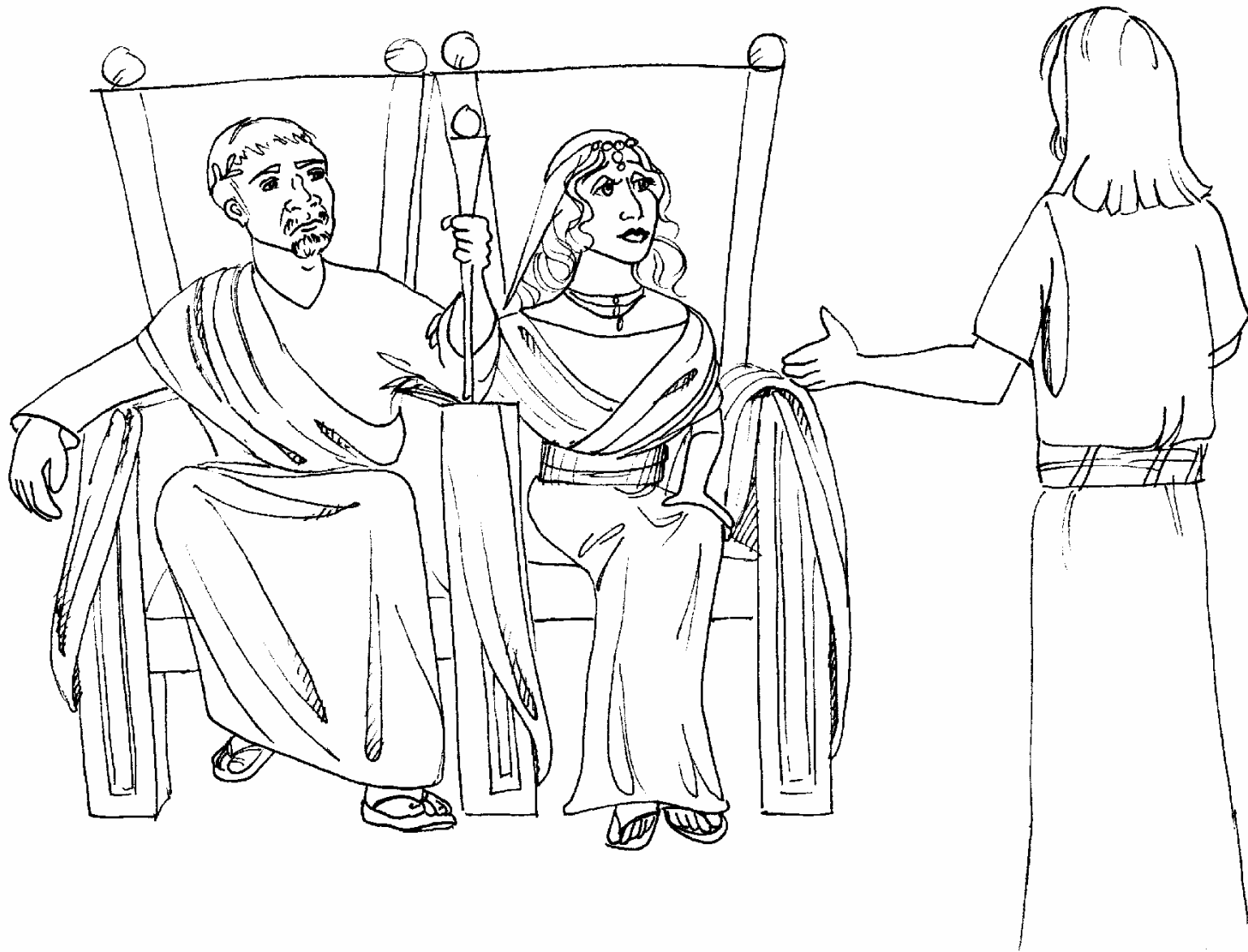
**“One night
the Lord
spoke
to Paul in
a vision:**

