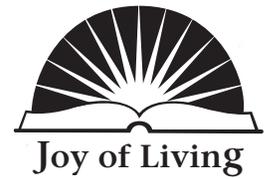


ACTSEL



Acts

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

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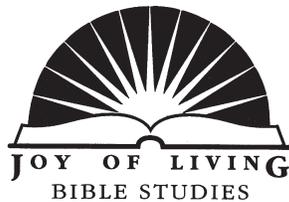
Joy of Living Acts Youth Bible Study

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Acts

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga



Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living Study**.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame, the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps... (then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question; does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.

- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

Scripture quotations in this course are from:

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Acts — Game & Craft List

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ACTS - WEEK ONE

NO DISCUSSION LESSON

- 15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: SIMPLE RELAY

You will need a ping pong ball, a large spoon, and a container for each team. With masking tape, mark start and finish lines on the floor. Divide class into teams. Give the first player in each team a spoon. Place a ping-pong ball on the floor in front of each team. Place the containers across from each team at the Finish Line. At the signal, the first player picks up the ball with the spoon, races to the finish line, drops the ball in the container, races back to the next in line, hands off the spoon, and goes to the end of the line. The next player races to the container, picks the ball out of the container with the spoon, returns to the next team player, hands off the spoon and ball, goes to the end of the line. The next player repeats the first sequence. Play continues until one team has all team players in their starting positions.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss class rules and goals

- to end of class CRAFT: PAPER PLATE BUTTERFLY

MATERIALS:

newspaper	bowls
tempera paints	paper plates
plastic spoons	black pipe cleaners
clear tape	

Cover work area with newspaper. Pour paint into bowls. Fold the paper plate in half and reopen. Give each child a plastic spoon. Have them pour paint onto one side of the fold, not too much, about 1/4 teaspoon each of several colors. Have them fold the plate along the crease previously made, and gently press up and down the folded plates. They may use their hands or fists to rub the plate back so the paint squishes inside. Open the plate and see the butterfly. Allow to dry in the sun for about 15 minutes or more. Tape the pipe cleaners onto the tops of the butterfly as antennae.

ACTS LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter one, verses 1 - 5.

When you run in a relay race, a baton is passed from one runner to another. The book of Acts is like that relay race. In Acts, the baton is the gospel, and it will be carried from Jerusalem to the known world and onto us today. The story in the book of Acts is a history of the early church.

1. **RISKY:** The book of Acts was written by a man from Greece called Luke. What did Luke write to Theophilus about in his first book of the Bible? Can you name that other Bible book?

2. **CHALLENGE:** What facts does Luke list in Luke 1:1-2 to prove Jesus had lived?

3. After Jesus' resurrection, how many days did He stay on the earth?

4. From the following scriptures, who are the people who saw Jesus after His resurrection?

Matthew 28:8,9

John 20:19

1 Corinthians 15:5,6

5. **HARD:** When did Jesus give them the command to stay in Jerusalem and wait for God's gift? Was it before or after His resurrection? See Luke 24:33,34,49 for your answer.
6. What does John 16:13 say is one of the things the Holy Spirit will do?

Read Acts chapter 1, verses 6 - 11.

1. The disciples asked the risen Jesus if it was time to rebuild Israel. Who is the only one who knows the time and date when this will happen?
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive from the Holy Spirit, and what will He help them do? This message is for Christians today, too.
3. How did Jesus get to heaven?
4. After Jesus went to heaven, who spoke to the disciples?

5. How will Jesus return to earth?

6. In Luke 17:26-36, Jesus talks about His return. What did He say in verses 26,28, 30 people will be doing when He returns?

Read Acts chapter 1, verses 12 - 26.

1. **RISKY:** How far was the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem?

2. Who was in the room and what did they do there?

3. How many were in the room?

4. What happened to Judas, the man who turned in Jesus?

5. How was Mathias chosen to take Judas' place?

ACTS - WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 1

15 - 20 minutes free time - games; fellowship;

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: FOLLOW THE STEPS

A variation of the old “Twister” floor game. You will need at least 10 footprints. On four of the prints write one letter of the word ACTS. Add them to the other prints and toss onto the floor. One person at a time places one foot on a footprint and tries to spell ACTS. It is OK to step on an unmarked footprint, but ACTS needs to be spelled in order. Give each player a turn. The one who does it wins. If there is more than one winner, you may time the players to see who can spell ACTS first.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: PICTURE ART EXPERIMENTS

MATERIALS:

newspapers
art or white paper
acrylic paint
candles
paint brushes
bowls/containers
rags/paper towels
drinking straws

“Stamping” objects:
plastic berry baskets
large safety pins, coins
paper clips, buttons
(use your imagination!)

Cover work area with newspapers. Spread the art paper with paint (one color or different colors at random). Press a berry basket or any of the other objects into the paint. A pattern can be made or done randomly. Allow to dry.

On another sheet of dry paper, use the candle stick to draw an object, boat, car, person, whatever the student wants to draw. But do not cover the whole sheet. Drop a glob of watered down paint onto the paper. With the straw blow the paint all over the paper. Use more paint as needed. The paint will not adhere to the wax drawing.

ACTS — LESSON 1 ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter one, verses 1 - 5.

When you run in a relay race, a baton is passed from one runner to another. The book of Acts is like that relay race. In Acts, the baton is the gospel, and it will be carried from Jerusalem to the known world and onto us today. The story in the book of Acts is a history of the early church.

1. **RISKY:** The book of Acts was written by a man from Greece called Luke. What did Luke write to Theophilus about in his first book of the Bible? And, can you name that other Bible book? Verse 1: “Dear friend who loves God: In my first letter I told you about Jesus’ life and teachings.” The other book was the Gospel of Luke. [Although The Bible for Children calls the recipient of this letter the “friend who loves God,” Theophilus was very likely a real person, possibly a Greek who worked for the Roman government and a new convert to Christianity. Luke was a doctor according to Colossians 4:14.]
2. **CHALLENGE:** What facts does Luke list in Luke 1:1-2 to prove Jesus had lived? Written accounts, records of reports made by the disciples, many others reports, and the fact that he checked everything out himself.
3. After Jesus’ resurrection, how many days did He stay on the earth? Verse 3: “After Jesus died and rose again, he appeared to his apostles for a period of 40 days. He proved to them that he was actually alive. He showed them in many ways that he was really there with them. During these times, he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.”
4. From the following scriptures, who are the people who saw Jesus after His resurrection?

Matthew 28:8,9 “The women ran from the tomb. They were afraid, but also filled with joy. They rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel’s message. And as they were running, suddenly Jesus was there in front of them. ‘Good morning!’ he said. And they fell to the ground before him. They held his feet and worshiped him.”

John 20:19 “That evening the disciples were meeting behind closed doors. They were still very afraid of the Jews. Suddenly Jesus was standing there among them!”

1 Corinthians 15:5,6 “He was seen by Peter. Later he was seen by the rest of the Twelve. After that, more than 500 Christian brothers saw him at one time. Most of them are still alive, though some have died by now.”

5. **HARD:** Did Jesus give them the command to stay in Jerusalem and wait for God’s gift before or after His resurrection? See Luke 24:33,34,49 for your answer. Verses 33,34: “Within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. The 11 disciples and the other followers of Jesus were there. They greeted them with these words, ‘The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter!’”

Verse 49: “And I am going to send the Holy Spirit upon you. It will happen just as my Father promised. Don’t begin telling others yet. Stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes. He will fill you with power from heaven.”

6. What does John 16:13 say is one of the things the Holy Spirit will do? “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be giving you his own ideas. He will be passing on to you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.”

Read Acts chapter 1, verses 6 - 11.

1. The disciples asked the risen Jesus if it was time to rebuild Israel. Who is the only one who knows the time and date when this will happen? Verse 7: “‘The Father sets those dates,’ he replied. ‘Such things are not for you to know.’”
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive from the Holy Spirit, and what will He help them do? This message is for Christians today, too. Verse 8: “But the Holy spirit will come upon you. And you will receive power to speak about me with great effect. You will be my witnesses to the people in Jerusalem. You will also go throughout Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. You will tell everyone that I died and then rose again from the dead.”
3. How did Jesus get to heaven? Verse 9: “Not long after this, Jesus rose into the sky. He went up into a cloud, leaving them staring after him.”
4. After Jesus went to heaven, who spoke to the disciples? Verse 10: “They were straining their eyes for another look at him. But suddenly two white-robed men were standing there with them.”
5. How will Jesus return to earth? Verse 11: “They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone to Heaven. And someday he will come back again, just as he went!’”
6. In Luke 17:26-36, Jesus talks about His return. What did He say in verses 26,28, and 30 people will be doing when He returns? “When I come back, the world will not be thinking about the things of God. They will be like the people were in Noah’s days. And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business. They kept on eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building. Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the hour of my coming.”

Read Acts chapter 1, verses 12 - 26.

1. **RISKY:** How far was the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem? Verse 12: “They were at the Mount of Olives when this happened. So they turned and walked the half mile back to Jerusalem.” [Some translations will say “a Sabbath day’s walk, or about 3/4 miles.” This was the distance allowed by law for “work” on the Sabbath.]

2. Who was in the room and what did they do there? Verses 13,14: “There they held a prayer meeting in an upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here is the list of those who were at the meeting: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (also called “The Zealot”), Judas (son of James) and the brothers of Jesus. Several women, including Jesus’ mother, were also there.”
3. How many were in the room? Verse 15: 120.
4. What happened to Judas, the man who turned in Jesus? Verses 18,19: “He bought a field with the money he was given for turning Jesus in. While he was there, he fell down and burst open, spilling out his bowels. The news of his death spread rapidly among all the people of Jerusalem. And they named the place ‘The Field of Blood.’”
5. How was Mathias chosen to take Judas’ place? Verse 26: “Then they drew straws. In this way Matthias was chosen. And he became an apostle with the other 11.” [This action may be from Proverbs 16:33. Instead of straws, the lots could have been stones with the names of the two men written on them, then placed in a container and shaken about. The first to fall out was the way God chose it to fall. We must remember, the men were equal in ability; prayer had been given; and now to find the Lord’s choice. This was the last time this method of determining God’s choice is mentioned in the scriptures.]

ACTS — LESSON 2

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 1 - 13.

1. Tell the story of what happened in Acts 2:1-4.

2. Pentecost is not a new celebration. It was part of the Law God gave to Moses. The following verses describe how this feast was celebrated. Underline the words or scripture verse that best describes Pentecost. This feast is celebrated seven weeks after the Feast of the Firstfruits. Pentecost is a form of a Greek word which means 50.

Exodus 34:22 "Do not forget to celebrate these three yearly religious festivals: the Festival of Weeks, the Festival of the First Wheat, and the Harvest Festival."

Leviticus 23:10 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.'" (NIV)

Leviticus 23:15,16 "Fifty days later you shall bring to the Lord an offering of a sample of the new grain of your later crops."

3. What happened after the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit?

4. Who was in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost and what did they hear?

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 14 -21.

1. Peter defended the apostles in verse 15, saying, “Some of you are saying these men are drunk! It isn’t true! It’s much too early for that! People don’t get drunk by nine o’clock in the morning!” What does Paul say in these verses about being drunk?

Ephesians 5:18

1 Thessalonians 5:7

2. **HARD:** There are many Old Testament scriptures that tell about the Holy Spirit. The verses listed below have the same idea running through them. Underline the part of each verse that shows it. HINT: It is not “and they prophesied”.

Numbers 11:25 “And the Lord came down in the Cloud. He talked there with Moses. And the Lord took from the Spirit that was upon Moses. He put it upon the 70 elders. The Spirit rested upon them. And they prophesied for some time.”

Judges 3:10 “The Spirit of the Lord took control of him. He reformed and purged Israel. And he led the forces of Israel against the army of King Cushan-rishathaim. When they went out to fight, the Lord helped Israel conquer him.”

1 Samuel 10:10 “Saul and his servant came to the Hill of God. There they saw the prophets coming toward them. The Spirit of God came upon Saul. And he too began to prophesy.”

1 Samuel 16:14 “But the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul. And instead, the Lord sent a tormenting spirit. It filled Saul with sadness and fear.”

3. What does Acts 2:17 say about the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 22 - 31.

1. **RISKY:** In this first sermon of Peter's, he talks about the death of Jesus and the death of David. What is the difference between David's death, and Christ's?

Acts 2:24 "Then God set him [Jesus] free from the horrors of death. He brought him back to life again. For death could not keep this man in the grave."

Acts 2:29 "Dear brothers, think! David wasn't talking about himself when he spoke those words. For David died and was buried. And his tomb is still here among us."

2. What did Peter call David and what was God's promise to David?

3. What did David see in the future about Jesus?

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 32 - 41.

1. What was Peter's answer to the people's question, "Brothers, what should we do?"

2. **CHALLENGE:** Which verse talks about future Christians?

3. How many became believers in Jesus after hearing Peter's sermon?

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 42 - 47.

1. Verse 42 lists four things the believers did. Can you name them?

2. How often did the believers meet?

3. **HARD:** From the following verses, tell what “breaking of bread” in Acts 2:42 means.

Luke 22:19,20

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

ACTS - WEEK THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON 2

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CARD/HAT TOSS

You will need a hat or large container for each team, and a deck of cards. Divide into teams. Divide the cards equally between the teams. Place the hat or container about 5 feet from each team. At the signal, the first player in each team tosses the cards, one at a time into the hat. Score must be kept of the number of cards that make it into the hat for each team. The team with the most cards wins. Or, you could make this an individual contest. Each student is its own team but has only 5 - 10 chances to get the cards in the hat. The one with the most wins.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 2

to end of class CRAFT: STAINED GLASS WINDOW

MATERIALS:

waxed paper	glue
scissors	warm iron
colored construction paper	old cloth for pressing
colored tissue paper or white tissue paper colored with crayons	
pens or colored pencils	

Cut or tear tissue paper into various shapes. Make a “window” shape out of two pieces of waxed paper; arrange tissue paper pieces on one piece of waxed paper “window,” cover with second piece. Place cloth over all layers and press with warm iron to seal layers together. Make a frame for “window” by cutting the center out of two pieces of construction paper. When waxed paper “window” is cool, place between construction sheets. Glue edges of construction paper inside and outside, enclosing “window.” Tape “window” to a real window so the sun can shine through.

ACTS LESSON 2 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 1 - 13.

1. Tell the story of what happened in Acts 2:1-4. “Seven weeks had gone by since Jesus’ death and resurrection. And the Day of Pentecost had now arrived. The believers met together on that day. Suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty storm. The sound came from the skies above them. And it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames of fire settled on their heads. Everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit. They began speaking in languages they didn’t even know. For the Holy spirit gave them the ability to do this.”
2. Pentecost is not a new celebration. It was part of the Law God gave to Moses. The following verses describe how this feast was celebrated. Underline the words or scripture verse that best describes Pentecost. This feast is celebrated seven weeks after the Feast of the Firstfruits. Pentecost is a form of a Greek word which means 50.

Exodus 34:22 “Do not forget to celebrate these three yearly religious festivals: the Festival of Weeks, the Festival of the First Wheat, and the Harvest Festival.”

Leviticus 23:10 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.’”
(NIV)

Leviticus 23:15,16 “Fifty days later you shall bring to the Lord an offering of a sample of the new grain of your later crops.”

3. What happened after the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit? Verse 4: “Everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit. They began speaking in languages they didn’t even know. For the Holy spirit gave them the ability to do this.”
4. Who was in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost and what did they hear? Verses 5,6: “Many godly Jews were in Jerusalem that day for the religious feast. They had come there from many nations.” Verse 6: “The crowds heard the roaring in the sky above the house. So they came running to see what it was all about. And they were amazed to hear their own languages being spoken by the disciples.” [These Galilean fishermen were uneducated and probably not grammatically correct in their own language. Yet they spoke perfectly in languages they did not know. In Genesis 11, the nations spoke one language as they built a tower up to God. God confused the languages and scattered the people. Now God is allowing certain men to speak the languages of the world so all can hear the Gospel in their own language.]

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 14 -21.

1. Peter defended the apostles in verse 15, saying, “Some of you are saying these men are drunk! It isn’t true! It’s much too early for that! People don’t get drunk by nine o’clock in the morning!” What does Paul say in these verses about being drunk?
Ephesians 5:18 “Don’t drink too much wine. Many evils lie along that path. Be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and be controlled by him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:7 “Night is the time for sleep and the time when people get drunk.”

2. **HARD:** There are many Old Testament scriptures that tell about the Holy Spirit. The verses listed below have the same idea running through them. Underline the part of each verse that shows it. HINT: It is not “and they prophesied”. [The common thread is that the Spirit of God came on a person for a period of time, to perform an act for God, and then left.]

Numbers 11:25 “And the Lord came down in the Cloud. He talked there with Moses. And the Lord took from the Spirit that was upon Moses. He put it upon the 70 elders. The Spirit rested upon them. And they prophesied for some time.”

Judges 3:10 “The Spirit of the Lord took control of him. He reformed and purged Israel. And he led the forces of Israel against the army of King Cushan-rishathaim. When they went out to fight, the Lord helped Israel conquer him.”

1 Samuel 10:10 “Saul and his servant came to the Hill of God. There they saw the prophets coming toward them. The Spirit of God came upon Saul. And he too began to prophesy.”

1 Samuel 16:14 “But the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul. And instead, the Lord sent a tormenting spirit. It filled Saul with sadness and fear.”

3. What does Acts 2:17 say about the Holy Spirit? “‘This will happen in the last days,’ God said. ‘I will pour out my Holy Spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions. And your old men shall dream dreams.’”

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 22 - 31.

1. **RISKY:** In this first sermon of Peter’s, he talks about the death of Jesus and the death of David. What is the difference between David’s death, and Christ’s?

Acts 2:24 “Then God set him [Jesus] free from the horrors of death. He brought him back to life again. For death could not keep this man in the grave.”

Acts 2:29 “Dear brothers, think! David wasn’t talking about himself when he spoke these words. For David died and was buried. And his tomb is still here among us.”

[Jesus rose, David stayed buried.]

2. What did Peter call David and what was God’s promise to David? Verse “30: “But David was a prophet. He knew God’s promise that one of his own descendants would be the Messiah. And God had promised that David’s descendant would sit on David’s throne.”
3. What did David see in the future about Jesus? Verse 31: “David was looking far into the future. He foresaw the Messiah’s resurrection. He saw that the Messiah’s soul would not be left in hell. He knew that the Messiah’s body would not decay in the grave.”

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 32 - 41.

1. What was Peter’s answer to the people’s question, “Brothers, what should we do?” Verse 38: “And Peter replied, ‘Each one of you must turn from sin and come back to God. Then you must

be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. For through him, you will find forgiveness for your sins. Then you also shall be given this gift, the Holy Spirit.”

2. **CHALLENGE:** Which verse talks about future Christians? Verse 39: “For Christ promised him to each of you who has been called by the Lord our God. He has promised him to your children and even to those in distant lands!”
3. How many became believers in Jesus after hearing Peter’s sermon? Verse 41: “And all those who believed Peter were baptized. There were about 3,000 of them in all!”

Read Acts chapter 2, verses 42 - 47.

1. Verse 42 lists four things the believers did. Can you name them? 1. Met with other believers. 2. Taught by the apostles. 3. Shared communion, the Lord’s Supper. 4. Prayed. [The early church didn’t have an instruction guide as to how they should proceed. Armed with the Jewish Old Testament, and eyewitnesses to three years of Jesus’ teachings, the infant church began. It needed to be nourished and cared for just as a newborn infant needs to be cared for.]
2. How often did the believers meet? Verse 46: “They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day. They met in small groups in homes for the Lord’s Supper. And they shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness.”
3. **HARD:** From these verses, tell what “breaking of bread” in Acts 2:42 means.

Luke 22:19,20 “Then he took a loaf of bread. He had thanked God for it. And he broke it apart and gave it to them. He said, ‘This is my body, given for you. Eat it in remembrance of me.’ After supper he gave them another cup of wine. He said, ‘This wine is the token of God’s new agreement to save you. It is an agreement sealed with the blood I shall pour out. And with it, I will buy back your souls.’”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 “I have told you what the Lord told me about his Table. It was on the night when Judas betrayed him. The Lord Jesus took bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples. He said, ‘Take this and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.’ In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper. He said, ‘This cup is the new promise God has given you. He will keep his promise because I shed my blood. Do this to remember me when you drink it.’ Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you show the Lord’s death. Do this until he comes again.”

ACTS — LESSON 3

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 3, verses 1 - 10.

1. What time of the day did people go to the temple to pray?
2. **RISKY:** From the following scriptures when do you think is the best time to pray?

Luke 18:1

1 Thessalonians 5:17

3. Who sat at the gate called Beautiful?
4. What was he expecting Peter and John to give him?
5. What did Peter say to this man?
6. What did the crippled man receive?

7. **PERSONAL:** Put yourself in this poor man's place for a moment. You will need a helper with this experiment. Have someone help you go from one room in your house to another. Then sit on the floor with your legs crossed for five minutes. After the five minutes are up, try getting up. What do you feel in your legs? How do you feel about being able to walk on your own? Unlike your pretending to not be able to walk, this man could not walk until he met Peter and John. He was healed through the name of Jesus. Everyone needs to be healed from the crippling effects of sin. To do this, you need to confess your sin, ask God's forgiveness, and then ask Jesus to come live in you so that by His Holy Spirit you will live to please Him. Then, just like this poor, crippled man, you will be healed and made clean. You will be able to praise God for all He has done for you. Have you asked Jesus into your heart? Is your heart healed of sin? This is called "saved." Are you saved? Why not ask Jesus into your heart now, so that you can walk and leap and be healed from sin?

Read Acts chapter 3, verses 11 - 16.

1. **HARD:** God glorified His servant Jesus. But what does Peter say the people did?
2. **RISKY:** The people could not believe their eyes when they saw this lame man walking. How was this man made strong?
3. This man's body was crippled. It didn't work right. Then he was healed by faith in Jesus. When people don't believe in Jesus to save them, their faith is weak and crippled. But once they are saved, their faith needs to grow and become strong. What do these verses say will help them become strong?

Philippians 2:13

Philippians 4:13

Read Acts chapter 3, verses 17 - 26.

1. In verse 17 Peter says the people didn't really know they had done anything wrong when they crucified Jesus. What does Jesus say about those who crucified Him in Luke 23:34?

2. What does Peter tell the people they must do to be right with God?

3. How long will Jesus stay in heaven?

4. According to Mark 14:62, how will Jesus come back to the earth?

5. **HARD CHALLENGE:** Read Titus 2:11-13. The grace of God means Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for salvation. How are Christians to wait for Jesus? Give the verse from this passage with your answer.

6. **RISKY:** Read Romans 8:10,14,19-21. We learn from Romans 8:14 that Christians are called sons of God. What will be freed from decay when Christ returns to earth? Give the verse from this passage with your answer.

7. Why was Jesus sent to the earth? See Acts 3:26.

8. **PERSONAL:** Read the scriptures below. Put your name in the blank space. Since Jesus came to save you, have you asked him to do it yet? If not, why not read the verses again as a prayer to God. Then ask His forgiveness for your sins. If you do this, be sure to tell your leader.

John 3:16,17 God loves _____ so much that he gave his only Son. If _____ believes in Him _____ will not die but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge _____. He sent his Son to save _____ and the world.

Acts 2:21 But if _____ asks for mercy from the Lord, _____ shall have it and shall be saved.

ACTS - WEEK FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON 3

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALL TOSS

You will need 3 graduated sizes of boxes. They must be able to fit one inside the other, with space on either side, and the open side facing up. A dress box, shoe box, and boutique tissue box may work for you. Once the boxes are placed one inside the other, tape them in place. You will also need a small ball, one that doesn't bounce too high. You might try a ping pong ball, Whiffle ball, ball of yarn, or wadded up paper ball. Give each box a number for scoring. The largest box receives the least points, while the smallest box gets the most points. Set the boxes at one end of a long table, and have player stand at other end of table. Or mark a line on the floor with masking tape and place boxes 5-10 feet past the line. Each player has three chances to toss the ball. After the third toss, add up points, and that is the player's final score.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 3

to end of class CRAFT: WIND CHIMES

MATERIALS:

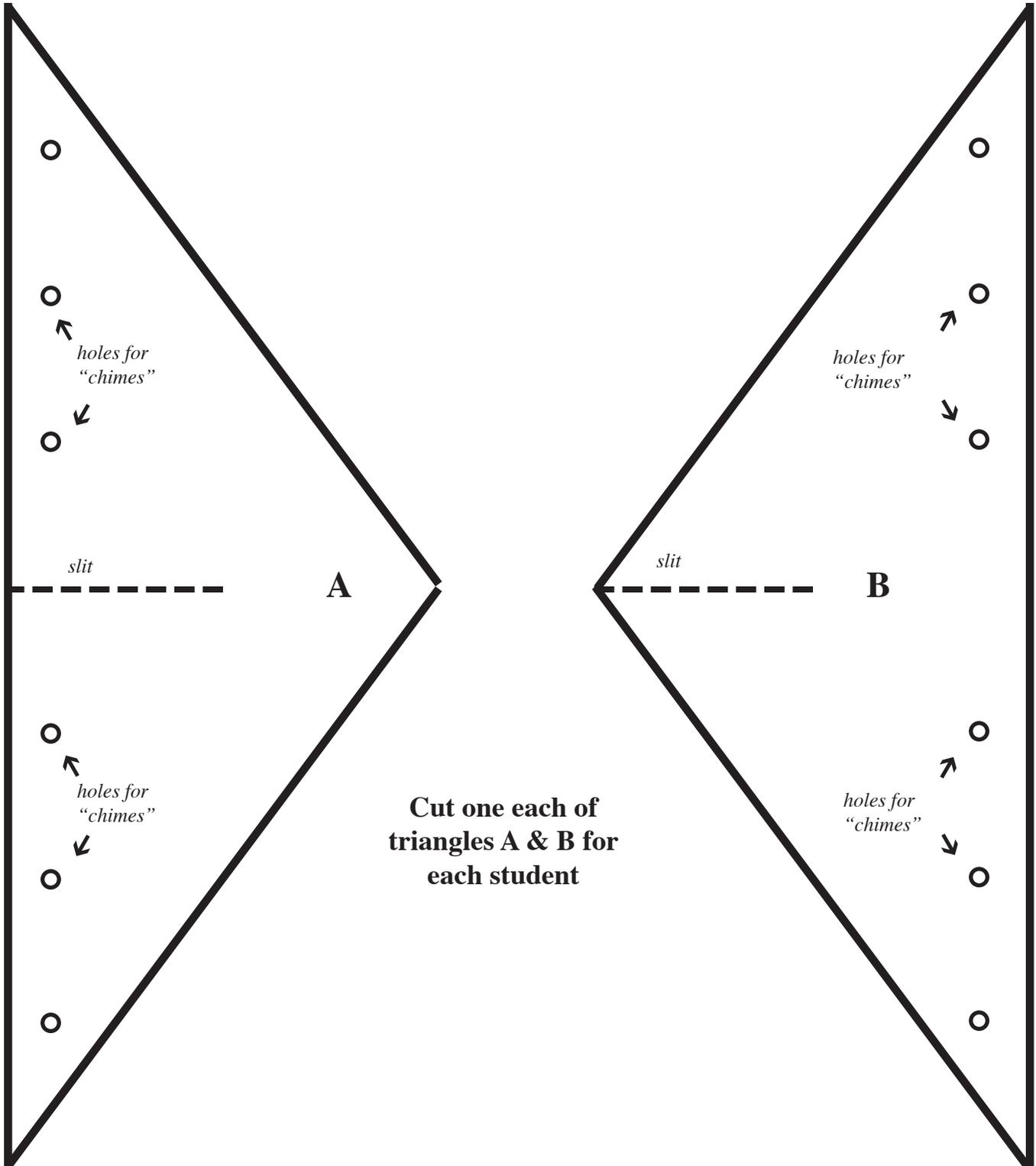
scissors
glue
hole punch
hammer, large nail, and
piece of wood
string or yarn

Items for "chimes":
old keys
large nuts and bolts
large nails
other light weight metal items
(browse a hardware store)

empty cereal boxes or other cardboard

Open and flatten the cereal boxes. Using patterns on next page, cut two triangles per student from cardboard. If the cardboard is flimsy, cut 4 triangles and glue the two pairs together. Use hole punch to punch 6 holes in each triangle as marked on pattern. If hole punch has difficulty on cardboard, you can use the hammer and nail over a piece of wood to punch the holes. Cut slits in each triangle as shown on pattern. Holding triangles at right angles to each other, slip the bottom slit into the top slit making a four-sided hanger. Glue the pieces together along the seam. Cut the string into two each of 8-, 9-, and

10-inch lengths for “chimes”. Tie one end of the string through each of the 4 center holes. Tie the other end around “chime” items. Cut four 12” lengths of string and tie one end of each in a corner hole. Join the other ends above wind chimes and knot together to hang chimes.



ACTS LESSON 3 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 3, verses 1 - 10.

1. What time of the day did people go to the temple to pray? Verse 1: “Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon. They went there to take part in the three o’clock daily prayer meeting.” [This is not the same as the Christians prayer meeting. This was still in obedience to Jewish law.]
2. **RISKY:** From the following scriptures, when do you think is the best time to pray?

