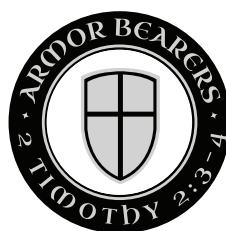


# **CALVARY CHAPEL OAKDALE**



**2025-2026**

## **FAMOUS BIBLE CHARACTERS** **OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**JANUARY, 2026**

# **This Month's THEME:**

## **PAUL: THE APOSTLE PAUL (PART 2).**

### **WEEKLY THEMES THIS MONTH:**

**Week 1:** Paul ministered to the Bereans.

**Week 2:** Paul was faithful to preach the gospel.

**Week 3:** Paul knew the people needed God's word.

**Week 4:** Paul respected authority figures.

**Week 5:** Paul gave his personal testimony.

**(5<sup>th</sup> Weekly devotion for months with 5 Wednesdays)**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Acts 23:5** – Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"



**Full verse for:  
Armor Bearers & Knights**

**Acts 23:5b** – It is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'



**Short verse for:  
Page & Squires**

## **Lesson #1 - Paul ministered to the Bereans who were serious about the word.**

**Text:** Acts 17:11 - "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

**Read:** Acts 17:10-15.

### **Devotional:**

Amy had just started a new year at her school. And her teacher asked the class, "What is 'truth'?" Well, the students offered some different explanations of truth, and they discussed it for a while and thought they'd come to some good explanations of 'truth'.

But then the teacher asked, "So, then, how do we know what 'truth' is when we hear or read things?" And the teacher then began to tell the class there must be a source of 'truth' from a 'truth giver' somewhere in the world.

And that is when Amy decided to speak up. She said that God is the one and only source of truth. After all, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Amy also said everything God says is 'truth' and we get that from the Bible, which is the word of God. Psalm 119:160 says, "The entirety of Your word is truth."

Amy went onto say that the believers in Berea, in Acts 17, took everything that was told to them and compared it to the Bible to determine it was true. After all, if the Bible is truth, then we can compare what we hear to the Bible to determine if it is true.

### **Thoughts from the Lesson:**

Amy's teacher was very impressed with her comments and affirmed we should all work hard to know the truths of the Bible as the source of truth in the world. And that will help us remain in the truth and live in the truth.

### **Questions for Application:**

- Do we believe God is the one who has made and determined what 'truth' is?
- Did we know the Bible is God's word and a true source of 'truth' in this world?
- Do we compare what we hear in life to the Bible?

## Lesson #2 - Paul was faithful to preach the gospel.

**Text:** Acts 18:5-6 - "When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean.""

**Read:** Acts 18:1-8.

### **Devotional:**

Andy thought it would be a good idea to become a crossing guard at his school. But before he started serving, he had to go to a class to be trained on the duties of a crossing guard.

The crossing guards' main job was to stop traffic to help younger children get across the street safely at the crosswalk. And that seemed simple enough for Andy to grasp. But the teacher in the training class told Andy he needed to learn to look all around for things that could be dangerous to the kids when they crossed. The teacher said, "For example, if you see a car traveling too fast to stop, don't step into the crosswalk and don't let any children step into it until you are sure the car will stop. If you don't stop them and the car doesn't stop, the children could get badly hurt."

Well, that was very concerning to Andy. He was concerned he might see something dangerous like a car going too fast and be too scared to warn the kids to stay out of the crosswalk until it was safe. He was also afraid he would feel guilty if he didn't stop a child from entering and they got injured.

Well, Andy's teacher assured him he would have a few weeks of training with other experienced crossing guards so that he could learn if he would be able to protect the children properly.

### **Thoughts from the Lesson:**

We are called to warn people they need Jesus to stay out of danger. And if we do, we can know we've done our part to protect people.

### **Questions for Application:**

- Do we feel an obligation to warn others of dangers ahead?
- Do we warn people they need to believe in Jesus to be safe?
- Can we remember who told us we need to believe in Jesus?

## Lesson #3 - Paul knew the people needed all of God's word.

Text: Acts 20:26-27 - "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God."

Read: Acts 20:17-30.

### Devotional:

Henry was in his civics class one day, and the teacher asked if we have a responsibility as fellow citizens to help each other. Then the teacher asked the class, "If you were talking to a friend and you realized someone was trying to cheat them out of their money and you knew it was likely a scam; would you warn them?" Well, some of the students said, "That is not my responsibility. What they do is up to them." Others said, "That's none of my business."

But Henry said, "I think we do have a responsibility to help people when we truly believe something bad is about to happen to them." Henry went onto say, "I just couldn't sleep at night if I didn't warn people they were in danger."

