

## THE APOSTLE PAUL

### LESSON 2: THE GREAT ESCAPE ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [Overview](#)

*Shortly after Saul's conversion, he is busy preaching the Good News that Jesus is the son of God. However, his life is far from being perfect. He is now in more danger than ever, as the Jews plot to kill him as a traitor. In this lesson, the children learn that not only can God change a person's life, but He is also there to lead the way to keep us safe.*

#### TOPICS

Apostles, Courage, Paul, Protection, Witnessing

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

**Paul's Friends Help Him Escape (Coloring Page)** [Click here](#)

#### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

#### MEMORY WORK (12 MINUTES)

**"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." 2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV**

Divide the class into two teams. The challenge is for each team to outdo the other in saying the memory verse in a creative way. The teacher will lead one team, and a helper lead the other team. Teams alternate saying the verse and its reference. Example: The leader of team 1 will have his/her kids say the verse while hopping on one foot. The leader of team 2 will respond by having the kids say the verse while clapping after each word. Team 1 then says the verse while turning around in circles, team 2 while doing the twist, and so on. There really is no winner, but the kids will have a lot of fun, and they will unknowingly memorize the verse.

#### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

##### Introduction:

After Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was blind for three days. But then he met a man named Ananias, who helped him regain his sight. Immediately after that Paul believed and was baptized. Before he was an enemy of those who followed Jesus, but now he knew the truth. He was a follower too, and he had to tell others about this wonderful news. In this next account of Paul's ministry, he is still in Damascus. He belongs to Jesus now, but his life is no bed of roses. In fact, it is far, far from perfect.

##### Read Acts 9:19-31

##### Discussion Questions:

1. What was the next thing Paul did after being baptized, and regaining his strength in Damascus? *(He began to tell the people that Jesus is the Son of God.)*
2. In verse 22, we read that Paul (Saul) became more and more powerful. What do you think this means? *(His witness became more effective. Greater numbers of people heard what he was saying and believed.)*
3. Why do you think some of the Jews wanted to kill Paul when they heard him preaching the Good News about Jesus? *(They saw Paul as a traitor. Instead of helping them like he did before his conversion, now he was working against them. For this reason they also had a hard time believing that what Paul said was true.)*
4. What plan did God provide to help Paul leave the city? *(His friends lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall.)*
5. After Paul reached Jerusalem, were his fears over? Why or why not? *(No, because some of the Grecian Jews in Jerusalem also tried to kill him.)*
6. Although Paul faced fear and death in Jerusalem, how did he speak to the people in verse 28? *(Boldly.)*
7. We can be afraid of many things. How can we overcome fear with God's love and power? *(Allow for answers.)*
8. What does this story tell you about witnessing. *(We should do it, we should speak boldly, some will believe, some will not, some who do not may even become angry.)*

#### CLASS EXERCISE (15 MINUTES)

**Over the Wall (Game)** [Click here](#)

#### ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (12 MINUTES)

**Scripture Match-Up (Activity)** [Click here](#)

#### APPLICATION (4 MINUTES)

Paul (Saul) was not afraid to share the truth about Jesus to everyone he met. Paul now knew without doubt that Jesus is alive, and He can change our life, just like He did for him. Paul was once going down the wrong path, but along the way he met Jesus, and learned the truth. He felt the need to tell others this amazing story. Do we have the passion and desire to share Jesus with others?

Sometimes this passion got Paul into trouble. Not everyone was ready to hear the truth, especially those who thought he was either lying, or that he betrayed them. Many times these non-believers tried to kill Paul. His life was constantly in danger. But this lesson also teaches us how God is also there to help us escape harm. When our desire is to serve God and share the Good News about Jesus to others, then God helps us know where to go and what to do. Are you living by your own sight, or are you letting God show you the way?

#### NEXT WEEK

The Bible says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) Come back next week to find out what happens to Paul next.

**CLOSING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)**

Further info? [Click here](#)

**TAKE HOME PAGE**

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home. Click here for [NIV](#) or [KJV](#) [PDF]

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## SCRIPTURE MATCH-UP ☆

*A quick search through the Bible to match up verses about God's peace and protection with their correct scripture reference.*

### TOPICS:

Fear, Peace, Protection, Trust, Wrath

### MATERIALS:

Activity sheet for each child [PDF] [Click here](#) [Solution](#)

Activity sheet in KJV [PDF] [Click here](#)

Pencils or markers



### DURATION:

Approximately 12 minutes

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child an activity sheet face down. You can have them work at their own pace, or make it into a race to see who finishes first. The kids must look up the scripture reference on the right-hand side, and decide which verse on the left is a match. Then draw a line from the verse to the correct scripture reference. There is one scripture reference that does not have a matching verse. The children must read them all and write the extra reference at the bottom of the activity sheet.