Luke 18:1 “One day Jesus told his disciples a story. He did this to show them their need for constant prayer. He also wanted to show that they must keep praying until the answer comes.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Always keep on praying.”
3. Who sat at the gate called Beautiful? Verse 2: “As they came to the Temple, they saw a man who had been crippled from birth. He was being carried along the street to the Temple gate. This particular gate was called “Beautiful.” This man was set there every day. And he begged from the people going to and from the temple.”
4. What was he expecting Peter and John to give him? Verse 3: “As Peter and John were passing by, he asked them for some money.” [Giving money to the poor became an important way of proving one’s devotion to God among the Jewish people of the day. It was considered an act of kindness.]
5. What did Peter say to this man? Verse 6: “But Peter said, ‘We don’t have any money for you! But I’ll give you something else! I command you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!’”
6. What did the crippled man receive? Verses 7,8: “Then Peter took the crippled man by the hand. He pulled him to his feet. And as he did this, the man’s feet and anklebones were healed! He came up with a jump! Then he stood there for a moment and began to walk! Then he ran after them into the Temple. He was walking and leaping and praising God!”
7. **PERSONAL:** Put yourself in this poor man’s place for a moment. You will need a helper with this experiment. Have someone help you go from one room in your house to another. Then sit on the floor with your legs crossed for five minutes. After the five minutes are up, try getting up. What do you feel in your legs? How do you feel about being able to walk on your own? Unlike your pretending not to be able to walk, this man could not walk until he met Peter and John. He was healed through the name of Jesus. Everyone needs to be healed from the crippling effects of sin. To do this, you need to confess your sin, ask God’s forgiveness, and then ask Jesus to come live in you so that by His Holy Spirit you will live to please Him. Then, just like this poor, crippled man, you will be healed and made clean. You will be able to praise God for all He has

done for you. Have you asked Jesus into your heart? Is your heart healed of sin? This is called saved. Are you saved? Why not ask Jesus into your heart now, so that you can walk and leap and be healed from sin?

Read Acts chapter 3, verses 11 - 16.

1. **HARD:** God glorified His servant Jesus. What does Peter say the people did? Verse 13: “For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. I am talking about the Jesus whom you rejected before Pilate. And you did this even though Pilate begged you to set him free.”
2. **RISKY:** The people could not believe their eyes when they saw this lame man walking. How was this man made strong? Verse 16: “Jesus’ name has healed this man. And you all know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has caused this perfect healing. And this faith has been given to us from God.”
3. This man’s body was crippled. It didn’t work right. Then he was healed by faith in Jesus. When people don’t believe in Jesus to save them, their faith is weak and crippled. But once they are saved, their faith needs to grow and become strong. What do these verses say will help them become strong?

Philippians 2:13 “For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants.”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.”

Read Acts chapter 3, verses 17 - 26.

1. In verse 17 Peter says the people didn’t really know they had done anything wrong when they crucified Jesus. What does Jesus say about those who crucified Him in Luke 23:34? “‘Father, forgive these people,’ Jesus said. ‘For they don’t know what they are doing.’ And the soldiers gambled for his clothing, throwing dice for each piece.”
2. What does Peter tell the people they must do to be right with God? Verse 19: “Now change your mind and attitude toward God. Turn to him so he can wash away your sins. And he will send you refreshment from the Lord’s presence.” [Peter is giving the salvation message in this one verse. All of us must do what he suggests: 1. Repent, “change your mind and attitude toward God”; 2. Confess your sins, “turn to him so he can wash away your sins”; 3. He will live in you, “He will send refreshment from [His] presence”.]
3. How long will Jesus stay in heaven? Verse 21: “For he must stay in Heaven until the time when God will restore all things. This has been foretold from ancient times by the holy prophets.”

4. According to Mark 14:62, how will Jesus come back to the earth? “Jesus said, ‘I am. You will someday see me sitting at the right hand of God. And I will come back to earth in the clouds of Heaven.’”
5. **HARD CHALLENGE:** Read Titus 2:11-13. The grace of God means Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection for salvation. How are Christians to wait for Jesus? Give the verse from this passage with your answer. Verse 12: “It teaches us that God wants us to turn from godless living. He wants us to leave behind sinful pleasures. He wants us to live good, God-fearing lives day after day.”
6. Read Romans 8:10,14,19-21. We learn from Romans 8:14 that Christians are called sons of God. What will be freed from decay when Christ returns to earth? Give the verse from this passage with your answer. Verse 21: “The world will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God’s children enjoy.”
7. Why was Jesus sent to the earth? See Acts 3:26. “Now God brought his servant to life after he was killed. And he sent him first to you men of Israel. He wanted to bless you by turning you back from your sins.”
8. **PERSONAL:** Read the scriptures below. Put your name in the blank space. Since Jesus came to save you, have you asked him to do it yet? If not, why not read the verses again as a prayer to God. Then ask His forgiveness for your sins. If you do this, be sure to tell your leader.

John 3:16,17 God loves _____ so much that he gave his only Son. If _____ believes in Him _____ will not die but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge _____. He sent his Son to save _____ and the world.

Acts 2:21 But if _____ asks for mercy from the Lord, _____ shall have it and shall be saved.

ACTS LESSON 4

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 1 - 7.

1. Peter and John have just healed a man who could not walk. Now, Peter and John are doing something else. What are they doing and who interrupts them?

2. **CHALLENGE:** These people were upset. Why do you think they were upset?

3. What did they do with Peter and John and how long were they there?

4. How does 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 give the gospel message?

5. What does John 18:12-14 say about Annas and Caiaphas?

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 8 - 12.

1. How was the beggar healed so he could walk and jump?

2. **HARD:** What are five things, from verses 10 and 11, Peter says about Jesus?

Webster's dictionary says this about the following words:

capstone: "The crowning point"

cornerstone: "The most basic element: foundation"

salvation: "The saving of man from the power and effects of sin"

3. What do these verses say about salvation?

Joel 2:32a

John 3:17

Acts 2:21

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 13 - 22.

1. The rulers, elders, and teachers of the law (verse 5) saw how brave Peter and John were, and that they had never been educated in the religious training as the rulers were. So they were amazed by Peter's and John's wise words. They commanded them to do something. What was this command?
2. How did Peter and John answer these men?
3. Why didn't the elders punish Peter and John?

4. Peter and John, filled with the Holy Spirit, had the courage only God gives to be bold with the truth. God gives you courage, too. What does Deuteronomy 31:6,8 say about God's help for you?
5. **PERSONAL:** Has there ever been a time when you knew the Lord was giving you a boldness to speak to others about Him? Would you like to share this time with your class?

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 23 - 31.

1. Where did Peter and John go after being set free?
2. **RISKY:** How did they know God heard their prayer?
3. How does Colossians 3:16,17 tell you is a way for you to be bold for God?

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 32 - 37.

1. How and what did the apostles do to share their faith with non-believers?
2. **CHALLENGE:** When the believers sold their land, did they keep the money? Give the verse or verses from where you got your answer.
3. **PERSONAL:** Joseph had his name changed to Barnabas, which means encourager. To encourage someone means "to give hope or courage to. To urge by showing approval. To aid." Can your friends or family say you encourage them? When was the last time you urged someone to try harder? Was it a race, ball game, or something else?

ACTS - WEEK FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 4

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON-POP RELAY

Divide into two teams behind the start line. At the opposite end of the room, place a chair for each team. Give each player a balloon. Each player must blow up the balloon and tie it closed just prior to his turn to run. HINT: Blowing up the balloon to its fullest will ensure easier popping. The first player blows up his balloon and runs to the opposite chair. He puts the balloon on it until it pops. If it doesn't pop on the first try, he continues bouncing until it does pop. When it pops, he races back to the second player, tags him, and then another balloon is blown up and the race resumes. The first team to pop all their balloons wins.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 4

to end of class CRAFT: POPPED PUSSY WILLOWS TREE

MATERIALS:

12" x 18" construction paper	brown lunch bags
craft glue & glue sticks	paper cups
real or paper leaves	bowls
popped popcorn	

Rip the bags into strips, making a larger one for the trunk, the others are the limbs of a "naked" tree. Glue onto construction paper in the shape of a tree. Pour glue into bowls. Dip popcorn, one at a time, into glue and then glue onto the limbs. Add paper or real leaves, or draw them on the paper. You might want to try dipping the popped corn into food coloring for added affect. Allow to dry. Munch remaining popped corn.

Optional: Design your own picture with the popped corn, paper, and bags.

ACTS LESSON 4 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 1 - 7.

1. Peter and John have just healed a man who could not walk. Now, Peter and John are doing something else. What are they doing and who interrupts them? Verse 1: “Now Peter and John had been talking to the people for some time. And the chief priests, the captain of the Temple police, and some of the Sadducees came over to them.” [The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They were of the upper class of society. They also aligned themselves with the Romans.]
2. **CHALLENGE:** These people were upset. Why do you think they were upset? Verse 2: “They were upset that Peter and John claimed that Jesus had risen from the dead.” [The followers of any religion try to reach up to God. Christianity is God reaching down to man. The people’s religion in Christ’s day mocked His claim to be deity. And they were angry with Christ’s followers for preaching that Jesus Christ was the only way to God and eternal life.]
3. What did they do with Peter and John and how long were they there? Verse 3: “So they arrested them. And since it was already evening, they put them in jail overnight.” [An interesting note about their arrest: Until this time, the Jewish religious leaders did not resist the teachings of Jesus’ apostles. The mention of the time of day indicates that it was already too late to begin a trial, so the trial will take place the next day.]
4. How does 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 give the gospel message? “I passed on to you from the first what had been told to me. Christ died for our sins just as the Bible said he would. He was buried, and three days later he rose from the grave. This happened just as the prophets said it would.”
5. What does John 18:12-14 say about Annas and Caiaphas? “So the Jewish police and the soldiers tied Jesus up. First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the High Priest that year. Caiaphas had told the other Jewish leaders, ‘Better that one should die for all.’” [The office of High Priest was for life. This was set up at the time of Moses and the receiving of the Law. But during Roman times, they didn’t like the idea of so much power in one person, so they removed Annas from this position. His son-in-law Caiaphas succeeded him, as did five of Annas’ sons. However the Jews still continued to think of Annas as their high priest. Annas ruled from A.D. 6 to 15, and Caiaphas, A.D. 18 to 36. Annas’ son Eleazar was high priest A.D. 16-17.]

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 8 - 12.

1. How was the beggar healed so he could walk and jump? Verse 10: “Let me state this clearly. And I say this to all the people of Israel. This miracle was done in the name and power of Jesus from Nazareth, the Messiah. He was the man you crucified. But God raised him back to life again. It is by his authority that this man stands here healed!”

2. **HARD:** What are five things, from verses 10 and 11, Peter says about Jesus? 1. He was from Nazareth. 2. He was crucified by man. 3. God raised Him from the dead. 4. He was the capstone the builders rejected. 5. Salvation is found only in Him.

Webster's dictionary says this about the following words:

capstone: "The crowning point"

cornerstone: "The most basic element: foundation"

salvation: "The saving of man from the power and effects of sin"

3. What do these verses say about salvation?

Joel 2:32a "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

John 3:17 "God did not send his Son into the world to judge it. He sent his Son to save it."

Acts 2:21 "But anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved."

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 13 - 22.

1. The rulers, elders, and teachers of the law (verse 5) saw how brave Peter and John were, and that they had never been educated in the religious training as the rulers were. So they were amazed by Peter's and John's wise words. They commanded them to do something. What was this command? Verses 17,18: "But we must stop their beliefs from spreading. Perhaps we can stop them from preaching their message. We will warn them not to speak in Jesus' name again.' So they called Peter and John back into the room. And they told them never again to speak about Jesus." [Peter and John were not trained in theology as were the men on the Council. Yet these men saw in Peter and John the training of Jesus. The Council knew they could not dispute this training.]
2. How did Peter and John answer these men? Verses 19,20: "But Peter and John replied, 'You decide for yourselves what we should do. Should we obey God? Or should we obey you? We can't stop telling about the great things we saw Jesus do and heard him say.'"
3. Why didn't the elders punish Peter and John? Verse 21: "The Council then threatened them further. But finally they let Peter and John go. The Council didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God for this great miracle."
4. Peter and John, filled with the Holy Spirit, had the courage only God gives to be bold with the truth. God gives you courage, too. What does Deuteronomy 31:6,8 say about God's help for you? "Be strong! Be brave! Do not be afraid of them! For the Lord your God will be with you.

He will neither fail you nor forsake you. Don't be afraid. For the Lord will go before you and will be with you. He will not fail or forsake you."

5. **PERSONAL:** Has there ever been a time when you knew the Lord was giving you a boldness to speak to others about Him? Would you like to share this time with your class?

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 23 - 31.

1. Where did Peter and John go after being set free? Verse 23: "As soon as they were set free, Peter and John met with the other disciples. And they told them what the Council had said."
2. **RISKY:** How did they know God heard their prayer? Verse 31: "After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they boldly preached God's message."
3. How does Colossians 3:16,17 tell you is a way for you to be bold for God? "Remember what Christ taught. Let his words enrich your lives and make you wise. Teach each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Sing to the Lord with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, be a model of the Lord Jesus. Come with him to God the Father to give him your thanks." [In other words, study the Bible, memorize verses, and be in communication with the Lord.]

Read Acts chapter 4, verses 32 - 37.

1. How and what did the apostles do to share their faith with non-believers? Verse 33: "And the apostles preached powerful sermons. They told everyone about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And there was warm fellowship among all believers."
2. **CHALLENGE:** When the believers sold their land, did they keep the money? Give the verse or verses from where you got your answer. Verses 34,35: "No one was poor. For all who owned land or houses sold them. And they brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need." [This action demonstrated unity among the believers.]
3. **PERSONAL:** Joseph had his name changed to Barnabas, which means encourager. To encourage someone means "to give hope or courage to. To urge by showing approval. To aid." Can your friends or family say you encourage them? When was the last time you urged someone to try harder? Was it a race, ball game, or something else?

ACTS LESSON 5

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 1 - 10.

1. Were Ananias and Sapphira trying to do what Barnabas did? (Acts 4:36) What was Ananias' and Sapphira's plan for the money they received when they sold their land?

2. **HARD:** What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong? You know when someone does something wrong, it is called sin.

3. What does 2 Corinthians 9:7 say about giving?

4. **PERSONAL:** Ananias and Sapphira lied by letting it seem like they gave ALL the money to the apostles from selling their land. Have you ever lied by not telling the whole truth? Well, let's say you and a friend decide to clean up the room you use for this Bible Study. You do this before your leader arrives. But your friend leaves just before the leader enters the room. She sees you putting the broom away, and she says, "How nice of you to clean up this room. It really needed it. I can tell you worked hard. You did a great job." Here are some of the answers you might use for your leader. Which one is the whole truth? Which ones are lies because they leave out something?
 1. Thanks. I wanted to do it.
 2. Thanks. But, my friend helped. We did it together.
 3. Thanks. My friend stopped by and helped me a little.

5. **RISKY:** Ananias and Sapphira tried to hide something from God as well as from the apostles. Can anyone hide what he does from God? Read Psalm 139:7-10 for your answer.

6. **CHALLENGE:** In Psalm 32:3-4 what did David say happened to his body when he tried hiding his sin from God?

7. In Psalm 32:5 what did David say happened when he confessed his sin to God?

8. **PERSONAL:** Have you confessed your sins to God? Are you forgiven? Do you need to do some confessing now? Why not take a moment and tell God you are sorry for doing wrong, and you need His help to keep from sinning.

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 11 - 24.

1. **RISKY:** What new name for the group of believers do you find in verse 11?

2. **CHALLENGE:** As the apostles taught about Jesus and great miracles happened, more people joined the church. Many came to be healed. What did the people end up doing for the sick?

3. **HARD:** The Sadducees were jealous of the apostles because so many people were joining them. In your own words, what happened to the apostles because of this?

4. Early in the morning, the apostles are again found preaching. What did the soldiers find when they went to the jail to get the apostles for trial?

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 25 - 33.

1. **HARD:** In Acts 4:18 the Sanhedrin had ordered Peter and John not to teach about Jesus. The apostles told the Sanhedrin they had to obey God rather than man. How did the apostles get to be so bold and courageous?

2. What does 2 Timothy 1:7 say about being afraid?

3. You can have the same power as the apostles, and all believers, today. All you need to do is do what the following verses say.

Acts 3:19

1 John 1:9

4. If you take the steps from the verses in question 3, what does 2 Corinthians 1:21,22 tell you happens?

5. **PERSONAL:** Have you told any of your friends about Jesus?

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 34 - 42.

1. The Sanhedrin wanted to kill the apostles. But Gamaliel stood up for them. What do you learn about Gamaliel in verse 34?

2. In your own words, tell what he said in his speech to the Sanhedrin.

3. What happened to the apostles after this speech?

4. Which verse did you memorize this week? Are you ready to share it with your class?

ACTS - WEEK SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON 5

- 15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: ONE FOOT RELAY

Divide into two teams, or more if you have a large class. Place a chair at the opposite end of the room from each team. The first person on each team hops on one foot and arms folded, around the chair, back again to his team, and tags player 2, who does the same. If this is too hard, place the chair closer, or hop on two feet. If this is too easy, place obstacles between the players and the chair that they must hop around.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 5
- to end of class CRAFT: CLEAR PLATE PRISM

MATERIALS:

newspaper	scissors
tempera paints	paper cups
plastic spoons	clear plastic plates
yarn	clear tape
paint brushes	

Spread newspaper over work area. Pour paint into paper cups. Cut yarn into 6" lengths. Give each child a clear plastic plate. Carefully, have them use a spoon or paintbrush to drip the various colors of paint onto the center of their plates. Gently lay the back of a second clear plate over the painted side of the first clear plate (nest over the one with the paint), until the plates stick together. Tape the plates together. Loop the yarn and tape to the plates for hanging. Allow to dry. When hung in the window with the sun shining through, it displays a pretty prism of colors.

ACTS LESSON 5 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 1 - 10.

1. Were Ananias and Sapphira trying to do what Barnabas did? (Acts 4:36) What was Ananias' and Sapphira's plan for the money they received when they sold their land? Verse 2: " But they brought only part of the money, claiming it was the full price. His wife had agreed to lie about this." [Ananias and Sapphira were eager to be part of this new movement. And they wanted recognition. So they made the plan to keep part of the money. Then they carried out their plan. It didn't just happen. The result was death.]
2. **HARD:** What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong? You know when someone does something wrong, it is called sin. Verse 4: [Lied to God.] "The property was yours to sell or not, as you wished. And after selling it, it was yours to decide how much to give. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us, but to God."
3. What does 2 Corinthians 9:7 say about giving? "Each person should decide how much he should give. No one should force him to give. God loves cheerful givers." [It's not the amount someone gives to the Lord, it's the attitude of the heart.]
4. : Ananias and Sapphira lied by letting it seem like they gave ALL the money to the apostles from selling their land. Have you ever lied by not telling the whole truth? Well, let's say you and a friend decide to clean up the room you use for this Bible Study. You do this before your leader arrives. But your friend leaves just before the leader enters the room. She sees you putting the broom away, and she says, "How nice of you to clean up this room. It really needed it. I can tell you worked hard. You did a great job." Here are some of the answers you might use for your leader. Which one is the whole truth? Which ones are lies because they leave out something?
 1. Thanks. I wanted to do it.
 2. Thanks. But, my friend helped. We did it together. [** Correct answer.]
 3. Thanks. My friend stopped by and helped me a little.
5. **RISKY:** Ananias and Sapphira tried to hide something from God. Can anyone hide what he does from God? Read Psalm 139:7-10 for your answer. "I can never be lost to your Spirit! I can never get away from my God! If I go up to heaven, you are there. If I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. I might ride the morning winds. I might sail to the farthest oceans. But even there, your hand will guide me. Even there, your strength will support me."
6. **CHALLENGE:** In Psalm 32:3-4 what did David say happened to his body when he tried hiding his sin from God? "There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But not telling the truth made me sad. It filled my days with trouble. All day and all night your hand was heavy on me. My strength left me like water on a sunny day."

7. In Psalm 32:5 what did David say happened when he confessed his sin to God? “But I finally confessed all my sins to you. I stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, ‘I will confess them to the Lord.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”
8. **PERSONAL:** Have you confessed your sins to God? Are you forgiven? Do you need to do some confessing now? Why not take a moment and tell God you are sorry for doing wrong, and you need His help to keep from sinning.

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 11 - 24.

1. **RISKY:** What new name for the group of believers do you find in verse 11? “Fear gripped the whole church and all others who heard what had happened.” [This is the first time the word “church” has been used for new believers.]
2. **CHALLENGE:** As the apostles taught about Jesus and great miracles happened, more people joined the church. Many came to be healed. What did the people end up doing for the sick? Verse 15: “Sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats. It was hoped that at least Peter’s shadow would fall across some of them as he went by!”
3. **HARD:** The Sadducees were jealous of the apostles because so many people were joining them. In your own words, what happened to the apostles because of this? Verses 18-20: “So they arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But an angel of the Lord came at night. He opened the gates of the jail and brought them out. Then told them, ‘Go over to the Temple and preach about this new life!’”
4. Early in the morning, the apostles are again found preaching. What did the soldiers find when they went to the jail to get the apostles for trial? Verses 22-23: “But when the police got to the jail, the men weren’t there. So they went back to the Council with the report. They said, ‘The jail doors were locked and the guards were standing outside. But when we opened the gates, no one was there!’”

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 25 - 33.

1. **HARD:** In Acts 4:18 the Sanhedrin ordered Peter and John not to teach about Jesus. The apostles told the Sanhedrin they had to obey God rather than man. How did the apostles get to be so bold and courageous? Verse 32: “We are witnesses of all these things. And the Holy Spirit proves that all these things are true. The Holy Spirit is given by God to all who obey him.”
2. What does 2 Timothy 1:7 say about being afraid? “The Holy Spirit doesn’t want you to be afraid of people. He wants you to be wise and strong, and to love them.”

3. You can have the same power as the apostles, and all believers, today. All you need to do is do what the following verses say.

Acts 3:19 “Now change your mind and attitude toward God. Turn to him so he can wash away your sins. And he will send you refreshment from the Lord’s presence.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

4. If you take the steps from the verses in question 3, what does 2 Corinthians 1:21,22 tell you happens? “He has anchored both you and us in Christ. He has poured the Holy Spirit on us like oil. He called us apostles to preach the Good News. He has put his brand upon us. It is a mark that shows he owns us. He has given us his Holy Spirit in our hearts. This proves that we belong to him. It is the first taste of all that he is going to give us.”

5. **PERSONAL:** Have you told any of your friends about Jesus?

Read Acts chapter 5, verses 34 - 42.

1. The Sanhedrin wanted to kill the apostles. But Gamaliel stood up for them. What do you learn about Gamaliel in verse 34? “But then one of their members stood up. He was a Pharisee named Gamaliel. This Pharisee was an expert on religious law and very popular with the people. He asked that the apostles be sent outside the room while he talked.” [A member of the Sanhedrin, a Pharisee, an expert on religious law, and popular.]
2. In your own words, tell what he said in his speech to the Sanhedrin. Verses 35-39: “Then he spoke to the Council. ‘Men of Israel,’ he said. ‘Be careful about what you do to these men! Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas. He also pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed. Then his followers quickly scattered. After him, at the time of the taxation, there was Judas of Galilee. He drew away some people as his disciples. But he also died, and his followers scattered. And so my advice is, leave these men alone. Perhaps they teach and do things that are merely human. If this is the case, their cause will soon die out. But if it is of God, you will not be able to stop them. For you will find yourselves fighting against God.’”
3. What happened to the apostles after this speech? Verse 40: “The Council accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them beaten. Then they told them never again to speak in the name of Jesus. And finally they let them go.”
4. Which verse did you memorize this week? Are you ready to share it with your class?

ACTS LESSON 6

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 6, verses 1 - 7.

There is a saying, "You can't tell the players without a program." Many churches have a printed order of worship for each member of the congregation to follow. If you see a play, or go to a professional ball game, you get a program. As you watch the activity in front of you, the program tells you who you are watching, and what is going to be the next thing to happen. So, in this first section we have several groups of people, but we may not know who they are. Below is your program. You may have to look at it several times, so you can remember what the group does.

DISCIPLES:

Acts 2:4: "And all those who believed Peter were baptized. There were about 3,000 in all."

Acts 4:4: "But many of the people who heard their message believed it. As a result, the number of believers soon reached about 5,000 men!"

"A disciple of Christ is one who (1) believes his doctrine, (2) rests on his sacrifice, (3) imbibes [learns from] his spirit, and (4) imitates his example." (ILLUSTRATED BIBLE DICTIONARY.)

GRECIAN JEWS, or "Hellenists," are Jewish people born in Greece who spoke the Greek language, and lived according to the Greek culture. They did not worship in the regular Jerusalem synagogues, but had their own synagogues in Jerusalem.

HEBRAIC JEWS, or "Aramaic Jews," are Jewish people born and living in Jerusalem who speak the Hebrew language and live by Hebrew customs.

WIDOW: A widow is a woman whose husband has died. During Old Testament times, and before the Church began, it was the custom of the synagogue to take a collection for the widows. This custom was carried on after the church began.

1 Timothy 5:16: "Let me remind you again that a widow's relatives must take care of her. They should not leave this to the church. Then the church can spend its money for the care of women who are really widows."

Deuteronomy 24:19: "When taking in your harvest, you might forget to bring in a sheaf from the field. If so, don't go back after it. Leave it for the migrants, orphans, and widows. Then the Lord your God will bless all you do."

APOSTLES - These are the eleven men who were with Jesus from the very beginning of His ministry, plus the one selected in Acts 1:26 to replace Judas Iscariot.

1. In our last lesson Ananias and Sapphira lied about the money they gave the apostles. What does Acts 6:1 say is another problem for the apostles?

2. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of these words?

complain

grumble

3. **RISKY:** The first part of Numbers 16:11 tells who the people are complaining about. Who is it?

4. How did the Twelve handle the problem the Grecian Jews complained about in Acts 6?

5. **CHALLENGE:** What was the responsibility, or work, of the Twelve?

6. Everyone agreed with the Twelve. Who were picked?

7. What happened to the word of God and who else became Christians?

Read Acts chapter 6, verses 8 - 15.

1. **HARD:** Stephen was the first to be chosen. Give the verse or verses and what they say about Stephen.

2. Men started to argue with Stephen. Why did he always win?

3. Luke 12:11,12 has a promise that tells us how Stephen was able to speak the way he did. It is a promise for us to claim today. What does it say?

4. Some men were brought into the Synagogue and made up lies about Stephen. Read Matthew 26:59-63a. Who is another man who had lies told about him?

5. God does not like lying of any kind. Read Proverbs 6:16-19. When someone detests something it means they hate something violently. To hate something is to “have very strong feelings against something” (HOLT) What are the second and sixth things God hates?

6. **HARD CHALLENGE:** In Acts 5:26, Peter and John were arrested. In Acts 6:12, Stephen is arrested. There is a difference between these arrests. Can you find the difference between Acts 5:26, and Acts 6:12b? Underline your answer. HINT: You must read the verses slowly to find the answer.

Acts 5:26 “The police captain went with his officers and arrested them. They did this without violence. For they were afraid the people would kill them if they treated them badly.”

Acts 6:12 “These lies made the crowds very angry at Stephen. So the Jewish leaders arrested him and brought him before the Council.”

7. How did Stephen look while this was going on?

Read Acts chapter 7, verses 1 - 47.

1. Acts 7:1-47 is the history of the Hebrew people. It begins with Abraham and ends with the prophets. Fill in the blanks with the right answer. Then, use the numbers below each letter to fill in the quotation spaces that have the same number. HINT: When you have found the answer to one sentence, look for the numbers in the other sentences that have the same number.

A. God promised Abraham he would have many

____ _ .
4 5 17 3 5 13 4 1 13 18 17

B. Abraham's descendants would be slaves for ____ _ .
6 14 19 16

____ _ years.
8 19 13 4 16 5 4

C. ____ _ was sold by his brothers and became a
10 14 17 5 15 8

____ _ .
17 11 1 20 5

D. As a baby, Moses was saved from death by Pharaoh's daughter. She raised him as her own son. Moses had a very good ____ _ .
5 4 19 3 1 18 9 14 13

E. Moses led the Hebrews out of ____ _ .
5 7 22 15 18

F. The people worshiped ____ _ .
8 5 1 20 5 13 11 22

____ _ instead of God. So God promised to send them into
2 14 4 9 5 17
exile in Babylon.

G. David wanted to build God's temple. Instead ____ _ did.
17 14 11 14 12 14 13

H. Prophets are ____ _ people who tell the future.
21 9 17 5

QUOTATION: ____ _ .
17 1 11 20 1 18 9 14 13 9 17

____ _ ,
6 14 19 13 4 9 13 13 14 14 13 4 5 11 17 5

(Quotation continued on next page)

ACTS - WEEK SEVEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 6

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

The snack and craft this week are Thanksgiving themed. If this lesson doesn't fall near Thanksgiving for your class, just switch this craft with one from a week that will be near Thanksgiving.

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: SPECIAL SNACK

8 ounce paper cups	cinnamon
vanilla instant pudding mix	milk
canned pumpkin	vanilla wafer crumbs
four bowls	plastic teaspoons

Put pudding mix, pumpkin, cookie crumbs, and cinnamon each in a separate bowl. (Or, if you have cinnamon in a container with a perforated lid, you may wish to have children shake it out rather than spoon it from a bowl.) Mix three heaping teaspoons pudding mix, one teaspoon pumpkin, and a sprinkle of cinnamon in the paper cup. Add milk until the cup is nearly full. Stir carefully until mixture begins to thicken. Sprinkle with cookie crumbs and enjoy. Or place in refrigerator for enjoyment later.

GAME: SILLY HAND RELAY

Divide into two teams, and line up in two rows behind the start line. Place two containers for each team on the finish line. One container will always remain empty. Fill the other with work gloves and six small objects. If you can't find the gloves, old socks will do.

The first player on each team, at the signal, runs to the container with the gloves and small objects, puts on the gloves, and one at a time, transfers the objects to the empty container. When all six objects are in the new container, player removes gloves and places them on top in the container. Player runs back to his team, and tags the second player. First player goes to end of line. Play continues until all players of one team are in their starting positions.

(continued on next page)

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 6

to end of class CRAFT: DECORATIVE PIE

MATERIALS:

small aluminum pot pie tin	spray paint
cotton batting or scrap fabric	potpourri
glue gun	straw flowers
cinnamon stick	newspapers
raffia	

Cover work area with newspapers. Spray paint the tins. (This can be done ahead of time if desired.) After paint dries, line the tin with fabric or batting, so the fabric hangs over the edge, as with a pastry pie shell. Fill with potpourri. Criss cross the filled “pie shell” with strips of fabric. With a strip of fabric the circumference of the tin, hot glue and crimp it to the edge of the “pie.” Hot glue a cinnamon stick, straw flowers, or raffia in the center of top.

