

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 267: PAUL GOES BEFORE AGRIPPA**  
**ACTS 25:13-26:32**

After Festus became governor, a few days later King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to visit Festus. They stayed there many days, and Festus told the king about Paul's case. Festus said, "There is a man that Felix left in prison. When I went to Jerusalem, the leading priests and the older Jewish leaders there made charges against him. They wanted me to order his death. But I told them, 'When a man is accused of doing something wrong, Romans don't hand him over for others to judge. First, he must face the people accusing him. And then he must be allowed to defend himself against their charges.' "So when these Jews came here for the trial, I did not waste time. The next day I sat on the judgment seat and ordered Paul to be brought in. The Jews stood up and accused him. But they did not accuse him of the kind of crimes I thought they would. Their charges were all about their own religion and about a man named Jesus. Jesus died, but Paul said that he is still alive. I did not have any idea about how to judge these matters. So I asked Paul, 'Do you want to go to Jerusalem and be judged there?' But Paul asked to be kept in Caesarea. He wants a decision from the emperor. So I ordered that he be held until I could send him to Caesar in Rome." Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man too." Festus said, "Tomorrow you can hear him." The next day Agrippa and Bernice came to the meeting showing off, acting like very important people. They entered the room with military leaders and important men of the city. Festus ordered the soldiers to bring Paul in. Festus said, "King Agrippa and all of you gathered here with us, you see this man. All the Jewish people, here and in Jerusalem, have complained to me about him. When they complain about him, they shout that he should be killed. When I judged him, I did not find him guilty of any crime worthy of death. But he asked to be judged by Caesar, so I decided to send him to Rome. However, I don't really know what to tell Caesar that this man has done wrong. So I have brought him before all of you-- especially you, King Agrippa. I hope that you can question him and give me something to write to Caesar. I think it is foolish to send a prisoner to Caesar without making some charges against him." Agrippa said to Paul, "You may now speak to defend yourself." Paul raised his hand to get their attention and began to speak. He said, "King Agrippa, I feel fortunate that I can stand here before you today and answer all the charges these Jews have made against me.

I am very happy to talk to you, because you know so much about all the Jewish customs and the things the Jews argue about. Please listen to me patiently. "All the Jews know about my whole life. They know the way I lived from the beginning in my own country and later in Jerusalem. These Jews have known me for a long time. If they want to, they can tell you that I was a good Pharisee. And the Pharisees obey the laws of the Jewish religion more carefully than any other group. Now I am on trial because I hope for the promise that God made to our fathers. This is the promise that all the twelve tribes of our people hope to receive. For this hope the Jews serve God day and night. My king, the Jews have accused me because I hope for this same promise. Why do you people think it is impossible for God to raise people from death? "I used to think that I should do everything I could against Jesus from Nazareth. And that's what I did, beginning in Jerusalem. The leading priests gave me the authority to put many of God's people in jail. And when they were being killed, I agreed that it was a good thing. I visited all the synagogues and punished them, trying to make them curse Jesus. My anger against these people was so strong that I went to other cities to find them and punish them. "One time the leading priests gave me permission and the authority to go to the city of Damascus. On the way there, at noon, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun. It shined all around me and those traveling with me. We all fell to the ground. Then I heard a voice talking to me in Aramaic. The voice said, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? You are only hurting yourself by fighting me.' "I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' "The Lord said, 'I am Jesus. I am the one you are persecuting. Stand up! I have chosen you to be my servant. You will tell people about me-- what you have seen today and what I will show you. This is why I have come to you. I will keep you safe from your own people and from the non-Jewish people, the ones I am sending you to. You will make them able to understand the truth. They will turn away from darkness to the light. They will turn away from the power of Satan, and they will turn to God. Then their sins can be forgiven, and they can be given a place among God's people--those who have been made holy by believing in me.'" Paul continued speaking: "King Agrippa, after I had this vision from heaven, I obeyed it. I began telling people to change their hearts and lives and turn back to God. And I told them to do what would show that they had really changed. I went first to people in Damascus. Then I went to Jerusalem and to every part of Judea and told the people there. I also went to the non-Jewish people. "This is why the Jews grabbed me and were trying to kill

me at the Temple. But God helped me, and he is still helping me today. With God's help I am standing here today and telling all people what I have seen. But I am saying nothing new. I am saying only what Moses and the prophets said would happen. They said that the Messiah would die and be the first to rise from death. They said that he would bring the light of God's saving truth to the Jewish people and to the non-Jewish people." While Paul was still defending himself, Festus shouted, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Too much study has made you crazy." Paul said, "Most Honorable Festus, I am not crazy. What I am saying is true. It all makes perfect sense. King Agrippa knows about all this, and I can speak freely to him. I know that he has heard about these things, because they happened where everyone could see them. King Agrippa, do you believe what the prophets wrote? I know you believe!" King Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian" Paul said, "I pray to God that not only you but that everyone listening to me today were both almost and completely saved just like me--except for these chains I have!" King Agrippa, Governor Festus, Bernice, and all the people sitting with them stood up and left the room. They were talking to each other. They said, "This man has done nothing worthy of being put to death or even put in jail." And Agrippa said to Festus, "We could let him go free, but he has asked to see Caesar."

