



Paul's Defense of His Gospel - A Message from Heaven

By Ariel Presswood

Galatians 1:11-12 - "I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

Setting the Scene

Key Concept:

Paul boldly defended the Gospel, declaring that it was not something he learned from people but a divine revelation from Jesus Christ. His unwavering commitment teaches us the importance of standing firm in God's truth, even when others challenge us. Just as Paul faced opposition from those who tried to distort the Gospel, we must also be vigilant in keeping God's message pure, unchanging, and central in our lives.

Defending our faith does not mean being argumentative or combative, but rather holding fast to the unshakable truth of God's Word, sharing it in love, and living in a way that reflects Christ. We can learn from Paul's passion and conviction, using his example to strengthen our own understanding and confidence in the Gospel.

Engaging Analogy:

"Imagine receiving a personal letter from the King of the Universe. You wouldn't change His words or make them fit your own ideas—you'd treasure it and share it exactly as He gave it. That's what Paul did with the Gospel! He knew the message of salvation wasn't man-made, but a divine truth directly from God. Because of that, he was willing to defend it with everything he had."

In the same way, we are messengers entrusted with the greatest truth of all. The Gospel is not ours to modify, dilute, or compromise—it is God's perfect revelation, and it is our privilege to carry it forward faithfully.

Invitation:

Encourage participants to reflect on the importance of defending their faith, sharing God's truth, and trusting in His message rather than seeking approval from people. This activity set will help participants explore Paul's boldness, understand why the Gospel is unchangeable, and equip them to stand firm in God's Word, even in challenging situations.



Section 1: Reflect and Discuss

Reflection Questions

1. Why did Paul emphasize that his Gospel came directly from Jesus?
2. What challenges did Paul face when defending the true Gospel?
3. How can we stand firm in God's truth when faced with opposition?
4. Why is it important to seek approval from God rather than people?
5. What are some ways we can recognize and correct distortions of the Gospel today?
6. How does knowing that the Gospel is from God give us confidence in sharing it?
7. Have you ever faced a moment when you had to defend your faith? What happened, and what did you learn from it?
8. What are practical steps we can take to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the true Gospel?

Family or Group Discussion

- **Biblical Examples of Bold Faith:** Discuss people in the Bible who stood firm in their faith despite opposition, such as:
 - Paul's defense before King Agrippa (Acts 26:1-29) – Boldly proclaiming Christ.
 - Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6) – Staying faithful despite persecution.
 - Stephen's speech before his martyrdom (Acts 7) – Unwavering in truth.
 - Elijah standing against the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40) – Demonstrating God's power.
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refusing to bow to false gods (Daniel 3:16-28) – Trusting in God's deliverance.

Reflect on how these examples inspire us to stand firm for the Gospel, even when it is difficult. Discuss real-life situations where people may feel pressure to change their beliefs to fit in or be accepted. Explore the importance of remaining steadfast in faith while also showing love and humility in sharing the truth.

- **Living with Conviction:** Talk about ways we can defend the truth in everyday life, such as sharing our faith, making decisions that honor God, and standing up for what is right. Encourage participants to think of practical ways they can share the Gospel with others without fear or hesitation. Discuss how to respond in love and wisdom when others challenge or misunderstand Christian beliefs.

Section 2: Hands-On Activities

Activity 1: Sealed Message from Heaven

Objective: Write and seal a “Gospel Message” as if it were a letter directly from God, reinforcing that His Word is trustworthy and unchangeable.

Materials Needed:

- Parchment-style paper or regular paper
- Envelopes
- Wax seals or stickers
- Markers, pens, and decorative items

Instructions:

1. Write a message about the Gospel as if delivering it to someone who has never heard it.
2. Decorate the letter with symbols of faith, such as crosses, doves, or a Bible verse.
3. Seal the letter, emphasizing that God’s message remains unchanged.
4. Reflect on how Paul protected the truth and how we can do the same.
5. Share the letters in a group and discuss how they help clarify the core message of salvation.

Extension Idea: Encourage participants to write a personal commitment statement inside their letter, affirming their belief in the Gospel and their promise to defend it. Invite participants to keep these letters as reminders of their faith or share them with someone who needs to hear the Good News.

Activity 2: Gospel Defense Role-Play

Objective: Practice standing firm in faith by engaging in a role-playing activity where participants defend the Gospel against common challenges.

Materials Needed:

- Scenario cards with common objections or misunderstandings about Christianity
- Bibles for reference
- Notebooks and pens

Instructions:

1. Assign each participant a role: one as the questioner and one as the defender of the Gospel.
2. Read a scenario card, such as "Why should I believe the Bible is true?" or "Isn't Christianity just another religion?"
3. The defender responds with Scripture and reasoning, while the questioner challenges their response.
4. After a few minutes, switch roles and discuss how they could improve their answers.
5. Emphasize responding in love, humility, and truth.

Extension Idea: Have participants write down their personal responses to common faith challenges and compile them into a resource for future reference. Encourage memorization of key scriptures that affirm the truth of the Gospel.

Section 4: Closing Reflection and Prayer

Reflection Questions:

1. How can we follow Paul's example of standing firm in the Gospel?
2. What is one way you can share the truth with others this week?
3. Why is it important to trust in God's truth even when others challenge it?
4. How can we defend our faith while also being kind and respectful?

Prayer:

Lead a prayer asking God for boldness to share the Gospel and remain faithful to His truth. Pray for wisdom to recognize false teachings and for courage to stand firm.

Extension Idea: Encourage participants to write personal prayers asking God to strengthen their faith and help them share the Gospel with confidence.

