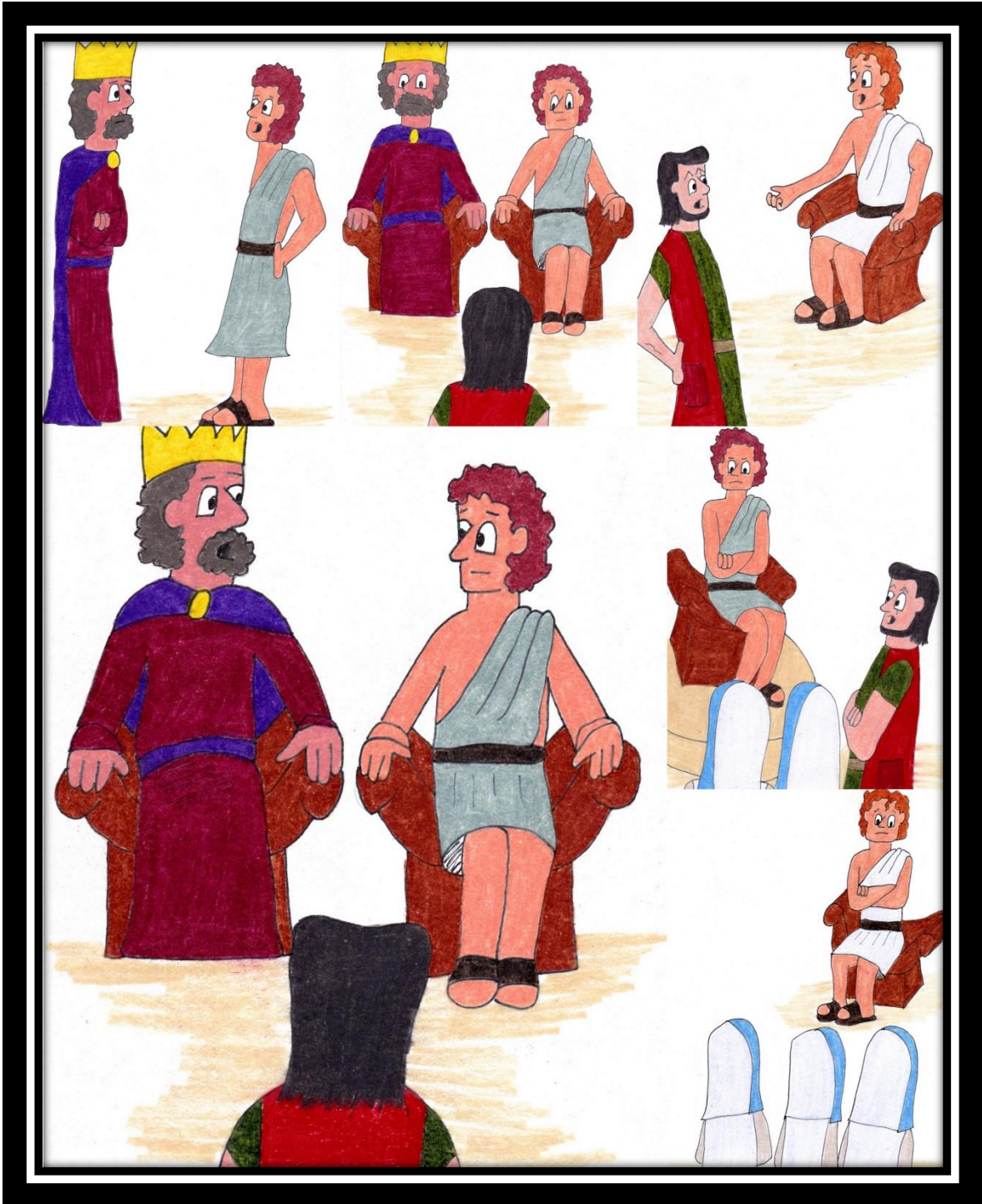


Paul sees the King

Acts 24:1-26:32





Paul arrived in Caesarea and sat in a prison cell for five days as he waited for Ananias to travel to Caesarea. Ananias arrived with a lawyer named Tertullus.

