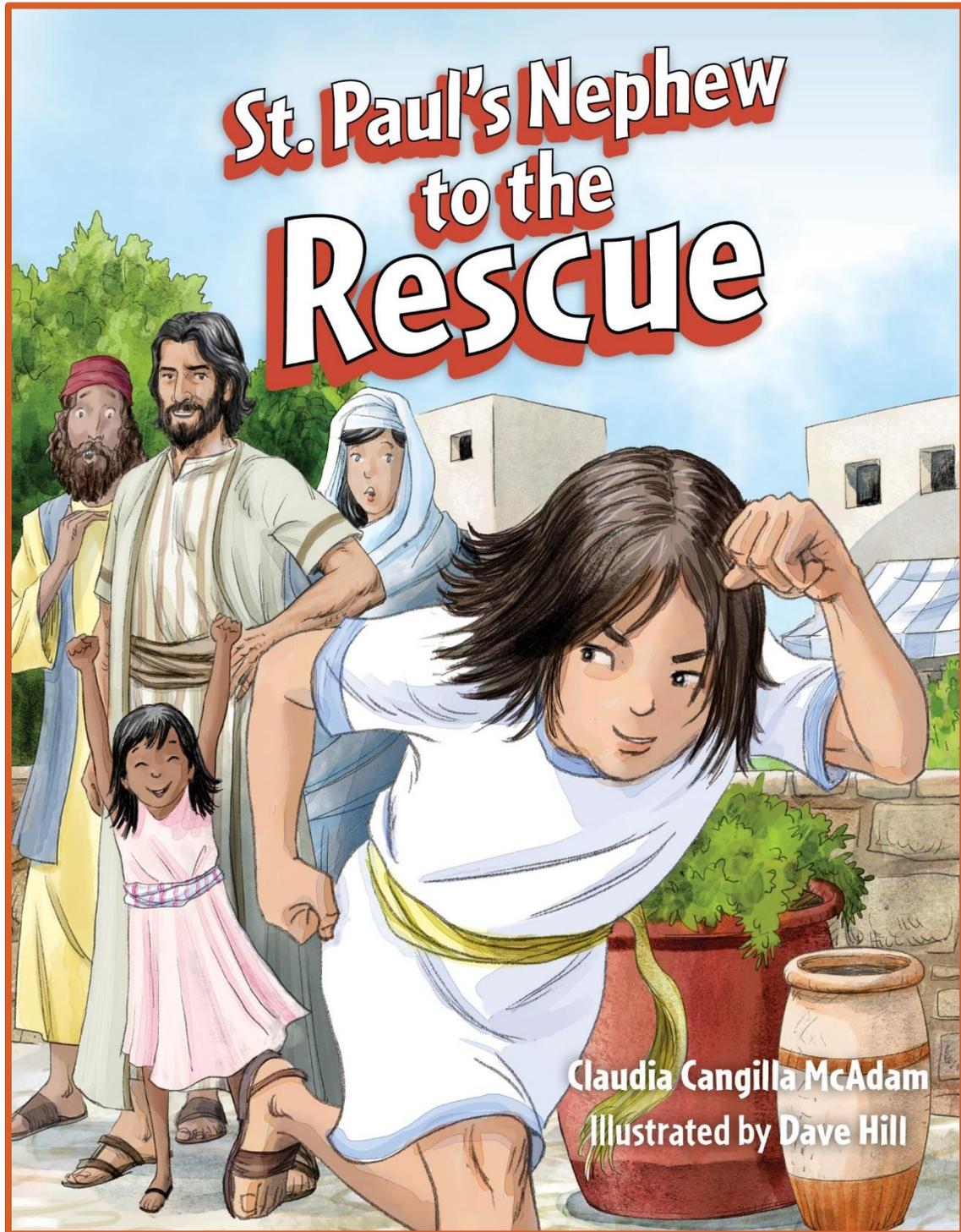


A Discussion and Activities Guide



ISBN 978-1-68192-984-2

Published by: Our Sunday Visitor

St. Paul's Nephew to the Rescue: A Discussion and Activities Guide

Discussing *St. Paul's Nephew to the Rescue*

In *St. Paul's Nephew to the Rescue*, Jonathan, the main character shows his love for his imprisoned Uncle Paul by bringing him food and a blanket, even though others try to prevent his efforts. When the boy overhears a plot to kill his uncle, he courageously speaks to the Romans guarding Paul. They quickly get Paul to safety, thanks to the bravery of his young nephew. Can you use a discussion of this book to think more deeply about how we must draw upon the virtues (see p. 13) to do what is right, even when it is dangerous?