Well, anyone who has put their faith in Jesus for salvation, should know that all people who have not trusted in Jesus are in real danger. And this danger is greater than being cheated. Being cheated can cost us some money and be very painful. But the danger for people who don't trust in Jesus will last for eternity.

So, it is good for us to ask ourselves, "If we know that truth about heaven with God for eternity comes only through faith in Jesus, shouldn't we warn people about the price they will pay for eternity?"

### Thoughts from the Lesson:

Jesus died so we can be saved. And Mark 16:15 tells us this about Jesus, "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'" So, since Jesus told us to do this, we have a responsibility to the Lord to share the truth with them.

### Questions for Application:

- Can we remember the person who shared Jesus with us?
- Do we truly believe the words of Jesus and that we need to believe in Him to be saved?
- Do we look for opportunities to tell people about Jesus?

## Lesson #4 - Paul respected authority figures.

**Text:** Acts 23:4-5 - "And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'""

**Read:** Acts 23:1-5.

### **Devotional:**

Sawyer's family had moved to a new state because his dad was in the military. So, he had to attend a new high school. Well, the first day he met the principal of the school and was very respectful to him because of the great responsibility he carried for so many students.

Well, as he was walking away from the principal, Sawyer saw another boy being stopped by the principal. And to Sawyer's surprise the other boy was extremely rude and disrespectful.

So, Sawyer went home and told his dad what he saw with the interaction between the boy and the principal. And his father asked Sawyer what he thought of the way the boy had spoken to him.

Well, Sawyer told his dad he was amazed and saddened by how the boy talked. He also told his dad he thought the Lord told us to show respect to all authority figures in our lives. After all, the Lord is the one who has put people in authority in our lives to help us. Sawyer's dad was glad to hear him talk like that regarding leaders in our lives. And he realized he had done something right in teaching his son to have and to show that respect to people in authority.

### **Thoughts from the Lesson:**

There was a day Paul spoke very directly and forcefully to a man that was the high priest. But Paul didn't know who the man was when he spoke to him. So, when Paul realized, he apologized immediately for speaking in a way some saw as disrespectful. How we treat people in positions of authority can influence how we look at God.

### **Questions for Application:**

- Do we have a respect for people in authorities on our lives?
- Have we been disrespectful for authority figures in our lives recently and, if so, are we willing to apologize to them?
- Are we willing to give respect to people for the Lord's sake?

## Lesson #5 - Paul gave his personal testimony.

Text: Acts 26:14-15 - "And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'"

Read: Acts 26:1-21.

### Devotional:

Annie was at church when the children's leader said, "God has called on all of us to share the good news of Jesus with the world."

Well, Annie wanted to be faithful to that call but was concerned because she did not feel confident telling people about the Lord. So, she asked, the children's leader, "What should we do if we aren't confident with our ability to share the Lord with people?"

Well, the leader then told her, "Annie, that is a great question. And we all understand that since we all feel inadequate at times. But when I feel that way, I simply remind myself I can share my personal testimony. And when I say, "personal testimony", I simply mean we can share what we were like before we believed in the Lord and after. For example, before I knew Jesus, I was afraid and scared of not getting into heaven when I died. And I was asking people, "How can I get to heaven when I die?" But there was a day when a friend told me all I needed to do was to repent of my sins to God and to believe in Jesus for dying on the cross for me and I was assured of getting into heaven." So, I am a different person now and always will be because God has changed me and has given me hope that can't be taken away from me.

### Thoughts from the Lesson:

If we have come to the Lord Jesus in faith, we can share how we looked at life and death before coming to Jesus versus after. We know we have changed and have hope now.

### Questions for Application:

- Do we have confidence we are going to heaven now?
- Can we remember when we had no confidence before Jesus?
- Do we think we can simply share with people how different life has been since we've come to Jesus?

## What are the age groups for WFC?



### Pages

(3 years old - Kindergarten)



### Squires

(1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)



### Armor Bearers

(4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

(Jr. High students can join the Armor Bearers  
or attend the adult service.)

**Note:** All age groups determined by child's age on 9/1 ea. yr.

## What awards can the children earn?

Three special pins can be earned each year and are awarded to the children as follows:

1. Sword Pin: For memorizing 6 verses during the WFC calendar year.
2. Helmet of Salvation Pin: For bringing 3 different friends to an evening during the calendar year.
3. Armor Pin: For attending 2/3 of the evenings or more.

## Is there a cost for the club?

No! The club is free. The t-shirts are \$20 each.