ACTS LESSON 6 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 6, verses 1 - 7.

There is a saying, “You can’t tell the players without a program.” Many churches have a printed order of worship for each member of the congregation to follow. If you see a play, or go to a professional ball game, you get a program. As you watch the activity in front of you, the program tells you who you are watching, and what is going to be the next thing to happen. So, in this first section we have several groups of people, but we may not know who they are. Below is your program. You may have to look at it several times, so you can remember what the group does.

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Deuteronomy 24:19: “When taking in your harvest, you might forget to bring in a sheaf from the field. If so, don’t go back after it. Leave it for the migrants, orphans, and widows. Then the Lord your God will bless all you do.”

APOSTLES - These are the eleven men who were with Jesus from the very beginning of His ministry, plus the one selected in Acts 1:26 to replace Judas Iscariot.

1. In our last lesson, Ananias and Sapphira lied about the money they gave the apostles. What does Acts 6:1 say is another problem for the apostles? Verse 1: “But as the church grew, new problems came up. Some of the believers were from a Greek background. Others were from a Jewish background. Those who were from a Greek background felt that their widows were

not being treated fairly. They were not being given as much food as the widows from a Jewish background.”

2. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of these words?

complain “To express dissatisfaction or discontent because of a pain, sorrow, nuisance, etc.”
(HOLT) [Another word would be whine, or grumble.]

grumble “To mutter, murmur, or growl discontentedly” (HOLT). [Fuss, gripe, or whine are a few more words for grumble.]

3. **RISKY:** The first part of Numbers 16:11 tells who the people are complaining about. Who is it? “It is against the Lord that you and all your followers have banded together” (NIV).
4. How did the Twelve handle the problem the Grecian Jews complained about in Acts 6? Verse 3: “Now look around among yourselves, dear brothers. Choose seven men, wise and full of the Holy Spirit. They must be well respected by everyone. And we will put them in charge of this business.”
5. **CHALLENGE:** What was the responsibility, or work, of the Twelve? Verse 4: “Then we can spend our time in prayer, preaching, and teaching.”
6. Everyone agreed with the Twelve. Who were picked? Verse 5b: “They chose Stephen, who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. They chose Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas. And they also chose Nicolaus of Antioch. Nicolaus was a Gentile who had become a Christian. Before that, he had converted to the Jewish faith.” [Stephen is mentioned first, and plays an important role in the following verses. He was the first Christian martyr. Philip played an important role in furthering Christianity. Having Grecian Jews is a foreshadowing, or glimpse, of the spread of the gospel, as Christ commissioned in Matthew 28:19.]
7. What happened to the word of God and who else became Christians? Verse 7: “God’s message was preached to more and more people. And in Jerusalem, the number of believers quickly grew. Many of the Jewish priests were converted too!”

Read Acts chapter 6, verses 8 - 15.

1. **HARD:** Stephen was the first to be chosen. Give the verse or verses and what they say about Stephen. Verse 8: “Now Stephen was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit’s power. And he did great miracles among the people.”
2. Men started to argue with Stephen. Why did he always win? Verse 10: “But they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke” (NIV).
3. Luke 12:11,12 has a promise that tells us how Stephen was able to speak the way he did. It is a promise for us to claim today. What does it say? “You will be brought to trial before these Jewish rulers in the synagogue. When this happens, don’t worry about what to say in your defense. For the Holy spirit will give you the right words to say.”

4. Some men were brought into the Synagogue and made up lies about Stephen. Read Matthew 26:59-63a. Who is another man who had lies told about him? Jesus.
5. God does not like lying of any kind. Read Proverbs 6:16-19. When someone detests something it means they hate something violently. To hate something is to “have very strong feelings against something” (HOLT). What are the second and sixth things God hates? “For there are six things the Lord hates — no, seven. He hates pride, lying, murdering, evil plans, eagerness to do wrong, a false witness, and planting trouble among brothers.”
6. **HARD CHALLENGE:** In Acts 5, Peter and John were arrested. In Acts 6:12, Stephen is arrested. There is a difference between these arrests. Can you find the difference between Acts 5:26, and Acts 6:12b? Underline your answer. HINT: You must read the verses slowly to find the answer.

Acts 5:26 “The police captain went with his officers and arrested them. They did this without violence. For they were afraid the people would kill them if they treated them badly.”

Acts 6:12 “These lies made the crowds very angry at Stephen. So the Jewish leaders arrested him and brought him before the Council.” [No violence with Peter and John’s arrest. Violence with Stephen’s.]

7. How did Stephen look while this was going on? Verse 15: “At this point everyone looked over at Stephen. And his face had become as bright as an angel’s.”

Read Acts chapter 7, verses 1 - 47.

1. Acts 7:1-47 is the history of the Hebrew people. It begins with Abraham and ends with the prophets. Fill in the blanks below with the right answer. Then use the numbers below each letter to help you fill in the letters in the QUOTATION spaces that have the same number.

CODE: 1=A; 2=B; 3=C; 4=D; 5=E; 6=F; 7=G; 8=H; 9=I; 10=J; 11=L; 12=M; 13=N; 14=O; 15=P; 16=R; 17=S; 18=T; 19=U; 20=V; 21=W; 22=Y.

- A. God promised Abraham he would have many d e s c e n d a n t s
4 5 17 3 5 13 4 1 13 18 17
- B. Abraham’s descendants would be slaves for f o u r h u n d r e d
years. 6 14 19 16 8 19 13 4 16 5 4
- C. J o s e p h was sold by his brothers and became a s l a v e.
10 14 17 5 15 8 17 11 1 20 5
- D. As a baby, Moses was saved from death by Pharaoh’s daughter. She raised him as her own son. Moses had a very good e d u c a t i o n.
5 4 19 3 1 18 9 14 13

E. Moses led the Hebrews out of E g y p t.
5 7 20 15 18

F. The people worshiped h e a v e n l y b o d i e s instead of
8 5 1 20 5 13 11 22 2 14 4 9 5 17
God. So, God promised to send them into exile in Babylon.

G. David wanted to build God's temple. Instead S o l o m o n did.
17 14 11 14 12 14 13

H. Prophets are w i s e men who tell the future.
21 9 17 5

QUOTATION: S a l v a t i o n i s f o u n d i n
17 1 11 20 1 18 9 14 13 9 17 6 14 19 13 4 9 13

n o o n e e l s e, f o r t h e r e i s n o
13 14 14 13 4 4 11 17 5 6 14 16 18 8 5 16 5 9 17 13 14

o t h e r n a m e u n d e r h e a v e n
14 18 8 5 16 13 1 12 5 19 13 4 5 16 8 5 1 20 5 13

g i v e n t o m e n b y w h i c h w e
7 9 20 5 13 18 14 12 5 13 2 22 21 8 9 3 8 21 5

m u s t b e s a v e d.
12 19 17 18 2 5 17 1 20 5 4

Read Acts chapter 7, verses 48 - 60.

1. **CHALLENGE:** What does Stephen say to the elders about Messiah and the law? Verses 52,53: "Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who foretold the coming of the Messiah. The Messiah finally came, but you betrayed and murdered him. Yes, and you don't obey God's laws, even though they came from the hands of angels."
2. How did the Jewish leaders react to what Stephen said? Verse 54: "The Jewish leaders became very angry at Stephen's words. They ground their teeth in rage."
3. As Stephen was being stoned, what did he see? Verse 56: "He said to them, 'Look! I see the heavens opened. And I see Jesus the Messiah standing at the right hand of God!'"
4. **PERSONAL:** The last words Stephen spoke were, "Lord don't charge them with this sin!" He was forgiving those people who were killing him. Do you have a hard time forgiving someone who has hurt you? These men didn't ask Stephen to forgive them. He did it because he knew that Jesus taught us to forgive seventy-seven times. This means to keep on forgiving someone. If you are having a hard time forgiving someone, ask the Lord to help you. Philippians 2:13 says, "For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants." God forgives you when you ask His forgiveness. And He will help you forgive others if you just ask Him.

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 5 - 13.

The following questions are multiple choice. Circle or underline the correct answer(s).

1. The disciple in these verses is _____.
 - a. Simon
 - b. Peter
 - c. James
 - d. Stephen
 - e. Philip

2. This disciple performed _____ and _____.
 - a. miraculous signs
 - b. magic
 - c. healings
 - d. tricks

3. _____ practiced sorcery. (Sorcery is the same as magic.)
 - a. Joseph
 - b. Simon
 - c. Paul
 - d. David
 - e. Philip

4. In ancient times, magic was another type of religion. But because Philip “preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ,” many men and women believed and were _____.
 - a. baptized
 - b. stoned
 - c. hanged
 - d. eaten

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 14 - 24.

1. Once Peter and John heard what was happening in Samaria, they were the next to go there. What is the first thing these two disciples did for the Samaritans?

2. In Luke 9:52-54, which two apostles were in Samaria with Jesus when one village did not welcome Him, and what did they want to do to those Samaritans?
3. **PERSONAL:** If you have friends who do not know Jesus as their Savior, what do you think is the first thing you should do for them?

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 25 - 33.

In these stories, we see steps God is taking to move the gospel message into all the world, from the Jews to the Gentiles.

1. Who directed Philip to take to the road and go south?
2. Who told Philip what to do? And what was it Philip was to do?
3. It was the custom in those days to read out loud. It is possible Philip heard what the Ethiopian was reading. What did Philip ask the man?
4. How did the man answer Philip? Did the Ethiopian know what he was reading?

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 34 - 40.

1. The man wanted to know who the passage in Isaiah was talking about. How did Philip answer him?

2. What was the next thing the man asked Philip to do?

3. What happened after the baptism?

4. Where did Philip go?

5. **PERSONAL:** Read the following scriptures. Then, in your own words, using the scriptures below, tell why you should read your Bible and memorize scripture.

Romans 10:13-15 “Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him? That is why the Bible says, ‘People who preach the Good News of peace have beautiful feet. They bring glad tidings of good things.’ In other words, how welcome are those who come preaching God’s Good News.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17 “When you were a small child, you were taught the Holy Bible. It makes you wise to accept God’s salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus. The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God. It is useful to teach us what is true. It helps us to know what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It makes us well prepared and fully equipped to do good to everyone.”

2 Peter 1:20,21 “No prophecy in the Bible was thought up by the prophet himself. The Holy Spirit within these godly men gave them true messages from God.”

6. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you memorize this week?

ACTS - WEEK EIGHT

DISCUSSION LESSON 7

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: TABLE BOWLING

Tightly wad up at least 10 sheets of newspaper. With masking tape mark “gutters” along the long sides of a rectangular table, and mark a start and a finish line. Behind the finish line, arrange the newspaper “balls” as you would bowling pins in a real bowling alley. Use a tennis ball or small rubber ball for the bowling ball. Each bowler stands behind the start line. His hand must not pass this line when he rolls the ball. Each player gets two tries to knock off any or all of the balls. If the ball goes into the gutter lane, or off the “alley,” this counts as one ball. Count all the “pins” the player knocks off. The one with the most points wins. (This game can also be played on the floor, especially if you want to make the alley longer and more challenging for older children.)

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 7

to end of class CRAFT: CHRISTMAS WREATH, GIFT, & ORNAMENT

If this lesson doesn't fall near Christmas for your class, just switch this craft with one from a week that will be near Christmas.

If these are too many crafts for this week, you may wish to carry some over for the next few weeks.

CHRISTMAS WREATH

popped popcorn	gum drops/gummy bears (red/green)
12” length of thin wire	12” length of 7/8” ribbon
6” length gold cord	straight pins

*If you want to make the wreath an ornament shorten the lengths of the wire, ribbon and cord, and the number of gum drops.

Choose the large fluffy pieces of popcorn for stringing. Eat the rest! Bend the wire loosely in half to mark the center. Poke the wire through four pieces of popcorn and slide the set to the center. Poke one green gum drop through one end of the wire to the popcorn. Poke one green gum drop through the other end of the wire and slide to the popcorn. Continue in this pattern, working

each side of the wire. Or create your own pattern. When wire is full, twist the ends together. Poke another gum drop on the wire ends so that they are hidden. Tie the ribbon into a bow at the top center, and attach the gold cord in a loop for hanging. Be sure to knot the ends of the cord.

SOAP ON A ROPE

2 cups soap flakes (Ivory, Dreft)	
egg beater	1/2 cup hot water
bowl	food coloring
cookie cutters	1 yard yarn or cord

You may want to make this ahead of time. Or, allow the class to have the messy fun!!! Pour flakes into a bowl of hot water. Beat with egg beater until evenly mixed. If you use food coloring, add it before beating. Once the flakes are evenly mixed with the water, mix with the hands, rolling it in the hands to make a firm ball. Tie the yarn together with a large knot. Wrap the ball around the knot, leaving a loop long enough to hang from the shower neck. Squeeze the ball into any shape desired. Pressing the ball of soap into shaped cookie cutters may help those who are having trouble making their own shape. Trim excess soap. The soap shape must dry for several days. When dry, tie another knot at the spot where the rope comes out of the soap.

ORNAMENT

cookie molds—the type used in making candy or cookies
spray oil
plaster of Paris
decorations: sequins, beads, etc.
hook (aluminum can pull tops)
yarn, cord, ribbon

Make plaster of Paris according to package instructions. Spray oil onto molds for easier removal. Pour plaster of Paris into molds, add hook, and allow to set. When ready it is usually cold to the touch. (The package should also give instructions for this.) Carefully remove from forms. Decorate if desired, or leave white. Thread yarn through pull top for hanging on the tree.

ACTS LESSON 7 — ANSWERS

Read Acts, chapter 8, verses 1 - 4.

1. When did the persecution of the church begin? See Acts 7:60 to help with your answer. It was on the day Stephen died. [Under the Roman Empire, this persecution lasted about 200 years.]
2. When this persecution started, many Christians fled from Jerusalem. They shared their faith in all the places they went, fulfilling what Jesus had told them in Acts 1:8. What did Jesus tell them in that verse? “But the Holy Spirit will come upon you. And you will receive power to speak about me with great effect. You will be my witnesses to the people in Jerusalem. You will also go throughout Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. You will tell everyone that I died and then rose again from the dead.”
3. What happened to Stephen’s body? Verse 2: “But some godly Jews came, and with great sorrow they buried Stephen.” [Mourning was highly irregular. According to Jewish laws and regulations, it was okay to bury a criminal who had been stoned, but to mourn that person, was being disobedient.]
4. **PERSONAL:** Saul was a very angry man. Single-handedly, he tried to destroy the church. Imagine you are sound asleep in bed. All of a sudden, there is noise and shouts outside your house. As you get up, your bedroom door crashes down, and soldiers come rushing in. Before you can ask what they are doing there, they leave. You see some have gone to your parents’ room, and drag them outside. As you watch, they shove them into a big truck. Tears come out of your eyes, and you are calling and reaching for your folks, but there is nothing you can do to stop them from being hauled away because they believe Jesus is the Messiah. And the people taking them away think they are obeying God. How do you think you would act if this really happened to you? [This is for discussion purposes. This type of thing is still happening to Christians around the world today.]

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 5 - 13.

The following questions are multiple choice. Circle or underline the correct answer(s).

1. The disciple in these verses is PHILIP.
 - a. Simon
 - b. Peter
 - c. James
 - d. Stephen
 - e. Philip
2. This disciple performed MIRACULOUS SIGNS and HEALINGS.
 - a. miraculous signs
 - b. magic
 - c. healings
 - d. tricks

3. SIMON practiced sorcery. (Sorcery is the same as magic.)
- a. Joseph
 - b. Simon
 - c. Paul
 - d. David
 - e. Philip
4. In ancient times, magic was another type of religion. But because Philip “preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ,” many men and women believed and were BAPTIZED.
- a. baptized
 - b. stoned
 - c. hanged
 - d. eaten

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 14 - 24.

1. Once Peter and John heard what was happening in Samaria, they were the next to go there. What is the first thing these two disciples did for the Samaritans? Verse 15: “When they got there, Peter and John began to pray for the new Christians. They prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit.”
2. In Luke 9:52-54, which two apostles were in Samaria with Jesus when one village did not welcome Him, and what did they want to do to those Samaritans? “Word soon came back of what had happened. James and John were upset. They said to Jesus, ‘Master, shall we order fire down from Heaven to burn them up?’”
3. **PERSONAL:** If you have friends who do not know Jesus as their Savior, what do you think is the first thing you should do for them? [Pray]

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 25 - 33.

In these stories, we see steps God is taking to move the gospel message into all the world, from the Jews to the Gentiles.

1. Who directed Philip to take to the road and go south? Verse 26: “But an Angel of the Lord came and spoke to Philip. The Angel said, ‘Go over the road that runs from Jerusalem through the Gaza Desert. Be there around noon.’”
2. Who told Philip what to do next? And what was it Philip was to do? Verse 29: “The Holy Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over and walk along beside the chariot.’”
3. It was the custom in those days to read out loud. It is possible Philip heard what the Ethiopian was reading. What did Philip ask the man? Verse 30: “Philip ran over and heard what the Ethiopian was reading. ‘Do you understand it?’ he asked.” [This is not the Ethiopia we know today. It refers to an area in southern Egypt to Khartoum, Sudan.]

4. How did the man answer Philip? Did the Ethiopian know what he was reading? Verse 31: “Of course not!” the man replied. ‘How can I when there is no one to teach me.’ And he begged Philip to come up into the chariot and sit with him.”

Read Acts chapter 8, verses 34 - 40.

1. The man wanted to know who the passage in Isaiah was talking about. How did Philip answer him? Verse 35: “So Philip began with this same Scripture to tell him about Jesus. Then he used many others to tell him the Good News.”
2. What was the next thing that the man asked Philip to do? Verse 36: “As they rode along, they came to a small body of water. The eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! Why can’t I be baptized?’”
3. What happened after the baptism? Verse 39: “When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again. But he went on his way full of joy.”
4. Where did Philip go? Verse 40: “Meanwhile, Philip found himself at Azotus! He preached the Good News there. Then he traveled to Caesarea and preached in every city along the way.”
5. **PERSONAL:** Read the following scriptures. Then, in your own words, using the scriptures below, tell why you should read your Bible and memorize scripture.

Romans 10:13-15 “Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him? That is why the Bible says, ‘People who preach the Good News of peace have beautiful feet. They bring glad tidings of good things.’ In other words, how welcome are those who come preaching God’s Good News.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17 “When you were a small child, you were taught the Holy Bible. It makes you wise to accept God’s salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus. The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God. It is useful to teach us what is true. It helps us to know what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It makes us well prepared and fully equipped to do good to everyone.”

2 Peter 1:20,21 “No prophecy in the Bible was thought up by the prophet himself. The Holy Spirit within these godly men gave them true messages from God.”

6. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you memorize this week?

ACTS LESSON 8

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts, chapter 9, verses 1 - 8.

1. What did Saul want from the high priest?

2. Read John 14:6. Who is speaking in this verse, and what is he saying?

3. Saul fell to the ground when the light surrounded him. What was the question Saul asked?

4. **HARD:** The voice that spoke to Saul was Jesus. Jesus said, "I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt!" How could Jesus say He was being hurt, since He had been crucified, rose again, and ascended to heaven, and it was the Christian believers Saul was after? Read 1 Corinthians 12:27 for your answer.

5. The voice told Saul to go into Damascus and to wait for further orders from Him. Why did his traveling companions have to lead him?

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 9 - 16.

1. How long did Saul stay this way? And what did he do?
2. Jesus called Ananias to help Saul. What did Jesus tell Ananias to do for Saul?
3. Was this man happy and willing to go to Saul and help him? Give verses with your answer.
4. **PERSONAL:** This man's whining did not get him out of doing the job Jesus told him to do. Do you whine in order to get out of something you are supposed to do? How does Colossians 3:17 convince you not to whine, but to cheerfully do what is asked of you?
5. What did Jesus say to Ananias about Saul?

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 17 - 25.

1. What did Ananias say to Saul?
2. **CHALLENGE:** Saul did an "about face." He was a different man after his experience with Jesus. What do these verses tell you about becoming a new person?

John 3:3,5

2 Corinthians 5:17

3. As Saul spoke about his faith in Jesus, he became very powerful. The Jews in Damascus were having trouble debating him. So, they plotted to kill him. How did Saul's friends rescue him?

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 26 - 31.

1. **PERSONAL:** The disciples in Jerusalem didn't trust Saul. The last they had seen of him, he was asking the high priest for letters to capture the Christians in faraway Damascus. Barnabas became Saul's friend, brought him to the disciples, and told them what Saul had been doing. Have you been in a new place and someone came to help you become part of the group? Or have you seen someone standing alone, and you went to them and helped them become part of the group? How did you feel about doing what Jesus would want you to do?
2. In Acts 9:29 we are told Saul is having trouble with Greek-speaking Jews. They made plans to kill him. This is the second recorded attempt on Saul's life in the book of Acts. The first was in Damascus, where his friends let him out a window, and down the side of the wall. He then went to Jerusalem. How did Saul escape this time, and where did Saul's friends send him?
3. What happened to the church?

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 32 - 43.

1. In Acts 9:32 Peter enters into the picture. Remember, in Acts 8:25, Peter and John had traveled to Samaria, where Philip had preached. They wanted to be sure the Samaritans were being real in their conversion. After their teaching, Peter and John return to Jerusalem. But on the way they made a few stops. What town did Peter go to, and what did he do there?
2. News of a healing traveled fast. People in Joppa heard what Peter had done and sent two men there to beg Peter to go with them. He agreed. What did he do when he got to Joppa?
3. Read Mark 5:37,41-42. Who was with Jesus when He did this miracle?
4. Many people began to believe the Good News about Jesus. And the church grew. Where did Peter go after this miracle?
5. **PERSONAL:** What verse did you memorize?

ACTS - WEEK NINE

DISCUSSION LESSON 8

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON-KNEE RELAY

Divide into teams. Give the first player of each team a balloon. Mark the start and finish lines. With balloon between the knees, race to the finish line, remove balloon, and carry it back to the second player. Continue in this way. The team wins when all players on have raced.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 8

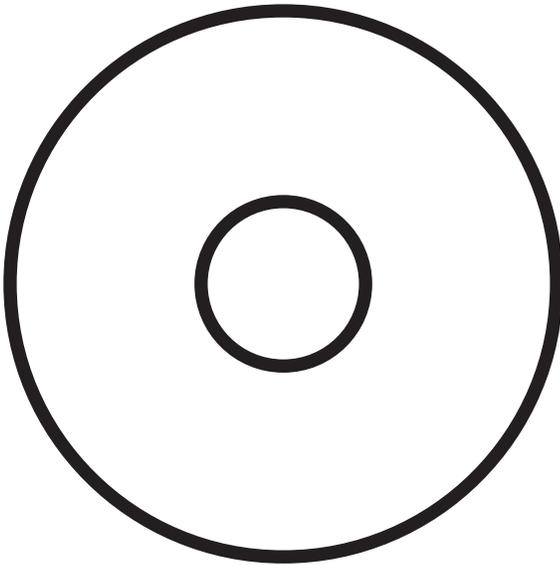
to end of class CRAFT: CHRISTMAS CARDS

If this lesson doesn't fall near Christmas for your class, just switch this craft with one from a week that will be near Christmas.

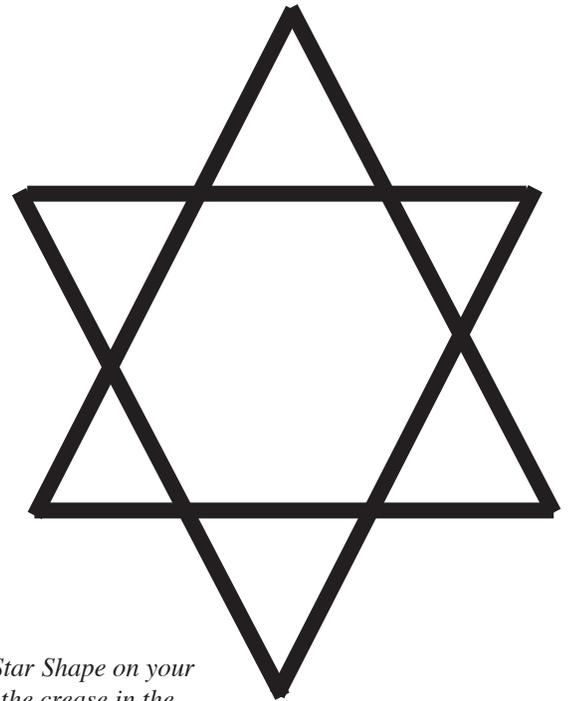
MATERIALS:

gummed stars or small stickers, such as circles, triangles, squares
8 1/2" x 11" white paper
crayons or colored pens

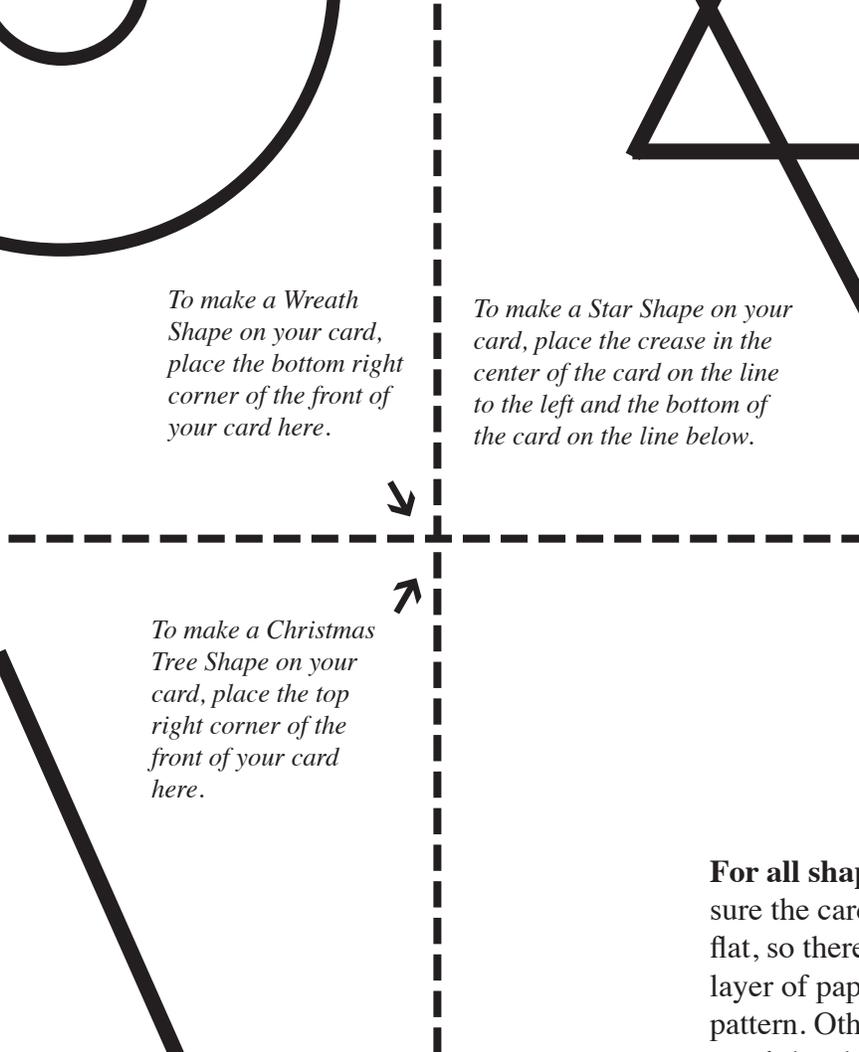
Before class, use a paper cutter to cut the 8 1/2" x 11" paper in half horizontally (resulting in 5" x 8 1/2" pieces). Photocopy the pattern sheet on page 71 for each student. Have students fold their pages in half again to make 5" x 4 1/4" cards. Open the card out flat again, and using the guidelines marked on the pattern page, place the front of a card over the pattern desired. Use pattern showing through behind the card paper as a guide for placing the stars or small stickers to fill in the shape of the tree, star, or wreath. Write a greeting on the front and inside of cards.



To make a Wreath Shape on your card, place the bottom right corner of the front of your card here.

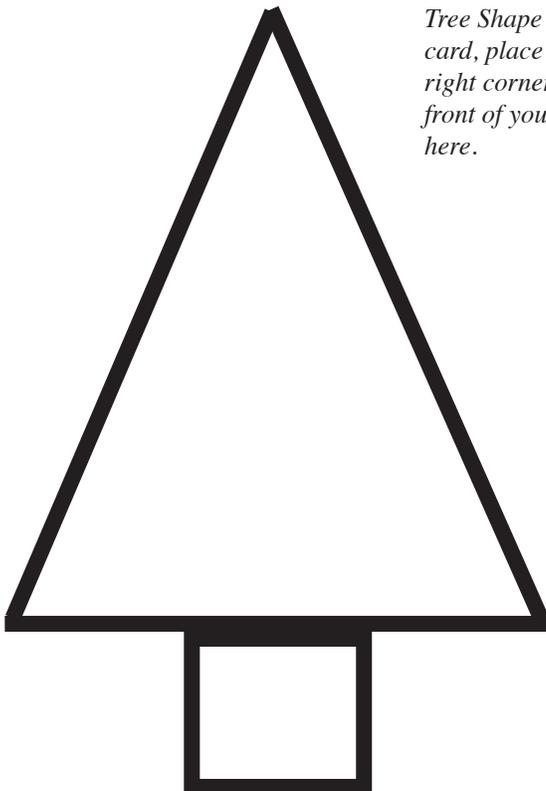


To make a Star Shape on your card, place the crease in the center of the card on the line to the left and the bottom of the card on the line below.



To make a Christmas Tree Shape on your card, place the top right corner of the front of your card here.

For all shapes: make sure the card is opened flat, so there is only one layer of paper over the pattern. Otherwise you won't be able to see the lines through the paper.



ACTS LESSON 8 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 1 - 8.

