

Acts 21

Bring It On!

Scripture: Acts 21

Memory Verse: Acts 21:13b *“I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

Lesson Focus: As we wrap up this last missionary adventure of Paul, we also see his stalwart resolve and willingness to face the difficulty that awaits him in Jerusalem. We hope the kids will also be encouraged and ready to follow the Lord into whatever He has for them this week with a *“Bring It On”* mentality!

Activities and Crafts: Paul’s Homecoming Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Shield Craft

Starter Activity: Missionary Adventure Review Quiz

This chapter concludes the missionary adventures of Paul and transitions us into the rest of the book of Acts where Paul will be a prisoner. Consider starting off the lesson with another review quiz to remind the kids of some of the amazing things that God has done on these missionary adventures we have studied. Since this chapter concludes with another “feud”, consider breaking the kids up into teams or groups and have some friendly competition. See true/false statements below and for the one’s that are false, consider discussing with the kids what is off and how to make it true! *

- 1) On Cyprus, God empowered Paul to miraculously blind a man who was opposing Him. (T)
- 2) In Lystra the people thought Paul and Barnabus were Greek gods. Paul they called Zeus and Barnabus they called Hermes. (F, see Acts 14:11-12)
- 3) Paul preached everywhere he went that we are saved by faith + works. (F, see Acts 15:9-10)
- 4) The first people Paul shared the gospel with in Greece were women! (T)
- 5) In Philippi, Paul and Silas ran out of the prison immediately after the earthquake opened the doors and loosed their chains. (F, see Acts 16:27-28)
- 6) When the Philippian jailer asked Paul how he could be saved, Paul said, “Believe in yourself and you will be saved.” (F, see Acts 16:31)
- 7) In Thessalonica, Paul was accused as someone “turning the world upside-down”. (T)
- 8) In Berea, the people were praised because they daily searched the Scriptures. (T)
- 9) In Corinth, God told Paul to leave because it was too dangerous. (F, see Acts 18:9-11)
- 10) Paul stayed and ministered in Athens for 2-3 years. (F, see Acts 19:10)
- 11) In his farewell address to the Ephesian leaders, he challenged them to remain faithful to God and to His word. (T) *

And that is exactly what we are going to do now! Just as Paul challenged those Ephesians to remain faithful to God and His word, let’s heed this challenge ourselves, open our Bibles, and learn as we follow Paul back to Jerusalem. We’ve got a lot to cover today! *

Bible Study:

Acts 21:1-3: Starting from Miletus, Paul and his companions (including Luke, the author of Acts) part from the Ephesian church elders and hop from ship to ship on this journey toward Jerusalem (**Teachers:** Consider drawing a simple map on the whiteboard and have the kids help you connect the dots of the stop covered in these verses). *

Acts 21:4: Coming ashore to Tyre, they spend some time with some other believers there.
Q: What did these believers warn Paul about? A: Not to continue to Jerusalem! It appears they learned through the Holy Spirit that trouble awaited him there. This will be a recurring theme as we continue!

Acts 21:5: Notice that whole families, including kids just like you, gathered together as they sent them off.

Q: What did they do? A: They got on their knees and prayed! * (**Teachers:** Consider having all of the kids join you on your knees and lead the kids in a quick prayer)

Acts 21:6-9: As they head south on the Mediterranean coast they make another stop at the house of Philip in Caesarea. We learned about him earlier in Acts when he fled Jerusalem because of the opposition led by Paul before he was a believer (**Acts 8:3-5**)! *

Acts 21:10-11: Whoa! This isn't something you see every day! Paul was already warned once back in Tyre, but now a prophet is warning him about what is going to happen to him in Jerusalem. (**Teachers:** Consider acting this out on another leader. Grab some rope from the resource room and "plant" it on the leader as a "belt" before class) *

Acts 21:12: Everyone now pleads with him again not to go to Jerusalem.

Q: If all of the people who care about you were warning you against doing something, would you listen? I probably would listen! That's called wisdom!

Acts 21:13: But Paul isn't learning anything new here. He knows that trouble awaits him in Jerusalem, and yet he is still determined to go! Why? Because he is ABSOLUTELY convinced that this path is God's will for him. *

Acts 21:14: And as the others give up trying to convince Paul otherwise, they say something very important.

Q: What did they say? A: **God's** will be done! While no one wanted Paul to suffer they all wanted to be aligned with what God wanted!

Acts 21:15-17: Paul finally arrives in Jerusalem and this last missionary adventure comes to an end. Have you noticed how many different people Paul and his companions have stayed with on this journey? In this chapter alone, we've seen Paul and his companions welcomed into homes of many believers across all of these different cities. The same happens today! (**Teachers:** See the missionary cards of the Torres family that we will leave with in your class. They serve in Peru and point out how when they come back to RMC to visit they often stay in other believer's homes! Consider spending some of your class time talking about them and praying for them) *

Acts 21:18-19: And just like when missionaries like the Torres's come to RMC and report all that the Lord has done, imagine how excited these believers all were to hear about how God had used Paul to work miracles and turn many upside-down cities rightside-up! *

Acts 21:20-21: While they were thrilled to hear Paul's news they also were aware that Paul was in grave danger because of these lies that were being spread about him.

Acts 21:22-25: Therefore, they came up with a plan to try and "keep the peace" with the Jewish people who didn't like Paul's ministry to the non-Jewish people. But as we will see, it's not going to work!

Acts 21:26-30: So much for "keeping the peace"! The lies about Paul continue to spread and a mob forms around him and he gets violently taken out of the temple.

Acts 21:31-32: The city was in such chaos that the Romans soldiers had to get involved to try and restore the peace. At least their presence stopped them from beating up Paul!

Acts 21:33-34: The Roman commander arrested Paul assuming he was the bad guy. Yet notice how the truth has yet to come out. At this point, he is just trying to get Paul safely away from the mob so he can decide what needs to be done. *

Acts 21:35-36: Imagine how crazy this must have been! The violence of the mob was so fierce that even the Roman soldiers couldn't calm the people down!

Acts 21:37-39: Finally, Paul gets a moment to talk to the commander who assumes Paul is some other fugitive. But after setting the record straight Paul requested permission to speak to the mob and give his defense to them.

Acts 21:40: And we wrap up our lesson here with Paul about to give his testimony to this very hostile crowd. We will continue with that in another lesson!

Key Point: Remember the prophecy from Agabus? (reread **Acts 21:11**) This is exactly what happened! First the Jews bound Paul and now he is in the hands of the Roman Gentiles just like he said! Paul knew this and yet, just like our memory verse says, he was ready. I can just imagine him saying, "**Bring it On!**"

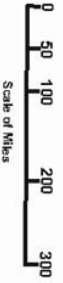
This whole sequence of events reminds me of someone else who was headed for trouble in Jerusalem. His suffering in Jerusalem was also prophesied as it was clearly God's plan for this man to go there and die on a cross.

Q: Who is this? A: Jesus of course! In a similar way, Jesus looked at all of the sin and evil in the world right in the face and said, "**Bring it On!**" as He went to the cross. And his resurrection not only proved Him victorious but made the way for us to be saved!

Believer: Are you ready for what He has for you this week? Fixing our eyes on Jesus, let's face our week with the same courage and resolve as Paul had saying, "**Bring it On!**"

FIND THE TREASURE

Mediterranean World
Countries or Areas and Islands



Read Acts 21:13
Why do you think Paul
had such courage and
confidence?

PARENT CHALLENGE
Show me on the map above where Paul
started & finished his travels in Acts 21:1

Read Acts 21:19
What do you think was the
most amazing event from all of
Paul's missionary adventures?

