

# Acts 28:11-31

## The Lord Ain't Finished Yet

**Scripture:** Acts 28:11-31

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also the Greek.”*

**Lesson Focus:** As we wrap up our study of Acts we see Paul doing what he has been doing throughout most of the book: **preaching the gospel**. This seems a fitting end to the book since the church today is still called to do this until the Lord Jesus returns. We hope this lesson will encourage our kids to **BE** disciples who **MAKE** and **SEND** disciples.

**Activities and Crafts:** Memory Verse Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Roller Coaster Slide

**Starter Activity:** Roller Coasters

The book of Acts has been quite the roller coaster ride! There have been many ups and downs with twists and turns. Consider getting the lesson started by having a little bit of discussion about roller coasters.

Q: How many of you like roller coasters? Summer is right around the corner and it is also the wonderful season of amusement parks! \* (**Teachers:** Consider sharing a roller coaster story of your own or have the kids line up in pairs and pretend to be on one together!)

While I hope many of you will get to enjoy some amusement rides this Summer, right now we need to finish the book of Acts! We've been in this book for almost a year now and I think you could describe this entire book as one giant roller coaster ride with Jesus!

Q: How do most roller-coaster rides begin (after you are buckled in and ready to go)?

A: The long slow climb up the first hill where you are desperately **waiting** to get to the top! Well, remember back in Acts 1 the risen Jesus told his small band of followers to **wait** until the Holy Spirit came upon them (**Read Acts 1:4 and Acts 1:8**). That **waiting** they had to do was perhaps kinda like that slow climb up the hill on a roller coaster!

Q: But what happens when you get to the top of that hill? A: You take off and the action begins! \* That's what we saw in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit came. Peter and the other apostles were filled by the Spirit and empowered to preach the gospel. From that moment to where we are today in Acts 28 it has been one crazy gospel adventure after another!

\* As we wrap up the book today, let's keep that in mind because what we will see is that this gospel adventure ain't over yet!

## Bible Study:

Paul has been slowly making his way to Rome though still under arrest. We left off last week with him shipwrecked on the island of Malta just south of Italy.

**Acts 28:11:** A lot happened in those three months in Malta! You might remember how God worked miracles of healing through Paul (see **Acts 28:8-9**). Also, notice that the text says “we” sailed.

Q: Who is with Paul? A: Luke, the author of this book (and the gospel of Luke). He was with Paul all throughout the storm and shipwreck of Acts 27 too! \*

**Acts 28:12-13:** They finally make it to the Italian mainland. **Teachers:** Consider drawing the route they take on a map (see [here](#)). Point out how you can always find Italy on the map because it looks like a shape of a boot! \*

Q: Have you ever been on a boat in a large body of water? After what Paul and Luke went through on this journey, I can only imagine how happy they were to be on solid ground now! \*

**Acts 28:14-15:** Somehow word had gotten out among believers in the area that Paul was coming and they were all excited to meet him. And Paul, having never met them, was just as blessed and encouraged to meet too! This is Christian fellowship at its finest! \*

**Acts 28:16:** At last, Paul finally arrives in Rome just as Jesus said he would (see **Acts 23:11**)! \* While still a prisoner, it is remarkable just how much trust the Roman centurion has in Paul to give him so much freedom compared to the other prisoners. \*

**Acts 28:17a:** As we have seen before, Paul wastes no time to request an audience with the Jewish people so he could share the gospel with them. Like the energizer bunny, Paul keeps going, and going, and preaching, and sharing, and testifying....\*

**Read Romans 1:16:** This verse is from the letter that Paul wrote a few years prior to the believers in Rome. God’s gospel power (the good news of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection for sinners) is what keeps him going and going and going!

**Acts 28:17b-19:** Paul isn’t sure what the local Jewish community has heard about him so he sets the record straight about his arrest.

Q: Has Paul done anything to deserve being a prisoner? A: NO!

**Acts 28:20:** The “hope of Israel” refers to God’s promise from the Old Testament to send a Messiah to rescue God’s people. Jesus was that guy, but as we have seen throughout the book of Acts, most of the Jewish people have sadly rejected the one God has sent! This rejection is why Paul is now in chains. \*

**Acts 28:21-22:** Remember the forty madmen in Jerusalem who swore an oath they would neither eat nor drink until they killed Paul (see **Acts 23:12**)? Seems like they gave up as the Jewish community in Rome is willing to give Paul a fair hearing.

**Acts 28:23:** Wow! What an awesome Bible study this must have been!

Q: Did you notice how long it was? A: From **morning until evening!** \*

Q: What are some things that you would be excited to do from morning until evening? Paul certainly captured the attention of this audience as he opened the Scriptures with them and walked them through passage after passage that proved that Jesus Christ was indeed the Rescuer promised by God. \*

**Acts 28:24:** And as we have seen over and over again in our study of Acts, some respond to the message with faith and trust in Jesus, and some respond with doubt and disbelief in Jesus. You're either in or you're out! \*

**Acts 28:25-27:** Here is one of the Old Testament passages that Paul shared with them, except that it wasn't about Jesus but rather it was about these unbelieving Jews!

Isaiah the prophet wrote centuries beforehand proclaiming that the hearts of God's people would be so hard that they would not receive His promised Rescuer. Sadly, all throughout the book of Acts we've seen this to be true as the Jewish communities sometimes even violently reject the message of the gospel. \*

**Acts 28:28:** And as we have seen on our roller coaster ride through Acts it's the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) that have been the most receptive to the gospel.

**Acts 28:29-31:** And Luke abruptly ends the book of Acts on a bit of a cliffhanger. What happened to Paul? Scripture doesn't tell us! We do get a little more detail about what happened in Rome in another church letter that Paul wrote while he was there...

**Read Philippians 1:12-14.** Notice Paul mentions the church in Rome is being built up and even the soldiers in the palace guard are hearing the gospel! \*

I wonder if Luke ends Acts this way (describing how Paul keeps going, and going, and going) on purpose to remind us that *"the Lord ain't finished yet"*.

**Key Point:** You see, even though today we are about 2000 years after all of these events in the book of Acts the Lord hasn't returned yet. The world is still broken and upside-down and the church is still called to **BE** disciples who **MAKE** disciples and **SEND** disciples! \* (**Teachers:** See printout of logo we will leave in your classroom)

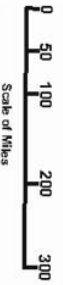
**Read Acts 1:8.** This is exactly what we saw happen as we studied this book. Just as Jesus said, The Holy Spirit empowered a small group of people to take the gospel to the ends of the ancient world. A small band of followers of Jesus became a movement that eventually toppled the entire Roman Empire! \*

The same Holy Spirit empowers believers still today to share and live out the gospel. \*

Q: Are you ready to buckle up and join the roller coaster ride? As the song we often sing says, *"The Lord ain't finished yet! Hold on! These are the promises. I never will forget!"*

# FIND THE TREASURE

Mediterranean World  
Countries or Areas and Islands



**Read Acts 1:8**  
In what ways did we see  
this fulfilled in the book  
of Acts?

**PARENT CHALLENGE**  
What do you think was the most amazing  
thing God did in the book of Acts?

**Read Acts 28:23-24**  
Which side are you on?  
Why?