**‘Do not be
afraid; keep
on speaking,
do not be
silent.’”
Acts 18:9**

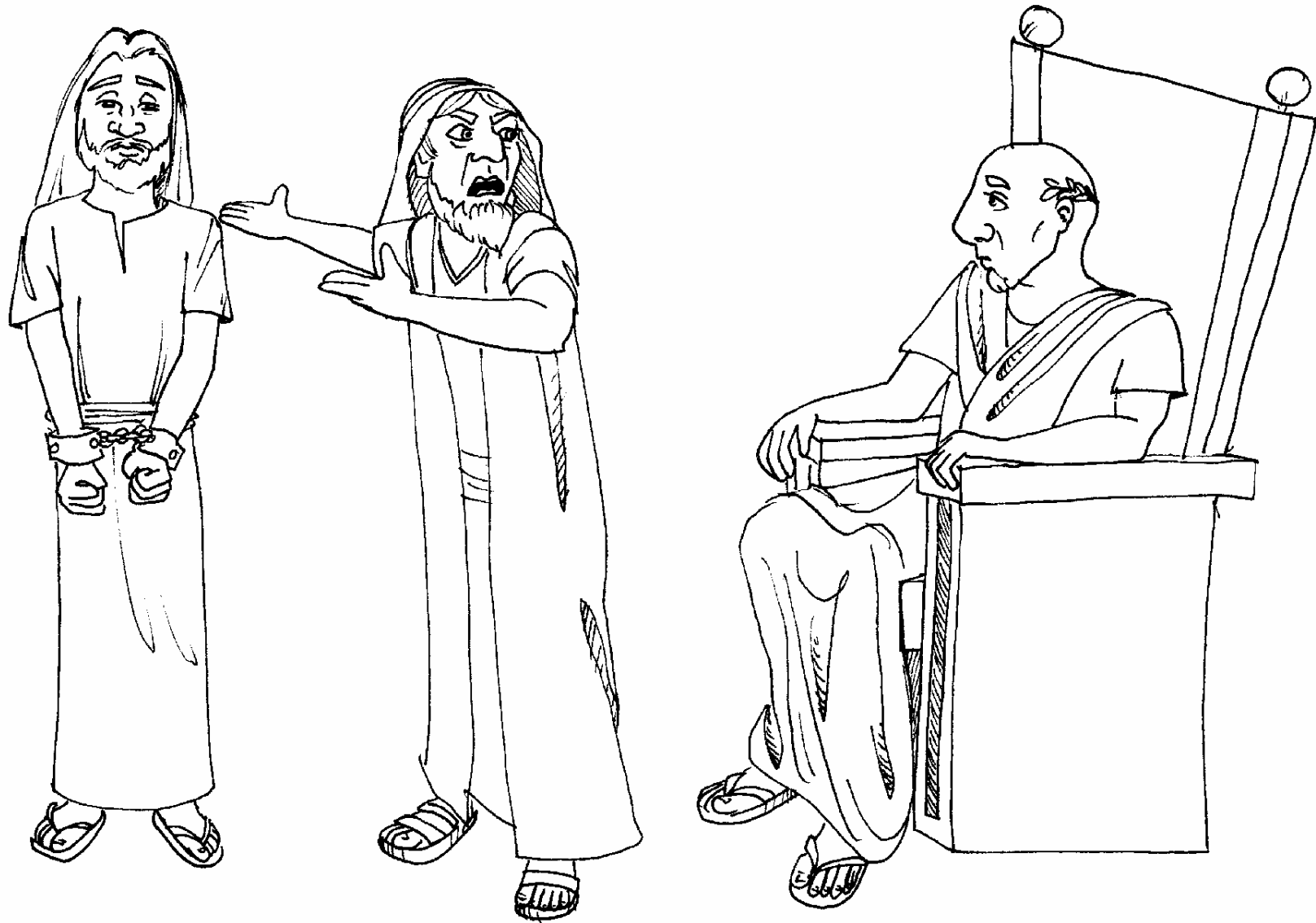
**“Many of
those who
believed
now came**

