

## Family Worship Guide – Week 11

### READ

The Setting: Paul has just completed a 2000-mile sea voyage from Capernaum to Rome. His journey on the sea was anything but a nice relaxing vacation cruise. Instead, it was filled with danger as the ship wrecked and on multiple occasions Paul and the other passengers almost lost their lives. Paul's purpose for traveling to Rome was to appear before the Roman emperor at court. The text for today details the events surrounding Paul's arrival and time in Rome.

Read Acts 28:16-31

When Paul entered Rome, he was allowed to live by himself in house arrest, along with a guard, while he awaited his court day before the emperor (28:16, 30). First-century house arrest wasn't your typical American prison, but it wasn't a vacation home either. As in Paul's case, its purpose was to serve as a holding tank for prisoners awaiting trial. Two years was the maximum amount of time someone could be held, at which time they were either tried, found guilty and executed or released. Guards were always nearby, although prisoners were allowed much freedom such as access to visitors and limited access outside the home. Probably the most difficult part of house arrest was that prisoners were responsible for payments such as their rent, food, and so on.

After three days of being in house arrest, Paul called together the leaders of the Jews in Rome. Since he could not go to the synagogues himself, Paul had to request that the Jewish leaders come to him. His purpose for calling the Jewish leaders together was simple, he wanted to talk to them about the "hope of Israel" (28:20), which was none other than Jesus the Messiah. The phrase and concept of "the hope of Israel" was used by Paul a number of times in the last part of Acts (cf. 23:6; 24:15; 26:6-7). At a later meeting with these leaders "from morning till evening", Paul "expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and the Prophets" (28:23). In other words, he used Scriptures, which they knew, to prove that Jesus was the hope and long awaited Messiah the Law and Prophets had been pointing to.

This message was met with a mixed response as some Jews were persuaded while others refused to believe (28:24). As Paul watched many of the Jewish leaders depart in unbelief he sternly proclaimed, "let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen" (28:28). This closing scene of Acts repeats a primary theme throughout the entire book of Acts. From Jerusalem to Rome most Jews rejected the gospel and in city after city the message was then directed to non-Jews. Now in the capital of the Roman world the same story is repeated. This is not only a significant point for understanding the entire storyline of Scripture, but it's also the fulfillment of the promise Jesus made to his apostles all the way back in Acts 1:8. The gospel has gone forth not only in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria but also to "the ends of the earth." Jesus is trustworthy and faithful to advance His great name!

### Questions:

How can you be actively involved in taking this great message of salvation to ALL the peoples of the world?

Even though Paul was confined to house arrest and many rejected his message, he still sought to actively share the gospel. How can you actively seek to share Jesus with others this week?

This week concludes our study of the book of Acts. What is one main truth you remember and will take away from our study of Acts?

**Bottom Line:** The great message of salvation is for ALL the peoples of the world.

### PRAY

The book of Acts concludes with Paul in Rome "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance" (Acts 28:31). This verse is the perfect ending to the book as it closes with the book's primary theme, namely the advancement of the gospel. Throughout Acts we have seen the gospel progressing through Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth. This week spend some time praying that God would

use your life and our church to advance the gospel in all nations, as it advanced throughout the book of Acts. Pray that God would raise up willing and equipped laborers among us who would be sent to the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38). Pray as well that throughout our lives and church the gospel would penetrate the darkest and hardest to reach peoples and places in Birmingham.

## SING

'Sing To The King' is our worship song this week. It is a song of rejoicing and praise that reminds us that Jesus brings 'joy to the nations'. Originally written by Charles Horne around 1910, the song was titled 'Sing We The King'. Billy Foote took Horne's lyrics and created the arrangement we are singing this week. In light of our scripture reading this week, it is our hope and prayer that this song will help foster an urgency to reach the lost. Just like Paul, let us not be idle but, with purpose and perseverance, share the gospel with all peoples in all nations.

## MEMORIZE

Acts 28:28 Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.

## SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

### Preschool

- Before you begin, gather some paper, cards and envelopes for writing a letter.
- Read Acts 28:28 with your preschooler.
- Show your child the card, paper and envelopes and tell them that they will have an opportunity to create a special letter to mail to someone. (Example: missionary, friend, teacher, grandparents)
- Explain to your child that this is a very special letter and that you will help them write it and then draw a picture to show their love for the person they chose to receive the letter.
- Once the letter is complete, help them address the envelope. Let your child place the stamp on it. If possible, let them place it in the mailbox or accompany you to the post office.
- Explain that when you place the letter in the mailbox, their message of love will be sent to their special person, wherever they live.
- Ask, "Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ will be glad we sent this message? Yes, and isn't it wonderful that we can send something from our house to someone who lives somewhere else in the world?"
- Explain that the Bible says God has sent us a very special message, too. He sent us Jesus. He loves us so much that He sent His only son, Jesus, from heaven to earth to save us. He sent Jesus for all of the people in the whole wide world!
- God wants us to share Jesus and His love with all peoples in the world, too. Just like we are sending this letter to \_\_\_\_\_ to let them know how much we love them, God wants us to send His message of love to people everywhere. There are people all over the world that have never heard about Jesus, and we can tell them.
- Questions: Who did God send to save people all over the world? Jesus! Do the people in China need to know Jesus? How about people in Africa? India? Our friend who lives next door? Can you think of a way we can help them to know Jesus?
- Conclude by re-reading Acts 28:28.