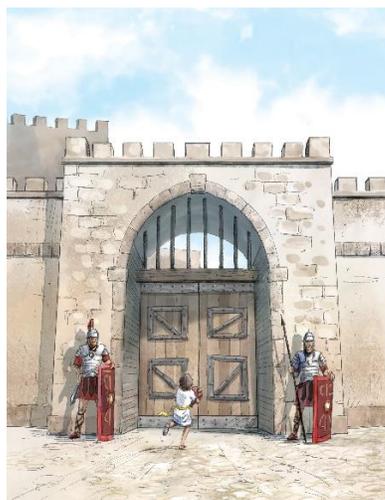
Reading

Read *St. Paul's Nephew to the Rescue* aloud, or have children read it prior to this discussion. This book is a tale based on a true story from the life of St. Paul as told in Acts of the Apostles 23:12-24. It might be helpful to read this passage from the Bible (see p. 11 for this excerpt) and compare it to the story.

General Discussion

Some possible questions for discussion:

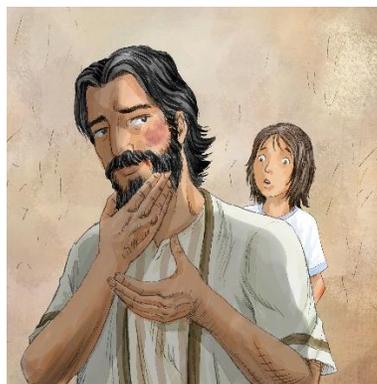
- Where does this story take place?
- When does it take place?
- Who are the main characters?



- When the story opens, what is Jonathan doing?
- What obstacles does he face?
- What is Jonathan feeling during this part of the story?

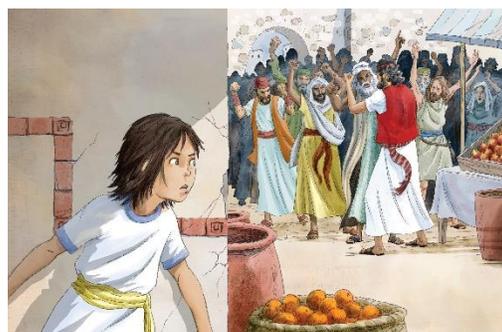
St. Paul's Nephew to the Rescue: A Discussion and Activities Guide

- What does Jonathan tell his Uncle Paul about why the other kids don't like him.
- What injuries does Paul say he has suffered because of his belief in Jesus?



- Paul tells Jonathan to “put on the armor of God so you can stand up against evil.” What does he mean by this?
- What other advice does Paul give his nephew about how God acts?

- Why does Jonathan go to the market? What does that tell you about how much he loves his uncle?
- What does Jonathan overhear in the marketplace?



- How do you think Jonathan feels about speaking with the Roman who is guarding his uncle?
- What is the result of Jonathan going to the fortress to tell about the plot to kill Paul?

Maze Craze

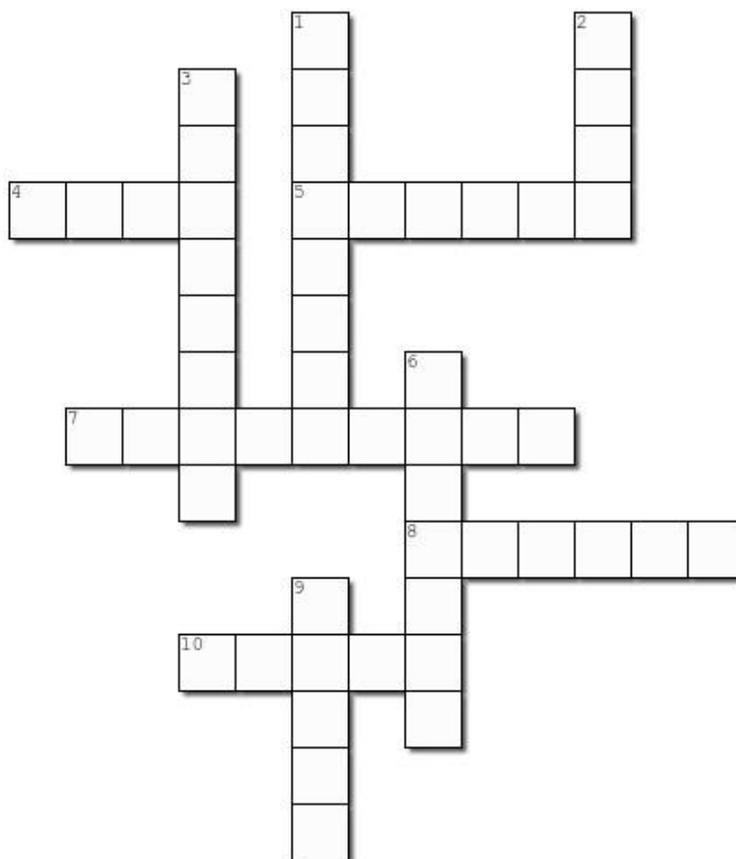
Can you help Jonathan find his way to his Uncle Paul?

