

Saint Paul Miki and Companions

No One Walked Alone

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:30 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Twenty-six companions face the winter road together. Their prayers, encouragement, and Paul's final forgiveness turn attention from isolated heroism toward grace received through a faithful community.

Learning goals Children will explain why companions matters in the title, identify concrete ways to encourage someone, and distinguish forgiveness from approving an injustice.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: What becomes easier when a good friend helps you? Watch how the prisoners give and receive courage on the winter road.

Watch and notice

Notice three moments: encouragement during the journey, promises before God, and Paul's final words of forgiveness. Do not dwell on methods of execution.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why does the story call Paul a Japanese preacher?

He belonged to the people he addressed and could explain the faith in familiar words. Japanese Christians were active witnesses, not merely spectators.

2. Who shared the road with Paul?

Religious and lay Catholics, adults and young people. Their different lives were joined by faith in Jesus and support for one another.

3. How did companionship strengthen them?

They prayed, encouraged one another, and continued witnessing to Jesus. No one had to produce courage entirely alone.

4. Did Paul's forgiveness mean the injustice was acceptable?

No. He named his innocence and forgave those responsible. Forgiveness rejects revenge without calling wrongdoing good.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Children show companions encouraging each other on the road and a present-day act of support. Draw kindness and company rather than execution.

Read & Write Children gather evidence for the title, consider Paul's forgiveness, and write an offer of help that a worried friend could use.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: emphasize friendship, prayer, and one kind action. Use a made-up ordinary challenge.

Ages 9-11: distinguish forgiveness, restored trust, and safety. Trust may need time and changed behavior; adult help can still be necessary.

Words plus presence | Optional 4 minutes

Offer a scenario: a friend is nervous about admitting a mistake. Children suggest one encouraging sentence and one practical offer, such as going together to a trusted adult. Discuss how presence gives weight to kind words.

Look for understanding Look for mutual support rather than a demand to be fearless. Forgiveness should not erase truth, accountability, or the need for protection.

Closing prayer Jesus, give us faithful friends and help us be good companions. Teach us to encourage, forgive, and seek help when needed. Saint Paul Miki and Companions, pray for us. Amen.

At home Thank someone who has helped you do a difficult good thing. Offer encouragement for one of that person's ordinary responsibilities.

Handout answer notes Prayer, encouragement, presence, and witness supported the group. Paul forgave those responsible without approving the injustice. Accept truthful encouragement and appropriate adult support.

Teach with care

Introduce Japan and Nagasaki. Explain that the film includes persecution and death on crosses, without graphic detail. Preview for sensitive children and permit an alternative focus on mutual encouragement. Paul was a Jesuit studying for priesthood, not yet ordained. His final speech is paraphrased for children. Distinguish the persecuting authorities from the Japanese people, including the Japanese martyrs themselves. Never reenact the forced march or crosses.

Words to explain Companion: someone who shares a journey or task. Jesuit: a member of the Society of Jesus. Martyr: a witness who dies for faith in Christ.

Sources for the leader

Paul's life, vows, and witness: [Society of Jesus: Saint Paul Miki](#)

Love and prayer for enemies: [Matthew 5:43-48](#)

Courage shared

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The companions prayed and encouraged one another.

Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw companions helping each other on the winter road.



2 Draw a safe way to support a worried friend today.



Tell What can you say? What practical help can you offer?

Pray Jesus, help me receive support and be a faithful friend. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

What makes a companion?

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Use moments from the journey to support your answers.

Name _____

1 Find evidence for the title

Name two ways the companions helped one another.

They ...

2 Forgive truthfully

What did Paul forgive? Did that make the injustice right?

Paul forgave ...

3 Offer real support

A friend is afraid to admit a mistake. Write a kind sentence and an offer of help.

I can ...

Pray Jesus, help me receive support and be a faithful friend. Amen.

Go deeper Why might accepting another person's help be a courageous choice?