When everyone is finished, ask the following questions.

### Discussion Questions:

1. According to these verses, who does God protect? (The righteous: people who trust and love Him)
2. In what ways does He protect us? (He watches over us, He is our shield and refuge)
3. What might happen to those who do not trust in Him? (God's wrath)
4. What is the scripture reference that does not match-up with any verse? (2 Timothy 4:18)
5. (Have someone read 2 Timothy 4:18 again out loud.) According to this verse, God is keeping us safe so we can go where? (Heaven)

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom." 2 Timothy 4:18

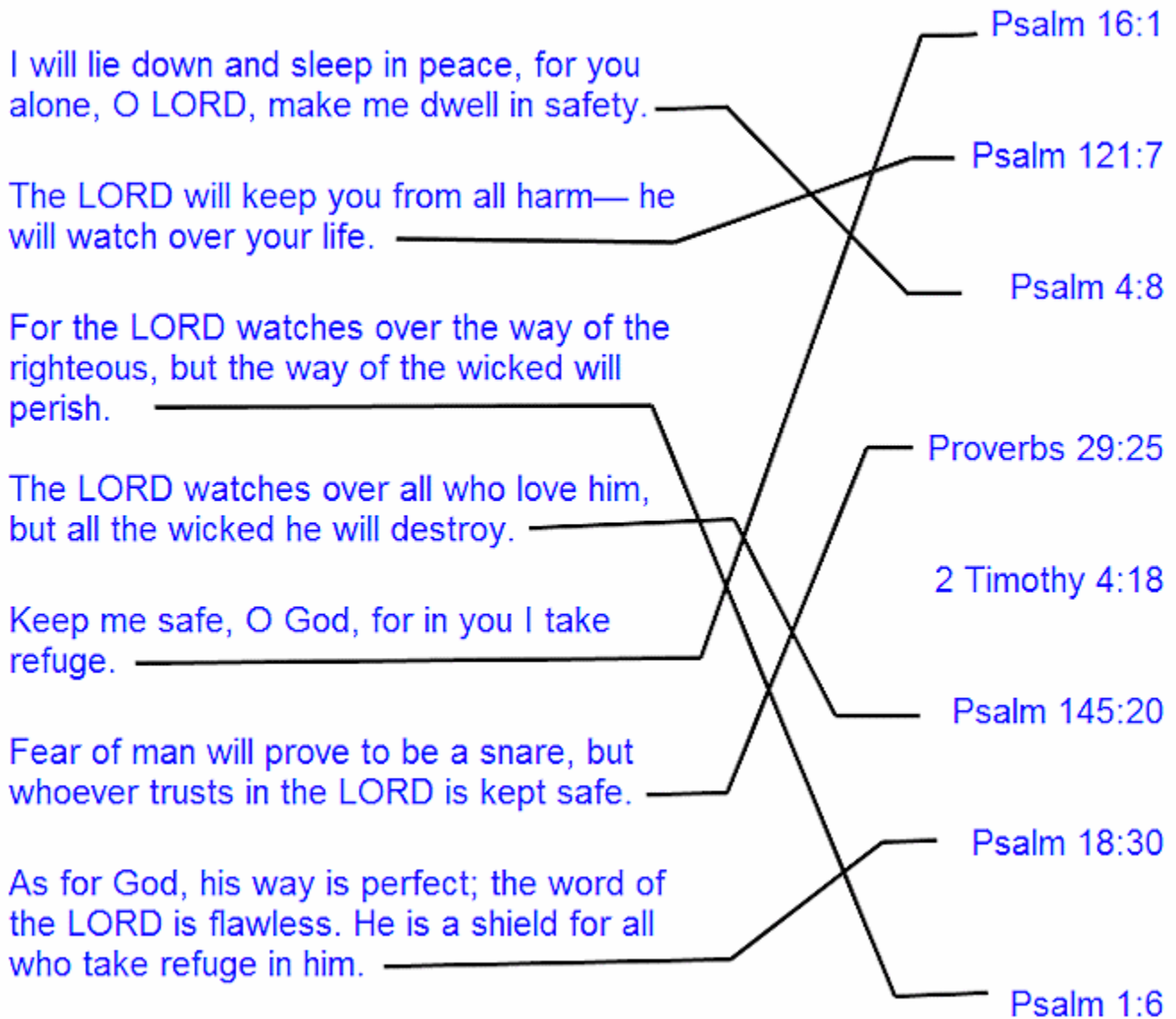
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# SCRIPTURE MATCH-UP

**Instructions:** Look up the scripture reference on the right hand side, and decide which verse on the left is a match. Then draw a line from the verse to the correct scripture reference. There is one scripture reference that does not have a matching verse, so you need to read them all.