TheTeachersCorner.net

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See solution on p. 9

Crossword Puzzle



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

4. Bad men plan to ____ Paul
5. Paul tells Jonathan, 'In everything, give _____.'
7. City where Jonathan lives
8. Jonathan is St. Paul's _____
10. Animal Paul rides on

Down

1. Paul is held in a Roman _____
2. They try to hurt Jonathan
3. Paul is guarded by _____
6. Jonathan brings this to Paul
9. 'Put on the _____ of God.'

See the solution on page 9

Word Search

Find the listed words in the puzzle below

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

S R K G S S O N B W F Q B H D F K Y K D
 Z O C R V W A T Z C C Y C Z R F V C W W
 R M K D Q Q E X Z D F G H W N F B I I A
 D A P D G H N O K N W E B Q A P T P Y B
 D N Y X A E V C U G Q H W B X A Z W I W
 S U X L K D H R V Z W W B L A N K E T O
 R Y N V A X F F J N W J M A F E F G F V
 D U T C N R J O N A T H A N D Q V R S L
 G I P H L W I R N P S K Y B U N D L E E
 T D N Z T E F T K G K C J W N E O C W R
 Y S I W S P O Y B J N Z S H O P R H K P
 A C C I Y G R I S K E T S Q G H V D J R
 B A U N P Y T D L B Y R A O W E K O H G
 R R V E B H R H Y N E W U I V W B D X O
 B E J S F U E G F I V P Q S L G J L N P
 G D D S D T S A D R O L R H A R V D W D
 Y S Y N P P S L T C W O B O F L E K X W
 P T K J C Z O F O O D T W N Y L E F E L
 N C P S G S Q O O J J X L S G C N M E H
 K F A K Z T D Z O H Z Y A P A U L G P M

JONATHAN
 ROMAN
 BLANKET
 BRUISE
 UNCLE

PAUL
 SOLDIERS
 FOOD
 FORTRESS
 NEPHEW

JERUSALEM
 PLOT
 BUNDLE
 SCARED
 FORTY

Created using the Word Search Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

See the solution on page 10

Vocabulary

Word Definition

armor	any covering worn as a defense
clutched	seized or grasped
commander	a person who exercises authority; chief officer
council	a body of persons specially selected to act on matters
elders	those of greater age or higher rank
fortress	a stronghold or place that is guarded
ointment	a soft medication for the skin
quivered	to shake with a slight but rapid motion
spearman	a person who is armed with or uses a spear
sprawling	spreading out in an unnatural or ungraceful manner
towered	to rise or extend far upward

Complete the Sentence

Choose from the words in the list below to complete the sentences

trip	market	close	eat	blanket	slap	fortress
forty	kill	food	armor	drink	shield	bruise

- Jonathan brings his Uncle Paul a _____ and some _____.
- Two boys _____ Jonathan as he runs to his uncle.
- Uncle Paul is being held in a Roman _____.
- Paul and Jonathan are very _____.
- Paul says the chief priest ordered someone to _____ him.
- Jonathan goes to the _____ to get ointment for his uncle's _____.
- Jonathan hears _____ bad men making a plan to _____ Uncle Paul.
- The men say they will not _____ or _____ until they kill Paul.
- Paul tells Jonathan to put on the _____ of God.
- Jonathan uses the darkness of night as his _____ as he runs away.

