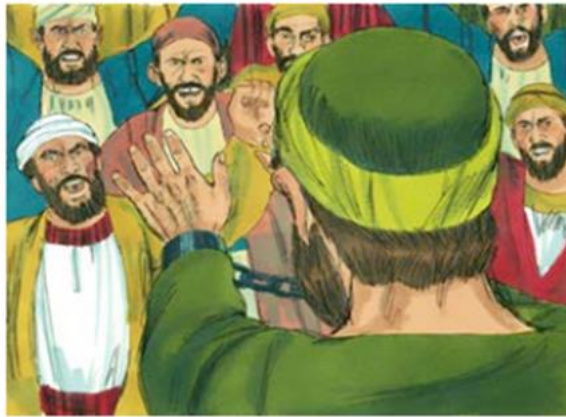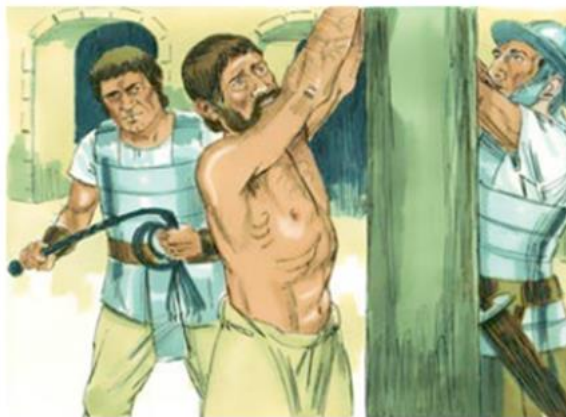Paul then explained how he had been brought up and educated in Jerusalem under Gamaliel and had persecuted those who were Christians. He told them how Jesus had appeared to him on the way to Damascus and how he had called on the name of the Lord to forgive his sins and had been baptised.

But when Paul went on to say that God had sent him to bring the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles there was uproar. The crowd yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air.
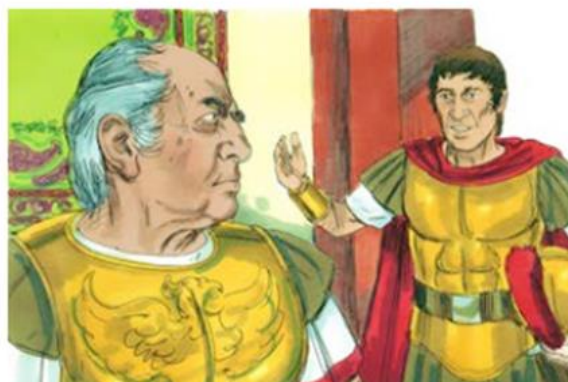
The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him to be lashed with whips to make him confess his crime.

Paul said to the officer nearby, 'Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried?'
Roman citizens could not be punished without a trial.

When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked, 'What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!'

13 The commander went over and asked Paul, 'Are you a Roman citizen?"
'Yes, I certainly am,' Paul replied.
'I am, too,' the commander muttered, 'and I had to pay a lot of money to get citizenship!'
Paul answered, 'But I am a citizen by birth!'
Paul was untied immediately.

14 The next day the commander ordered the leading priests into session with the Jewish high council. He wanted to find out what the trouble was all about, and brought Paul before them.