**and openly
confessed
their evil
deeds.”
Acts 19:18**

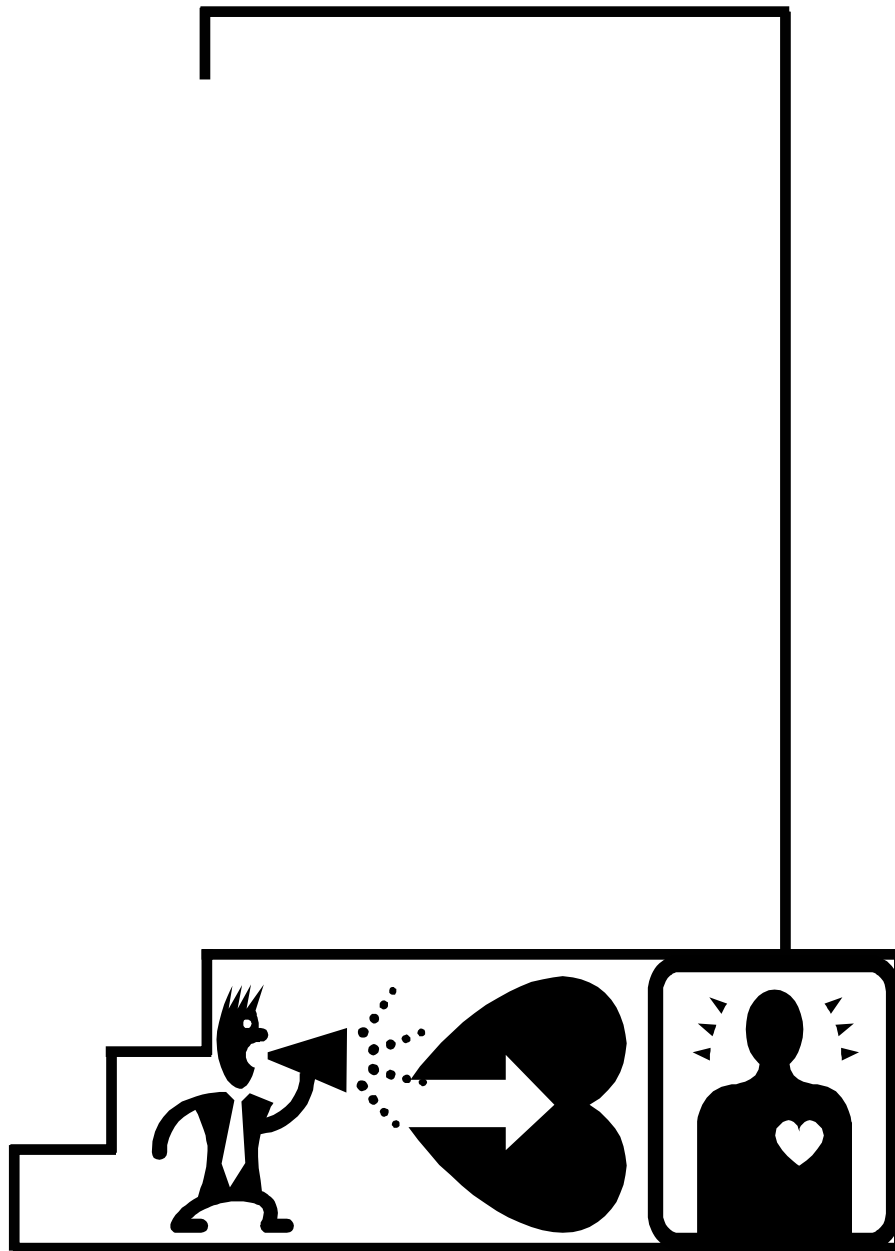
Paul's Trial Before Felix and Drusilla

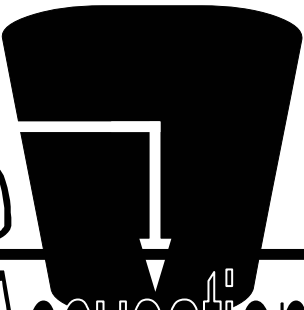
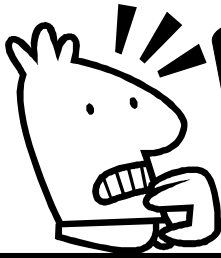