See the answers on page 10

Coloring Page

Jonathan Visits his Uncle Paul

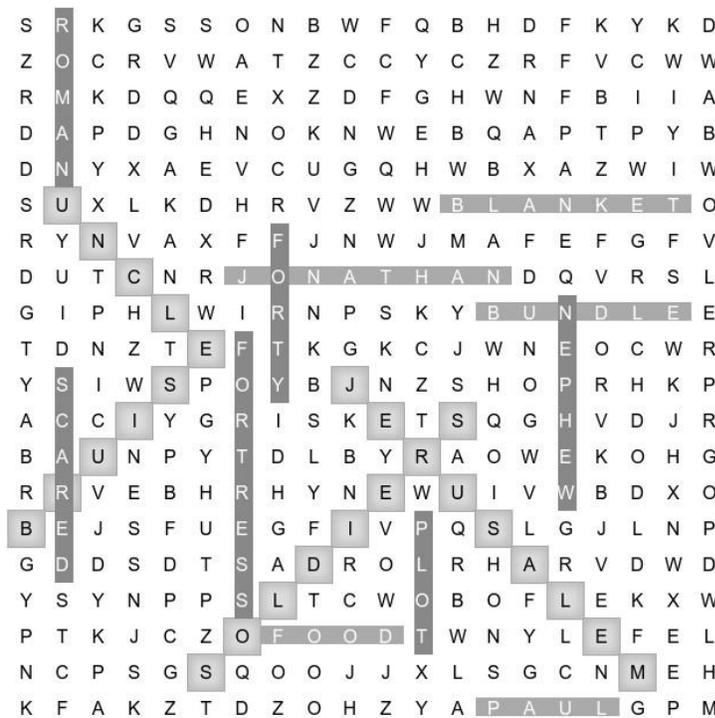


CREDIT: **S&S link:** Character Building: Values and Virtues: Courage-1b

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Solution to Word Search

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker



JONATHAN
ROMAN
BLANKET
BRUISE
UNCLE

PAUL
SOLDIERS
FOOD
FORTRESS
NEPHEW

JERUSALEM
PLOT
BUNDLE
SCARED
FORTY

Answers to Complete the Sentence

- Jonathan brings his Uncle Paul a **blanket** and some **food**.
- Two boys **trip** Jonathan as he runs to his uncle.
- Uncle Paul is being held in a Roman **fortress**.
- Paul and Jonathan are very **close**.
- Paul says the chief priest ordered someone to **slap** him.
- Jonathan goes to the **market** to get ointment for his uncle's **bruise**.
- Jonathan hears **forty** bad men making a plan to **kill** Uncle Paul.
- The men say they will not **eat** or **drink** until they kill Paul.
- Paul tells Jonathan to put on the **armor** of God.
- Jonathan uses the darkness of night as his **shield** as he runs away.

Acts 23:12-24

The Plot to Kill Paul

¹² When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. ¹⁴ And they went to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ You therefore, along with the council, give notice now to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

¹⁶ Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush; so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ And Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Bring this young man to the tribune; for he has something to tell him." ¹⁸ So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you." ¹⁹ The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" ²⁰ And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him. ²¹ But do not yield to them; for more than forty of their men lie in ambush for him, having bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you." ²² So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of this."

Paul Sent to Felix the Governor

²³ Then he called two of the centurions and said, "At the third hour of the night get ready two hundred soldiers with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesare'a. ²⁴ Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

Learning from St. Paul

St. Paul wrote several letters which are preserved in the New Testament. Many of the things he taught are included in *St. Paul's Nephew to the Rescue*. Those references can be found here:

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned.

Philippians 1:20 Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

Ephesians 6:11; 13 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Romans 8:28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome."

Activity:

Choose one of these verses above and discuss how you might use what St. Paul teaches in a way that helps you live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

Discussing the Virtues

Ancient philosophers discussed the cardinal virtues of **prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance**. They are the foundations of natural morality.

Prudence is “right reason applied to practice.” It is the virtue that allows us to judge what is right or wrong in every situation.

Justice is the giving to others of what is their due, of what is fair.

Fortitude is courage. It is what allows us to overcome our fear and to remain steady in the face of obstacles. Prudence and justice are the virtues through which we decide what must be done; fortitude is the strength to do it.

Temperance is the restraint of our desires or passions. Temperance is the virtue that keeps us from excess. It is the control of the desire for pleasure.

The theological virtues are **faith, hope, and charity**. They are gifts of God through grace.

Faith is a form of knowledge that extends beyond the natural limits of our intellect, to help us grasp the truths of divine revelation.

Hope is a desire for all that is good—that is, for all that can bring us to God—and thus, while God is the final material object of hope, other good things that can help us grow in sanctification can be intermediate material objects of hope.

Charity is the virtue by which a person loves God above all things for his (that is, for God's) own sake, and loves others for God's sake.

By referring to the definitions above, students can be prompted to discuss or write answers to questions such as:

In what way(s) did Jonathan use prudence (“right reason”) to drive the actions he took?

Have you ever had to judge between something being right or wrong and then taking action? Give an example.

Discuss a way in which you or someone you know acted courageously.

Jonathan showed that he loved his uncle. When have you used charity or love to improve a bad situation?

How did Jonathan show justice when he saw two kids being bullied?

Saint Paul endured a lot because of his faith and hope in Jesus. In what ways are you inspired to stand up for what you know to be true?