

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

For questions, contact:

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Church and Family Partnering Together



Today's Big Idea

The Plan to Stop Paul
Acts 23



The Main Point

When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.



What Did We Learn?

- ▶ Paul preached the Gospel.
- ▶ Religious leaders hated Paul for talking about Jesus.
- ▶ They decided to kill Paul to stop him from preaching.
- ▶ When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION

Even when others threatened his life, Paul continued to obey Jesus. He believed that God, who showed His love for the world by sending His Son to die on the cross and rise again, would help him through hard times. We too can risk everything to share the Gospel with courage because we know that God loves us and will care for us.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

Open your Bible to Acts 24:22–27; 25:1–14; 26:24–32 and read together as a family about when Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings. Or read the children's version of the passage below.

Paul had narrowly escaped death in Jerusalem. The Jews planned to kill Paul, but the Roman soldiers took him away to Caesarea, where he would be safe. The Roman leaders wanted to figure out why the Jews hated Paul so much. So Paul met with rulers to try to explain what was going on.

First, Paul met with Felix the governor. Paul talked about faith in Jesus. He talked about righteousness and self-control, and he explained that one day God is going to judge the world. Felix was afraid of what Paul said. He sent Paul away, but he met with him many times for the next two years. When a new governor came into power, Felix did not release Paul from prison.

The new governor was named Festus. Paul stood before Festus. "I have not done anything wrong," Paul explained again. "I want to see Caesar!" Festus agreed.

While Paul was waiting to go to Rome, King Agrippa and Queen Bernice visited Festus and Paul. Paul told the king how he became a believer. He explained that Jesus died to bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

"Paul, you are out of your mind!" Festus said.

King Agrippa, Festus, and the others with them got up. They agreed that Paul had done nothing wrong. The king was ready to free Paul, but Paul had already asked to go to Rome.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ What are some ways God used Paul's arrest for good?
- ▶ Is it worthwhile to talk about Jesus if the person doesn't believe?
- ▶ Why wasn't Paul afraid of the rulers?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Play a series of "leader" games, like Simon Says or Follow the Leader. Talk to your kids about Jesus being the ultimate leader.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God had chosen Paul to take the Gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. (Acts 9:15-16) Paul met with people again and again to tell the Good News about Jesus. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Because Jesus has the power to save people from sin, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the Gospel.

BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Acts 24:22–27	Acts 25:1–5	Acts 25:6–14	Acts 26:24–29	Acts 24:30–32

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God's help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

UNIT MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. —Romans 1:16