Paul's Trial Before Festus



Felix Hangman

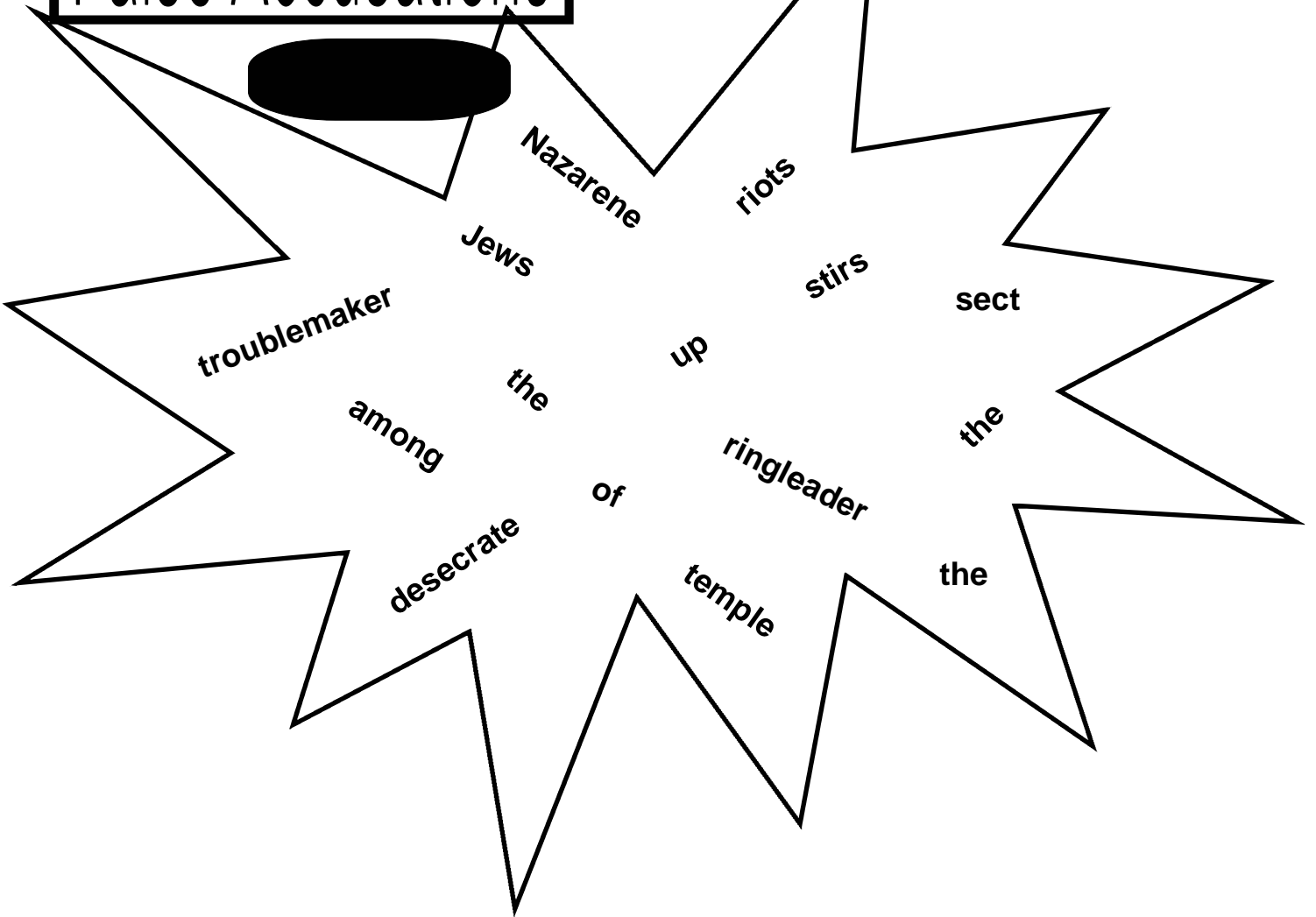




Of what four things did Tertullus accuse Paul when he presented his case before Felix?
Fit his explosion of words into the correct spaces to find out.

Acts 24:5-6

False Accusations



He is a _____.

He _____
_____.

He is a _____
_____.

He tried to _____
_____.

Paul's Appeal

Find out to whom Paul wished to appeal by connecting the dots in the picture below. Write Governor Festus' response on the lines below.

Acts 25:12



“ _____ ”

A.C.T.S.

24:1-25:12

Apostle – Who was accused of being a troublemaker and stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world?

City – What city was Paul in when he was brought before Governor Felix and what charges were made against him?

Trials/troubles – Where has Paul been for over two years?

Spirit – What did Paul preach to Governor Felix and his wife Drusilla? Why was Governor Felix afraid?