They all appeared before Felix, the governor, and Tertullus started the arguments.

“Governor, I know you are a good governor who has been fair to the Jews. You have decided every decision with fairness and thought about how it would impact us. We thank you for all your hard work. Today we stand before you to accuse this man of causing riots. He is the ringleader in a group of heretics, and he even profaned the temple. All of this can be proven easily.”

All the Jews that had followed Ananias agreed loudly with Tertullus. Felix sat back on his throne and looked concerned.



“Sir, if I may speak?” Paul asked. Felix waved permission and Paul started to speak. “I know you have judged many years, so here is my defense. I have only been here for 12 days. During that time, I only spent time talking with people in the crowds at the Temple. I did not cause a riot. I believe in God, like them, and I believe in the resurrection, like them. I came back to bring gifts for the poor, and was purifying myself with friends to be presented in the Temple, when I was seized. My friends can testify to what happened.” Paul stopped and waited for Felix to answer.

“I will wait for Lysias to come before I give my answer,” Felix replied. “In the meantime you will stay in our barracks, and your friends may visit you, if you wish.



Felix never made a decision on Paul's case. Instead he continually visited Paul to hear more about what Paul believed.

Felix would spend his time talking with Paul about his beliefs, but he did not change his mind.

After two years Felix was sent back to Rome and was replaced by Festus.

Three days after arriving Festus went down to Jerusalem and met with the priests and the Sanhedrin to hear their side. They tried their best to convince Festus to send Paul to Jerusalem to be tried there.

Festus did not know they planned to kill Paul on his way to Jerusalem.



Festus listened to their requests and said, “You can bring charges against him, if there are any charges to be had in Caesarea.”