### Children

- Re-read Acts 28:28.
- Remind your child of God's "big plan" to use followers of Jesus to advance the gospel to all the people groups on earth.
- Ask each member of the family to describe the most memorable take-away they have gained from studying the book of Acts. Has your view of what the gospel is or isn't changed? Do you see your role or mission in life any differently? Do you feel any differently towards those who live in nations far from our own?
- One of the most tangible ways we can touch restricted people groups with the gospel is by supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ who live among those groups. Like Paul, many of these brothers and sisters have been imprisoned for their faith in Christ. An optional activity is outlined below that will allow your family to meet the needs of some of our fellow Christ-followers in chains.
- Log on to [PrisonerAlert.com](http://PrisonerAlert.com), a ministry of Voice of the Martyrs.
- From the homepage you can view needs of imprisoned believers and pray for them as a family.

- Click the link titled "Write an Encouraging Letter" for instructions on crafting a personalized letter that will be sent to an imprisoned believer in another nation.
- Pray that God would help you as individuals and as a family to be faithful to the great mission He has called us to. Pray that all the peoples of the earth would come to know the one, true, and living God through His son, Jesus Christ!

### Students

- As a family, re-read Acts 28:28-31.
- Help your students understand the background of the Jewish people. Here are a few notes to help with that discussion. The Jews are a people who descended from Abraham's line, specifically from his son, Isaac. God would adopt this people group and make them His own. As we see in God's Word, every now and then, the Jewish people became prideful about being God's chosen people. They missed the point that God blessed them so they would be a blessing to others by showing others how great God is. These "chosen ones" felt as though they were better than everyone else, especially the Gentiles.
- Have you ever expected special treatment because of who you are?
- Have you ever seen someone mistreated because of something external that is beyond human control? (Ex. race, background, financial status, who their parents were.)
- Is there any external reason you can think of why any person should not hear the Gospel?
- Are there some people you are more willing to share the gospel with than others? Why?
- Close your time by reading Acts 28:30. Ask the Lord to help you see people as He does. Ask the Spirit to aid you in making your conversation gospel-centered. Pray that Christ would give you boldness to live out the gospel even when it's not popular or easy.

## Prayer

### Lives/Church

This week spend some time praying that God would use your life and our church to advance the gospel to all nations, as it advanced throughout the book of Acts. Pray that God would raise up willing and equipped laborers among us who would be sent to the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38). Pray as well that throughout our lives and church the gospel would penetrate the darkest and hardest to reach peoples and places in Birmingham.

### Local

**Local Church:** Brookwood Baptist Church, Jim Barnett

**Focus:** Olivia's House Outreach - a residential chemical dependency treatment center for women in East Lake that allows many families to stay together. Some of our members volunteer time there.

**Monday:** Pray for the women and children in the program that God might redirect their hearts toward Him.

**Tuesday:** Pray for God to provide transitional housing for the women and children when they complete the program.

**Wednesday:** Pray for God to send more Brook Hills' members to serve at Olivia's House through childcare support and mentoring women opportunities.

**Thursday:** Pray for God to use the small things taking place at Olivia's House to show His great glory to the ladies there and the community.

**Friday:** Pray that the staff at Olivia's House would always focus on the people in the treatment program and not just the program or their jobs.

**Saturday:** Pray for Laurie McCain as she leads the volunteer ministries that are taking place at Olivia's House for Brook Hills' members, [lmccain@mccainengineering.com](mailto:lmccain@mccainengineering.com).

## Scripture Memory

Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen. Acts 28:28

## Week 11

### Sing To The King

by Charles Silvester Horne  
Add'l words and music by Billy James Foote

Sing to the King Who is coming to reign  
Glory to Jesus the Lamb that was slain  
Life and salvation His empire shall bring  
And joy to the nations when Jesus is King

Come let us sing a song  
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus  
He is all we need

Lift up a heart of praise  
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus  
Sing to the King

For His returning we watch and we pray  
We will be ready the dawn of that day  
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed  
'Cause satan is vanquished and my Jesus is King

Copyright © 2003 worshiptogether.com Songs/Six Steps Music

*Due to copyright limitations, we are only allowed to print the lyrics to this song with no chords. We encourage you to download an mp3 of this song from iTunes.*

### Global

**Short Term Teams:** India, Australia, Middle East  
**Partner:** Urban Impact serving unreached people groups in New York City

**Monday:** Pray that God would call and prepare mission teams to serve Him in NYC and that He would mold their hearts to be compassionate, teachable, and ready to serve.

**Tuesday:** Pray for opportunities to share Christ with the parents who bring their children to the "Kid's Club" Bible Studies on Tuesdays. Pray for the children they work with to have open hearts towards the gospel.

**Wednesday:** Pray for the team members of Urban Impact to jealously guard their individual time with the Lord as their schedule becomes increasingly busy.

**Thursday:** Pray for the Bible discussion groups that meet every Thursday morning and evening. Pray for the ESL students to have open, receptive hearts and for the teachers to effectively communicate God's love and the gospel.

**Friday:** Pray for doors to open for teachers to meet with individual ESL students one-on-one to get to know them and share Christ with them.

**Saturday:** Pray for God to continue to provide the resources so that missionaries can work full-time with Urban Impact sharing the Gospel and ministering to the lost.