1. What did Saul want from the high priest? Verse 2: “He asked for a letter addressed to synagogues in Damascus. The letter told the Jews there to help Saul persecute the believers in their city. They were to arrest all the believers, both men and women. And then Saul would bring them in chains to Jerusalem.” [Damascus was not close to Jerusalem. It was about a six day trip. Damascus was not even under the rule of Judea, but the Romans believed in extradition as the high priest demanded.]
2. Read John 14:6. Who is speaking in this verse, and what is he saying? “Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can get to the Father except through me.’” [“The Way” was a term used only in Acts.]
3. Saul fell to the ground when the light surrounded him. What was the question Saul asked? Verse 5a: “‘Who is speaking, sir?’ Saul asked.” [Most translations carry the word “Lord” for “sir”, even though in the original Greek, the word for “Lord” is “sir”.]
4. **HARD:** The voice that spoke to Saul was Jesus. Jesus said, “I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt!” How could Jesus say He was being hurt, since He had been crucified, rose again, and ascended to heaven, and it was the Christian believers Saul was after? Read 1 Corinthians 12:27 for your answer. “All of you together are the one body of Christ. Each one of you is a separate and needed part of it.”
5. The voice told Saul to go into Damascus and to wait for further orders from Him. Why did his traveling companions have to lead him? Verse 8: “As Saul picked himself up off the ground, he found that he was blind.”

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 9 - 16.

1. How long did Saul stay this way? And what did he do? Verse 9: “He was there for three days, blind. And he went without food and water all that time.”
2. Jesus called Ananias to help Saul. What did Jesus tell Ananias to do for Saul? Verse 12: “For I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming to him. This man laid his hands on him so that he could see again!”
3. Was this man happy and willing to go to Saul and help him? Give verses with your answer. [No.] Verses 13,14: “‘But Lord!’ exclaimed Ananias. ‘I have heard bad reports about this man. He has done terrible things to the believers in Jerusalem! And we hear that he has a letter with him from the chief priests. This letter gives him the power to arrest every believer here in Damascus.’” [At this point Ananias does not know of Saul’s conversion.]

4. **PERSONAL:** This man's whining did not get him out of doing the job Jesus told him to do. Do you whine in order to get out of something you are supposed to do? How does Colossians 3:17 convince you not to whine, but to cheerfully do what is asked of you? "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" [NIV].
5. What did Jesus say to Ananias about Saul? Verses 15,16: "But the Lord said, 'Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument. He will preach my message to the Gentiles and their kings. He also will preach to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for me.'"

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 17 - 25.

1. What did Ananias say to Saul? Verse 17: "So Ananias went over and found Saul and laid his hands on him. 'Brother Saul,' he said, 'the Lord Jesus spoke to you on the road. And now he has sent me so that you may be filled with the Holy Spirit. I have also come to give your sight back.'"
2. **CHALLENGE:** Saul did an "about face." He was a different man after his experience with Jesus. What do these verses tell you about becoming a new person?

John 3:3, 5 Verse 3: "Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth. Unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God.'" Verse 5: "Jesus replied, 'What I am telling you so earnestly is this. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.'"

2 Corinthians 5:17 "How does someone become like new? When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"

3. As Saul spoke about his faith in Jesus, he became very powerful. The Jews in Damascus were having trouble debating him. So they plotted to kill him. How did Saul's friends rescue him? Verse 25: "So during the night some of his converts put him in a large basket. Then they let him down through an opening in the city wall!"

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 26 - 31.

1. **PERSONAL:** The disciples in Jerusalem didn't trust Saul. The last they had seen of him, he was asking the high priest for letters to capture the Christians in faraway Damascus. Barnabas became Saul's friend, brought him to the disciples, and told them what Saul had been doing. Have you been in a new place and someone came to help you become part of the group? Or have you seen someone standing alone, and you went to them and helped them become part of the group? How did you feel about doing what Christ would want you to do?

2. In verse 29 we are told Saul is having trouble with Greek-speaking Jews. They made plans to kill him. This is the second recorded attempt on Saul's life in the book of Acts. The first was in Damascus, where his friends let him out a window, and down the side of the wall. He then went to Jerusalem. How did Saul escape this time, and where did Saul's friends send him? Verse 30: "However, the other believers heard about his danger. So they took him to Caesarea and then sent him to his home in Tarsus."
3. What happened to the church? Verse 31: "Meanwhile, the church had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. And it soon grew in strength and numbers. The believers learned how to walk in the fear of the Lord. And they lived with the comfort of the Holy Spirit."

Read Acts chapter 9, verses 32 - 43.

1. In Acts 9:32 Peter enters into the picture. Remember, in Acts 8:25, Peter and John had traveled to Samaria, where Philip had preached. They wanted to be sure the Samaritans were being real in their conversion. After their teaching, Peter and John return to Jerusalem. But on the way they made a few stops. What town did Peter go to, and what did he do there? Verse 32: "Peter traveled from place to place to visit the believers. And in his travels, he came to the believers in the town of Lydda." Verse 34: "Peter said to him, 'Aeneas! Jesus Christ has healed you! Get up and make your bed.' And he was healed instantly."
2. News of a healing traveled fast. People in Joppa heard what Peter had done and sent two men there to beg Peter to go with them. He agreed. What did he do when he got to Joppa? Verse 40: "But Peter asked them all to leave the room. Then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, 'Get up Dorcas.' And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up!"
3. Read Mark 5:37,41-42. Who was with Jesus when He did this miracle? "Then he stopped the crowd. He only let Peter, James and John go on with him to Jairus's home. Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Get up, little girl!' She was 12 years old. And she jumped up and walked around! Her parents just couldn't get over it."
4. Many people began to believe the Good News about Jesus. And the church grew. What did Peter do after this miracle? Verse 43. "Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon."
5. **PERSONAL:** What verse did you memorize?

ACTS LESSON 9

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 1 - 8.

This chapter is the beginning of the Good News taken to the Gentiles. The church began in Jerusalem. After Stephen's stoning in chapters 7-8, the believers (called the church) scattered. Now, in less than ten years after Jesus' crucifixion, the Gospel is taken to the Gentiles. This is really important. Jesus had told His disciples to go into all the world with this message. Up until now, the Good News stayed with the apostles in Jerusalem.

The Jews had a lot of prejudice, dislike, towards the Gentiles. The dictionary says this about prejudice:

prejudice — Strong feeling for or against something, formed without any knowledge or logical reason; especially, a general antagonism toward members of other races, religions, etc.. Injury or harm resulting from hasty or unfair judgment. (HOLT)

1. What do you learn about Cornelius in verses 1-3?

2. What was he told to do?

3. Did he obey? Who did he send?

4. **CHALLENGE:** Remember, Jews didn't hang around with Gentiles. The Jews considered them "unclean." Read Matthew 8:5-13. A centurion asked Jesus to help his slave. How did Jesus act toward this centurion? Be sure to write the verse you used.

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 9 - 16.

1. Joppa is about 30 miles south of Caesarea. Both cities are on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Remember, walking was the way most people traveled from one place to another. When did Peter have his dream, or vision?
2. Why did Peter go up to the roof and what happened to him there?
3. What did the voice tell Peter to do?
4. Peter didn't obey the voice right away, even though he was hungry. Why?
5. **CHALLENGE:** What is the difference between Cornelius' response in Acts 10:7 and Peter's in Acts 10:14?

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 17 - 23.

1. **HARD:** At the same time Peter was thinking about the meaning of his vision, who came to the door?
2. **CHALLENGE:** Why did the men come to see Peter?
3. What did Peter do when he heard this?
4. When did the men leave to go back to Cornelius' house?

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 24 - 33.

1. It took almost two days to travel from Caesarea to Joppa. Cornelius was so sure Peter would come right away, that he invited his friends and relatives to come listen to Peter. When Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell on the floor as an act of worship for Peter. But Peter didn't want Cornelius to do that. What did Peter say to him?
2. What did Peter say about Jewish laws?

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 34 - 48.

1. Peter says, in Acts 20:34,35, that God loves everybody. God doesn't play favorites. God loves the Jews, and people of other nations who fear, honor, and worship Him. Jews are not the only people God loves! In every nation he has those who worship him. What do these verses say about playing favorites?

Deuteronomy 10:17

Romans 2:11

Ephesians 6:9

2. **HARD:** What does Peter say these people know? Give verses with your answer.
3. What did all the prophets write?
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you believe Jesus is God's Son? Do you believe God sent Him to take the punishment you should get for your sins? You can be forgiven of your sins. Everyone needs to ask forgiveness from God for the sins they do against Him. You can do that right now. Tell God you have sinned, done bad things. Ask for His forgiveness. Then ask Jesus to come into your heart to help you live to please God. When you have prayed, believe that Jesus has entered your heart, and you will be saved.

ACTS - WEEK TEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 9

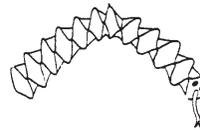
15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BARNYARD

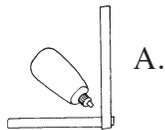
Set boundaries: start, finish, play area. Choose someone to be IT. Divide everyone else into teams of two or three, depending on size of class. Each team chooses an animal that would be found on a farm: chickens, roosters, cows, goats, dogs, sheep, horses, etc. When teams have chosen their animals, tell them to IT so IT knows what to call. Teams stand behind the start line. IT stands in the middle of play area between the start and finish lines. IT calls out an animal, such as COW. The team that chose COW tries to race to the finish line without being tagged. When a player is tagged, player stops and sits where tagged. Player then helps IT tag remaining players. Game continues from start to finish lines, and back again, as long as there are runners. If IT calls BARNYARD, all players run.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 9

to end of class CRAFT: PAPER SNAKE

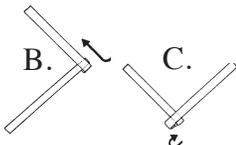


MATERIALS:

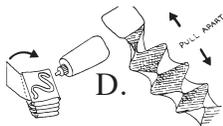


wide tip colored markers
glue or scotch tape

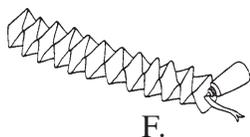
red paper or red yarn
2 colors of construction paper



For each student: cut 3 strips 1" wide and at least 11" long from one color construction paper, then cut 3 more strips exactly the same of a second color. Glue or tape same-colored strips together at the 1" ends to make two long strips, each a different color. Place one end of a strip at a right angle over the other, and glue in place (see diagram A). Fold one strip over the other, back and forth, always maintaining a right angle (B, C). Glue the last "free" end to the "pleated" end (D). While still folded tightly together, color the folded edges with a wide-tip marker. Gently pull apart to lengthen (D).



Draw a 1" forked tongue on red paper and cut out (E), or use a short piece of red yarn. Glue to one end of the body and use black wide-tip marker to make eyes (F).



ACTS LESSON 9 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 1 - 8.

This chapter is the beginning of the Good News taken to the Gentiles. The church began in Jerusalem. After Stephen's stoning in chapters 7-8, the believers (called the church) scattered. Now, in less than ten years after Jesus' crucifixion, the Gospel is taken to the Gentiles. This is really important. Jesus had told His disciples to go into all the world with this message. Up until now, the Good News stayed with the apostles in Jerusalem.

The Jews had a lot of prejudice, dislike, towards the Gentiles. The dictionary says this about prejudice:

prejudice — Strong feeling for or against something, formed without any knowledge or logical reason; especially, a general antagonism toward members of other races, religions, etc.. Injury or harm resulting from hasty or unfair judgment. (HOLT)

1. What do you learn about Cornelius in verses 1-3?

1. He lived in Caesarea.
2. He was a Roman army officer.
3. His name was Cornelius.
4. He was a captain in what was known as the Italian regiment.
5. He was a godly man, very devout, and so was his whole family. [He believed in one God. Most Romans believed like the rest of the pagans, in many gods.]
6. He gave generously to the poor.
7. He was a man of prayer.
8. One afternoon he had a vision, about three o'clock.
9. In the vision, he saw an Angel of God coming toward him.
10. The Angel spoke to him.

2. What was he told to do? Verse 5: "Now send some men to Joppa to find a man named Simon Peter. He is staying with Simon, the tanner, down by the shore. Ask him to come and visit you."

3. Did he obey? Who did he send? [Yes, immediately.] Verse 7: "As soon as the Angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his servants. He also called a godly soldier, one of his personal body-guard." [A centurion was in charge of 100 soldiers.]

4. **CHALLENGE:** Remember, Jews didn't hang around with Gentiles. The Jews considered them "unclean." Read Matthew 8:5-13. A centurion asked Jesus to help his slave. How did Jesus act toward this centurion? Be sure to write the verse you used. Verse 7: "'Yes,' Jesus said. 'I will come and heal him.'"

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 9 - 16.

1. Joppa is about 30 miles south of Caesarea. Both cities are on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Remember, walking was the way most people traveled from one place to another. When did Peter have his dream, or vision? Verses 9,10: “The next day about noon, they were getting close to the city. And Peter went up on the flat roof of his house to pray. It was noon and he was hungry.”
2. Why did Peter go up to the roof and what happened to him there? Verse 10-12: But while lunch was being made, he fell into a trance. He saw the sky open and a great canvas sheet settle to the ground. The sheet was held up by its four corners. In the sheet were all sorts of animals, snakes, and birds. Jews were not allowed to eat any of the things that were there.” [In Bible times, the rooftops of the houses were flat. In warm weather, this was like an extra room. Most houses had only two or three windows, and with no electricity, indoors was lit by candlelight. The rooftops were used to do many things. Bathe, as recorded about Bathsheba. Curing flax, as in the story of Rahab and the spies. As sleeping quarters in the stories of Elijah & Elisha. An upper room, or rooftop room is mentioned many times in the Bible. The staircase was on the outside of the home. Most homes were very small, and staircases took up too much space.]
3. What did the voice tell Peter to do? Verse 13: “Then the voice said to him, ‘Go kill and eat any of them you wish.’”
4. Peter didn’t obey the voice right away, even though he was hungry. Why? Verse 14: “‘Never, Lord,’ Peter declared. ‘I have never in all my life eaten such creatures. For they are forbidden by our Jewish laws.’” [Leviticus 11 gives instructions regarding clean and unclean animals. There were unclean and clean animals in the sheet. The clean animals became unclean just by touching the unclean animals.]
5. **CHALLENGE:** What is the difference between Cornelius’ response in Acts 10:7 and Peter’s in Acts 10:14? Cornelius didn’t question the voice, he obeyed immediately. Peter questioned and had to be shown his vision 3 times.

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 17 - 23.

1. **HARD:** At the same time Peter was thinking about the meaning of his vision, who came to the door? Verse 19: “Meanwhile, Peter was thinking about the vision. Then the Holy Spirit said to him, ‘Three men have come to see you.’”
2. **CHALLENGE:** Why did the men come to see Peter? Verse 22: “Then they told him about Cornelius, the Roman officer. They told him he was a good and godly man, well thought of by the Jews. And they told him how an angel had told him to send for Peter to come. The angel had said that Peter would tell him what God wanted him to do.”
3. What did Peter do when he heard this? Verse 23a: “So Peter asked them in and they stayed overnight.” [This is a step of faith and action. Peter, by culture, did not trust Gentiles. They were considered unclean, and inviting them into one’s home was unthinkable. Now he knew the meaning of his vision. All men are equal in God’s eyes. All men need to have the Gospel shared with them and the opportunity for salvation and a relationship with God.]

4. When did the men leave to go back to Cornelius' house? Verse 23b: "The next day Peter went with them. And several other believers from Joppa went along, too."

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 24 - 33.

1. It took almost two days to travel from Caesarea to Joppa. Cornelius was so sure Peter would come right away, that he invited his friends and relatives to come listen to Peter. When Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell on the floor as an act of worship for Peter. But, Peter didn't want Cornelius to do that. What did Peter say to him? Verse 26: "But Peter said, 'Stand up! I'm not a god!'" [In other words, he was only a man, just like Cornelius. "Cornelius' emissaries had left Caesarea after 3 p.m. one day [vv. 3,8] and arrived at noon two days later [vv. 9,19]. Cf. 'four days ago' in v. 30" WALVOORD.]
2. What did Peter say about Jewish laws? Verses 28,29: "Peter told them, 'You all know about the Jewish laws. They say it is wrong for me to come into a Gentile home like this. But God has shown me in a vision that I should never think of anyone as impure. So I came to you as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me what you want.'"

Read Acts chapter 10, verses 34 - 48.

1. Peter says in Acts 20:34,35 that God loves everybody. God doesn't play favorites. God loves the Jews, and people of other nations who fear, honor, and worship Him. They are not the only people God loves! In every nation he has those who worship him. What do these verses say about playing favorites?

Deuteronomy 10:17 "The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great and mighty God. He is the God of terror. He plays no favorites. He takes no bribes."

Romans 2:11 "God treats everyone the same."

Ephesians 6:9 "And you slave owners must treat your slaves right. Do just as I have told them to treat you. Don't keep threatening them. Remember, you are slaves to Christ. You have the same Master they do, he has no favorites."

2. **HARD:** What does Peter say these people know? Give verses with your answer. Verse 36: "You know the message God sent." Verse 37: "You know what has happened." Verse 38: "And you no doubt heard about Jesus of Nazareth. He was anointed by God with the Holy spirit and with power. And he went around doing good deeds. He healed all who were controlled by demons, for God was with him."
3. What did all the prophets write? Verse 43: "And all the prophets have written about him. They say that all who believe in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you believe Jesus is God's Son? Do you believe God sent Him to take the punishment you should get for your sins? You can be forgiven of your sins. Everyone needs to ask forgiveness from God for the sins they do against Him. You can do that right now. Tell God you have sinned, done bad things. Ask for His forgiveness. Then ask Jesus to come into your heart to help you live to please God. When you have prayed, believe that Jesus has entered your heart. And you will be saved.

4. In Acts 11:4-14 Peter told about his vision, the voice, the messengers, and Cornelius. Using the following formula, discover how the Jerusalem believers were convinced about the Gentiles' faith.

A = 1 E = 2 I = 3 O = 4 U = 5

Th² H⁴ly Sp³r³t t⁴ld m² t⁴ g⁴ w³th th²m! 1nd h² t⁴ld m² n⁴t t⁴ w⁴rry ab⁴st
th²r b²ng G²nt³l²s.

6. The angel told Cornelius how he could be saved. Both Peter and Cornelius were led by God. You can have God's leading too. How do these verses tell you it is done?

Psalm 32:8

Proverbs 3:5,6

Read Acts chapter 11, verses 15 - 18.

1. What gift is Peter talking about that was given to the Jerusalem believers and the Gentiles?
2. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, is telling us the story of the Gospel being shared with the Gentiles to show us that God doesn't play favorites with His creation. What does Romans 10:11-13 say about how God sees Jews and Gentiles?

3. How did the apostles answer Peter's message?

4. What does John 6:40 say about eternal life?

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you have eternal life? Do you believe the message Peter has given in the book of Acts? Do you believe Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for the things you do wrong, which are sins you commit? Romans 10:9,10 says, "This is how you will be saved. Tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Also, believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead. Because it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God. With his mouth he tells others about his faith and is saved."

Read Acts chapter 11, verses 19 - 24.

1. In Acts 6:5 we first read about Stephen. He was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Acts 7 is all about Stephen and his witness to the High Priest and Jewish leaders. In Acts 7:55-60 we find out Stephen is stoned to death. And in Acts 8:1-2 we find some of the believers have fled Jerusalem. Where have some of these believers gone, and what have they done?

2. Where else did some men go?

3. What happened next?

4. Read Acts 4:36,37 with Acts 11:24. From these verses, what do you learn about Barnabas?

Read Acts chapter 11, verses 25 - 30.

1. Barnabas goes to Tarsus to look for Saul. How did Saul get to Tarsus, and why is he there? You'll find your answer in Acts 9:29,30.
2. How long did Paul and Barnabas meet with the church in Antioch, and what important event happened then?
3. What did Agabus prophesy?
4. Since Antioch is in Syria, they wouldn't have this problem. What did the Christians in Antioch decide to do to help those in Israel, or Judea?

Luke, the author of the books of Acts and Luke gives lots of historical information. This is what is known about the emperor Claudius. "His full name was Tiberius Claudius Drusus Caesar, but in history he is usually known just as Claudius" (Illustrated World Encyclopedia). His father died when he was still a baby. "As a child he was weak and sick and grew very slowly. Because of this, people always made fun of him. They said that he was stupid and simple-minded, and even that he was an idiot. But this was not true. Claudius was always interested in studying and writing, and he wrote several books of history. He did much to build up the city of Rome and make it more beautiful. But other things that Claudius did were not so good" (Illustrated).

"The Jews were generally treated by him with indulgence, especially those in Asia and Egypt, although those in Palestine seem to have, at times, suffered much oppression at the hands of his governors" (Ungers's).

The famine happened in the year 54 A.D. Claudius sent away many of the Jews living in Rome in about 49 A.D. He was the emperor who put his stepson, Nero, in line to take over the throne in Rome. Nero was a very evil man. He was very cruel.

ACTS - WEEK ELEVEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 10

- 15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON BASEBALL

No ball or bat is needed in this activity, but you will need a balloon. Choose a pitcher, a batter, and a scorekeeper. The pitcher stands about 5 feet from the batter. Blow up a round balloon. The pitcher throws the balloon to the batter. The batter tries to catch it between the knees. Batter is given 5 tries to catch the balloon. Score keeper marks all the catches the batter makes. The position of the score keeper, batter, and pitcher rotate. The pitcher becomes the batter, the score keeper becomes the pitcher, and the batter goes to the sideline, and a new player becomes the scorekeeper. When all players have had a turn to be batter, the player with the most catches wins.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 10
- to end of class CRAFT: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT WIND CHIME

MATERIALS:

2-liter soda bottles with caps scissors
hole punch string or yarn
multi-sized bells
cookie cutters or stencils (optional)
various colored permanent markers
hammer & nail, or electric drill

Before class, remove labels from bottles. Punch a hole in the bottle caps using a hammer and nail, or an electric drill. Cut the bottle in half about four inches below the neck of the bottle. The bottom half of the bottle will be used for cut-out shapes. You can cut the shapes before class, or have each student cut his own shapes. Stencils, cookie cutters, or free hand drawing can be used to make the plastic shapes. Some suggested ideas: circles, squares, triangles, stars, crosses, crescent moon.

Use colored markers to color the shapes and to print the fruit of the Spirit on the shapes: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, GENTLENESS and SELF-CONTROL. The top half of the bottle can also be decorated with markers.

(continued on next page)

Punch a hole in the top of each shape and the same number of holes around the bottom edge of the top half of the bottle. Cut various lengths of yarn for the number of shapes made. Thread yarn through shapes and tie the end so the shape does not fall off. Tie another knot about 1" above the shape and thread the yarn through a bell. By varying the size of the bells, you will get a different sound when they blow in the wind. Or use the same size bell, if desired. Thread the end of the yarn through a hole in the bottle top, and knot to secure shape and bell in place. Do this for all shapes and bells.

Tie a knot at one end of a length of yarn and thread through the bottom of the bottle cap. Screw cap onto bottle neck. Make a loop in the yarn for hanging.

ACTS LESSON 10 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 11, verses 1 - 14.

1. While Peter was with the Gentiles in Caesarea, what was happening in Jerusalem with the Christian Jews? Verse 1: “Soon the news reached the apostles and other brothers in Judea. They all heard that Gentiles were also being converted!”
2. **CHALLENGE:** Why did the apostles in Jerusalem argue with Peter? Verses 2,3: “But when Peter got back to Jerusalem, the Jewish believers argued with him. ‘You stayed with Gentiles and even ate with them!’ they accused.” [The issue was more that Peter ate the Gentile food, than socializing with them. Some Jewish Christians still believed being a good Christian meant keeping all the Jewish laws. And these laws included eating and not eating certain foods.]
3. It is really important to remember what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8 when we read about the differences between Jewish and Gentile believers. What do these verses say?

Matthew 28:19 “So now go and make disciples in all the nations. Baptize them into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:8 “But the Holy Spirit will come upon you. And you will receive power to speak about me with great effect. You will be my witnesses to the people in Jerusalem. You will also go throughout Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. You will tell everyone that I died and then rose again from the dead.”

4. In Acts 11:4-14 Peter told about his vision, the voice, the messengers, and Cornelius. Using the following formula, discover how the Jerusalem believers were convinced about the Gentiles' faith.

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th²3r b²3ng G²nt³l²s.

The Holy Spirit told me to go with them! And he told me not to worry about their being Gentiles.

6. The angel told Cornelius how he could be saved. Both Peter and Cornelius were led by God. You can have God's leading too. How do these verses tell you it is done?

Psalms 32:8 “‘I will teach you,’ says the Lord. ‘I will guide you along the best path for your life. I will advise you and watch your progress.’”

Proverbs 3:5,6 (“If you want to be known for good judgment and common sense”) “then trust

the Lord with all your heart. Don't ever trust yourself. In all you do, put God first. He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

Read Acts chapter 11, verses 15 - 18.

1. What gift is Peter talking about that was given to the Jerusalem believers and the Gentiles? Verse 17: "It was God who gave these Gentiles the gift of the Holy Spirit. It happened to them just as it did to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. So who was I to argue with God?"
2. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, is telling us the story of the Gospel being shared with the Gentiles to show us that God doesn't play favorites with His creation. What does Romans 10:11-13 say how God sees Jews and Gentiles? "The Bible says that God won't fail anyone who believes in Christ. Jew and Gentile are the same. They have the same Lord. He gives his riches to anybody who asks him for them. Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
3. How did the apostles answer Peter's message? Verse 18: "When the others heard this, all their arguments were answered. Then they began to praise God! 'Yes,' they said, 'God has saved the Gentiles, too! He has given them the chance to come to him for eternal life.'"
4. What does John 6:40 say about eternal life? "For my Father wants everyone who see his Son and believes in him to have eternal life. And I will raise up those who believe at the Last Day."
5. **PERSONAL:** Do you have eternal life? Do you believe the message Peter has given in the book of Acts? Do you believe Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for the things you do wrong, which are sins you commit? Romans 10:9,10 says, "This is how you will be saved. Tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Also, believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead. Because it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God. With his mouth he tells others about his faith and is saved."

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1. In Acts 6:5 we first read about Stephen. He was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Acts 7 is all about Stephen and his witness to the High Priest and Jewish leaders. In Acts 7:55-60 we find out Stephen is stoned to death. And in Acts 8:1-2 we find some of the believers have fled Jerusalem. Where have some of these believers gone, and what have they done? Verse 19: "Now many believers had fled from Jerusalem soon after Stephen's death. And they had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. They preached the Good News as they went, but only to the Jews." [Paul was converted about 2 years after Christ's crucifixion. He went to Damascus and Arabia for about 2 more years. He first visited Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-29) about 2 years after his conversion. After that visit, he was whisked away to his town of Tarsus (Acts 9:30). He was in Tarsus four years. Meanwhile, Peter witnessed and preached to the Gentiles. Now, Barnabas is sent to Antioch where he preaches, and teaches for another 2 years. All the years from the crucifixion to now is about 10 years.]

2. Where else did some men go? Verse 20: “However, there were some believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene. They also told the Good News about the Lord Jesus to some Greeks.” [Antioch is 300 miles north of Jerusalem.]
3. What happened next? Verse 21: “The Lord blessed this effort to reach the Gentiles. And large numbers of them became believers.”
4. Read Acts 4:36,37 with Acts 11:24. From these verses, what do you learn about Barnabas? Acts 4:36,37: “For example, there was Joseph. The apostles called him ‘Barnabas, the encourager!’ He was of the tribe of Levi, from the island of Cyprus. He was one of those who sold a field he owned. He brought the money to the apostles to give to those in need.” Acts 11:24: “Barnabas was a kindly person, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And because of his work, large numbers of people believed in the Lord.”

Read Acts chapter 11, verses 25 - 30.

1. Barnabas goes to Tarsus to look for Saul. How did Saul get to Tarsus, and why is he there? You’ll find your answer in Acts 9:29,30. “He preached boldly in the name of the Lord. But then some Greek-speaking Jews with whom he had argued made plans to murder him. However, the other believers heard about his danger. So they took him to Caesarea and then sent him to his home in Tarsus.”
2. How long did Paul and Barnabas meet with the church in Antioch, and what important event happened there? Verse 26: “When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. And both of them stayed there for a full year teaching the many new converts. It was there at Antioch that the believers were first called ‘Christians.’” [Antioch had its own seaport, and was the third largest city in the Roman Empire. It was also known as “sin city.” It is interesting to note in light of question 1, that the Antioch church was founded mainly by the Greek-speaking Jews whom Paul had confronted early on. Antioch now becomes the focal point of Christianity.]
3. What did Agabus prophesy? Verse 28: “One of them was named Agabus. He stood up in one of the meetings to make a prophecy by the Spirit. He foretold that a great famine was coming upon the land of Israel. This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.”
4. Since Antioch is in Syria, they wouldn’t have this problem. What did the Christians in Antioch decide to do to help those in Israel, or Judea? Verse 29: “So the believers decided to send relief to the Christians in Judea. Each gave as much as he could.”

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this, people always made fun of him. They said that he was stupid and simple-minded, and even that he was an idiot. But this was not true. Claudius was always interested in studying and writing, and he wrote several books of history. He did much to build up the city of Rome and make it more beautiful. But other things that Claudius did were not so good” (Illustrated).

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The famine happened in the year 54 A.D. Claudius sent away many of the Jews living in Rome in about 49 A.D. He was the emperor who put his stepson, Nero, in line to take over the throne in Rome. Nero was a very evil man. He was very cruel.

4. **PERSONAL:** Do you ever have trouble going to sleep at night? Sometimes that means you might be upset about something. Or you might be afraid of something. If anyone had a reason to stay awake, it was Peter. He was sentenced to die in the morning. But look at what he was doing. He was SLEEPING. He was completely trusting God to take care of him. What do these psalms say about sleep?

Psalm 3:5

Psalm 4:8

5. Herod saw how pleased the Jews were with the death of James, so Herod arrested Peter. How many men did Herod assign to guard Peter and what was Herod's plan?
6. Have you been awakened early in the morning for a special event? The night before you had laid out your clothes so that getting dressed would be easy. But when you were awakened, you were still half asleep and so you fumbled around looking your clothes. That may have been how Peter felt when he was set free. Just how did Peter get away from jail? Tell about his escape in your own words.