“Take courage! As you have testified about Me in Jerusalem,
so you must also testify in Rome.”
Acts 23:11

Paul's Preaching & Appeal

Use the words from the side columns to complete the story of Paul's preaching and appeal from today's lesson.

charges
Jews
troublemaker
Christ
Caesarea
self-control
Drusilla
riots
Caesar's
leaders
prison
Felix



ambush
bribe
Felix
Festus
guard
faith
judgment
afraid
Two
Jerusalem
transferred
Paul

Paul was taken to _____ where _____ were brought against him. Paul was charged of being a _____ and stirring up _____ among the _____. _____ ordered Paul to be kept under _____.

Paul spoke to _____ and his wife, _____. Paul spoke about his _____ in Jesus _____, righteousness, _____, and the _____ to come. Felix became _____ and told Paul he could leave. Felix was hoping that Paul would offer him a _____.

_____ years had passed, and Felix was replaced by Porcius _____. Paul was still in _____. Festus went to _____ to talk to the leaders about charges against Paul. The Jewish _____ wanted Paul _____ to Jerusalem as they were preparing an _____ to kill him. Festus went back to Caesarea and _____ was brought before him. Paul asked to be tried in _____ court.

MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY MATCH

“Then Paul answered, ‘Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready

not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.’”
Acts 21:13

“Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem,

so you must also testify in Rome.”
Acts 23:11

Cut the cards apart, and add them to the cards in 2.ACT18EL.GF5. Turn all the cards face down on the table. Take turns matching the memory verses correctly. The student with the most correctly matched verses wins.



How Do You Plead?



Paul was accused of many things, but he was not guilty of any wrongdoing. To which of these crimes did Paul plead NOT GUILTY? Cross them out.

Stirring up a crowd
(24:12)



Coming to Jerusalem to
worship (24:11)



Being a follower of
The Way (24:14)



Believing everything that
agrees with the Law
(24:14)



Arguing at the temple
(24:12)



Believing what is written
in the prophets (24:14)



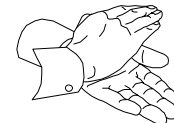
Having hope in God that
there will be a
resurrection (24:15)



Worshiping the God of
our fathers (24:14)



Being unclean in the
temple courts (24:18)



Striving to keep his
conscience clear (24:16)



Bringing a crowd into
the temple (24:18)



Coming to Jerusalem to
bring gifts for the poor
(24:17)



Being involved in a
disturbance (24:18)



Shouting "It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today."
(24:21)



Coming to Jerusalem to
present offerings (24:17)



Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Who came to bring charges against Paul before the governor? What was the governor's name? What did Paul say to him?
2. How long did Paul wait in prison? What did the governor usually do with Paul?
3. Who was Festus, and what did he do to Paul? What did Paul ask for that would send him to Rome?
4. How did Felix miss a great opportunity? Instead of the Gospel, what did Felix want from Paul?
5. Tell all of the opportunities that you can think of that you have had to hear and accept the Gospel. How is it that you are unlike Felix?

Don't miss the opportunity that you have been given by God to become His child.

Acts
Chapter
24:1-25:12

Memory verse review:

**Acts 1:8; 2:32; 4:12; 5:46-5; 5:29; 7:60a; 8:16; 9:15; 10:34-35;
12:24; 14:27; 15:11; 16:31; 17:24; 18:9; 19:18; 21:13; 23:11**



FELIX & DRUSILLA

Felix sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke. Circle the correct message Paul told Felix about the following.

Faith in Christ:

- A. Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see in our relationship with God.
- B. Knowing there is a God. Trusting yourself for doing what is right.

Righteous:

- A. One who in faith gives oneself to the doing of God's will.
- B. One who looks to God for direction but follows his own will.

Self-control:

- A. A self-disciplined life following Christ's examples of being in the world but not of the world.
- B. A self-disciplined life reading God's Word and living as the world would have us live.

Judgment to come:

- A. A time when God will judge everyone whereas the unsaved will be committed to eternal punishment and the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God.
- B. A time when God will judge only those who believe in him.

Felix was afraid of what Paul had told him. Why was Felix afraid? Are you afraid of what God's Word has to say? Do you listen to God's Word every week, but just won't make the decision to follow Christ? Don't be a Felix!

Give your life to God today!