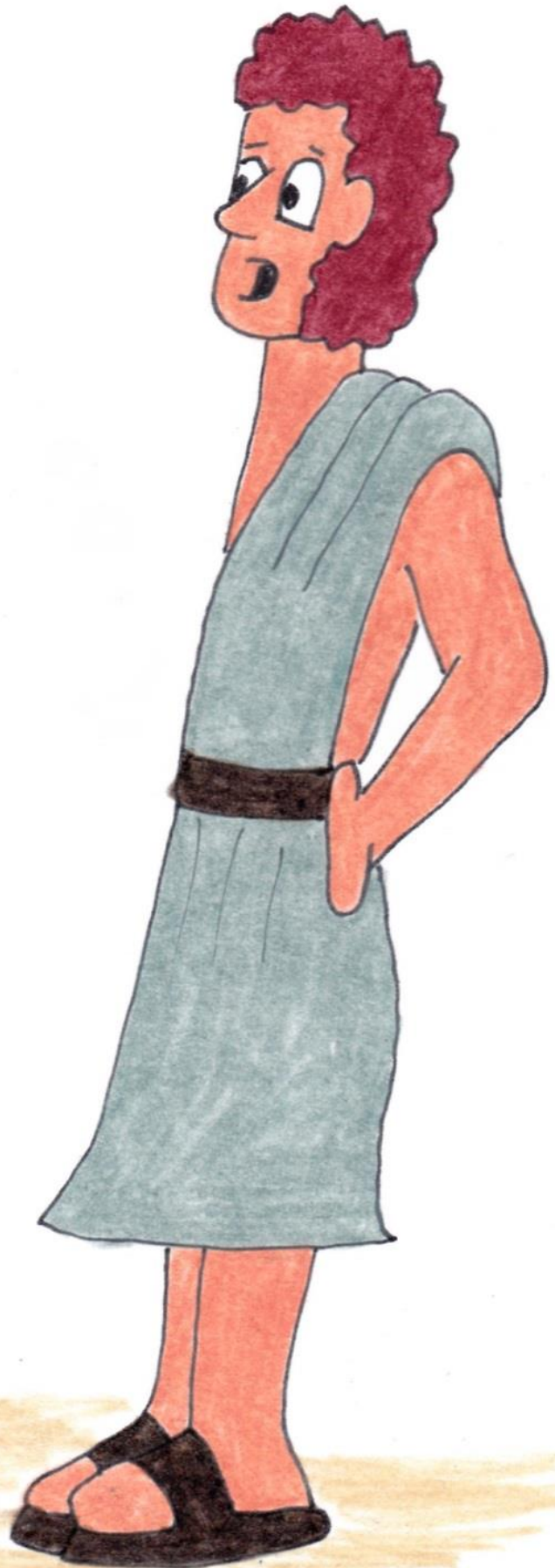
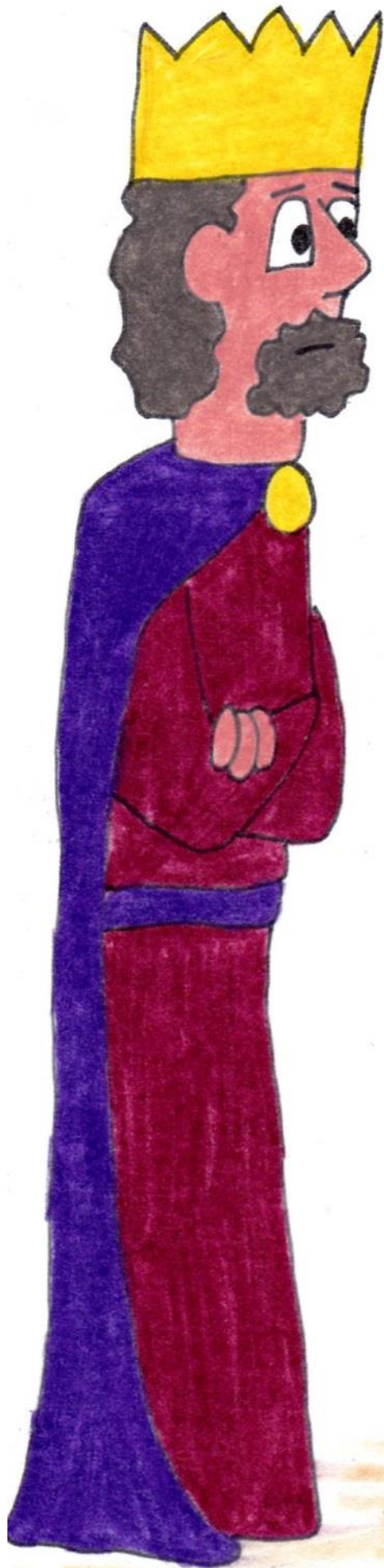
They came and Paul was summoned to appear before Festus. They repeated the same charges they had told Felix.

Paul stood proudly and said, “I broke no law of Rome’s. I broke no law of the Temple.”

Festus heard Paul, but he wanted to curry favor with the Jews, so he declared, “Why don’t you want a trial in Jerusalem?”

Paul looked around the room. “I stand here in Caesar’s tribunal. Try me here. I have done no wrong. I will not go to Jerusalem. I appeal to Caesar!”

“To Caesar you have appealed, to Caesar you will go.” Felix replied.



A few days later Governor Festus received King Agrippa at his palace. Hoping to gain some insight into the behaviors of the Jews, he told them the whole story.

“I have a prisoner, named Paul, left by Felix in jail for 2 years. I visited Jerusalem, and the chief priests laid out their case. I told them Romans do not give up prisoners without a hearing. When we met, they did not present any evils like they spoke of. Instead all of their complaints were about their religion, some dead man named Jesus, that Paul claims is alive. I asked Paul if he wanted to be tried in Jerusalem, and he has appealed to Caesar. It is a very difficult case.”

Agrippa heard it all, nodded sagely, and said, “I will hear from him tomorrow.”