Read Acts chapter 12, verses 12 - 25.

1. After the Angel left Peter, where did he go, and what was happening there?
2. Who answered Peter's knock and what did she do?

3. **PERSONAL:** The believers didn't believe Peter was at the door. They had been praying for Peter's release. But when it happened, they began to doubt God's help. Have you ever prayed for something and had God answer you just the way you wanted? Did you believe it was God who answered, or did you chalk it up to "luck"? Or did you simply say, "Thank you, Lord, for answering my prayer so quickly and just how I wanted it." Sometimes God uses lots of ways to answer our prayers. We must always be on the lookout for His answers. Sometimes He will use a person, an event, or a tragedy, or maybe divine intervention like He did for Peter. When you pray about something, be sure to be watchful to see how God will answer your prayer.

4. When the Christians finally believed Rhoda, they became very noisy and rushed to the door. There were no people out walking, or horses or donkeys or carts. The street was quiet. People were in their homes, probably asleep. So any noise might make someone notice the commotion. What did Peter have to do so he could tell them what had just happened?

5. The morning after Peter's escape, the jail was a madhouse. Herod wanted Peter brought to him for execution. Soldiers must have been running all over the place looking for Peter. When Peter couldn't be found, what did Herod do to the guards?

6. **PERSONAL:** After this, Herod ran away to Caesarea. He figured what he'd done to the guards was not a wise thing to do. Besides, he wanted to hide from the trouble brewing in Judea. When you're in trouble, do you try to hide? How about not admitting you've done something wrong when you're asked about it? What does 1 John 1:9 say is the best thing to do when you find yourself in trouble?

7. For some reason, the people of Tyre and Sidon had made Herod angry. So they sent a group to Caesarea to make peace with Herod. When he spoke to them, they thought he was a god. But an awful thing happened to Herod. Do you know what it was?

8. What does God say about sharing His glory with any man in the following verses?

Isaiah 42:8

Isaiah 48:11

9. Even though Christians were dying or being put in prison for their faith, what was happening to the Gospel or Good News?

10. **CHALLENGE:** Do you remember why Paul and Barnabas were in Jerusalem? If you need help, look at Acts 11:30.

11. When they finished their job in Jerusalem, where did Barnabas and Paul go and who did they take with them?

12. How did the people during this time get from place to place?

ACTS - WEEK TWELVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 11

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CIRCLE TAG

Draw a four foot circle on the floor with masking tape or chalk. Choose someone to be IT. Place players around the room so they must run into the circle. (Play area determines the place and space to use for these players to wait to be called.) IT stands in the center of the circle. The leader calls out the name of three players who try to run inside the circle without being tagged. The first player to be tagged becomes IT. After being tagged, players who made it into the circle return to their place with the other players. The leader again calls three names, and game resumes.

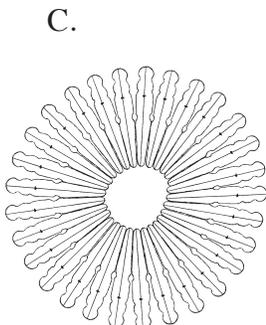
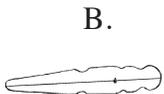
15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 11

to end of class CRAFT: WOODEN TRIVET

MATERIALS:

spring type clothespins
paint & brushes

tacky glue
acrylic spray



About thirty spring type clothespins (A) are needed for each trivet. Twist the pins so that the two sides come apart, remove metal spring fasteners. Glue the completely flat sides of each pair of pin halves together, keeping the narrow end tips even (B). Next, glue two pairs together side by side at the straight edge, near the bottom of the pins (so that the seam of the glued flat edges is facing up). Be sure the tips are kept even. As gluing continues, the pins form a circle (C).

When trivet is formed, it can be painted, stained, or a message can be printed on it with a black permanent marker. Spray with clear acrylic spray to retain color or stain. (You may run out of time before you paint or stain.)

ACTS LESSON 11 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 12, verses 1 - 11.

1. The people who lived in the city of Antioch were very sinful. In fact, Antioch was called “sin city” because the people were so sinful. But the followers of Christ were different. The word Christian was first given to Christ’s followers in the city of Antioch. In John 13:35 Jesus tells His disciples and us one of the ways people will be able to tell how Christians are different. What is that one way? “Your love will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”
2. While the sinful Gentiles in Antioch were becoming Christians, what was happening to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem? Verse 1: “It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them” (NIV).
3. Who was James, the man King Herod of Judea killed? Verse 2: “He killed the apostle James, John’s brother.” [The author of the book of James is likely to be Jesus’ brother, since scripture is specific this James who was killed was the brother of John. The book of James was written between A.D. 80 and 150. John’s brother James’ death happened around A.D. 44. This Herod was Herod Agrippa 1, and was king in Judea from A.D. 41-44. He was partly Jewish. He thought he would rank high with the Jews by persecuting the Christians and killing James. This is a brief account of the martyrdom of James, but it leads up to Peter’s imprisonment. Herod wanted to please the Jews so much, yet keep the Romans happy; he built theaters where games were held, the object being to kill the Christians.]
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you ever have trouble going to sleep at night? Sometimes that means you might be upset about something. Or you might be afraid of something. If anyone had a reason to stay awake, it was Peter. He was sentenced to die in the morning. But look at what he was doing. He was SLEEPING. He was completely trusting God to take care of him. What do these psalms say about sleep?

Psalm 3:5 “Then I lay down and slept in peace and woke up safely. For the Lord was watching over me.”

Psalm 4:8 “I will lie down in peace and sleep. For though I am alone, O Lord, you will keep me safe.”

5. Herod saw how pleased the Jews were with the death of James, so Herod arrested Peter. How many men did Herod assign to guard Peter and what was Herod’s plan? Verse 4: “He put him in prison under the guard of 16 soldiers. Herod’s plan was to give Peter to the Jews to be killed after the Passover.” [It was against the Jewish laws to hold a trial or an execution during the Passover holy days. This is the third time Peter is in prison (see Acts 4:5; 5:18). Prisons were awful places to be. Cold, dark, damp, no comforts whatsoever. The guards took turns, two standing at the cell door and two chained to Peter.]

6. Have you been awakened early in the morning for a special event? The night before you had laid out your clothes so that getting dressed would be easy. But when you were awakened, you were still half asleep and so you fumbled around looking your clothes. That may have been how Peter felt when he was set free. Just how did Peter get away from jail? Tell about his escape in your own words. Verses 7-10: “But suddenly there was a light in the cell! And an Angel of the Lord stood beside Peter! The Angel slapped him on the side to wake him up. Then he said, ‘Quick! Get up!’ And the chains fell off his wrists! Then the Angel told him, ‘Get dressed and put on your shoes.’ And he did. ‘Now put on your coat and follow me!’ the Angel ordered. So Peter left the cell, following the Angel. But all the time he thought it was a dream or vision. He didn’t believe it was really happening. They passed the first and second cell blocks. Then they came to the iron gate to the street. The gate swung open by itself! So they passed through and walked together for a little way. Then the Angel left him.” [Peter was acting as if he were dreaming. Just as we would act if we were wakened from a sound sleep. We would have to be told each step to take, just like Peter. He even had to be told to put on his shoes! He didn’t run to escape, he calmly walked out of the jail.]

Read Acts chapter 12, verses 12 - 25.

1. After the Angel left Peter, where did he go, and what was happening there? Verse 12: “Then Peter went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark. Many were gathered there for a prayer meeting.”
2. Who answered Peter’s knock and what did she do? Rhoda. Verse 14: “She heard Peter’s voice and knew it was him. She was so happy that she ran back inside to tell everyone. And she left Peter standing outside in the street.” [Apparently, Rhoda didn’t open the door, but called through it because we are told “she heard Peter’s voice”]
3. **PERSONAL:** The believers didn’t believe Peter was at the door. They had been praying for Peter’s release. But when it happened, they began to doubt God’s help. Have you ever prayed for something and had God answer you just the way you wanted? Did you believe it was God who answered, or did you chalk it up to “luck”? Or did you simply say, “Thank you, Lord, for answering my prayer so quickly and just how I wanted it.” Sometimes God uses lots of ways to answer our prayers. We must always be on the lookout for His answers. Sometimes He will use a person, an event, or a tragedy, or maybe divine intervention like He did for Peter. When you pray about something, be sure to be watchful to see how God will answer your prayer.
4. When the Christians finally believed Rhoda, they became very noisy and rushed to the door. There were no people out walking, or horses or donkeys or carts. The street was quiet. People were in their homes, probably asleep. So any noise might make someone notice the commotion. What did Peter have to do so he could tell them what had just happened? Verse 17: “He motioned for them to quiet down and told them what had happened. He recounted how the Lord had brought

him out of jail. 'Tell James and the others what happened,' he said. Then he left to find a safer place to stay." [This James is the half-brother of Jesus. The apostle James, John's brother, had already been martyred (see Acts 12:1). The mention of James indicates he held a prominent place in Jerusalem, and that none of the other apostles were there. No one knows where Peter went. It is believed he went to Asia Minor because of the places he lists in 1 Peter 1:1. Paul's makes reference in Galatians 2:11 to Peter being in Antioch. And the wording in 1 Corinthians 1:12 indicates Peter had an itinerant ministry.]

5. The morning after Peter's escape, the jail was a madhouse. Herod wanted Peter brought to him for execution. Soldiers must have been running all over the place looking for Peter. When Peter couldn't be found, what did Herod do to the guards? Verse 19: "Herod had sent for Peter and found that he wasn't there. So he had the 16 guards arrested and sentenced to death." [First, though, the guards were questioned, meaning tortured.]
6. **PERSONAL:** After this, Herod ran away to Caesarea. He figured what he'd done to the guards was not a wise thing to do. Besides, he wanted to hide from the trouble brewing in Judea. When you're in trouble, do you try to hide? How about not admitting you've done something wrong when you're asked about it? What does 1 John 1:9 say is the best thing to do when you find yourself in trouble? "If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins."
7. For some reason, the people of Tyre and Sidon had made Herod angry. So they sent a group to Caesarea to make peace with Herod. When he spoke to them, they thought he was a god. But an awful thing happened to Herod. Do you know what it was? Verse 23. "Right then, an Angel of the Lord struck Herod with a sickness. Soon he was filled with maggots and died. This was because he let the people worship him instead of giving the glory to God." [This death occurred within 12 months of Peter's escape from prison.]
8. What does God say about sharing His glory with any man in the following verses?

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord! That is my name. And I will not give my glory to anyone else. I will not share my praise with carved idols."

Isaiah 48:11 "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another" (NIV). [To defame something is "to injure or destroy the good name of; speak evil of" (HOLT).]
9. Even though Christians were dying or being put in prison for their faith, what was happening to the Gospel or Good News? Verse 24: "God's Good News was spreading quickly and there were many new believers."

10. **CHALLENGE:** Do you remember why Paul and Barnabas were in Jerusalem? If you need help, look at Acts 11:30. “They gave their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the church in Jerusalem.”
11. When they finished their job in Jerusalem, where did Barnabas and Paul go and who did they take with them? Acts 12:25: “Barnabas and Saul now visited Jerusalem. As soon as they had finished their business, they went back to Antioch. And they took John Mark with them.”
12. How did the people during this time get from place to place? Walked or rode a donkey or camel. Sometimes they took a boat. No planes, trains, or cars.

ACTS LESSON 12

Before you begin your lesson:

- Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know".
- Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 1 – 13.

In chapter 12, Barnabas and Saul left Jerusalem and returned to Antioch of Syria. Look at the Bible-times map on page 106 and find Antioch of Syria. (Don't be confused— there is also an Antioch of Pisidia farther north.) As you read about where Saul goes during this lesson, you may wish to use colored pencils to mark the path he took to spread the Gospel. You may also wish to look at a world atlas or globe to see how this area looks today. Antioch of Syria on the Bible map is inland from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the lower part of modern day Turkey. The city Antakya is probably the location of ancient Antioch of Syria. Jerusalem is in the center of modern day Israel.

- In addition to the prophets and teachers of Antioch, several men had joined Barnabas and Saul in doing something. What were they doing?
- HARD:** Below is a list of some of the men who were with Barnabas and Saul. Match the name with the description of the man. One is done for you.

Barnabas	black man
Symeon	gentile
Lucius	rabbi
Manaen	rich man
Saul	Jew

- What did this group of people do for Barnabas and Saul after the Holy Spirit spoke?

This first missionary trip Barnabas and Saul took is very important. No one had ever gone on this type of trip before. They left Antioch and went a little way down to Seleucia. When they reached Seleucia, they got on a boat and sailed to Cypress, an island in the Mediterranean Sea. Keep marking your map.

4. **RISKY:** What was the first thing Barnabas and Saul did when they reached the town of Salamis? (Salamis is near the modern day Famagusta.)

5. We are told the missionaries went from town to town across the island of Cypress. Who did they meet when they got to Paphos, the capital city of Cypress?

6. **RISKY:** What do you notice about Saul in Acts 13:9?

7. What did God, through Paul, do to the magician?

8. Bar-Jesus' friend, Sergius Paulus, was the governor of the area. He wanted to see Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to know what these men were teaching. After the governor believed in Jesus, the missionary team sailed for Perga in Asia Minor. (Perga is in western Turkey, near modern day Antalya.) What happened in Perga?

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 14 – 25.

They now traveled to Antioch in Pisidia. The modern day city is Yalvac, if you can find it on your world atlas.

1. Once Paul and Barnabas reached the city, where did they go, and what did they do there?

2. **CHALLENGE:** What is the message Paul gives in verses 16-25? Tell his message in your own words.

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 26-40.

1. What does Paul say about salvation in Acts 13:26?
2. The psalm Paul quotes says, “God will not let his Holy One decay.” What does Paul say about the deaths of David and Jesus?

David— Acts 13:36

Jesus— Acts 13:37

3. **HARD:** What does Paul say in his message about salvation in Jesus?
4. How does Paul explain the Law in Galatians 3:24?

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 41 – 52.

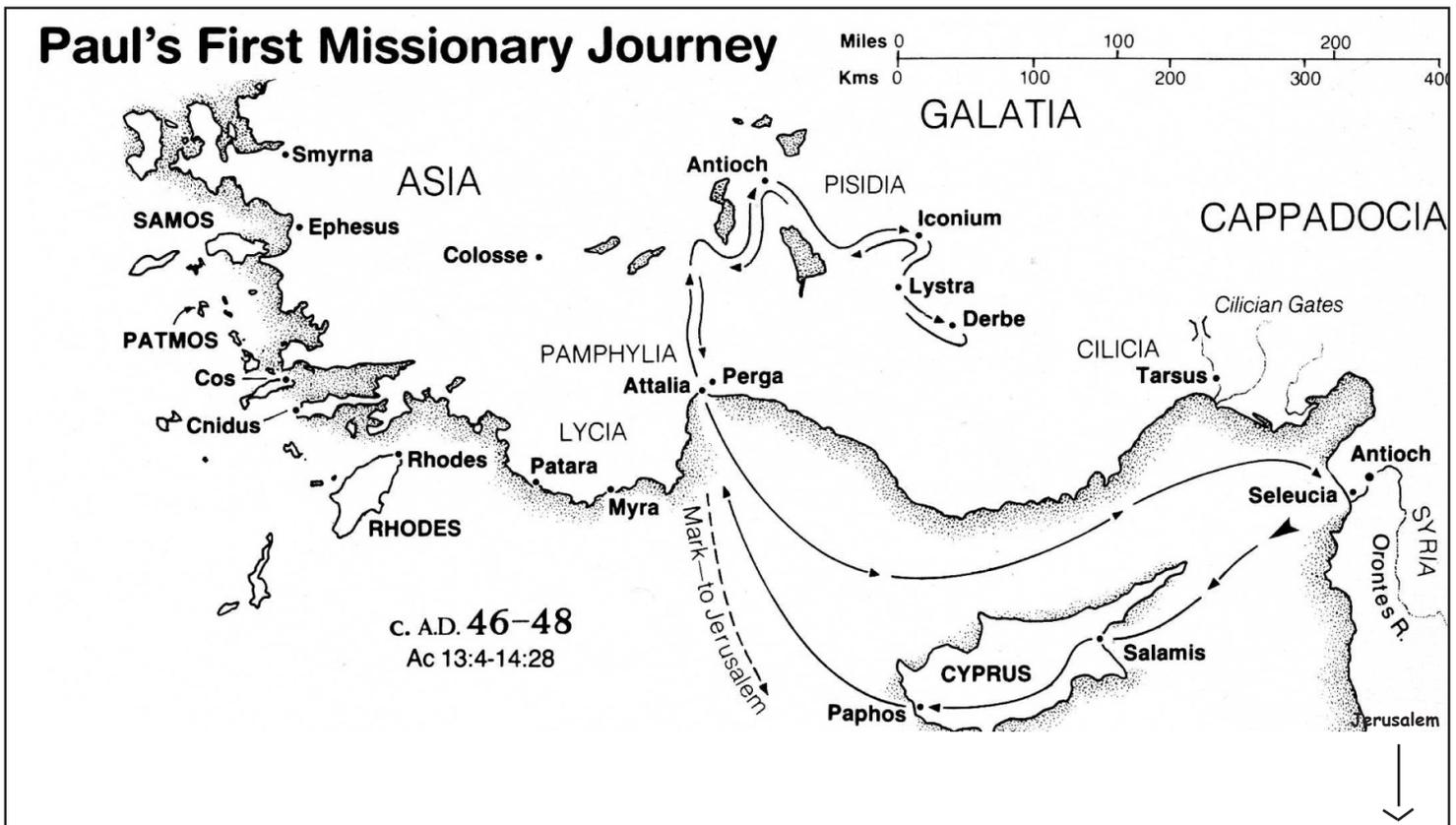
1. When Paul ended his sermon, the people wanted Paul to stay to do more teaching. So the next week not only did Paul and Barnabas return, but most of the city as well. How did Jewish leaders feel about what was happening in the synagogue?
2. How did Paul answer these Jews?

3. **HARD:** Why did Paul and Barnabas go to Iconium?

4. Read these verses about the missionaries very carefully. How many differences can you spot?

Acts 12:25 “Barnabas and Saul now visited Jerusalem. As soon as they had finished their business, they went back to Antioch. And they took John Mark with them.”

Acts 13:13 “Now Paul and those with him left Paphos by ship for Asia Minor. They landed at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem.”



Map adapted from *Reproducible Maps, Charts, Time Lines & Illustrations*, published by Regal Books. Used by permission.

ACTS - WEEK THIRTEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 12

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players are chosen to be IT. They join hands and with their free hand try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two IT. The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two IT. Only end players (IT) may tag. It is permissible for a player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become IT. Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 12

to end of class CRAFT: BLOW ART

MATERIALS:

construction paper
paint, thinner consistency than needed for normal painting
straws
newspaper

Place newspaper on working surface. Lay construction paper on top. Drop several small blobs of paint in different areas on paper. Hold straw close to paper without touching it and blow gently to make a design.

ACTS LESSON 12 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 1 – 13.

In chapter 12, Barnabas and Saul left Jerusalem and returned to Antioch of Syria. Look at the Bible-times map on page 111 and find Antioch of Syria. (Don't be confused— there is also an Antioch of Pisidia farther north.) As you read about where Saul goes during this lesson, you may wish to use colored pencils to mark the path he took to spread the Gospel. You may also wish to look at a world atlas or globe to see how this area looks today. Antioch of Syria on the Bible map is inland from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the lower part of modern day Turkey. The city Antakya is probably the location of ancient Antioch of Syria. Jerusalem is in the center of modern day Israel.

1. In addition to the prophets and teachers of Antioch, several men had joined Barnabas and Saul in doing something. What were they doing? Verse 2a: “One day these men were worshiping and fasting together.” [The Holy Spirit spoke to the prophets and they told the people what God said. The teachers gave the people advice on how to live the Christian life.]
2. **HARD:** Below is a list of some of the men who were with Barnabas and Saul. Match the name with the description of the man. One is done for you.

Barnabas	black man
Symeon	gentile
Lucius	rabbi
Manaen	rich man
Saul	Jew

3. What did this group of people do for Barnabas and Saul after the Holy Spirit spoke? Verse 3: “So these men fasted and prayed some more. Then they laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them on their way.”

This first missionary trip Barnabas and Saul took is very important. No one had ever gone on this type of trip before. They left Antioch and went a little way down to Seleucia. When they reached Seleucia, they got on a boat and sailed to Cypress, an island in the Mediterranean Sea. Keep marking your map.

4. **RISKY:** What was the first thing Barnabas and Saul did when they reached the town of Salamis? (Salamis is near the modern day Famagusta.) Verse 5: “There in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogue and preached. John Mark went with them as their helper.”

5. We are told the missionaries went from town to town across the island of Cypress. Who did they meet when they got to Paphos, the capital city of Cypress? Verse 6b: “And they finally reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer. He was a fake prophet named Bar-Jesus.” [(His name was Elymas in Greek.) Cypress was the most sought after place of its day. Barnabas came from the island. He knew it very well, including the spiritual darkness that inhabited the island. The Gospel spread first to Asia, then Europe, and down through time to us.]
6. **RISKY:** What do you notice about Saul in Acts 13:9? His name is changed to Paul. [Saul likely changed his name to Paul because it was a Latin, or Gentile name, and Saul was Hebrew. Since Saul was going to evangelize Gentiles, it seems appropriate to have a Gentile name. By the second century, it was not uncommon to have a Gentile and Jewish name.]
7. What did God, through Paul, do to the magician? Verse 11: ““And now God has laid his hand of judgment upon you. And you will be made blind for awhile.’ Right then mist and darkness fell upon him. And he began to wander around. He begged for someone to take his hand and lead him.”
8. Bar-Jesus’ friend, Sergius Paulus, was the governor of the area. He wanted to see Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to know what these men were teaching. After the governor believed in Jesus, the missionary team sailed for Perga in Asia Minor. (Perga is in western Turkey, near modern day Antalya.) What happened in Perga? Verse 13: “Now Paul and those with him left Paphos by ship for Asia Minor. They landed at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem.” [John Mark was Barnabas’ cousin, and his mother’s home was a meeting place for Christians. It was in her home where the prayer meeting for Peter’s freedom was held.]

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 14 – 25.

They now traveled to Antioch in Pisidia. The modern day city is Yalvac, if you can find it on your world atlas.

1. Once Paul and Barnabas reached the city, where did they go, and what did they do there? Verses 14b-15: “On the Sabbath they went into the synagogue for the services. They read the usual passages from the Books of Moses and from the Prophets. Then the men in charge of the service sent Paul and Barnabas a message. They said, ‘Brothers, do you have any special word of teaching for us? If you do, come and give it.’”
2. **CHALLENGE:** What is the message Paul gives in verses 16-25? Tell his message in your own words. Paul recites the history of the Jewish people, something with which they were familiar. And then he tells them the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. [The salvation message had not reached this hub of world communication. When Paul preaches it, he is preparing the way for the message to be sent throughout the world.]

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 26 – 40.

1. What does Paul say about salvation in Acts 13:26? “Brothers, this salvation is for all of us! It is for you who are sons of Abraham. And it is also for you Gentiles here who respect God.”
2. The psalm Paul quotes says, “God will not let his Holy One decay.” What does Paul say about the deaths of David and Jesus?

David— Acts 13:36 “These words could not be talking about David. For David died and was buried, and his body decayed.”

Jesus— Acts 13:37 “No, it was talking about someone else! It was someone that God brought back to life. It was someone whose body was not touched at all by death.”

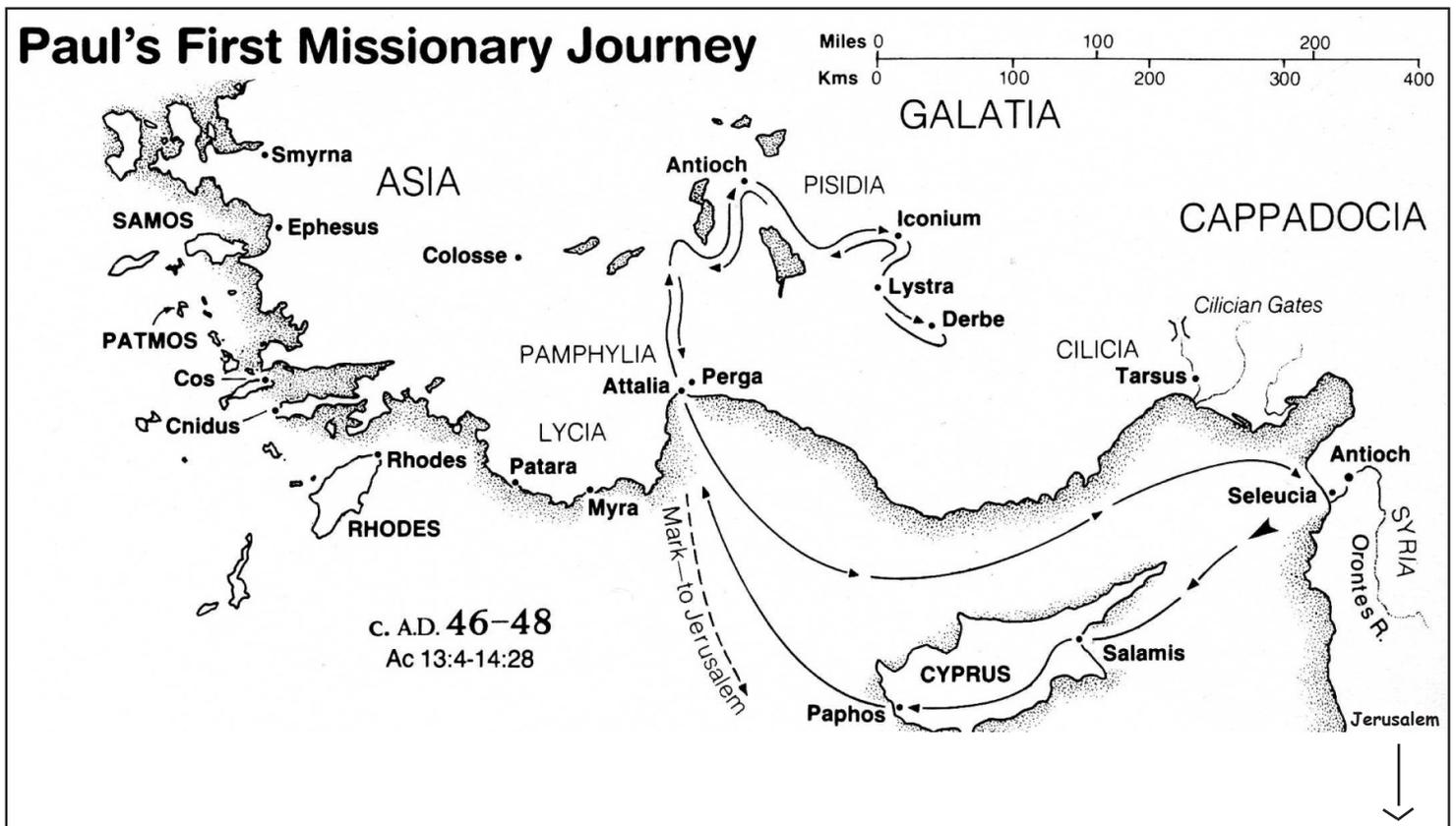
3. **HARD:** What does Paul say in his message about salvation in Jesus? Verses 38,39: “Brothers! Listen! In this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins! Everyone who trusts in him is freed from all guilt. He is declared to be righteous and holy. This is something the Jewish law could never do.”
4. How does Paul explain the Law in Galatians 3:24? “Let me put it another way. The Jewish laws were our teacher and guide until Christ came. He gave us right standing with God through our faith.”

Read Acts chapter 13, verses 41 – 52.

1. When Paul ended his sermon, the people wanted Paul to stay to do more teaching. So the next week not only did Paul and Barnabas return, but most of the city as well. How did Jewish leaders feel about what was happening in the synagogue? Verse 45: “But when the Jewish leaders saw the crowds, they were jealous. So they cursed and argued against whatever Paul said.”
2. How did Paul answer these Jews? Verses 46-47: “Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. They said, ‘We must tell this Good News from God to you Jews first. But you have rejected it and shown yourselves unworthy of eternal life. So now, we will offer it to the Gentiles. For this is just what the Lord commanded. He said, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles. You will lead them from the farthest corners of the earth to my salvation.’”
3. **HARD:** Why did Paul and Barnabas go to Iconium? Verse 50: “But the Jewish leaders stirred up the godly women and other city leaders. All of them turned against Paul and Barnabas, and ran them out of town.”

4. Read these verses about the missionaries very carefully. How many differences can you spot?
 Acts 12:25 “Barnabas and Saul now visited Jerusalem. As soon as they had finished their business, they went back to Antioch. And they took John Mark with them.” [Barnabas is listed before Saul; Paul is still Saul; John Mark joins them.]

Acts 13:13 “Now Paul and those with him left Paphos by ship for Asia Minor. They landed at the port town of Perga. There, John Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem.” [Saul is now Paul; Barnabas is not mentioned; John Mark leaves the group.]



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ACTS LESSON 13

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know".
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 14, verses 1 – 18.

In the last chapter Paul and Barnabas shook the dust of Antioch of Pisidia from their feet. Matthew 10:14 says Jesus had told His disciples to do just that. Jesus said, "A city or home might not welcome you. If this happens, shake off the dust of that place from your feet as you go." They walked east from Antioch of Pisidia to the town of Iconium, which was in the area of Konya, Turkey, today. The time of year is between October 48, to February 49. As you go through this lesson, keep following their journey on the map on page 106.

1. What was Paul's and Barnabas' usual plan? Finish this sentence, and you will have the answer to this question. "Paul and Barnabas went to the _____."
2. Paul and Barnabas had some problems in Iconium too. Some Jews and Gentiles believed, and some did not. How did God prove to everyone that Paul and Barnabas were doing what He wanted them to do?
3. Paul and Barnabas didn't leave town right away. What was it that made them decide to leave?
4. Paul wrote about the time he stayed in Iconium. How did he deal with these problems? Read 2 Timothy 3:11 for your answer.
5. King David had problems too. He had enemies who wanted to kill him. In the beginning of Psalm 13:1, what is the question he asks God?

