

*Sunday School Lesson, June 30, 2024*  
*Dea. Joe and Melissa Holloman, Instructor/Teacher*  
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**Lesson—Hope In God Transforms Us<sup>1</sup>**

**Text—Acts 26:1-11**

**I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Summarize how his having hope in Jesus' resurrection transformed Paul as a witness.
2. Value opportunities to proclaim the gospel to those who do not share the faith.
3. Seek God's boldness and courage when presenting the gospel of hope to others.

**Why This Lesson Matters:** What are we to do when those in authority question our actions and motives? Paul boldly bears witness to King Agrippa of his hope in God's promise to his ancestors

**Key Verse—(Acts 26:6)** *Now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God, under our fathers. (KJV)*

**Song of Praise and Worship:** “A Wonderful Change” by Tramaine Hawkins

**II. *Points to be Emphasized***

- ❖ *Paul stood before King Agrippa to defend himself and the gospel. He respected the king but wanted an honest and patient hearing. As a part of Paul's defense, he pointed to his former life as a Pharisee. Central to the Pharisee's Hope was the resurrection of the dead.*
- ❖ *Paul sought to demonstrate the irony of being charged for preaching his belief in the resurrection of the Messiah.*
- ❖ *The about-face Paul demonstrated indicates the depth of conviction he experienced in embracing his newfound hope in Jesus' resurrection.*

**III. *Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context***

The Book of Acts is the second volume of a two-part work authored by Luke. Luke was a gentile traveling companion of the apostle Paul. Ancient Greek manuscripts designate the book by the extended title “The Acts of the Apostles. It

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<sup>1</sup> Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at [www.sspbnb.com](http://www.sspbnb.com)

covers the first three decades of the church following Jesus' resurrection. Acts emphasize Christ as the resurrected savior. Next, the book focuses on the church's expansion to areas surrounding Jerusalem following an outbreak of Jewish persecution against it. Finally, in chapters 13 to 28 the focus shifts to Paul as the central personality, his three missionary journeys, and his imprisonment experiences that spread the gospel to Greece and other parts of Europe. Here in chapter 26 is the account of Paul's imprisonment, where he finds himself defending the gospel before King Agrippa II, and then finally standing before Caesar in Rome.

**IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson***

**Jewish religious leaders:** wanted to kill Paul; jealous of and angry about his ministry  
**King Agrippa:** the last to hear Paul's defense; the one who would send Paul to Rome for trial.

**Other rulers:** Felix and Festus

**Paul:** the apostle to the Gentiles

**Roman soldier:** Saved Paul upon discovering his Roman citizenship

**V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)***

***Attained (v.7)***

***Fortunate (v.2)***

***Judged(v.6)***

***Nation(v.4)***

***Promise(v.7)***

***Testify(v.5)***—***Greek:*** *martureo: to bear witness; give evidence; give a good report.*

**VI. *Topical Outline of the Lesson***

1. Introduction
2. NOW! (Acts 26:1-8)
3. THEN! (vv. 9-11)

**Food for thought and question for consideration: (What have we learned Charlie Brown?)**

- How can believers grow in the boldness needed to transparently share their faith and convictions with others?
- God is calling you to become a bold, fearless witness for The Lord like Paul was.