So, the next day King Agrippa waited as Paul was brought in. Festus stood up and announced Paul.

“King Agrippa and all who are here, I present Paul, the man who would start a riot according to the Jews, the man who preaches blasphemy, according to the Jews. The man who they would condemn and execute. I have found nothing he has done to receive a death sentence. I have brought him before you all to help me have something to write to Rome.”

Agrippa waved Paul forward, “Tell me your story.”



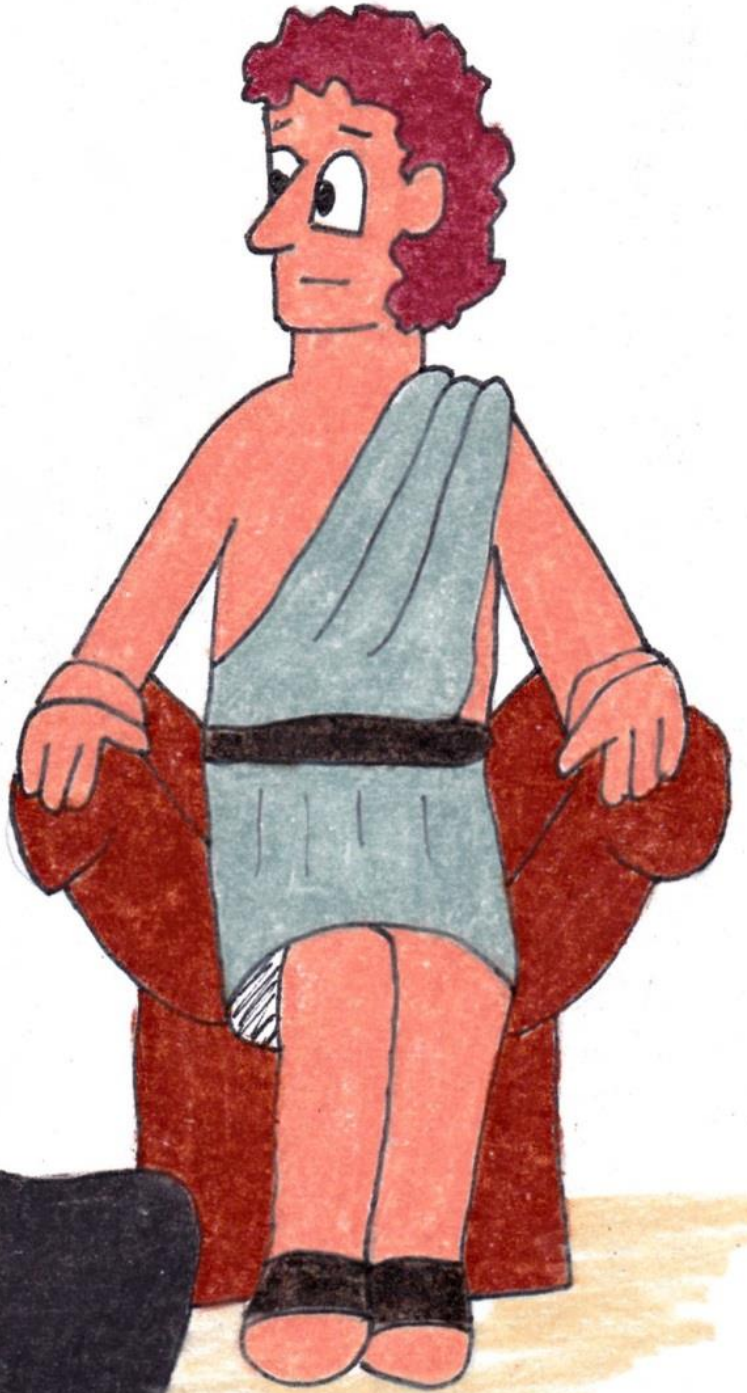
“Thank you King Agrippa for allowing me to tell my story, especially because you know the Jews and our customs, please listen patiently,” Paul answered.

