

LESSON PLAN

PAUL'S LIFE IN DANGER

Acts 20 – 22

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your care on Him for He cares for you."

Lesson Aim: Teach Christian children to give their problems to the Lord because He promises to take care of them.

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

KEY (for Attention): When John Wesley was six years old, the house of his family caught on fire during the night while everyone was sleeping. A neighbor's frantic cry, "Fire!" awakened his father and when he realized his house was on fire, he quickly awakened his family and he thought all of them got out of the house safely. The family gathered together and they noticed that John was missing. He was still sleeping in the burning house. His father rushed into the burning building, but the fire was too much for him. He cried out to God and committed the soul of his son to Him.

The neighbors in the yard saw John near the window of the nursery. Since there was no time to find a ladder, one man stood on the shoulder of another man and was able to reach John and pull him to safety. Moments later the burning roof of the house crashed into the nursery where John had been rescued. God used two brave men to save his life. God took care of him, because He knew John Wesley would serve Him very well. Later in his life Wesley referred to himself as "a brand plucked from the burning." God used him as a tireless evangelist to pluck many lost souls from the fires of Hell.

HE (for Authority): God will also take care of us, if we will give our lives to do His work. But our memory verse gives all Christians the promise of God's care, if they will give their problems and troubles to Him. (Read 1 Peter 5:7 and explain that "casting all your care" means we should tell God all about our problems and ask Him to take care of them.) It is too bad that many Christians do not claim this promise. They worry about their problems and try to solve problems that are too great for them to handle. We will save ourselves a lot of worry and weeping if we give our problems to God. He is strong enough and wise enough to handle all of the problems of all of His children and solve all of them. That should cause all believers to praise Him. When the verse says, "He cares for you," it means God will take care of you. I hope that you believe that and will give God all of your problems. And do not forget to praise Him when He solves your problems and thank Him for taking care of you.

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. In our lesson today, we will see how God took care of Paul, even though many people wanted to kill him.

I. Paul was Advised - Acts 20:22-24; 21:10-14

He was warned many times by the Spirit that he would be bound and beaten when he would go to Jerusalem. God told Paul this so that he might be ready for the attack. Sometimes God warns us of Satan's attack so that we will not be taken by surprise. At other times He does not warn us because He wants to test us to see if we will give Him the problem and trust Him to take care of us. Either way shows God's care for us. Paul was encouraged by God's warning and was ready for Satan's attack because he knew what to expect.

WE: Can we take God's advice and not be worried? Can we trust in God's care for us to be enough to carry us through the trouble?

II. Paul was Attacked - Acts 21:27-32

Even though Paul was attacked and badly treated, God did not allow him to be killed. God made sure the Roman soldiers heard about the trouble soon enough to get to Paul in time to save him from death. God may allow us to suffer, too, but He will not allow us to die until it is His time for us to be brought to Heaven. When it is time for a Christian to die, he will go to Heaven, and that will be far better.

WE: If we are Christians, do we believe He will take care of us? If we really believe God's promise, we will be certain that God will take care of our problems so we do not have to worry.

III. Paul was Arrested - Acts 21:33 – 22:30

LESSON PLAN

A. Taken by Roman Soldiers (21:33-39)

When Paul was arrested by the Romans, it was better than being attacked and killed by the Jews. God showed His care for Paul by having the Roman soldiers quickly come to his rescue. God will take care of all His children, but sometimes He does it in a way that may seem strange to His children. But God knows what is best for them.

WE: We need to look at God's way of caring for us with certainty that His way of caring for us is the best way for it to be done. If we believe that, we will praise Him just like Paul and Silas did in the Philippian jail.

B. Testified before Fellow Jews (21:40 – 22:23)

Paul told the Jews how he had persecuted the Christians. On his way to Damascus to persecute more Christians, Jesus stopped him with a blinding light. At that moment he realized Jesus was the Lord and he surrendered his life to serve Him. This is the greatest kind of care that God could ever give to him. When Paul told the Jews that Jesus told him that he would be sent to the Gentiles, they erupted with anger and wanted Paul to be killed. The Jews hated the Gentiles and for a Jew to help the Gentiles was outrageous to them. This took boldness because Paul knew the Jews hated the Gentiles. They did not like the idea that Paul was helping the Gentiles, but this was God's plan and they needed to know it. Paul was bold in his witness for God and God took care of Paul. God protected Paul from the Jews' anger once more by providing the Roman soldiers to keep the Jews away from him. Only the Roman soldiers could do this, so it was good that he earlier had been arrested by them.

WE: We need to be bold in witnessing for the Lord. He will take care of us in one way or another. He will give us answers to difficult questions. He will protect us from guard dogs that want to attack us. He will save us from people that get angry with us and might even want to kill us. We must not be afraid to witness for Jesus. Can you trust Him to take care of you?

C. Tied by Soldiers for Scourging (22:24-25)

When the Romans could not understand why the Jews were so angry with Paul, they decided to bind him and whip him until he told them everything they wanted to know. It looked bad for Paul, but Paul merely asked a question and it stopped the soldiers from whipping him. What was that question? (You will find it in Acts 22:25.) God used this question to take care of Paul. He had suffered enough this time. At other times Paul had been whipped, but God would not allow it this time. Can you tell of one time he was whipped and he did not tell them that he was a Roman citizen until after he had been in prison? (Philippi)

WE: We can be assured that God knows how much we can take and He will not allow us to suffer more than we can handle (1 Cor 10:13). He will take care of us.

D. Treated with Respect by the Chief Captain (22:26-30)

When the chief captain of the Roman soldiers realized that Paul was a Roman citizen, he was afraid of Paul. Why? Because he had bound Paul when he was not yet condemned. This was a serious crime to do against any Roman citizen. God took care of Paul by letting him be born as a Roman citizen. God had everything planned for Paul, even the place of his birth.

WE: We can be certain that God has a perfect plan for each believer. He even knows who will become a believer before they are born and has a plan ready for them. Everything will work out perfectly, if we trust in Him. I hope that you believe God cares for you and has a perfect plan for your life. He has a plan He will show to you a little bit at a time. If we obey Him, He will show his plan to us day by day.

BE (for Action): Are you a child of God? If not, God still loves you, but the way He will take care of you is to save you from going to Hell. When you ask Jesus to save you, you will become a child of God. That can happen today, if you ask Jesus to save you.

If you already are a child of God, He cares for you in many ways. You are very special to Him and He wants you to trust Him with all of your problems and troubles. He does not want you to worry about them. He wants you to trust Him. Can you do this? I hope so! If you want to tell God about some problem that you have, you can do it right now as we bow our heads in silent prayer. Be sure to thank Him when He solves your problem. It makes Him pleased when we believe His promises (Heb 11:6).