Verse

Scripture Reference



Which Scripture reference does not match a verse? 2 Timothy 4:18

# SCRIPTURE MATCH-UP

**Instructions:** Look up the scripture reference on the right-hand side, and decide which verse on the left is a match. Then draw a line from the verse to the correct scripture reference. There is one scripture reference that does not have a matching verse, so you need to read them all.

Verse

Scripture Reference

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 16:1

The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life.

Psalm 121:7

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 4:8

The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

Proverbs 29:25

Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

2 Timothy 4:18

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Psalm 145:20

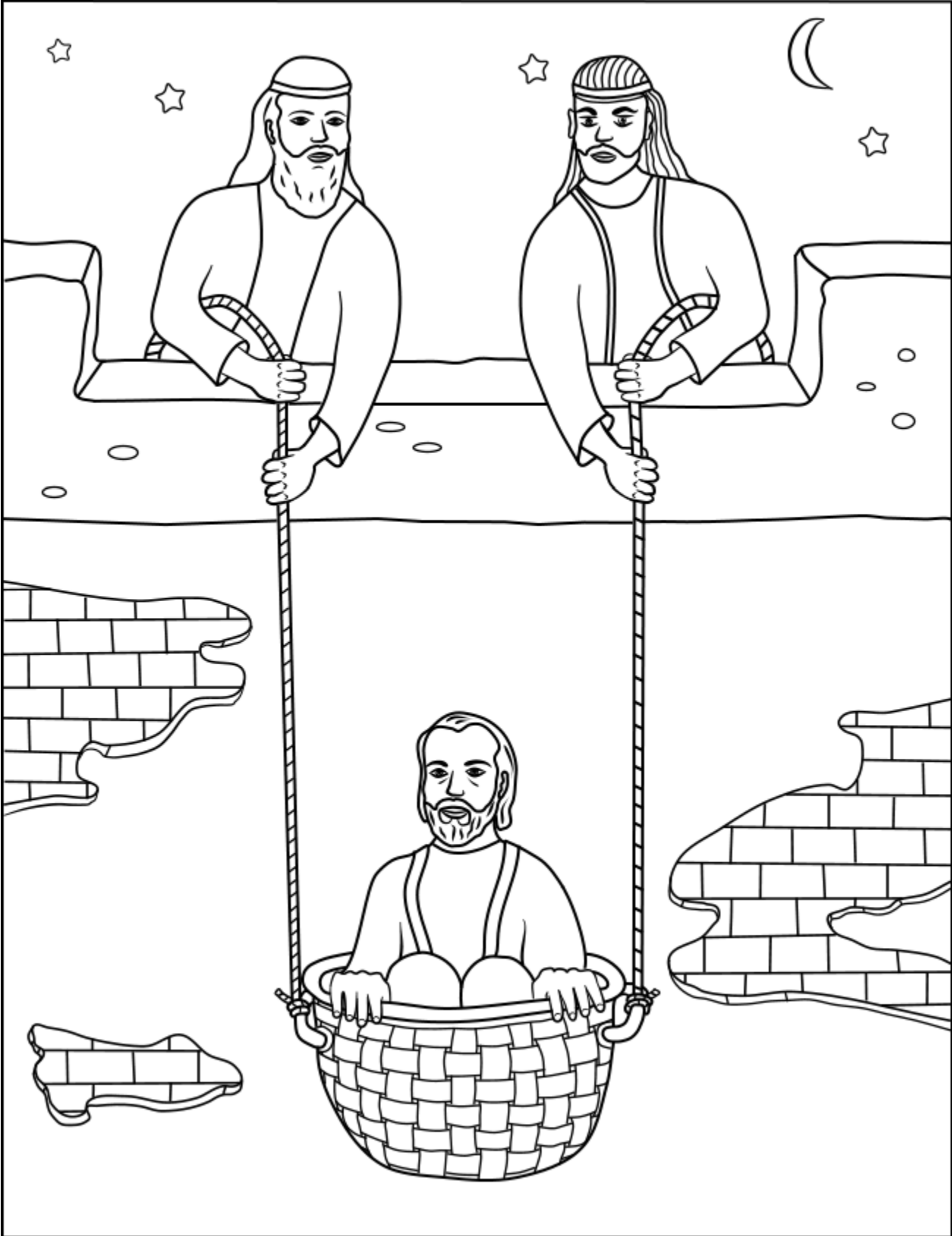
As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 18:30