6. How does David end this psalm in verses 5,6?

7. **PERSONAL:** Do you have problems? Is someone being mean to you? Do you sometimes feel sorry you don't have EVERYTHING you want? Remember how David ended Psalm 13? Paul says words almost like David's. What is it Paul says in Philippians 4:11-13?

8. Paul and Barnabas traveled to the town of Lystra, in the Lycaonia province in modern day Turkey. It was south of Iconium, modern day Konya. As the crippled man listened to Paul, something happened. How did Paul handle this man?

9. How did the crowd deal with this miracle?

10. What did Paul and Barnabas do to try to change the crowd's mind?

Read Acts chapter 14, verses 19 – 28.

1. Picture in your mind what is happening in Lystra. Paul and Barnabas are well liked by the people. They even call the disciples gods. But a few days later the tables turn. The people are ready to stone them. Why did their feelings for the disciples change?

2. God surprised everyone! Paul and Barnabas decided to leave for Derbe, about 30 miles south of, or below, Lystra but in the same province. Today it may be part of Konya, near Kerti Huyuk, Turkey. They preached the Good News and started a church. After this, they went back to the places they had just left, the towns where the people tried to kill them. What did they do in these towns?

3. Everyone has troubles, or problems. Some may be sick. Some may be Christians or non-Christians. For the Christian we have the answer to the question “Why?” You will find it in James 1:2-4. What does it say?

4. How did Paul and Barnabas get back to their home base in Antioch of Syria?

5. What was their report to the church in Antioch?

This first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas began at Antioch of Syria in the spring of the year A.D. 48. It ended at Antioch in the fall of A.D. 49. While Paul stayed in Antioch, he wrote the letter to the Galatians. The people of the region of Galatia, now called Turkey, were those people who became Christians in the towns of Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Antioch in Pisidia. Paul wanted to encourage these brothers and sisters in Christ. There had been others trying to turn the new Christians away from God. In Galatians 1:6,7 Paul writes: “I am amazed that you are turning away so soon from God. He invited you to share the eternal life he gives through Christ. But you have decided to follow a different path to be saved. And that way won’t save you! For there is no other way than the one we showed you. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth about Christ.”

6. What does Acts 4:12 say is the message Peter gave about Christ, and that Paul also preached?

7. **PERSONAL:** Romans 10:13 says: “Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Have you called upon the Lord to save you? Why not stop and do it now? Confess your sins; believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead; ask Jesus Christ to save you. Now you belong to Him and He will help you to learn more about Him and to live according to God’s will.

ACTS - WEEK FOURTEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 13

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: INDOOR BOWLING

You will need 10 empty plastic bottles, for bowling pins, and a basketball. Arrange the bottles like the pins in a bowling alley (4 in front, 3 in the next row, 2 behind them, and 1 in back). Line up the pins about 25 feet from the bowling line. Each player has two tries. Give points equal to the number of pins knocked down with each ball.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 13

to end of class CRAFT: MAGNET PICTURE

MATERIALS:

Polaroid camera
small picture frame
craft sticks
glue
markers (optional)

Take a picture of each child. Lay 11 sticks flat side to flat side and glue. Glue picture in center of sticks. Glue flat sides of 1 stick across the top, 1 across the bottom, and one on either side, of the picture making a "frame". Glue a magnet on back. Sticks may be colored with markers, if desired.

ACTS LESSON 13 – ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 14, verses 1 – 18.

In the last chapter Paul and Barnabas shook the dust of Antioch of Pisidia from their feet. Matthew 10:14 says Jesus had told His disciples to do just that. Jesus said, “A city or home might not welcome you. If this happens, shake off the dust of that place from your feet as you go.” They walked east from Antioch of Pisidia to the town of Iconium, which is in the area of Konya, Turkey, today. The time of year was between October 48, to February 49. As you go through this lesson, keep following their journey on the map on page 111.

1. What was Paul’s and Barnabas’ usual plan? Finish this sentence, and you will have the answer to this question. “Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogue.”
2. Paul and Barnabas had some problems in Iconium too. Some Jews and Gentiles believed, and some did not. How did God prove to everyone that Paul and Barnabas were doing what He wanted them to do? Verse 3: “But even so, they stayed there a long time, preaching boldly. And the Lord proved their message was true by helping them do great miracles.”
3. Paul and Barnabas didn’t leave town right away. What was it that made them decide to leave? Verse 5,6: “Paul and Barnabas learned that some people wanted to kill them. The Jewish leaders with a crowd of Gentiles and Jews had a plan to stone them. So Paul and Barnabas ran for their lives. They went to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derby and the nearby areas.” [Their leaving after hearing of this plot was not a result of God not seeing them through. It was discerning God’s will in their circumstances. Now was the time to leave. Before was time to stay.]
4. Paul wrote about the time he stayed in Iconium. How did he deal with these problems? Read 2 Timothy 3:11 for your answer. “You know how many troubles I have had because of preaching the Good News. You know what was done to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. But the Lord has delivered me.”
5. King David had problems too. He had enemies who wanted to kill him. In the beginning of Psalm 13:1, what is the question he asks God? “How long will you forget me, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you look the other way when I am in need?”
6. How does David end this Psalm in verses 5,6? “But I will trust in you forever. I will always trust in your mercy. I will have joy in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord. For he has blessed me so much.”
7. **PERSONAL:** Do you have problems? Is someone being mean to you? Do you sometimes feel sorry you don’t have EVERYTHING you want? Remember how David ended Psalm 13? Paul says words almost like David’s in Psalm 13. What is it Paul says in Philippians 4:11-13? “Not that I was ever in need. I have learned how to get along happily if I have much or little. I know

how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned a secret. I can be content and happy in every situation. It doesn't matter if I have a full stomach or am hungry. I am content if I have plenty or am in need. I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power."

8. Paul and Barnabas traveled to the town of Lystra, in the Lycaonia province in modern day Turkey. It was south of Iconium, modern day Konya. As the crippled man listened to Paul, something happened. How did Paul handle this man? Verses 9b,10: "Paul saw him and knew he had the faith to be healed. So Paul called to him, 'Stand up!' And the man jumped to his feet and started walking!"
9. How did the crowd deal with this miracle? Verse 11: "The crowd there saw what Paul had done. So they shouted, 'These men are gods in human bodies!'" [They called Paul and Barnabas Greek gods. Hermes was the god of speech and a messenger for the other gods. Zeus was king of all the other gods. Legend has it that these two gods did take human form. However, as we know, there is no other God but the one true God]
10. What did Paul and Barnabas do to try to change the crowd's mind? Verses 14,15: "But Barnabas and Paul soon saw what was happening. They were very upset and ripped at their clothing. They ran out among the people, shouting, 'Men! What are you doing' We are just human beings like yourselves! We have come to bring you Good News. We have come to invite you to turn from the worship of these foolish things. Come and pray instead to the living God. For he made the heavens and earth, and the sea and everything in them." [Both tore their clothing because it is likely they each preached. The one true God was unfamiliar to the Gentiles. So, Paul had to begin with acquainting them with this one true God before he could tell them about Jesus. Therefore, the message delivered here of the one true God is different than the messages given to the Jews at the start of this journey. Those previously preached to knew the Old Testament Scriptures.]

Read Acts chapter 14, verses 19 – 28.

1. Picture in your mind what is happening in Lystra. Paul and Barnabas are well liked by the people. They even call the disciples gods. But a few days later the tables turn. The people are ready to stone them. Why did their feelings for the disciples change? Verse 19: "Yet only a few days later, some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium. They turned the crowds into an angry mob. And they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city. They thought he was dead." [Likely, the Jews from Antioch, who didn't want the message of the Messiah to be told, said things to turn the people of Lystra against Paul and Barnabas. "The simple statements of two verses reveal both the hatred of religious enemies of the gospel and the crazy reactions of the Lystra mob, who stoned the 'god' of yesterday and dragged him outside the city, leaving him for dead" (BRUCE).]
2. God surprised everyone! Paul and Barnabas decided to leave for Derbe, about 30 miles south of, or below, Lystra but in the same province. Today it may be part of Konya, near Kerti Huyuk, Turkey. They preached the Good News and started a church. After this, they went back to the

places they had just left, the towns where the people tried to kill them. What did they do in these towns? Verses 22,23: “They helped the believers there to grow in love for God and each other. They encouraged the believers not to turn from their faith even though people treated them badly. And they reminded them that they must enter into the Kingdom of God through many troubles. Paul and Barnabas also chose elders in every church. And they prayed for them with fasting. They turned them over to the care of the Lord in whom they trusted.” [Derbe was the easternmost established church at this time, a good jumping off location in the spread of the Gospel.]

3. Everyone has troubles, or problems. Some may be sick. Some may be Christians or non-Christians. For the Christian we have the answer to the question “Why?” You will find it in James 1:2-4. What does it say? “Dear brothers, is your life full of trouble and trials? Then be happy. When the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow! And don’t try to get out of your problems. One day, your patience will finally be in full bloom. Then you will be ready for anything. You will be strong in character, full, and perfect.”
4. How did Paul and Barnabas get back to their home base in Antioch of Syria? Verse 26: “Finally they went by ship to the church there.”
5. What was their report to the church in Antioch? Verses 27,28: “When they got there, they called together the believers. They reported on the trip they had just completed. They told how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there with the believers at Antioch for a long time.”

This first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas began at Antioch of Syria in the spring of the year A.D. 48. It ended at Antioch in the fall of A.D. 49. While Paul stayed in Antioch, he wrote the letter to the Galatians. The people of the region of Galatia, now called Turkey, were those people who became Christians in the towns of Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Antioch in Pisidia. Paul wanted to encourage these brothers and sisters in Christ. There had been others trying to turn the new Christians away from God. In Galatians 1:6,7 Paul writes: “I am amazed that you are turning away so soon from God. He invited you to share the eternal life he gives through Christ. But you have decided to follow a different path to be saved. And that way won’t save you! For there is no other way than the one we showed you. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth about Christ.”

6. What does Acts 4:12 say is the message Peter gave about Christ, and that Paul also preached? “There is salvation in no one else! Under all Heaven there is no other name for men to call upon to save them.”
7. **PERSONAL:** Romans 10:13 says: “Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Have you called upon the Lord to save you? Why not stop and do it now? Confess your sins; believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead; ask Jesus Christ to save you. Now you belong to Him and He will help you to learn more about Him and to live according to God’s will.

ACTS LESSON 14

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 15, verses 1 – 12.

1. What are some men telling the believers in Antioch?

2. How does Paul answer the question of salvation to the believers of Galatia in Galatians 2:16?

3. **HARD:** The Gospel has spread to Gentiles who are also believers. Faith in Jesus doesn't belong just to the Jews any longer. Gentiles can become believers and be saved. But there seems to be a problem. Should the Gentiles keep the Jewish Laws? How is this problem settled?

4. **HARD:** Paul and Barnabas were accepted in Jerusalem. They told the believers the wonderful things God was doing among the Gentiles. Some Pharisees thought that by doing everything the Jewish law said, and adding belief in Jesus on top of that, they would be saved. So they wanted the Gentile Christians to follow Jewish laws and customs. Pharisees were religious men who thought they had to work at keeping the rules in God's law in order to please God. But that is not what the Bible says. What do these verses say about salvation and obeying God's laws?

Galatians 2:16

Ephesians 2:8,9

James 2:10

5. **RISKY:** Why do you think we can't get rid of God's Law, the Ten Commandments? Romans 3:20 has your answer.
6. Peter reminds the Jerusalem council that God had appointed him to share the Gospel with the Gentiles. What was God's sign to the Gentiles to show He was pleased to have them receive salvation through Jesus Christ?

Read Acts chapter 15, verses 13 – 30.

James spoke after Peter. He also reminded the believers about the first time God had visited the Gentiles. Acts chapter 10 recorded Peter's vision and Cornelius' conversion, the signs God used to show the Jewish Christians that salvation was okay to share with the Gentiles.

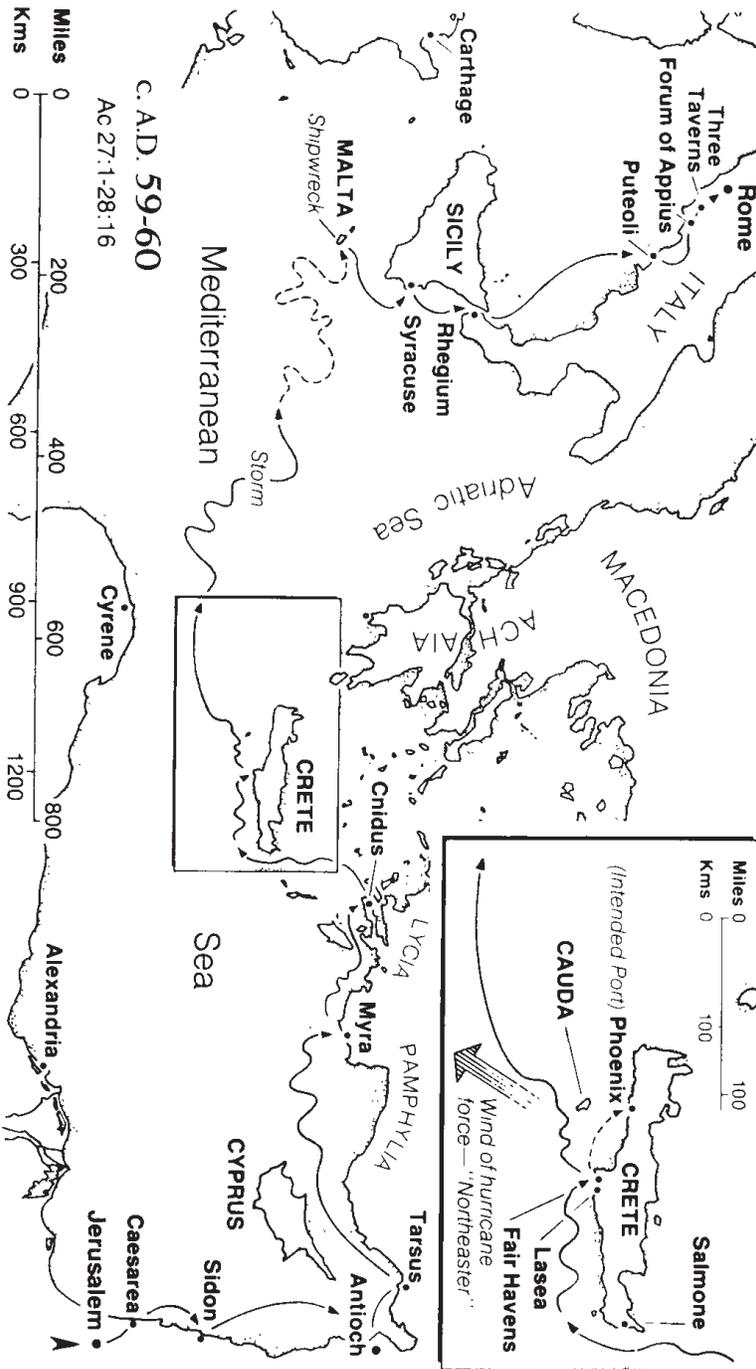
1. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever had an argument, disagreement, or fight with someone? It could be a brother, sister, best friend, or your parents. How did you settle the differences between you? Did you hit each other? Did you call each other names? Did you pout and cry? Or did you settle your argument the way Paul tells us to do in 2 Timothy 2:23,24? What does that scripture say?
2. Which verse or verses tell how James settled this disagreement?
3. **RISKY:** The Jerusalem Council decided Gentile Christians didn't have to become Jewish first. The Gentile Christians seemed to have more freedom in salvation than their Jewish brothers. How were the Gentile believers to act towards their Jewish brothers? Before you answer, let's say that at home your bedtime is 10:00 p.m. (Gentile Christians). You are invited to spend the night at a friend's house (Jewish Christians), where bedtime rules are different than at your house. Bedtime is 9:00 p.m. How would you behave? Do you argue with your friend's parents, or do you obey the rules? How does Paul answer this question in Galatians 5:13, the loving and grown-up way to act?

4. What does the letter say about the men who had upset the believers in Antioch?
5. Why did Silas and Judas join Paul and Barnabas on their trip back to Antioch?

Read Acts chapter 15, verses 31 – 41.

1. How did the people feel about the letter from Jerusalem?
2. After Silas and Judas returned to Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. One day Paul suggested to Barnabas that they visit the churches that they had started in Asia Minor. What did Barnabas suggest to Paul?
3. What does Acts 13:13 say happened to John Mark?
4. Barnabas had the nickname of “Encourager.” He wanted to encourage Mark and give him a second chance. Where did they go?
5. Paul asked Silas to join him on this trip, his second missionary journey. Where did they go? There is a new map on page 122 for you to follow their trip.
6. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you choose to memorize?

Paul's Journey to Rome



Map adapted from *Reproducible Maps, Charts, Time Lines & Illustrations*, published by Regal Books. Used by permission.

ACTS – WEEK FIFTEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 14

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BEDLAM

This game requires four teams of equal size. Each team takes one corner of the room or playing field. The play area can be either square or rectangular. On a signal (e.g., whistle) each team attempts to move as quickly as possible to the corner diagonally across from their corner, performing an announced activity as they go. The first team to get all its members into its new corner wins that particular round. The first round can be simply running to the opposite corner, but after that you can use any number of possibilities: walking backward, wheelbarrow racing (one person is the wheelbarrow), piggyback, rolling somersaults, hopping on one foot, skipping, crab walking, etc. There will be literally mass bedlam in the center as all four teams crisscross. Alert your safety guards to referee the confusion in the middle where the lines cross.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 14

to end of class CRAFT: RED AND WHITE HEART WREATH

If this lesson doesn't fall near Valentine's Day for your class, switch this craft with one from a week that will be near Valentine's Day.

MATERIALS:

approx. 9" paper plates	glue
red & white construction paper	ribbon
heart shaped candies	scissors

From paper plate, cut out and discard the center circle, leaving about a 1 1/2" to 2" edge in a wreath shape. Using the patterns on page 124, cut out 6 small white and 6 large red hearts for each wreath.

Glue large hearts evenly around circle. Glue the smaller hearts on the space between the large hearts. They will overlap the large hearts.

Glue heart candies in the center of the small hearts. Make a bow with the ribbon, and tie for hanging.



ACTS LESSON 14 – ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 15, verses 1 – 12.

1. What are some men telling the believers in Antioch? Verse 1: “While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch, some men came from Judea. They told the believers that they must obey the ancient Jewish customs. They told them that they had to be circumcised to be saved.”
2. How does Paul answer the question of salvation to the believers of Galatia in Galatians 2:16? “Yet we know that we can’t become right with God by obeying our Jewish laws. We know that our sins are forgiven only by faith in Jesus Christ. So we have trusted Jesus Christ, too. Now we are welcomed by God because of faith. He doesn’t welcome us because we obey the Jewish laws. For no one will ever be saved by obeying them.”
3. **HARD:** The Gospel has spread to Gentiles who are also believers. Faith in Jesus doesn’t belong just to the Jews any longer. Gentiles can become believers and be saved. But there seems to be a problem. Should the Gentiles keep the Jewish laws? How is this problem settled? Verse 2: “Paul and Barnabas argued about this with them for a long time. But in the end, they decided to go to Jerusalem and some local men went along, too. They wanted to discuss this question with the apostles and elders there.”
4. **HARD:** Paul and Barnabas were accepted in Jerusalem. They told the believers the wonderful things God was doing among the Gentiles. Some Pharisees thought that by doing everything the Jewish law said, and adding belief in Jesus on top of that, they would be saved. So they wanted the Gentile Christians to follow Jewish laws and customs. Pharisees were religious men who thought they had to work at keeping the rules in God’s law in order to please God. But that is not what the Bible says. What do these verses say about salvation and obeying God’s laws?

Galatians 2:16 “Yet we know that we can’t become right with God by obeying our Jewish laws. We know that our sins are forgiven only by faith in Jesus Christ. So we have trusted Jesus Christ, too. Now, we are welcomed by God because of faith. He doesn’t welcome us because we obey the Jewish laws. For no one will ever be saved by obeying them.”

Ephesians 2:8,9 “Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even that trust is not your own. It, too, is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done. So none of us can take any credit for it.”

James 2:10 “What if someone keeps every law but makes one little slip? He is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law.”

5. **RISKY:** Why do you think we can't get rid of God's Law, the Ten Commandments? Romans 3:20 has your answer. "Now do you see it? No one can be right in God's sight by doing what the law commands. The more we know God's laws, the more we see that we aren't obeying them. His laws only show us that we are sinners."
6. Peter reminds the Jerusalem council that God had appointed him to share the Gospel with the Gentiles. What was God's sign to the Gentiles to show He was pleased to have them receive salvation through Jesus Christ? Verse 8,9: "God knows men's hearts. And he proved that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit. He gave them the Holy Spirit, just as he gave him to us. He showed that there is no difference between them and us. For he cleansed their lives through faith, just as he did ours."

Read Acts chapter 15, verses 13 – 30.

James spoke after Peter. He also reminded the believers about the first time God had visited the Gentiles. Acts chapter 10 recorded Peter's vision and Cornelius' conversion, the signs God used to show the Jewish Christians that salvation was okay to share with the Gentiles.

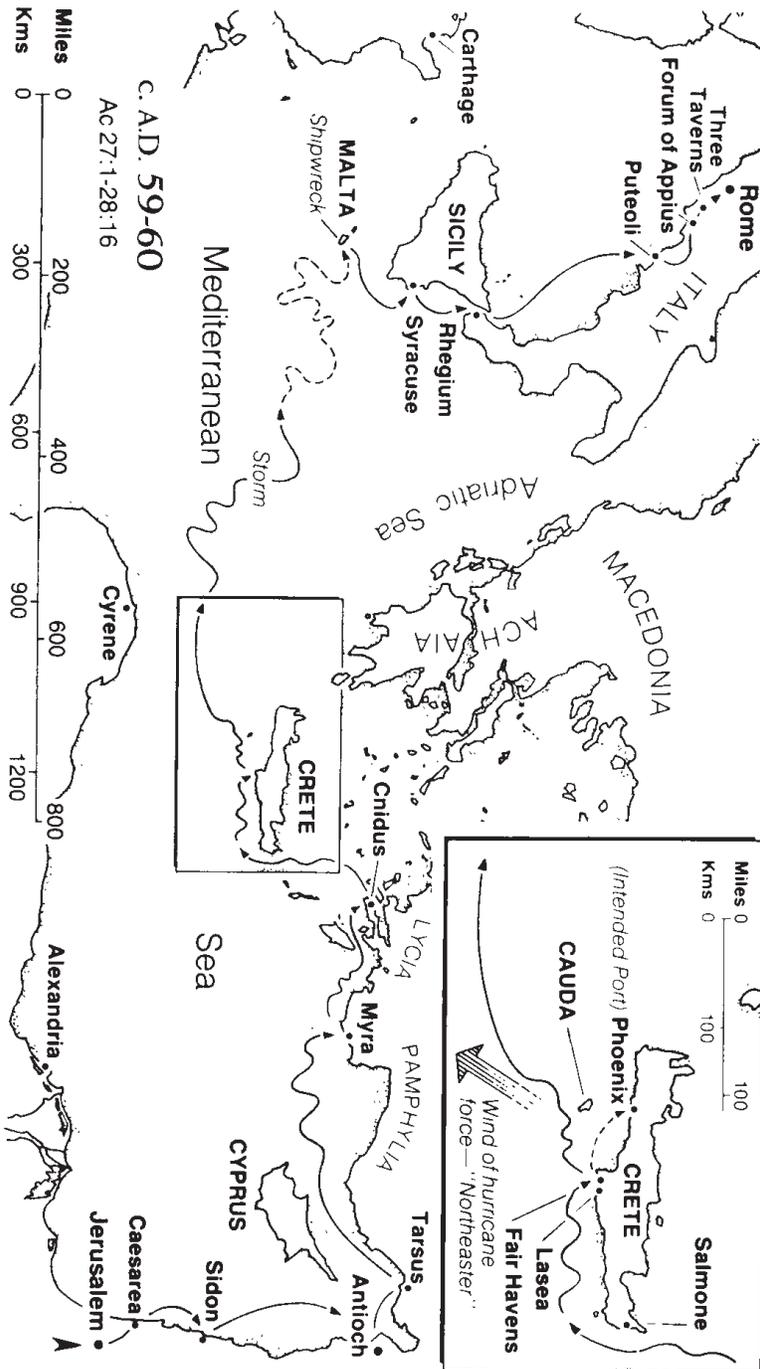
1. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever had an argument, disagreement, or fight with someone? It could be a brother, sister, best friend, or your parents. How did you settle the differences between you? Did you hit each other? Did you call each other names? Did you pout and cry? Or did you settle your argument the way Paul tells us to do in 2 Timothy 2:23,24? What does that scripture say? "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful" (NIV).
2. Which verse or verses tell how James settled this disagreement? Verses 19-21: "So I think we should not force the Gentiles who turn to God to obey our Jewish Laws. Instead, we should write a letter to them. We should tell them not to eat meat that still has the blood in it. And we should tell them not to take part in any sexual sins. These things have been preached against in Jewish synagogues for many years." [These are moral and dietary laws, upon which the Jews had been raised. The Gentiles didn't have these laws.]
3. **RISKY:** The Jerusalem Council decided Gentile Christians didn't have to become Jewish first. The Gentile Christians seemed to have more freedom in salvation than their Jewish brothers. How were the Gentile believers to act towards their Jewish brothers? Before you answer, let's say that at home your bedtime is 10:00 p.m. (Gentile Christians). You are invited to spend the night at a friend's house (Jewish Christians), where bedtime rules are different than at your house. Bedtime is 9:00 p.m. How would you behave? Do you argue with your friend's parents, or do you obey the rules? How does Paul answer this question in Galatians 5:13, the loving and grown-up way to act? "For, dear brothers, you have been given freedom. It is not freedom to do wrong. It is freedom to love and serve each other."

4. What does the letter say about the men who had upset the believers in Antioch? Verse 24: “We have heard that some believers from Jerusalem have upset you. They questioned whether you were saved or not. But they had no such orders from us.”
5. Why did Silas and Judas join Paul and Barnabas on their trip back to Antioch? Verse 27: “Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing” (NIV). [They went “down” to Antioch because it is lower in elevation than Jerusalem. Silas was a leader in the early beginnings of the Jerusalem church.]

Read Acts chapter 15, verses 31 – 41.

1. How did the people feel about the letter from Jerusalem? Verse 31: “And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read it.”
2. After Silas and Judas returned to Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. One day Paul suggested to Barnabas that they visit the churches that they had started in Asia Minor. What did Barnabas suggest to Paul? Verse 37: “Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark.”
3. What does Acts 13:13 say happened to John Mark? “Now Paul and those with him left Paphos by ship for Asia Minor. They landed at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem.” [We have much speculation as to the reason for Mark’s leaving the missionaries. It may have been because Paul became the leader of the team and not Barnabas. It could have been Mark got frightened by the turmoil the missionaries were experiencing. He may have felt too inexperienced for the task at hand. Whatever the reason, Paul doesn’t want him along now.]
4. Barnabas had the nickname of “Encourager.” He wanted to encourage Mark and give him a second chance. Where did they go? Verse 39: “They had a sharp disagreement over this and decided to separate. Barnabas and Mark sailed for Cyprus.” [Cyprus was an island in the Mediterranean Sea. We must remember these ships were not luxury liners. They were trading ships. Although very primitive in passenger comforts, they could carry several hundred passengers.]
5. Paul asked Silas to join him on this trip, his second missionary journey. Where did they go? There is a new map on page 128 for you to follow their trip. Verses 40-41: But Paul chose Silas and left for Syria and Cilicia to encourage the churches there. They went out with the blessing of the believers in Antioch.” [Since they were traveling inland, they probably walked on the stone roads. Cilicia is the province in which Paul’s hometown of Tarsus was located.]
6. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you choose to memorize?

Paul's Journey to Rome



Map adapted from *Reproducible Maps, Charts, Time Lines & Illustrations*, published by Regal Books. Used by permission.

ACTS LESSON 15

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 1 – 5.

Paul met Timothy in the town of Lystra. Read more about Timothy and what Paul thought and felt about him in the following verses.

Romans 16:21 "Timothy my fellow worker, and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my relatives, greet you."

1 Corinthians 4:17 "I am sending Timothy to help you do this. He is one of those I won to Christ. He is a beloved and trusted child in the Lord. He will remind you of what I teach in all the churches everywhere."

1 Thessalonians 3:2 "I sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker, God's minister, to visit you. I sent him to strengthen your faith and to encourage you."

2 Timothy 1:5 "I am eager that all the Christians there be filled with love from pure hearts. I want their minds to be clean and their faith to be stronger."

1. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?

The decisions from the Jerusalem church are found in Acts 15:28,29. It says: "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with all the Jewish laws. But we ask that you not eat food that has been offered to idols. We ask that you not eat unbled meat from strangled animals. And we ask that you not take part in any sexual sins. If you do these three things it is enough. Farewell."

2. In the beginning years of Christianity, what was called "the church," was not a building, but a group of people gathered together to worship the one true God. Non-believing Gentiles worshiped other gods. There must have been something special about those who followed Jesus Christ, who are called Christians. How could nonbelievers tell Christians apart from others? The verses below will help you to know what nonbelievers saw in believers. What is the common idea in these verses?

John 13:34,35

1 John 3:16

1 John 4:7,8

3. **PERSONAL:** Do you have a hard time loving someone who has hurt you, or you don't like? What do the following verses say that will help you to know how to love others?

Philippians 2:13

Philippians 4: 13

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 6 – 16.

Paul has begun his second missionary journey. He will visit some of the places where his ministry began. Be sure to keep following his travels on the map in your last lesson (page 122). This trip will take two years, from April of 50 to September of 52. During this time Paul will write 1 & 2 Thessalonians while he is in Corinth. (He hasn't gone there yet.)

If you can, look at a current world map and find Turkey. Most of Paul's journeys take place in this country. Paul and his companions either walked or sailed to the places they wanted to visit. They spent a lot of time traveling. They didn't get from one place to another in a short time, it probably took days to go from one town to another. They either camped out or stayed in someone's home.

