

LESSON PLAN

PLOT TO KILL PAUL

Acts 23

Lesson Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:16 - "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Lesson Aim: Teach the Christian children to beware of Satan because he wants to destroy their spiritual lives and possibly their bodies by tempting them to turn against God.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Most of us get shots to protect us from disease. Do any of you remember ever getting a shot either at school or at the doctor's office? What kind of a shot did you get? When children begin school or move to a new school, the school nurse always checks to see if they have had all of the shots that they need. These shots protect us from diseases that could make us sick or even kill us.

Did you know that there is something even worse than deadly diseases? And there are no shots to protect you. But there is a way to be protected and I want you all to know about it. This protection could save your life, and I know that it will surely save you from a lot of trouble.

"What is this thing that is so bad?" you may ask. Well, it is not a thing. It is a person. His name is Satan. And he wants to hurt you, to cause you much trouble, and maybe kill you.

HE (for Authority): If you are at all like me, the first thing that you will want to know is, "What will protect me from Satan when he wants to hurt me, or even kill me?" (Print the memory verse on a large card and post it on the wall so all the children can recite it together. Leave it there while you teach the lesson.) Your question is answered by today's memory verse. Soldiers used to carry shields to battle to protect themselves from the arrows of the enemy. These shields were big enough and strong enough to keep the arrows from touching them. Our shield of protection as a Christian is our faith in God. This verse tells us how we can protect ourselves so that Satan cannot hurt us unless God lets him do it. And if God does allow Satan to hurt us, God will also help us to defeat Satan. He will be with us to give us strength so we can quench (put out) the fiery darts (the attacks) of Satan. ("Wherewith" means "by which.")

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Now let us see how God protected Paul from the attacks of Satan in today's lesson.

I. Paul Speaks from the Castle Stairs – Review of Acts 22

- A. Paul gave the Jews his testimony of salvation (22:1-16).
- B. Paul gave the Jews the testimony of his call to preach to the Gentiles (22:17-21).
- C. The Jews wanted to kill Paul because of his ministry to the Gentiles (22:22-23).
- D. The soldiers were going to whip Paul (22:24-29).
 - 1. They wanted to know why the Jews reacted so strongly against Paul's message to them (24).
 - 2. They did not whip him when he said he was a Roman citizen and not condemned (25-29).

WE: If we are saved and we witness for Christ, Satan may try to stir up people against us to stop us from telling others about Jesus. We need to be faithful witnesses and not let Satan stop us.

II. Paul Stands Before the Jewish Council - Acts 22:30 – 23:10

- A. The soldiers brought Paul before the Jewish council (22:30).
- B. Paul witnessed to the council with the high priest in charge (23:1-5).
 - 1. Paul said that he had a good conscience before God (1).
 - 2. The high priest had his assistant strike Paul on the mouth for what he said (2).
 - 3. Paul rebuked the high priest for violating the law, but he did not know he was high priest (3-5)

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WE: We may be treated badly and unlawfully by Satan's workers to get us to stop witnessing.

C. Paul saw that half of the leaders were Pharisees and the others were Sadducees (23:1-9).

1. Paul declared that he was a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee (6).
2. Paul said that he was being tried for the hope of the resurrection of the dead (6).
3. His testimony divided the council (7-9).
 - a. The Sadducees denied the resurrection, angels or spirit (8).
 - b. The Pharisees confessed that these were true (8).
 - c. The Pharisees agreed with Paul and the Sadducees were against him (9).

D. Paul was pulled violently to each side so that the chief captain had to rescue him (23:10).

WE: We know Satan would like to threaten boys and girls who love Jesus and want to witness about Him, but God will help them overcome his threats just like He helped Paul overcome the high priest and the Sadducees.

III. Paul Sees an Attack is Planned - Acts 23:11-22

A. Forty men decided not to eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul (23:11-13).

B. The forty men told their plan to the chief priests and elders (23:14-15).

C. Paul's nephew overheard their plan (23:16-22).

1. He went to Paul and warned him about the planned attack to kill him (16).
2. Paul called a centurion to take his nephew to the chief captain to warn him (17-22).

WE: We need to listen to warnings that people give to us about Satan. God often uses Christians that know the Bible to warn us about the wicked plans of Satan. Be sure to listen to their warnings.

IV. Paul Sent to the Roman Governor - Acts 23:23-35

A. The chief captain used a large number of soldiers to protect Paul from the Jews (23:23).

B. The chief captain sent Paul to Felix, the Roman governor, that night (23:23-35).

WE: We can count on God to protect us when we ask for His help. He may use soldiers, policemen, teachers or others to protect you from Satan. Trust in God and you will be safe.

BE (for Action): Paul was protected from Satan and the wicked men who wanted to kill him. The Lord used the soldiers and Paul's nephew to protect Paul, but the greatest protection Paul had was the Lord Himself. (Have someone read 23:11 out loud.) When you trust in Jesus Christ to protect you, you do not have to be afraid of Satan or evil men. (Read Proverbs 29:25.) Trust the Lord to take care of you and do not be afraid. (Give an invitation for the children to be bold and keep witnessing for the Lord. Have them raise their hands to let you know that they want you to pray for them.)