“I was raised in the Jewish faith from my boyhood, many can attest to my zealousness and how I became a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in God’s promise. I believed I had to do many things to defeat the heresy of Jesus Christ, I locked up many believers. I then traveled to Damascus to persecute the believers there, but God shone a bright light on me, and I was blinded. I heard Jesus, God’s son say to me, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” I didn’t know who he was, but Jesus saved me that day on the road. Jesus sent me to the Gentiles, to preach forgiveness of sins.”



“Therefore King Agrippa, I obeyed God. First I preached to Damascus, then in Jerusalem, then Judea, and to the Gentiles. I traveled all throughout the Roman empire preaching God’s word.

“When I returned to Jerusalem, the Jews seized me and tried to kill me. God helped me from the first day He called me. I have testified to the least of men to the most powerful of men. I preach the fulfillment of Moses and the Prophets: Jesus Christ suffered, he died, and rose from the dead. Because of Jesus Christ we can be saved. He paid the price of our sins.



Festus listened with growing amazement, and finally interrupted Paul, “You are out of your mind. All of your learning is driving you mad.”

Paul shook his head, “I am not out of my mind, Governor Festus. I speak the truth. The King knows these things, and I speak boldly to convince him.” Paul turned to King Agrippa, “Do you believe the prophets?”

“Would you convince me to become a Christian this quickly?” King Agrippa replied, shock in his voice.

“Short or long, I want all to hear and believe.”

King Agrippa turned to Festus, and declared, “This man has done nothing to be imprisoned or killed. If he had not appealed to Caesar he would be free. I will make the preparations.”

Questions

Younger Kids

1. Why do you think Felix did not let Paul go? How do you think Paul felt while he was waiting for Felix to decide?
2. When Paul was talking to the governors and king what did he tell them? Did Paul have to stop and think about what he wanted to say?
3. What did Agrippa and Felix decide about Paul? Was he guilty of the charges?

Middle Kids

1. Read Acts 9:14-15. What did God promise Paul would be able to do? Has this come true now? Read Acts 24:10, 25:8-9, and 25:14.
2. Read Acts 24:2 and 10. Compare the Jew's response to Paul's. How are they different?
3. Read Acts 24:23 and 27. What do you think Paul spent those two years doing? How could those two years in jail have been a blessing for Paul?
4. Read Acts 25:10-11. Why do you think Paul appealed to Caesar? What is Paul's final goal?

Read Acts 19:21. Why do you think he wants to go to Rome? Who is in Rome?

Older Guys

1. Read Acts 23:4-5. Did Paul show respect for the high priest once he knew who it was? How can you respond to those in charge who are not treating you with respect?
2. Read Acts 24:2-21. Compare the difference between how the Jews and how Paul responds to Felix. Who is treating him with more respect? How does Felix respond to them? Read Acts 24:22
3. Read Acts 25:10-11. What does Paul gain by appealing to Caesar?

Activities

1. Paul was able to give a defense of his faith and why he believed to both governors and to the king. Take some time to write out or tell your story of why you believe.
2. Put the events of Paul's life in order

Online

1. Paul goes before Felix printables and review game-
<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2013/02/paul-goes-before-felix.html>
2. Benefits of a being a Roman citizen-
http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2012/09/acts-life-of-paul-bulletin-boards_8.html
3. Paul before Agrippa word search-
<http://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/childrenscurriculum/NEW/CURR267.PDF>
4. Paul and Agrippa skit- <http://ministry-to-children.com/bible-lesson-skit-pauls-defense-before-agrippa/>

Pictures for Paul: Paul sees Jesus on the way to Damascus, Paul lowered out of basket, Paul talks to Philippian jailer, Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla, Paul in Ephesus, Paul in Cyprus before Roman governor, Paul beat in Jerusalem, Paul deciding next trip after Corinth, Paul bound on way to Jerusalem, Paul raises Eutychus, Paul stoned (in Iconium or Derbe), Paul praying before becoming a missionary

