

Help One Another

What's It All About?

There was no use being upset. Rules were rules, as Jordan had learned both at home and in his Bible class. No homework meant no recess. Jordan explained that he really had done his homework, but he had picked up his brother's folder by accident.

"I believe you, Jordan," his teacher, Ms. Lewis, said.
"But it wouldn't be fair to the others if I excused you."

Jordan understood, but he was extremely embarrassed because he was running for class president.
What kind of president sat in detention? Jordan

slumped in his chair before opening a book. He hadn't even noticed that another student, David, was still in the room until he heard David talking with Ms. Lewis at her desk.

"I'm sorry I can't help you today, David. I have to get these reports to the principal by this afternoon. Do what you can, and we'll work together tomorrow."

Jordan watched David return to his seat, looking discouraged. He knew David was struggling with math. Before Jordan knew it, he heard himself saying, "Would you like me to help him, Ms. Lewis?"

How would you describe Jordan's character? How open would you be to helping if you were in a similar situation? Do you think Jordan created an opportunity to share his faith? Explain.



Learning From God

Today's lesson continues the story from last week. Paul and the other prisoners who were on a boat to Rome were shipwrecked when a terrible storm hit. But just as God had promised, the lives of everyone on the ship were spared, and they were able to swim to the nearby island of Malta.

Acts 28:1–6, NIV—Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. 2 The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. 3 Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the islanders saw the snake hanging from

his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live." 5 But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. 6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

What surprised Paul about the people he met when he reached the shore? How does the writer of this passage describe them? What surprised the people on the island about Paul? What happened to make them change their minds about him?

Acts 28:7-10, NIV-There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. 8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. 9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. 10 They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed. The chief official of the island was a high-ranking leader. How did he treat Paul? Why do you think he treated Paul this way? How did Paul respond? What did Paul do for the chief official and the others on the island? What do you think those on the island thought about Paul after this? What can be learned from Paul's actions?

Scene 8: _			

Keep In Mind

"His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him" (Acts 28:8, NIV).

Has someone helped or ministered to you recently

and you want to show your appreciation or say thank

Choosing What's Best

you? Write them a thank you note.

What I Have Learned

Scene 1:

Scene 7:

Pretend you are writing an action play. Write action scenes from this story in the order in which they happened.

Scene 2:			
Scene 3:			
Scene 4:			
Scene 5:			
Scene 6:			

Doing My Part

This week, look for opportunities to minister to or help those whom God has placed in your path. Whether your life is going well or not so well, God is pleased when you help others in need. What's more, when you put your faith into action, God will care for your needs.



Give Me Five Minutes

What's It All About?

Delia was sitting on her porch with some friends. They were discussing the events that had happened at their school.

"I still can't believe it," one of the friends said.

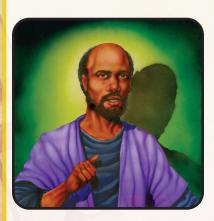
"Me either," another added. "On the news this morning, they said those four kids are still in the hospital. I'm praying for them."

"I'm telling you," Delia said, "we have to pray to God all the time for our schools, our community, each other, our..."

Before she could finish, one of the boys on the porch stood to leave. "I don't want to hear that God stuff; it doesn't help."

Delia stopped him. "Give me just five minutes to try to change your mind."

How do you think the story will turn out? Do you think Delia's friend will be more open to hearing about Jesus after talking to Delia? What should you do when you try to share the Gospel with someone reluctant to hear it? Can you use Scripture to help you? Why or why not?



Learning From God

Paul was under house arrest in Rome. This meant he had limited freedom. Do you think that stopped him from witnessing about Jesus? Absolutely not! Paul proclaimed the Gospel from morning to night.

Acts 28:23–31, NIV—They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. 25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after

Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: 26 "'Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." 27 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' 28 "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" 29 After he said this, the Jews left, arguing vigorously among themselves. 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Even though some people rejected what they had heard, Paul continued to boldly proclaim the Gospel.

You should be bold and witness for Jesus, too. When others seem reluctant to hear what you have to say, share Scripture verses with them. God's Word is powerful!

Choosing What's Best

Summarize the main points of Paul's message.

What I Have Learned

Find the following words in the word search:

BOLDNESS
CONFIDENCE
EVENING
FREEDOM
GOD
HEART

LISTEN
PAUL
PROCLAIM
SALVATION
UNDERSTAND

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

Doing My Part

This week you are challenged to create a script that you can use when trying to witness to reluctant listeners.

Keep In Mind

"Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen"

(Acts 28:28, NIV).