

THE FOOTPRINTS
of GOD

PAUL

Contending for the Faith

LESSON PLAN

IGNATIUS PRESS

PAUL: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

This lesson plan will take you and your class or study group through the video *Paul: Contending for the Faith*. Make sure each participant has a copy of the Study Guide, available in each video sleeve or DVD case. (You can make photocopies or download a PDF version if needed). Additionally, each should have a Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. If you are teaching children, you may wish to excerpt the Catechism.

After each chapter, go through the study questions provided in the guide. You can also follow the additional activities, readings, and activities in this lesson plan.

To purchase *Footprints of God* videos and DVDs, call 1-800-651-1531 or go online to www.ignatius.com. Online resources include downloadable study guides, previews and more.

<http://www.ignatius.com/Videos/FootprintsOfGod>

CHAPTER ONE: HEBREW OF HEBREWS

LEADER:

Before this chapter, read:

- Acts 7:51-8:1, 21:37-22:5
- The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* article numbers 2473-2474

THE LESSON:

Introduce the video by having a participant read aloud Acts 7:58-8:1. Then start the video. Stop when the title for Chapter Two appears (approximately 24 minutes into the program.)

KEY IDEAS:

Saul was a highly educated Jew of the Diaspora, and a Roman citizen. How did this prepare him for spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles?

Stephen was martyred in front of Saul, who was complicit in this murder. Read CCC articles 2473-2474 to see what the Church teaches about martyrdom.

ADULTS:

As the leader, pick five of the 9 questions in the study guide. Discuss these, having different participants read the questions and the references from the Bible and the CCC aloud.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route of Saul from his home in Tarsus to the holy city of Jerusalem.

Instruct the participants to read the rest of the questions and references at home.

Close with a recitation of the *Our Father*.

CHILDREN:

As the leader, pick two of the 9 questions in the study guide. Have a child read the references after you read the questions aloud. Answer any questions.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route of Saul from his home in Tarsus to the holy city of Jerusalem.

St. Stephen was the first martyr of the church. What is a martyr? Explain to the children. Maybe some of their name-saints are martyrs too!

Close with a recitation of the *Our Father*.

CHAPTER TWO: CHOSEN BY GOD

LEADER:

Before this chapter, read:

- Acts 9:1-31, 22:6-21
- The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* article numbers 74-76

THE LESSON:

Introduce the video by having a participant read aloud Acts 9:3-5. Then start the video. Stop when the title for Chapter Three appears (approximately 44 minutes into the program.)

KEY IDEAS:

Saul was chosen by God to be an apostle.

Paul is the name that Saul uses as he preaches to the Gentiles. Why is this important?

ADULTS:

As the leader, pick four of the 11 questions in the study guide. Discuss these, having different participants read the questions and the references from the Bible and the CCC aloud.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route of Paul from Damascus to Antioch.

Instruct the participants to read the rest of the questions and references at home.

Close with a recitation of the *Act of Faith*:

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I believe that Thy divine Son became man, died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teacheth, because Thou hast revealed them, Who canst neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

CHILDREN:

As the leader, pick two of the 11 questions in the study guide. Have a child read the references after you read the questions aloud. Answer any questions.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route of Paul from Damascus to Antioch.

Paul was a Roman Citizen. What do you know about the Roman Empire? Bring some pictures of Roman cities as they looked in the time of Paul (you can find these online or in most textbooks on ancient history.)

Close with a recitation of the *Act of Faith* (see above).

CHAPTER THREE: RUNNING THE RACE

LEADER:

Before this chapter, read:

- Acts 15-16, 18:1-18
- The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* article numbers 836-838, 849-852,

THE LESSON:

Introduce the video by having a participant read aloud 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Then start the video. Stop when the title for Chapter Four appears (approximately 69 minutes into the program.)

KEY IDEAS:

Part of the Church's mission on earth is to Evangelize as Paul did.

Paul uses examples and comparisons in his writing and preaching that appeal to the cultures that he is speaking to.

Circumcision is part of the Old Covenant. Paul denounced the teaching that Christians must follow Mosiac law.

ADULTS:

As the leader, pick five of the 14 questions in the study guide. Discuss these, having different participants read the questions and the references from the Bible and the CCC aloud.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route Paul's voyages, ending in Caesarea where he was imprisoned.

Instruct the participants to read the rest of the questions and references at home.

Close with a recitation of the Nicene Creed.

CHILDREN:

As the leader, pick three of the 14 questions in the study guide. Have a child read the references after you read the questions aloud. Answer any questions.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route Paul's voyages, ending in Caesarea where he was imprisoned.

Who are some modern day missionaries? To show the children how universal the Church is, pick a few countries and show some prominent Church leaders from each.

Close with a recitation of the Nicene Creed.

CHAPTER FOUR: CONTENDING UNTO DEATH

LEADER:

Before this chapter, read:

- 2 Timothy 3-4
- The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* article numbers 162-165

THE LESSON:

Introduce the video by having a participant read aloud 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Then start the video.

KEY IDEAS:

“The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians.” CCC 852

Paul was instrumental in spreading the Gospel to those outside the Jewish world.

ADULTS:

As the leader, pick five of the 12 questions in the study guide. Discuss these, having different participants read the questions and the references from the Bible and the CCC aloud.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route of Paul from Caesarea to Rome, where he was executed.

Instruct the participants to read the rest of the questions and references at home.

Close with a recitation of the *Glory Be*.

CHILDREN:

As the leader, pick three of the 12 questions in the study guide. Have a child read the references after you read the questions aloud. Answer any questions.

Using a map (usually contained in most Bibles) trace the route of Paul from Caesarea to Rome, where he was executed.

Draw a picture of St. Paul. He is sometimes shown holding a sword--like the sword he was beheaded with.

Close with a recitation of the *Glory Be*.