1. Paul and his companions were on their way to Asia. Before they got there, they passed through Phrygia and Galatia. Then they were stopped, dead in their tracks. Why?

2. What did Paul have in Troas?

3. **CHALLENGE:** The dictionary says a “pronoun” is “a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of a great many languages that is used as a substitute for a noun or noun equivalent, takes noun constructions, and refers to person or things named, and asked for” (WEBSTER’S). In other words, a word that takes the place of a noun, which is the name of a person, place, or thing. Now that you know the meaning of a pronoun, what is the difference in the pronouns in these two verses? Circle the pronouns.

Acts 16:6 “Next they traveled through Phrygia and Galatia. The Holy Spirit had told them not to go into the province of Asia Minor at that time.

Acts 16:10 “Well, that settled it! We would go on to Macedonia. For it seemed clear that God wanted us to preach the Good News there.”

4. Where did Paul go on the Sabbath and whom did he meet there?

5. Who is Lydia? Write down all you learn about her in verses 14,15.

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 16 - 24.

1. On the way to the place of prayer, Paul met a slave girl, who was also a fortune-teller, and earned much money for her masters. What did she say about Paul and his group?
2. The Lord plainly tells us not to check out fortune-tellers. That includes palm readers, horoscopes, and Ouiji board games, even if what we’re doing is in fun, or a game. Check out God’s word on this in the following scriptures.

Leviticus 19:31

Deuteronomy 18:10-11

Isaiah 8:19

Paul and Silas did not commit the crime they were charged with. But they were punished any way. They were sentenced to a beating and then thrown into prison. This kind of punishment had been around a long time. The prisoner could not receive more than 40 hits with rods or sticks. Under Roman rule, the wrong doer had his shirt torn off, and he was stretched with leather cords or ropes on a frame and beaten. Women were also beaten in this way.

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 25 – 31.

1. What were Paul and Silas doing when the earthquake happened?

2. The jailer was ready to kill himself, because he was responsible for his prisoners. If any escaped, he would be executed, too. So he figured to do the job himself. But Paul called to him, saying that all his prisoners were still in their cells. Shaking with fear, the jailer got a torch and went to see Paul and Silas. What question did he ask Paul?

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 32 – 40.

1. **RISKY:** What kindness did the jailer finally show Paul and Silas?

2. In the morning the guards came to carry out the order of the magistrates to release Paul and Silas. But Paul didn't want to leave. Why?

3. After Paul and Silas were released, where did they go?

ACTS - WEEK SIXTEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 15

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: SNATCH THE BACON

Divide your group into two teams facing each other behind two opposing goal lines. Place an object, the BACON, at a point half-way between the goal lines. Each player is given a number with both teams having corresponding numbers. Number one team from one end, and the opposing team begin numbering at the opposite end so that the same numbered players face each other diagonally. The leader calls out a number, and those two players having that number race to the center and try to snatch the BACON and return to the team goal without being tagged by the other player. If tagged, the tagging team gets one point. Each successful return gains two points for the returning team. Some team players like to wait a moment before snatching the bacon in order to catch their opponent off guard. This tactic adds tension and skill to a simple game.

The bacon is returned to the center after each tag or return, and another number is called. To add further interest, two numbers can be called at once. A designated point limit or time limit determines the end of play.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 15

to end of class CRAFT: CORNSTARCH MAGNETS

MATERIALS:

1 cup cornstarch	2 cups baking soda
1 1/4 cup water	white glue
cookie cutter shapes	tempera paint/brushes
magnet (optional: with peel off tape)	
floured surface	
waxed paper	rolling pin (optional)

CORNSTARCH DOUGH

Combine cornstarch, water, and baking soda in a pan. It will look like soup. Cook, stirring constantly, until it has the consistency of mashed potatoes. (If

possible, prepare dough during class time.) Allow mixture to cool slightly. With a spoonful of cooled mixture, dump onto floured waxed paper and knead until smooth.

OPTIONAL: Fimo dough can be purchased in craft stores if you don't want to make cornstarch dough.

MAGNETS

Roll out dough to about 1/4" thick. Use the cookie cutters to make the shape, or design your own. Cloves pressed through a garlic press make great hair; fork holes look like prickly skin or fur. Use more globs of dough to create eyes, nose, etc. for stand out effect. Paint as desired. Add magnet to back of shape. Glaze the front of shape with equal parts water and white glue.

ACTS LESSON 15 – ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 1 - 5.

Paul met Timothy in the town of Lystra. Read more about Timothy and what Paul thought and felt about him in the following verses.

Romans 16:21 “Timothy my fellow worker, and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my relatives, greet you.”

1 Corinthians 4:17 “I am sending Timothy to help you do this. He is one of those I won to Christ. He is a beloved and trusted child in the Lord. He will remind you of what I teach in all the churches everywhere.”

1 Thessalonians 3:2 “I sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker, God’s minister, to visit you. I sent him to strengthen your faith and to encourage you.”

2 Timothy 1:5 “I am eager that all the Christians there be filled with love from pure hearts. I want their minds to be clean and their faith to be stronger.”

1. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised? Verse 3: “So Paul asked him to join them on their journey. And he circumcised Timothy before they left. Paul did this so he wouldn’t offend any of the Jews of the area. For everyone knew that Timothy’s father was Greek and hadn’t allowed this before.” [As we are told, Timothy was a native of Lystra, of mixed parentage. There is no indication of Timothy’s father at this time, but, it is apparent he did not want to follow this Jewish custom. In order for Timothy to accompany Paul, Paul felt it was necessary for him to be circumcised so as not to offend the Jews. However, in Galatians 2:3-5, Paul did not allow Titus to be circumcised, because he was fully Gentile. Paul was anxious to have someone he could train in the ministry and that someone was Timothy. Timothy probably became a believer after Paul’s first trip through this region, and likely Timothy had been doing some Christian teaching, as evidenced by the words in Acts 16:2. At this point, Timothy joins Paul’s troupe.]

The decisions from the Jerusalem church are found in Acts 15:28,29. It says: “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with all the Jewish laws. But we ask that you not eat food that has been offered to idols. We ask that you not eat unbled meat from strangled animals. And we ask that you not take part in any sexual sins. If you do these three things it is enough. Farewell.”

2. In the beginning years of Christianity, what was called “the church,” was not a building, but a group of people gathered together to worship the one true God. Non-believing Gentiles worshiped other gods. There must have been something special about those who followed Jesus Christ, who are called Christians. How could nonbelievers tell Christians apart from others? The verses below will help you to know what nonbelievers saw in believers. What is the common idea in these verses?

John 13:34,35 “And so I am giving a new command to you now. You must love one another just as much as I love you. Your love will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 John 3:16 “We know what real love is from Christ’s example in dying for us. So we also ought to lay down our lives for our Christian brothers.”

1 John 4:7,8 “Dear friends, let us practice loving each other. Love comes from God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But a person who doesn’t love doesn’t know God, because God is love.”

3. **PERSONAL:** Do you have a hard time loving someone who has hurt you, or you don’t like? What do the following verses say that will help you to know how to love others?

Philippians 2:13 “For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants.”

Philippians 4: 13 “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.”

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 6 - 16.

Paul has begun his second missionary journey. He will visit some of the places where his ministry began. Be sure to keep following his travels on the map in your last lesson (page 128). This trip will take two years, from April of 50 to September of 52. During this time Paul will write 1 & 2 Thessalonians while he is in Corinth. (He hasn’t gone there yet.)

If you can, look at a current world map and find Turkey. Most of Paul’s journeys take place in this country. Paul and his companions either walked or sailed to the places they wanted to visit. They spent a lot of time traveling. They didn’t get from one place to another in a short time, it probably took days to go from one town to another. They either camped out or stayed in someone’s home.

[The Bible-time names of the places Paul visited are in the Bible, but their current names are found on a map of Turkey. Galatia is central Turkey. One city in this province was Lystra in Bible days, and Konya today. Phrygia is the region west of Galatia. One town in this area is Bible day Colosse, and Honaz today. Asia is the furthest region in western Turkey. One Bible town name is Lydia, which is Izmir today.

They crossed the Aegean Sea to reach Macedonia, which is between today’s Bulgaria and Albania, with Greece to the south. This information may be confusing, but it is important for you remember how far towns were from each other, and how long it took to go from one place to another. It is also important to know what the names are today, because the places and events mentioned in the Bible, were places that are real today, as the Bible is real today, too.]

1. Paul and his companions were on their way to Asia Minor. Before they got there, they passed through Phrygia and Galatia. Then they were stopped, dead in their tracks. Why? Verse 6: “Next they traveled through Phrygia and Galatia. The Holy Spirit had told them not to go into the province of Asia Minor at that time.”
2. What did Paul have in Troas? Verse 9: “That night Paul had a vision. In his dream he saw a man over in Macedonia, Greece. He was begging, ‘Come over here and help us.’”
3. **CHALLENGE:** The dictionary says a “pronoun” is “a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of a great many languages that is used as a substitute for a noun or noun equivalent, takes noun constructions, and refers to person or things named, and asked for” (WEBSTER’S). In other words, a word that takes the place of a noun, which is the name of a person, place, or thing. Now that you know the meaning of a pronoun, what is the difference in the pronouns in these two verses? Circle the pronouns.

Acts 16:6 “Next **they** traveled through Phrygia and Galatia. The Holy Spirit had told **them** not to go into the province of Asia Minor at that time.”

Acts 16:10 “Well, that settled it! **We** would go on to Macedonia. For it seemed clear that God wanted us to preach the Good News there.” [Luke joins the team at this point. Hence, the difference between the pronoun “they” in verse 6, and the pronoun “we” in verse 10. The reason for his “enlistment” is not given.]

[Here come more places with strange names. Troas is on the coast of Mysia, western Turkey. The modern day town is closest to that area is called Baba-Kalesa. Samothrace, an island in the Aegean Sea; Neapolis, near modern day Kavala; and Philippi, further inland, and are in the country Greece.]

4. Where did Paul go on the Sabbath and whom did he meet there? “On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank. We had heard that some people met there for prayer. And we taught the Scriptures to some women who came.” [Luke may have attended medical school here. Philippi, “named Crenides (‘Fountains’), was taken by Philip of Macedon and renamed after him. In 168 B.C. Philippi became a Roman possession. After Mark Antony and Octavian defeated Brutus and Cassius, the assassins of Julius Caesar, near Philippi in 42 B.C., the city was made into a Roman colony” (WALVOORD). Special privileges were given to those living in Roman colonies. The people of Philippi had helped win the battle of 42 B.C. (Octavian became Caesar Augustus, the first Roman emperor, in 27 B.C.) Residents in a Roman colony were given special privileges, fewer taxes, freedom from beatings, and arrest, except in very severe cases, and had the right to appeal to the emperor. Philippi, though smaller than other cities, was still immoral and pagan. Philippi was on the edge of what was to be called the continent of Europe.]

5. Who is Lydia? Write down all you learn about her in verses 14,15. “One of them was Lydia, a saleswoman from Thyatira. She was a merchant of purple cloth. She was already a worshiper of God. And as she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart. She believed all that Paul was saying. She was baptized along with all her family. And she asked us to be her guests. ‘If you agree that I am faithful to the Lord,’ she said, ‘come and stay at my home. And she urged us until we did.” [The Jewish law states that when 10 or more Jewish men live in a particular town, a synagogue must be built. Since that is not the case here, public worship had to be in an open, clean area, or in a simple building. A lot of information is given in this brief reference about Lydia. The dye used to color cloth was very expensive, since it came from a shellfish, or a plant root, therefore, Lydia was probably very well off financially. Because she was a businesswoman, it is likely she had done far more traveling than other women of her day. You might say she was a Proverbs 31 woman. Her home was quite large, and the reference to her “household” indicates servants, as well as family. Also, Paul’s group was rather large, and after many days of teaching and preaching, the church grew, and eventually met there. Paul and Silas returned there after their release from prison, verse 40.)

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 16 - 24.

1. On the way to the place of prayer, Paul met a slave girl, who was also a fortune-teller, and earned much money for her masters. What did she say about Paul and his group? Verse 17: “She followed along behind us shouting, ‘These men are servants of God! They have come to tell you how to have your sins forgiven!’” [In James 2:19 we read, “you believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that- and shudder” (NIV). The demons within the girl knew the truth. If Paul hadn’t put a stop to this demon, people would assume the Gospel of Jesus Christ associated with demons. Note: Possibly, Luke left the group at this point, since the passage uses “them” again.]
2. The Lord plainly tells us not to check out fortune-tellers. That includes palm readers, horoscopes, and Ouiji Board games, even if what we’re doing is in fun, or a game. Check out God’s word on this in the following scriptures.

Leviticus 19:31 “Do not defile yourselves by asking mediums and wizards for help. For I am the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 18:10-11 “For example, an Israelite might give his child to be burned to death as a sacrifice to heathen gods. But if anyone should do this, he must be killed. Israelites must never practice black magic. They must never call on evil spirits for aid, or be fortune-tellers. They must not be serpent charmers, mediums, or wizards. They must never call forth the spirits of the dead.”

Isaiah 8:19 “So why are you trying to find out the future by talking to witches and mediums? Don’t listen to their whisperings. Can the living find out the future from the dead? Why not ask your God?”

Paul and Silas did not commit the crime they were charged with. But they were punished any way. They were sentenced to a beating and then thrown into prison. This kind of punishment had been around a long time. The prisoner could not receive more than 40 hits with rods or sticks. Under Roman rule, the wrong doer had his shirt torn off, and he was stretched with leather cords or ropes on a frame and beaten. Women were also beaten in this way.

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 25 - 31.

1. What were Paul and Silas doing when the earthquake happened? Verse 25: “Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to the Lord. And all the other prisoners were listening to them.”
2. The jailer was ready to kill himself, because he was responsible for his prisoners. If any escaped, he would be executed, too. So he figured to do the job himself. But Paul called to him, saying that all his prisoners were still in their cells. Shaking with fear, the jailer got a torch and went to see Paul and Silas. What question did he ask Paul? Verse 30: “He brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’” [Likely, the jailer knew about Paul and Silas, and what they had been preaching, as well as what had happened to the slave girl.]

Read Acts chapter 16, verses 32 - 40.

1. **RISKY:** What kindness did the jailer finally show Paul and Silas? Verses 33,34: “That same hour he washed their beaten backs. And he and his family were baptized. Then he brought them up into his house and set a meal before them. He and his family were full of joy because all of them believed!”
2. In the morning the guards came to carry out the order of the magistrates to release Paul and Silas. But, Paul didn’t want to leave. Why? Verse 37: “But Paul replied, ‘Oh, no, they don’t! They have publicly beaten us without trial and jailed us. And we are Roman citizens! Never! Let them come themselves and let us go!’” [Paul used this fact only in extreme circumstances. Paul wanted the magistrates to acknowledge his illegal arrest and imprisonment.]
3. After Paul and Silas were released, where did they go? Verse 40: “Paul and Silas then went back to the home of Lydia. They met with the believers there. And they preached to them once more before leaving town.”

ACTS LESSON 16

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 17, verses 1 - 9.

After being released from jail, Paul and Silas moved on to Thessalonica, arriving there in November, 50 A.D. They remained there until sometime in March, 51 A.D. In the summer of that year, Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians while he was in Corinth. The books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians are the letters he wrote.

The roads built by the Romans were made of stone, making travel easier. Thessalonica was about 100 miles from Philippi. Amphipolis was about 30 miles from Philippi, and Apollonia was another thirty miles, with Thessalonica the last stop. We are not told if Paul stopped at these two towns.

Thessalonica was a major seaport, just as it is today. Thessalonica was the second largest city in Greece. Because some people believed in spite of many problems, this church was used as an example in Greece and around the world.

It is possible Luke stayed in Philippi, since that was his hometown, and in the first verse of Acts 17, the pronoun returns to "they."

1. What was Paul's custom when he reached a new town?

2. How did Paul teach in the synagogue?

3. Not everyone believed Paul's message about Christ. Fill in the blanks with the following words.

bad mob jealous riot dudes

Some of the Jews were _____. They rounded up some _____
_____. They formed a _____, and started a _____ in the city.

4. Paul used the Jewish scriptures to prove Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah. Paul listed what the scriptures said about the promised Messiah. Then he told them how Jesus had fulfilled every promise. Not everyone who heard Paul was Jewish, but they knew what the Jewish Scriptures said about Him. The New Testament gives us proof that other people besides Jews knew about the Jewish Messiah. John 4:7,25,26 tells about a group of people who are waiting for the Messiah. Who are these people?
5. **PERSONAL:** Some believed in Jesus as the promised Messiah and some did not. Which group, those who believed or those who did not, do you fit in best? If it were the second group, would you like to believe? Then ask God in prayer to help you believe. When you have prayed that, then confess your sins to God, and ask Him to come and live in your heart so that you can please Him.
6. When Paul and Silas couldn't be found by the mob, they dragged Jason from his home to stand in front of the city officials. How was Jason made to pay for his crime?

Read Acts chapter 17, verses 10-20, with 1 Thessalonians chapter 2, verses 1-2, 10-12.

1. 1 Thessalonians is a letter of encouragement to the people of Thessalonica. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2, Paul reminded them of the trouble he and Silas had in Philippi. But with God's help they were able to share the Gospel there. The trouble Paul is speaking about is the riot we read about in Acts 17:5. The Thessalonian believers sent Paul, Silas, and Timothy to Berea. Paul followed the pattern he had set up, which was to go to the synagogue and speak to the Jews first. How did the Bereans respond to Paul's message?
2. What did the Jews in Thessalonica do when they heard Paul was preaching in Berea?
3. The Bereans quickly got Paul out of town. Leaving Silas and Timothy in Berea, Paul went on alone to Athens. While there, what did he do?
4. Where did the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers take Paul and what did they ask Him?
5. How did the men of Athens spend their time?

Read Acts chapter 17, verses 22 - 34.

1. Paul was a very smart speaker. He complimented them on their religious beliefs. The compliment gave Paul the tool he needed to present the Gospel to this highly intelligent but idol worshipping group of people. There were altars all over Athens, even one to an unknown god. Who is this unknown one?

2. What do these verses add to what Paul says in Acts 17:24-28 about the One True God?

Deuteronomy 32:8

Psalm 50:10-12

James 1:17

3. How does Paul describe what God is not?

4. What do these verses say about the man that Paul says will judge the earth?

Daniel 7:13

John 5:22

Acts 2:22-24

5. **RISKY:** How many people believed and followed Paul?

ACTS - WEEK SEVENTEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 16

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: WHO'S KNOCKING?

"It" sits on a chair at the front of the room. All other players stand behind "it". One player is chosen to knock on the back of "it's" chair. "It" asks "Who's knocking?" The knocker answers "It's me", disguising his voice. If "it" guesses correctly, the knocker becomes "it". If not, another player becomes the knocker. "It" remains until he guesses correctly.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 16

to end of class CRAFT: STORY CARDS

MATERIALS:

8 1/2" x 11" cardstock or thin cardboard (from cereal boxes or other packaging)

crayons or colored markers

scissors

Copy the master on page 144 onto cardstock, and let children color pictures. Or copy on normal weight paper, color pictures, and then glue page to thin cardboard. Cut on dotted lines to make 8 story cards. When finished, play "cards." Have one player pull a card from his stack without looking at them, and from that card he tells the story. Or the cards can be used in charades. Divide into teams and have each team pick a card without looking, then act out the story without words. Everyone else tries to guess which story they are telling.



Acts 1: Jesus' Ascension



Acts 2: Pentecost



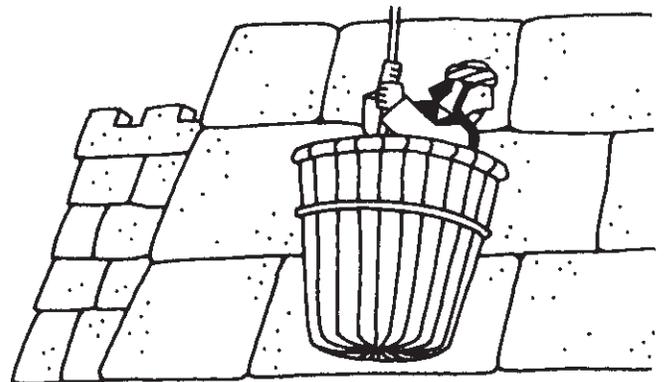
Acts 7: Stephen is Stoned



Acts 8: Philip with the Ethiopian



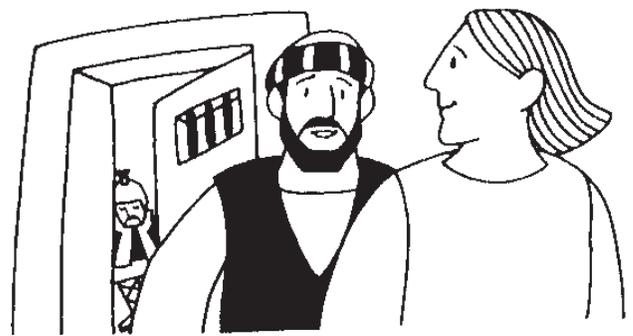
Acts 9: Paul Blinded



Acts 9: Paul Escapes



Acts 10: Peter's Vision



Acts 12: Peter Escapes

ACTS LESSON 16 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 17, verses 1 - 9.

After being released from jail, Paul and Silas moved on to Thessalonica, arriving there in November, 50 A.D. They remained there until sometime in March, 51 A.D. In the summer of that year, Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians while he was in Corinth. The books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians are the letters he wrote.

The roads built by the Romans were made of stone, making travel easier. Thessalonica was about 100 miles from Philippi. Amphipolis was about 30 miles from Philippi, and Apollonia was another thirty miles, with Thessalonica the last stop. We are not told if Paul stopped at these two towns.

Thessalonica was a major seaport, just as it is today. Thessalonica was the second largest city in Greece. Because some people believed in spite of many problems, this church was used as an example in Greece and around the world.

It is possible Luke stayed in Philippi, since that was his hometown, and in the first verse of Acts 17, the pronoun returns to “they.”

1. What was Paul’s custom when he reached a new town? Verse 2: “As was Paul’s custom, he went there to preach. And for three Sabbaths in a row he opened the Scriptures to the people.” [Information in Philippians 4:15-16 and 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 2:9; and 3:7-10 indicate that Paul stayed longer than three weeks. Probably the first three weeks were spent talking with the Jews, and the remaining time spent with the Gentiles.]
2. How did Paul teach in the synagogue? Verses 2b, 3: “And for three Sabbaths in a row he opened the Scriptures to the people. He explained the prophecies about the sufferings of the Messiah. He told them all about his coming back to life. In this way, he approved that Jesus was the Messiah.”
3. Not everyone believed Paul’s message about Christ. Fill in the blanks with the following words.

Some of the Jews were jealous. They rounded up some bad dudes. They formed a mob, and started a riot in the city.

4. Paul used the Jewish scriptures to prove Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah. Paul listed what the scriptures said about the promised Messiah. Then he told them how Jesus had fulfilled every promise. Not everyone who heard Paul was Jewish, but they knew what the Jewish Scriptures said about Him. The New Testament gives us proof that other people besides Jews knew about the Jewish Messiah. John 4:7,25,26 tells about a group of people who are waiting for the Mes-

siah. Who are these people? “Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus asked her for a drink. The woman said, ‘Well, I know that the Messiah will come. They call him the Christ. And when he comes he will explain everything to us.’ Then Jesus told her, ‘I am the Messiah!’”

5. **PERSONAL:** Some believed in Jesus as the promised Messiah and some did not. Which group, those who believed or those who did not, do you fit in best? If it were the second group, would you like to believe? Then ask God in prayer to help you believe. When you have prayed that, then confess your sins to God, and ask Him to come and live in your heart so that you can please Him.
6. When Paul and Silas couldn't be found by the mob, they dragged Jason from his home to stand in front of the city officials. How was Jason made to pay for his crime? Verse 9: “And they let him go only after they had posted bail.”

Read Acts chapter 17, verses 10–20, with 1 Thessalonians chapter 2, verses 1-2, 10-12.

1. 1 Thessalonians is a letter of encouragement to the people of Thessalonica. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1,2, Paul reminded them of the trouble he and Silas had in Philippi. But with God's help, they were able to share the Gospel there. The trouble Paul is speaking about is the riot we read about in Acts 17:5. The Thessalonian believers sent Paul, Silas, and Timothy to Berea. Paul followed the pattern he had set up, which was to go to the synagogue and speak to the Jews first. How did the Bereans respond to Paul's message? Verse 11: “But the people of [Berea] were more opened-minded than those in Thessalonica. They gladly listened to the message. They read Scriptures day by day to check up on Paul and Silas. They wanted to make sure that what they said was true.”
2. What did the Jews in Thessalonica do when they heard Paul was preaching in Berea? Verse 13: “But the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching in [Berea]. So they went over and stirred up trouble.”
3. The Bereans quickly got Paul out of town. Leaving Silas and Timothy in Berea. Paul went on alone to Athens. While there, what did he do? Verse 17: “He went to the synagogue to talk with the Jews and the godly Gentiles. And he spoke daily in the public square to all who were there.”
4. Where did the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers take Paul and what did they ask him? Verses 19-20: “But they invited him to the forum at Mars Hill (sometimes called Areopagus, or Agora). ‘Come and tell us more about this new religion,’ they said. ‘For you are saying some rather amazing things. We want to hear more about this.’” [Epicureans believed the goal of man was pleasure and happiness. “This pleasure, they believed, is attained by avoiding excesses and the fear of death, by seeking tranquility and freedom from pain, and by loving mankind.” The Stoics were pantheistic, which means God was in everything. “They felt a great ‘Purpose’ was direct-

ing history. Man's responsibility was to fit himself and align himself with this Purpose through tragedy and triumph. Quite obviously this outlook, while it produced certain noble qualities, also resulted in inordinate pride and self-sufficiency" (WALVOORD).]

5. How did the men of Athens spend their time? Verse 21: "All the people in Athens seemed to spend all their time talking about the latest new ideas. Even the visitors there joined in on the discussions."

Read Acts chapter 17, verses 22 – 34.

1. Paul was a very smart speaker. He complimented them on their religious beliefs. The compliment gave Paul the tool he needed to present the Gospel to this highly intelligent but idol worshipping group of people. There were altars all over Athens, even one to an unknown god. Who is this unknown one? Verse 24: "He made the world and everything in it. And since he is Lord of the Heavens and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples." [When Paul went to the synagogue, he used the Jewish scriptures to prove Christ. These Athenians did not have the Jewish scriptures, but they did have a religious interest. So, Paul starts his teaching at that point. Athens was the intellectual center of the Roman Empire, and great and respected men had come from there: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. These are men of philosophy still respected today. Paul reasons with this group in terms they understand. He even quotes a Greek poet in verse 28b, which is another springboard for his teaching on the Gospel.]

2. What do these verses add to what Paul says in Acts 17:24-28 about the One True God?

Deuteronomy 32:8 "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel" (NIV).

Psalms 50:10-12 [God says] "For all the animals of field and forest are mine! The cattle on 1,000 hills are mine! And all the birds upon the mountains belong to me! If I were hungry, I would not mention it to you. For all the world is mine and all that is in it."

James 1:17 "Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God. He is the Creator of all light. He shines forever without change or shadow."

3. How does Paul describe what God is not? Verse 29: "If this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol. He is not made by men from gold or silver or chipped from stone."
4. What do these verses say about the man that Paul says will judge the earth?

Daniel 7:13-14 "Next I saw the coming of a Man, or so he seemed to be. He was brought there on clouds from heaven. He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented to him. He was given the ruling power and glory over all the nations of the world. All people of every language had to obey him. His power is eternal. And his government shall never fail"

John 5:22 “And the Father leaves all judgment of sin to his Son.”

Acts 2:22-24 “O men of Israel, listen! Jesus of Nazareth was a very special man. God proved he was special by doing great miracles through him. You all know this. Jesus was given to you. But you used the Romans to nail him to the cross and murder him. Yet God knew all this would happen. It all came about according to his plan. Then God set him free from the horrors of death. He brought him back to life again. For death could not keep this man in the grave.”

[In verses 30-31, Paul discusses the three topics of sin that the Holy Spirit convicts: repentance, justice, and judgment. The sneering, or laughing was a result of the Greeks’ belief that a dead man couldn’t rise from the dead.]

5. **RISKY:** How many people believed and followed Paul? Verse 34: “But a few joined him and became believers. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the City Council. And there was a woman named Damaris, and others.” [No other New Testament writings mention these two people. However, other ancient writings indicate Damaris was the wife of Dionysius. He was born in Athens, was a literary scholar, and even studied in Egypt.]

6. Who are the people listed in Acts 18:7,8 who believed Paul's message?
7. In a vision God told Paul not to be afraid and to continue preaching the Gospel. How does Paul share this in his letter to Timothy about preaching and being afraid?
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- 2 Timothy 4:2
8. **HARD:** Paul stayed in Corinth about one 1 and 1/2 years. During that time, some Jews brought Paul to the proconsul Gallio. What did Gallio tell them?
9. **PERSONAL:** Sosthenes became the synagogue ruler after Crispus became a Christian. A couple of reasons are floating around as to why Sosthenes was beaten up. One, as ruler of the synagogue, it was his responsibility to see that the charges brought against Paul found him guilty. Or, the Greeks could have done the job because they were tired of their city always being in an uproar because of the Christians. Have you been hurt, called names, ignored, or forgotten by someone or a group of people because you are a Christian? That is not a fun experience. You want to get back at the person or people who hurt you. But that is not what Peter tells us to do. What is Peter's answer to this kind of hurting in 1 Peter 4:14-16?

Read Acts chapter 18, verses 18 – 28.

1. In verse 18, we find that Paul is headed for Syria. Who joined him on this part of his journey?

2. Paul then sailed to the town of Ephesus, (close to the modern city of Izmir). He stayed there only a short period of time. When he was ready to leave, what promise did he make to the Ephesians?

3. What do these verses say about making plans?

Proverbs 16:33

James 4:13-16

4. Paul again set sail, this time for Jerusalem, and left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus. After Paul left, what happened in Ephesus?