Psalm 1:6

Which Scripture reference does not match a verse? \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL'S FRIENDS HELP HIM ESCAPE (Acts 9:25)



## PAUL'S FRIENDS HELP HIM ESCAPE ☆

*(Coloring Page) Paul's friends help him escape harm by lowering him from the city wall in a basket. (Acts 9:25)*

**TOPICS:**

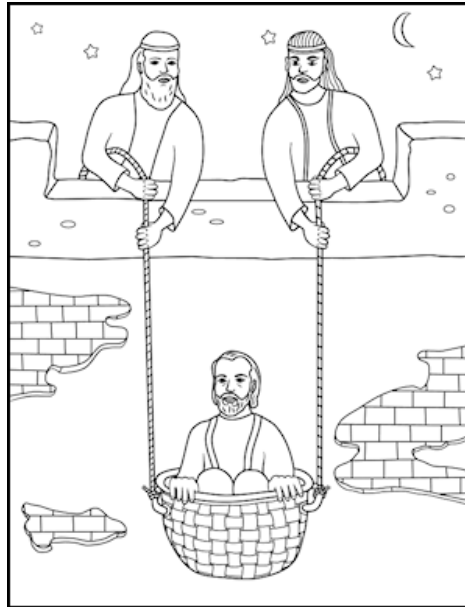
Apostles, Disciples, Friendship, Paul, Protection

**MATERIALS:**

Coloring page [PDF] [Click here](#)  
Crayons or colored markers

**DURATION:**

Approximately 10 minutes



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## OVER THE WALL ☆

*Don't be the last one to get the Apostle Paul over the wall in a basket.*

### TOPICS:

Courage, Difficulties, Fear, Paul

### MATERIALS:

Paper cupcake holders or small paper cups  
Marbles, Masking tape  
Rope (about 12 feet long)



### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Stretch a rope across the middle of the room. Use masking tape to mark a starting line and a finish line about six feet either side of the rope.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will use a cupcake holder, or small paper cup as a basket and place a marble inside. The kids must balance the basket with the marble on the back of their hand, while racing to climb over a make believe wall.

Along with a helper, grab one end of the rope and raise it off the floor about six inches to start. The kids will line up with both feet on the starting line, and at the word "go" race to the other line while stepping over the rope, and while balancing the basket with the marble on the back of their hand.

If the marble falls to the ground, that child must go back to the starting line and begin again. The last child to get over the wall and to the opposite finish line is out. The finish line then becomes the starting line and race again back to the other side. Each time the rope is raised about 6 inches higher. Continue until you have one winner.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

After the Apostle Paul turned his life over to follow Christ, some of the Jews wanted to kill him. His friends lowered him over the city wall in a basket to escape. The wall was pretty high, but what made it even more dangerous was being in a basket. Baskets in those days were designed to hold food and other soft goods, not people.

We are going to play a little game that will help us remember how God helped Paul escape the city and certain death. For fun, let's pretend this (cupcake holder) is a basket, and the marble is Paul inside our basket. We don't want him to fall out, but we still need to get him over the wall.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL TAKE HOME PAGE

*To parents:*

This page lets you know what your child learned in Sunday school today. In addition, you will find this week's memory verse, a suggested activity, and a short prayer to reinforce the lesson. Being involved and interacting with your child can be very rewarding for both of you.

## What we learned:



Today our Bible lesson was about the time Saul's life was in danger because non-believing Jews wanted to kill him. His friends finally helped him escape by lowering him from the city wall in a basket. The children learned that not only can God change a person's life, as He did for Saul, but God is also there to lead the way to keep us safe. (Scripture used: Acts 9:19-31)

## Memory Verse:



**"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." 2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV**

Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help him or her remember the verse, but it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

## Suggested Parent/Child Activity:



Play a few games of hangman with your child, but this time using Bible verses. Take turns looking through the Bible to find a favorite or familiar verse. Then challenge each other to solve the puzzle correctly. Try not to use verses that are too long.

## Daily Prayer:



Dear Lord, thank You for being there for us when we are in need. You protect us in such mighty ways. You are our strength when we are weak. You are our shield when we are in danger. You are our shelter when we are exposed to harm. You are our God. Amen.