



Lesson 9 / January 31, 2021

Prepare to Share

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as

STEP 1

**Lesson 9****Focus:**

Be prepared to tell anyone about Jesus.

Lesson 9**Bible Basis:**

Acts 24—25:12

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

—1 Peter 3:15

Students will prepare to share with others the hope they have found in Jesus Christ.

Materials: Internet access

➤ **What does it look like to be prepared?** (Answers may include: Having materials ready for school; equipment and uniform ready for my game; studied for a test; not waiting until the last minute to do something, etc.)

➤ **Are you someone who is prepared for everything? Why or why not?** (Answers will vary. Be ready to share your own experience.)

The COVID-19 pandemic wasn't something for which most people weren't prepared. Schools had to quickly learn how to set up virtual education for students. Many offices had to send employees home to work remotely. Lots of people did not have enough food and supplies at home. Many people in elderly or vulnerable populations had a difficult time getting out and buying everything they needed. Because the pandemic happened so suddenly, most people were unprepared for what to do next.

➤ **How does it feel to be unprepared?** (Answers will vary.)

➤ **How can being unprepared for something, like not having enough food or supplies, affect your life?** (Answers will vary.)

➤ **Why is being prepared important?** (Answers may include: It sets us up to succeed; we feel confident when we know we have everything we need, etc.)

While there are situations like the COVID-19 pandemic that we can't know about or prepare, there are many situations for which we can prepare. In those situations, being prepared is essential for success. It creates confidence and readiness in us, no matter what we're going to tackle.

Today we're going to read about an extremely successful follower of Christ. His name is

Paul. Why was he successful? Because he was prepared to share about the hope he had found in Jesus Christ with anyone he encountered. Paul's close relationship with Jesus, his obedience, and his excitement in finding Christ caused him to want to share what he had found with others. He had to let them know about the hope he had found! Paul successfully spread the message of Christ throughout large parts of the world, because he was prepared to follow his heart and God's leading. Let's read on and find out more about Paul's story.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 9 / January 31, 2021

Prepare to Share

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 9**Focus:**

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Acts 24—25:12

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

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Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)
- Whiteboard or screen-shared document

As students finish their Step 3 exercise, continue discussing the lesson. If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring a pen/pencil and index card with them to class.

Earlier we learned Paul was always prepared to share the hope of Jesus Christ with anyone who would listen. Paul encountered many tough circumstances: beatings, false imprisonment, and escaping those trying to kill him. But that never stopped him from following Christ or sharing with those around him the hope that Jesus offers through salvation. Just like Paul, we need to be ready in any situation to tell others about Jesus. Sometimes we hesitate sharing the Gospel because we don't feel prepared; we are afraid we won't know what to say when the time comes.

➤ **When given an opportunity, what would you share about your faith with someone?** (Answers: I would share my testimony of how I was saved; I would share the plan of salvation; I would share how Jesus is working in my life and changing me, etc.)

➤ **What would help you feel more prepared to share with others about your faith in Jesus?** (Answers will vary, but may include: I would feel better if I could practice sharing the plan of salvation first with a Christian friend or parent; I would feel ready if I had a Bible with me to share verses; I would feel ready if I had thought through my own testimony first before sharing it, etc.)

We want to have the courage and obedience to share about the hope we have in Jesus when the opportunity arises. We're going to prepare a list of verses that will help us share our faith in any situation! Hand out index cards and pens/pencils to your students. If your class is meeting online, invite them to have those items ready.

Write the following references on the whiteboard or a screen-shared document so that your students can write them down on one side of their index cards. Instruct your students to look up

and read the verses at home during the week so that they can memorize them. These verses can help walk someone through the plan of salvation:

John 3:16

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9

1 John 1:9

On the other side of their index cards, students should create a list of those they want to talk to about salvation. They should add others as they think of them. Challenge them to begin praying over this list daily.

Paul took every opportunity to share the hope Christ had given Him. Do you have that same hope? If you do, sharing about it can be exciting and will start to happen naturally the more you do it. Thinking about what we want to say to others is very helpful and having verses ready to share is important too. But, what can be most effective is sharing with someone from your heart. Telling them about what Jesus has done in your life and how He has changed you. That's why Paul was so passionate. He shared from his heart all that God was doing in his life.

If you have not had the opportunity to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and put Him on in baptism, I would love to share the hope He has given me with you after class. If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, start praying about what God wants you to share with others. You'll want to speak to your friends from your heart.

Be praying God will give you specific opportunities this week to share your faith with a friend, teammate, or family member. Ask Him to recall the verses you read and study so you can share that truth with others. Most importantly, ask for Him to speak through you!

Pray to close.

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