# PAUL GOES BEFORE AGRIPPA

(ACTS 25:13-26:32)



"Paul is brought before King Agrippa."  
Acts 25:13-26:32

# 267. PAUL GOES BEFORE AGRIPPA

## ACTS 25:13-26:32

### MEMORY VERSE:

*"Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian'.*     **ACTS 26:28**

### **Review Questions**

#### True or False

1. After a few days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to see Festus.
2. When Agrippa and Bernice came into the room showing off, Festus had them bring Paul in.
3. Agrippa told Paul he was not allowed to speak at all to defend himself.
4. When Paul talked, he told them all about how he always loved Christians and tried to help all the followers of Jesus.
5. After Paul told his story, and how he believed in Jesus and how He had risen from the dead, Festus shouted, 'Paul, you are out of your mind. Too much study has made you crazy!'

### Questions

1. When Festus the new governor let the Jews bring Paul to him for a trial, did Festus think that Paul had done anything wrong that made him deserve to die for it?
2. When Paul was allowed to talk in front of Bernice and King Agrippa and Festus, what are some of the things he told them? (How he had the same hope as the Jews, how he was used to persecute the Christians, how he thought it was good to kill Christians, how he went to Damascus and saw Jesus, how he was being sent by God to save other people, how he believed the Messiah would rise from death first, etc.)
3. When Paul was explaining everything what did Festus shout?
4. When Paul told King Agrippa that he knew he believed all the things that the prophets wrote, what did King Agrippa say that Paul *almost* persuaded him to become?
5. When Agrippa, Bernice and Festus left and talked to each other, did they think Paul had done anything wrong?
6. King Agrippa said that they could have let Paul go free, but now they couldn't. Why not?

## Lesson 267 Discussion & Activity

### Keep Your Shoes On

In our culture we are rarely ready to go anywhere without our shoes on, so in this game it is a symbol of being ready, or keeping our spiritual shoes on (“having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”; Ephesians 6:15). Being ready to share would include knowing what to share. Ask your students what they would tell someone who does not know Jesus about the gospel. Provide some tracts for them to share with friends.

Optional if you have at least

Have a shoe relay by letting the kids take off their shoes and mixing them in a pile at one end of the room. Divide into two teams. Let one child from each team go to the pile and find one of his shoes and put it on (they do not have to tie laces). Then go to the end of the line **WITHOUT RUNNING**. When all the team members have both shoes on that team is finished & has won!

Explain that just like putting our shoes on is getting ready to go out, by reading & studying God’s Word and praying, that is our spiritual way to get ready to go out – we put our ‘Gospel’ shoes on so that we can witness to the world!

Paul saw this opportunity to address the highest officer of the Roman Empire in this region. On this day the gospel would reach the ears of perhaps the hardest to reach in that day. **We should take every opportunity to tell others about Jesus.** God had brought about circumstances in Paul’s life that would allow him to share the gospel with the highest-ranking men in all of Israel, and Paul did it! Even when Festus told Paul that he was crazy, Paul responded to Festus’ surprise very calmly. He explained that King Agrippa would be completely familiar with all that he described. He goes on to make the boldest statement of all; if the king believes the law and the prophets, he, too, would follow Jesus. **We should take every opportunity to tell others about Jesus.** Then Agrippa says that Paul almost convinces him to become a Christian. How sad that he was not fully convinced! We do not know if Agrippa ever believed in Jesus later in his life. But we do know that he did not believe at this time. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts us of sin and shows us what is truth. The Holy Spirit was definitely working on King Agrippa this day. Hopefully he did remember Paul’s words one day and ask Jesus into his life.

## SECONDARY OPTIONAL CRAFT/ACTIVITY – REQUIRES SUPPLIES

### Clean Out the Refrigerator

You will need to put something in a nice looking jar that is rather pungent. Explain that when we are hungry, and we go to the refrigerator to make a sandwich, we want the ingredients to be fresh and good. If you go to the refrigerator and find spoiled food, it's not only worthless, but it is disgusting.

When someone is hungry for God to meet their needs and they come to us, they are looking for the freshness of the gospel to come out of our lives. It is important that we allow the Lord to clean out anything that is spoiled that might turn the other person away from the Lord.

Have the class make refrigerators with construction paper, markers. You can have them write the memory verse on the door to help remind them that **we should take every opportunity to tell others about Jesus.**

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to share the gospel whenever given the opportunity and to live lives that are a pleasing aroma to the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.