

### Aim of lesson

To consider the events surrounding Paul's arrival in Rome, the centre of the Roman Empire, the dominant world power at that time, and to consider how God, and not Rome, was, and always is, the centre of power.

### Bible background

Acts 28.

### Outline of lesson

#### On the island

Give each of the class a character to 'be' before reading Acts 28:1-10. The following are suitable characters: an islander, a sailor, Publius, his father, Julius, Paul and an interviewer. After the reading either interview each character about what happened on the island yourself, or get one of the class do so.

#### The Most High rules

The students can hunt through the rest of the chapter in order to complete the crossword on the worksheet. Point out that the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ are central themes of the gospel as preached all through the Acts of the Apostles, see Acts 5:42; 8:12; 19:8; 20:21 and 25; 28:23 and 31.

Discuss with the class the ways in which Rome was 'the centre of power'. It was the centre of government and law, all decisions came from Rome, all taxes went to Rome, and only Roman citizens had rights or power. The class should consider why God is the real centre of power, and how Paul may have thought about the contrast between these centres of power as he arrived at the capital.

### Digging deeper

#### Paul's fourth journey?

This section looks at some places Paul visited that aren't included in the Acts of the Apostles. The NIV Study Bible has a suggested route for a 4th Missionary Journey.

### Relevance to our lives

During the week the class may like to consider things which appear powerful but are not, and things which are powerful but do not appear to be so. Ask them for their ideas next week.

### Prayer

The class could write a prayer Paul may have written after arriving in Rome.

### Other suggestions for activities

- This lesson is a good opportunity to act out a 'This Is Your Life' for the apostle Paul. Have the class choose which character out of his life they would each like to be, and choose an outgoing member of the class to introduce them and ask them questions.
- The class could finish the map of Paul's journeys.