



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

A Message from the Lord

Scripture: Acts 18:1-11

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:20b

“And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

For My Family:

We learned from today’s passage of Scripture that Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Not all of his time was spent preaching the Gospel and writing books of the Bible. Much of Paul’s time was spent making tents, working with fabrics, gathering needed material, etc. We don’t often think about this, but even the apostle Paul had to work hard to provide for his daily needs. He was busy working a regular job during the week.

This is important for us to remember because it reminds us that we can bring glory to God in the everyday things we put our hands to, whether that’s doing chores, schoolwork, or anything else. God cares about the work we do. He also cares about how we do it. Paul would write to the Colossians, whatever we do should be done with all our heart, as unto God and not to men (Col 3:23). Paul saw his work as an act of worship, not something to complain about. Let’s remember that the next time we are told to do our chores or our homework! All our work can be done with a good attitude with our best effort because it is all unto God, and He deserves our very best. After all, that’s what He gave for us!

We also learned about a new city today. Paul left Athens and continued to the city of Corinth, which desperately needed the light of the Gospel. The people of Corinth were very wicked. They worshipped idols and were involved in all kinds of sin, but when Paul started sharing the Gospel, people believed and were saved! But as with cities Paul had been to in the past, some of the Jews opposed his message, so Paul began focusing his attention on the Gentiles (people who aren’t Jewish).

As he did this, Paul received a timely message from the Lord in a vision. “Do not be afraid... and do not keep silent.” Do you ever get afraid? Even the apostle Paul felt afraid sometimes. Remember, he had been chased out of cities by angry mobs and badly beaten and mistreated where he had already shared the Gospel. Maybe Paul thought, “Everywhere I share God’s message, people attack me!” That’s a scary thought! If he didn’t share God’s message, maybe people wouldn’t attack him. That would certainly be tempting.

But God gives Paul just what he needed when he needed it. Paul needed the same thing we need when we’re afraid: God’s Word! God promised Paul His presence and protection and told him to “speak... for I am with you.” God’s presence gives us courage. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). Knowing that Jesus is with us should give us courage to tell others about Him, and if God ever feels far away, we need only remember His promise. Remember, He is with you. *Always.*

Questions for Young Children:

What job did Paul do to provide for his needs?

What promise did God make to Paul?

What does God want you to remember when you are afraid?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Who did Paul meet when he arrived in Corinth? Do you think that was a coincidence? Why or why not?

How does God want us to do our work?

What difference does it/should it make in your life to know that God is always with you?