5. Although Apollos knew the Old Testament, he didn't know that the prophecies told there had been fulfilled through Jesus Christ. While he had been in Egypt, someone told him about John the Baptist. In Ephesus, who told him that Jesus Christ had fulfilled Old Testament prophecy?

6. With encouragement from the brothers in Ephesus, Apollos sailed for Achaia. He probably landed at Corinth where he met with the local Jews. How did Apollos share the Gospel with the Jews?

7. **PERSONAL:** Did you choose a verse to memorize this week? James 4:13-16, or portions of it, might be something you need to remember.

It is wintertime for Paul now, some time in December. We leave this chapter with Paul in Antioch, verse 22, and Apollos in Corinth, verse 28. In chapter 19 we will find Paul on the move again, but where?

ACTS – WEEK EIGHTEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 17

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: FLOOR BASKETBALL

With masking tape or chalk, draw a circle on the floor, the HOOP, a little larger than a basketball. Draw another circle three feet or more outside and around the first circle. Divide players into two teams. Choose two players to “jump ball” to see who has first try to make a basket. Players with the ball may dribble, pass or shoot for a basket. But they cannot step inside the larger circle to do it. The opposing team tries to steal the ball and make a basket as well. When a basket is made, the other team gets the ball. Set a score limit or time limit.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 17

to end of class CRAFT: HEART VERSES

MATERIALS:

4” wooden hearts
verses (page 153)
decorative accents
hot glue gun

paint/brushes
Mod Podge
pop top rings
scissors

Photocopy the following verses and let children cut out the one they wish to use. Paint the wooden hearts. When dry, Mod Podge the verse on the front and add desired accents: flowers, buttons, sequins, etc. Hot-glue a pop top ring to back for hanging.

The Holy Spirit doesn't want you to be afraid of people. He wants you to be wise and strong, and love them.

2 Timothy 1:7

We toss the coin, but it is the Lord who controls its decision.

Proverbs 16:33

You must love one another just as much as I love you. Your love will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34,35

For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants.

Philippians 2:13

I can do EVERYTHING God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.

Philippians 4:13

Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God. He is the Creator of all light. He shines forever without change or shadow.

James 1:17

Dear friends, let us practice loving each other. Love comes from God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7,8

We know what real love is from Christ's example in dying for us. So we also ought to lay down our lives for our Christian brothers.

1 John 3:16

ACTS LESSON 17 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 18, verses 1 – 17

1. Where did Paul go after he taught in Athens? Verse 1: “Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.” [Corinth was another sinful city. It was a very commercial city. All sorts of trade from north to south and east to west passed through Corinth. It was located on the southwest end of the Isthmus that joined the southern tip of Greece to the mainland. It also had two sea ports, one located on the west at Lechaenum, and the other on the east at Cenchrea. The Isthmus was only three and a half miles across. And there was no canal to link the Aegean Sea with the Adriatic Sea. So to reach the opposite port, ships would either go the extra two hundred miles around the southern tip of Greece, or be carried (towed, pulled) over land to reach the other port. Corinth became a Roman colony in 44 B.C. Besides commercial goods, Corinth hosted visitors from all over the world. Knowledge of this city has been gleaned from early writers and archaeology.]
2. Why were Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth? Verse 2: “There he met a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus. They had been expelled from Italy. This was because of Claudius Caesar’s order to deport all Jews from Rome.” [This order from Claudius sent all Jews out of Rome. Claudius was a Roman emperor. Except for Julius Caesar, he was the fourth to succeed Caligula, a very evil man and some thought he was insane because of the things he said and did. Claudius died in 54 A.D. It is believed his second wife poisoned him so her son Nero would sit on the Roman throne. The Jews were causing a riot in Rome, therefore Claudius sent away all the Jews.]
3. How did Aquila and Priscilla make money to live? What did they do to earn money? Verse 3: “For they were tentmakers just as he was.” [When Paul had reached Corinth, he was weary in body, soul, emotions, and money. Meeting Aquila and Priscilla gave him a boost in all areas. We find this out in 1 Corinthians 2:1,3: “Brothers, remember when I first came to you? I didn’t use big words and great ideas to tell you God’s message. I came to you in weakness. I was timid and shaking.” “Tentmakers” is another name for someone who uses thick goat hairs to weave cloth. This cloth was used to make curtains, rugs, and clothing in addition to tents.]
4. **CHALLENGE:** Paul showed his anger with the Jews when he shook out his clothes after he preached in the synagogue. How do these verses explain it was okay for him to do this?

Matthew 10:14 [Jesus said] “A city or home might not welcome you. If this happens, shake off the dust of that place from your feet as you go.”

Matthew 7:6 [Jesus said] “Don’t give holy things to sinful men. Don’t give pearls to pigs! They will trample on the pearls. Then they will turn and attack you.” [In other words, Paul did not feel compelled to continue ministering to the Jews in the synagogue when they had rejected his message.]

5. When Paul left the synagogue, he went to a house that was next door. Who lived in this house? Verse 7: “After that he stayed with Titus Justus. He was a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue.”
6. Who are the people listed in Acts 18:7,8 who believed Paul’s message? “Crispus was the leader of that synagogue. He and all his family believed in the Lord and were baptized. And many others in Corinth believed, too.”
7. In a vision God told Paul not to be afraid and to continue preaching the Gospel. How does Paul share this in his letter to Timothy about preaching and being afraid?

2 Timothy 1:7 “The Holy Spirit doesn’t want you to be afraid of people. He wants you to be wise and strong, and to love them.”

2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the Word of God at all times. Do it whenever you get the chance. Do it in season and out. Do it when it is convenient and when it is not. Correct and rebuke people when they need it. Encourage them to do right. All the time feed them patiently with God’s Word.”
8. **HARD:** Paul stayed in Corinth about 1 1/2 years. During that time, some Jews brought Paul to the proconsul Gallio. What did Gallio tell them? Verses 14,15: “Now Paul stood up to make his defense. But Gallio, the governor, turned to his accusers. ‘Listen, you Jews,’ he said. ‘If this were a criminal case, I would have to listen to you. But you are just arguing about words and names. You are just worried about your silly Jewish laws. So you take care of it! I don’t want to have anything to do with it.’” [“Governor” is another name for “proconsul.” Gallio ruled the region of Achaia. His decision in this matter would be used as a springboard for future court actions, much as a precedent is set in courts today. Gallio thought Christianity was another sect of Judaism. Judaism was recognized by the Roman government as a viable religion. If the Christians said they were not part of Judaism, Christianity could have been ruled unlawful, and outlawed by the government. Therefore this was an important move made by Gallio. The length of Paul’s stay in Corinth is unclear for historians. There is no concrete indication of the time Paul spent in Corinth. Its time frame could have begun before Paul’s vision or after, making his stay much longer than 18 months. During his stay in Corinth, Paul wrote the two letters to the Thessalonian church.]
9. **PERSONAL:** Sosthenes became the synagogue ruler after Crispus became a Christian. A couple of reasons are floating around as to why Sosthenes was beaten up. One, as ruler of the synagogue, it was his responsibility to see that the charges brought against Paul found him guilty. Or, the Greeks could have done the job because they were tired of their city always being in an uproar because of the Christians. Have you been hurt, called names, ignored, or forgotten by someone or a group of people because you are a Christian?

10. That was not a fun experience. You want to get back at the person or people who hurt you. But that is not what Peter tells us to do. What is Peter's answer to this kind of hurting in 1 Peter 4:14-16? "Be happy if you are cursed and insulted for being a Christian. When that happens, the Spirit of God will come upon you with great glory. Don't any of you suffer for murdering or stealing or making trouble. May none of you be a busybody, prying into other people's affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being in Christ's family. You are called by his wonderful name!"

Read Acts chapter 18, verses 18 – 28.

1. In verse 18, we find that Paul is headed for Syria. Who joined him on this part of his journey? Verse 18: "Paul stayed in the city several days after that. Then he said good-bye to the Christians and sailed for the coast of Syria. He took Priscilla and Aquila with him. At Cenchreae Paul had his head shaved according to Jewish custom. For he had made a special promise to God." [Cenchreae was the southeastern port of Corinth. He probably walked or rode an animal to get there, then he set sail. No one knows why, or when, the vow was made. In Numbers 6:1-21 we find the guidelines for keeping a vow. Verse 5 suggests the hair to remain uncut during the time of the vow. So, Paul may have fulfilled his vow, and now could cut his hair.]
2. Paul then sailed to the town of Ephesus (close to the modern city of Izmir). He stayed there only a short period of time. When he was ready to leave, what promise did he make to the Ephesians? Verse 21: "I must by all means be at Jerusalem for the holiday," he said. But he promised to come back to Ephesus later if God allowed it. And so he set sail again."
3. What do these verses say about making plans?

Proverbs 16:33 "We toss the coin, but it is the Lord who controls its decision."

James 4:13-16 "Some of you say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to this town. We will stay there a year, and make a profit.' Listen! How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is like the morning fog. Now you see it. But soon it is gone. You should say, 'If the Lord lets us, we shall live. We will do this or that.' Otherwise you will be bragging about your own plans. Such pride never pleases God."

4. Paul again set sail, this time for Jerusalem, and left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus. After Paul left, what happened in Ephesus? Verse 24: "As it happened, a Jew named Apollos had just come to Ephesus. Apollos was a wonderful Bible teacher and preacher." [Apollos was well educated. He spoke with eloquence and forcefulness. He was a Jew from Alexandria.]
5. Although Apollos knew the Old Testament, he didn't know that the prophecies told there had been fulfilled through Jesus Christ. While he had been in Egypt, someone told him about John the Baptist. In Ephesus, who told him that Jesus Christ had fulfilled Old Testament prophecy? Verse 26: "So he was preaching boldly in the synagogue, 'The Messiah is coming! Get ready

to receive him!’ Priscilla and Aquila were there and heard him. And it was a powerful sermon. Afterwards, they met with Apollos. They told him what had happened to Jesus since the time of John. And they explained what it all meant.”

6. With encouragement from the brothers in Ephesus, Apollos sailed for Achaia. He probably landed at Corinth where he met with the local Jews. How did Apollos share the Gospel with the Jews? Verse 28: “For he argued with strength and wisdom against the Jews in public debate. And he proved that the Jews were wrong. He used the Scriptures to prove that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.”
7. **PERSONAL:** Did you choose a verse to memorize this week? James 4:13-16, or portions of it, might be something you need to remember.

It is winter time now, some time in December. We leave this chapter with Paul in Antioch, verse 22, and Apollos in Corinth, verse 28. In chapter 19 we will find Paul on the move again, but where?

ACTS LESSON 18

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 19, verses 1 – 20.

1. In Acts 18:21, Paul promised to return to Ephesus. Now, he was ready to make his trip. How did Paul travel to Ephesus? Ephesus is on the west coast of Asia, which is western Turkey. At this time, Ephesus ranked as the fourth largest city in the world, and it hosted a population of about 250,000 people.
2. In Ephesus Paul found some disciples, but he wasn't sure if they knew about the Holy Spirit. So Paul asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Their answer was "No," they had only the baptism of John. What does John the Baptist say about baptism in Matthew 3:11?
3. Some time after he spoke to the believers Paul went to the synagogue. He preached there every Sabbath, which is Saturday, the regular Jewish worship day. Some began to make trouble about Paul's teaching. How long did Paul preach in the synagogue?
4. Why did Paul leave the synagogue, and where did he go when he left?
5. From Acts 20:31, we know Paul preached in Ephesus about three years. In that long time all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the area heard the Word of God, the Gospel. While Paul was there, God did many wonderful and extraordinary miracles through him. How did some of these miracles happen?

6. Some Jews tried to use Jesus' name to make demons leave some people. How did a demon answer the seven sons of Sceva?

7. Ephesus was known as the center of magic. But when the rumor of this attack spread all over Ephesus, people became afraid. What did some believers bring to Paul?

8. In Ephesus, God was changing lives. Those who believed Paul's message were being changed. What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say happens when people become Christians?

9. What are Paul's travel plans?

Read Acts chapter 19, verses 23 – 32.

1. Who is Demetrius?

2. What did Demetrius say about his business in verses 25,26?

3. After Demetrius' speech, his hearers became angry and were on the edge of starting a riot. Where did they take two of Paul's traveling friends?

4. Who wouldn't let Paul go to the theater to help his friends?

5. How did some people of Ephesus feel about what was going on? See Acts 19:32.

Read Acts chapter 19, verses 33 – 41.

1. Alexander tried to quiet the crowd in the theater. But the people became angrier. What did they do for two hours?

2. Who was the one to make the people quiet?

3. What did the city clerk say about Demetrius?

4. What was the crowd in danger of being charged?

5. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you choose to memorize this week?

ACTS – WEEK NINETEEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 18

- 15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship
- 15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CARD/HAT TOSS

You will need a hat or large container for each team, and a deck of cards. Divide into teams. Divide the cards equally between the teams. Place the hat or container about 5 feet from each team. At the signal, the first player in each team tosses the cards, one at a time into the hat. Score must be kept of the number of cards that make it into the hat for each team. The team with the most cards wins. Or, you could make this an individual contest. Each student is its own team but has only 5 - 10 chances to get the cards in the hat. The one with the most wins.

- 15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 18
- to end of class CRAFT: CUPCAKE BOUQUET

MATERIALS:

cupcake liners in various colors
green pipe cleaners
green construction paper
white Styrofoam cups
florist tape
OPTIONAL: junior size baby food jars; paint/brushes; sand

Place three varied-color liners on top of each other; feather out as you would napkins. With a pencil, poke two close-together holes through the center. Insert pipe cleaner up through one hole and down the other. Leave one end longer than the other for the flower stem. Twist the shorter end around the longer end to keep cups from slipping. Cut green leaves from construction paper; poke up onto pipe cleaner stem to base of flower. Make several flowers and bind together with florist tape. When bouquet is ready, stick stems into bottom of upside down cup. Cup can be painted, drawn on, or left white. Or, jar can be painted, filled with sand, or any heavy substance, and bouquet stems inserted.

ACTS LESSON 18 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 19, verses 1 – 20.

1. In Acts 18:21, Paul promised to return to Ephesus. Now he was ready to make his trip. How did Paul travel to Ephesus? Ephesus is on the western coast of Asia, which is western Turkey. At this time, Ephesus ranked as the fourth largest city in the world. And it hosted a population of about 250,000 people. Verse 1: “While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through Asia Minor. And Paul came to Ephesus, where he found several disciples.” [Paul had been in Ephesus in the middle of September 52 on his second missionary journey. He stayed just a few weeks. This visit begins his third missionary journey. Paul placed his focus on strengthening the believers.]
2. In Ephesus Paul found some disciples, but he wasn’t sure if they knew about the Holy Spirit. So Paul asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” Their answer was “No,” they had only the baptism of John. What does John the Baptist say about baptism in Matthew 3:11? “With water I baptize those who turn away from their sins. But someone else is coming who is far greater than I am. He is so great that I am not worthy to carry his shoes! He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” [A general definition of disciple is one who follows, or one who learns from another. Probably, these disciples had not heard yet about Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. Some of John’s followers stayed in Jerusalem until John’s death; others likely returned to their hometowns, such as Ephesus.]
3. Some time after he spoke to the believers Paul went to the synagogue. He preached there every Sabbath, which is Saturday, the regular Jewish worship day. Some began to make trouble with Paul’s teaching. So, how long did Paul preach in the synagogue? Verse 8: “Then Paul went to the synagogue. He preached there boldly each Sabbath day for three months.”
4. Why did Paul leave the synagogue, and where did he go when he left? Verse 9: “But some would not listen to his message. And they publicly spoke out against Christ. So Paul left, refusing to preach to them again. He pulled out all the believers. Then he began another meeting at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. And he preached there every day.” [Tyrannus’ name is Greek. The “lecture hall” is a large auditorium or gymnasium type room, inside a school. Scholars are not sure if he was a believer. Ancient manuscripts indicate that from about 11 a.m. until about 4 p.m., the businesses in the city closed for a mid-day break, or “siesta.” Paul took advantage of this break for his preaching. He probably spoke for the full five hours. Multiply the five hours by the six days of labor a week, times two years, and you reach 3,120 hours that the gospel was preached. This was the break that continued to widen the schism between Jews and Christians, and between synagogue and church.]

5. From Acts 20:31, we know Paul preached in Ephesus about three years. In that long time all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the area heard the Word of God, the Gospel. While Paul was there, God did many wonderful and extraordinary miracles through him. How did some of these miracles happen? Verses 11-12: “And God gave Paul the power to do great miracles. People took his handkerchiefs or parts of his clothing to sick people. And when they touched these things, they were healed. And the demons inside them came out.”
6. Some Jews tried to use Jesus’ name to make demons leave some people. How did a demon answer the seven sons of Sceva? Verses 15-16: “So they tried to say this to a man with a demon. And the demon said, ‘I know Jesus. And I know Paul. But who are you?’ And he jumped on two of them and beat them up. They ran out of his house with their clothes torn off. And they were badly hurt.” [The demon recognized Jesus’ power over him.]
7. Ephesus was known as the center of magic. But when the rumor of this attack spread all over Ephesus, people became afraid. What did some believers bring to Paul? Verses 18-19: “Many of the believers had been doing black magic. They all confessed their deeds and brought their magic books and charms. They burned them in front of everyone at a great bonfire. Someone guessed that the books were worth at least \$10,000.” [Most translations say “drachma.” A drachma amounted to about a day’s wage. If you multiply today’s minimum wage by eight hours’ work, you would get an approximate amount equal to one drachma. Books of any kind were a treasure to possess. However, if you had magic books, you were considered well off.]
8. In Ephesus, God was changing lives. Those who believed Paul’s message were being changed. What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say happens when people become Christians? “When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!”
9. What are Paul’s travel plans? Verse 21: “After that Paul decided to go back to Jerusalem. But he felt the Holy Spirit leading him to go to Greece before going there. ‘Then after Jerusalem,’ he said, ‘I must go on to Rome!’” [Rome was the place to be. Everyone wanted to go to Rome. Paul dreamed of witnessing there. We know from Acts 20:31 that Paul stayed in Ephesus for three years: three months in the synagogue, two years in Tyrannus’ lecture hall, and nine months ministering from house to house.]

Read Acts chapter 19, verses 23 – 32.

1. Who is Demetrius? Verse 24: “It all began with a man named Demetrius. He was a silversmith who employed many craftsmen. They made silver shrines of the Greek goddess Diana.” [There were two goddesses named Artemis. One was the counterpart of Rome’s Diana. Another was Artemis of the Ephesians. The idol made by Demetrius was more likely small in size for easy handling.]
2. What did Demetrius say about his business in verses 25,26? “He called a meeting of his men, together with others in the same trade. He spoke to them like this: ‘Gentlemen, we make our

living by making idols. But Paul has convinced many people that our idols aren't gods at all. You know this! You've all heard what he tells the people! As a result, our sales volume is going down! We can see this not only here in Ephesus, but throughout the province!"

3. After Demetrius' speech, his hearers became angry and were on the edge of starting a riot. Where did they take two of Paul's traveling friends? Verse 29: "A crowd began to gather, and soon the city was filled with confusion. Everyone went to the amphitheater. And they dragged along Gaius and Aristarchus to be tried. These two men were traveling with Paul." [This theater still stands. It was an outside amphitheater rather than like an indoor movie theater. It measured 495 feet in diameter and could seat about 25,000 people.]
4. Who wouldn't let Paul go to the theater to help his friends? Verses 30,31: "Paul wanted to go in, but the believers wouldn't let him. Some of the Roman officers of the province were friends of Paul. They also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by going there."
5. How did some people of Ephesus feel about what was going on? See Acts 19:32. "Inside the people were all shouting. Some were saying one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there."

Read Acts chapter 19, verses 33 –41.

1. Alexander tried to quiet the crowd in the theater, but the people became angrier. What did they do for two hours? Verse 34: "But when the crowd saw that he was a Jew, they started shouting again. And they kept it up for two hours: 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians! Great is Diana of the Ephesians!'" [Alexander's only claim to fame came from the role he played in trying to calm the rioters.]
2. Who was the one to make the people quiet? Verse 35: "At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. 'Men of Ephesus!' he began. 'Our city is the center of the religion of the great Diana. Long ago, her image fell down to us from Heaven.'" [Most translations say "city clerk." The government of Rome appoints this position. If city leaders couldn't control the people, they were replaced. Even worse, they could be placed under martial law, and the few civil freedoms they had would be taken a way. Therefore, control was very important.]
3. What did the city clerk say about Demetrius? Verse 38: "Now Demetrius and the craftsmen might have a case against them. But if they do, the courts are now in session. And the judges can take the case at once. Let them go through legal channels."
4. What was the crowd in danger of being charged? Verse 40: "We are in danger of Rome's judgment for today's riot. For there is no real cause for it. And if Rome asks me to explain, I won't know what to say."
5. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you choose to memorize this week?

ACTS LESSON 19

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 1-6.

Acts 19 closed with the breaking up of the riot, and everyone going to their homes in Ephesus. Paul met with the believers in Ephesus one more time before he left for Macedonia. He stayed in Ephesus and had written to the church in Corinth; we call that letter 1 Corinthians. It is now May of the year 56.

In the first three verses of Acts 20, Paul goes to a lot of towns where he had started churches. He doesn't stay very long in these places. This is Paul's third missionary trip. (See the map on page 168.) The time he takes going to revisit these churches covers about a year, and he wrote 1 & 2 Corinthians and Romans during this time.

1. Ephesus is on the western coast of Asia, which is Turkey today. After the uproar of Acts 19 had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and encouraged them. He said good-bye and headed for Macedonia. Paul had spent three years in Ephesus. What does 2 Corinthians 1:8,9 say about the time he spent in Ephesus?

2. As Paul traveled north along the coastline where he had set up churches, he encouraged the believers who lived there. Finally he reached Greece, or Corinth. How long did Paul stay in Greece?

3. Why did Paul change his mind about going to Syria, and went to Macedonia instead?

4. **CHALLENGE:** Paul left Troas, and sailed to Macedonia. Again he visited the churches he had set up. One of the places he revisited was Philippi. How do you know Dr. Luke joined up again with Paul?

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 7 – 12.

1. On the first day of the week, Sunday, the disciples met together for a Communion service. Afterwards, Paul preached until midnight! Paul gives some information about the Communion, or Lord's Supper, in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What does it say about Communion?
2. How did Eutychus get hurt?
3. What did Paul do to help Eutychus?
4. **RISKY:** What Paul did was not new. Two Old Testament prophets did the same. Read 1 Kings 17:19-23, and 2 Kings 4:32-35. Who were these prophets?

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 13 – 27.

1. **CHALLENGE:** How did Paul get to Assos and how did his friends get there?
2. Luke names all the places where they stopped. But they didn't stop at Ephesus. Why did Paul pass up that city?
3. The elders of the church at Ephesus met Paul in Miletus, which was about 30 miles away. Paul told the elders about his service to the Lord. What did he say about that service in verses 19-21?
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you do special things for the Lord? Do you do it with humility or pride? What do these Proverbs say about pride and humility?

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 29:23

5. The Holy Spirit is leading Paul to Jerusalem. What was the message the Holy Spirit gave to Paul?

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 28 – 38.

The definitions of the words below are from the HOLT DICTIONARY.

Flock (1) A group of animals or birds of one kind which travel or feed together. (2) A large number of people together, especially the members of a single church.

Shepherd (1) A person who takes care of sheep. (2) A minister, priest or other religious leader; to take care of; guide; lead.

1. Paul tells the elders they are to take care of themselves and their flock. The job of the elders is to work as shepherds. What will happen to their flock if they mess up on their job?

2. Sometimes God calls people sheep. A sheep needs the shepherd to take care of him. A sheep can do nothing to help himself get out of the trouble he makes for himself. It is then that the shepherd saves the sheep. God has given the shepherd a very important job. And if the shepherd fails in his job, he's in BIG trouble with God. Sometimes shepherds are called teachers. What does James 3:1 say can happen to teachers when they mess up?

3. How do these verses warn us to be on the lookout for false teachers, shepherds and prophets?

2 Peter 2:1

1 John 4:1

Jude 4

4. What does Jesus say about wolves in Matthew 7:15?

5. How did the Ephesian elders act when they sent Paul on his way; and why did they act that way?

6. **PERSONAL:** How is your memorization coming? Memorizing scripture helps us to think about the things of God. Knowing what the Word of God says, helps us to quickly find a scripture when we are asked about our faith. Which verse did you memorize this week?

Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Map adapted from *Reproducible Maps, Charts, Time Lines & Illustrations*, published by Regal Books. Used by permission.

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY

DISCUSSION LESSON 19

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: TABLE BOWLING

Tightly wad up at least 10 sheets of newspaper. With masking tape mark “gutters” along the long sides of a rectangular table, and mark a start and a finish line. Behind the finish line, arrange the newspaper “balls” as you would bowling pins in a real bowling alley. Use a tennis ball or small rubber ball for the bowling ball. Each bowler stands behind the start line. His hand must not pass this line when he rolls the ball. Each player gets two tries to knock off any or all of the balls. If the ball goes into the gutter lane, or off the “alley,” this counts as one ball. Count all the “pins” the player knocks off. The one with the most points wins. (This game can also be played on the floor, especially if you want to make the alley longer and more challenging for older children.)

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 19

to end of class CRAFT: WOODEN PINS

MATERIALS:

pin findings
glue gun/glue
accents— flowers, sequins, pearls, stencils
small or large wooden shapes— hearts, stars, circles, etc.

spray paint

Paint the wooden shapes first, or decorate them with a stencil design or decorative accents. If using accents, hot glue them to wooden shape. You may want to have a large wooden shape and then hot glue the same smaller shape onto it for a 3-D effect. Hot glue the pin finding on the back after the paint has dried.

ACTS LESSON 19 – ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 1 – 6

Acts 19 closed with the breaking up of the riot, and everyone going to their homes in Ephesus. Paul met with the believers in Ephesus one more time before he left for Macedonia. He stayed in Ephesus and had written to the church in Corinth; we call that letter 1 Corinthians. It is now May of the year 56.

In the first three verses of Acts 20, Paul goes to a lot of towns where he had started churches. He doesn't stay very long in these places. This is Paul's third missionary trip. (See the map on page 173.) The time he takes going to revisit these churches covers about a year, and he wrote 1 & 2 Corinthians and Romans during this time.

1. Ephesus is on the western coast of Asia, which is Turkey today. After the uproar of Acts 19 had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and encouraged them. He said good-bye and headed for Macedonia. Paul had spent three years in Ephesus. What does 2 Corinthians 1:8,9 say about the time he spent in Ephesus? “I want you to know, brothers, about the hard time we had in Asia. We were really crushed and beaten. We feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die. We saw that we didn't have the power to help ourselves. But that was good. For then we put it all into the hands of God. Only he could save us. He can even raise the dead.”
2. As Paul traveled north along the coastline where he had set up churches, he encouraged the believers who lived there. Finally he reached Greece, or Corinth. How long did Paul stay in Greece? Verse 3a: “He was in Greece for three months and was about to sail for Syria.” [No mention of mode of travel is given. What happened to him in Troas is found in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:5-7. Tradition has Paul bringing the gospel as far as the land of modern Yugoslavia.]
3. Why did Paul change his mind about going to Syria, and went to Macedonia instead? Verse 3b: “At that time, he found out that the Jews were planning to kill him. So he decided to go north to Macedonia first.”
4. **CHALLENGE:** Paul left Troas and sailed to Macedonia. Again he visited the churches he had set up. One of the places he revisited was Philippi. How do you know Dr. Luke joined up again with Paul? [The pronouns in verses 5,6 are “us” and “we”.] “These men had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. We did not leave until the end of the Passover Feast. Then we boarded ship at Philippi in northern Greece. And five days later we arrived in Troas. We stayed there for a week.”

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 7 – 12.

1. On the first day of the week, Sunday, the disciples met together for a Communion service. Afterwards, Paul preached until midnight! Paul gives some information about the Communion, or Lord's Supper, in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What does it say about Communion? “I have told you

what the Lord told me about his Table. It was on the night when Judas betrayed him. The Lord Jesus took bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples. He said, 'Take this and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.' In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper. He said, 'This cup is the new promise God has given you. He will keep his promise because I shed my blood. Do this to remember me when you drink it.' Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you show the Lord's death. Do this until he comes again."

2. How did Eutychus get hurt? Verse 9: "Paul spoke on for a long time. And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the windowsill. He fell fast asleep and fell three stories to his death below."
3. What did Paul do to help Eutychus? Verse 10: "Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'He's alive!'" [NIV].
4. **RISKY:** What Paul did was not new. Two Old Testament prophets did the same. Read 1 Kings 17:19-23, and 2 Kings 4:32-35. Who were these prophets? Elijah and Elisha.

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 13 – 27.

1. **CHALLENGE:** How did Paul get to Assos and how did his friends get there? Verse 13: "Paul was going by land to Assos. And we went on ahead by ship."
2. Luke names all the places where they stopped. But they didn't stop at Ephesus. Why did Paul pass up that city? Verse 16: "Paul had decided against stopping at Ephesus this time. For he was hurrying to get to Jerusalem. He wanted to get there for the Feast of Pentecost if possible." [In Acts 19:21 we are told that Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem. This mention of going to Jerusalem is from his previous decision. In Acts 19:28-41, we are told of a riot that had been started in Ephesus, in the early spring of 56. It is now "April 30-May 2, 57" (Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, Inc.), but Paul still wanted to avoid any trouble that may remain there.]

[We see Paul celebrating Pentecost. Pentecost is a celebration found in the Old Testament. It was part of the Law God gave to Moses. In Acts 2, the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other languages to the multitude gathered for Pentecost in Jerusalem. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks after the Feast of the Firstfruits. Pentecost is a form of a Greek word which means 50. The festival of Pentecost is found in at least these three verses: Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:10; Leviticus 23:15,16. The subject of Pentecost was covered in Lesson 2.]

3.
The elders of the church at Ephesus met Paul in Miletus, which was about 30 miles away. Paul told the elders about his service to the Lord. What did he say about that service in verses 19-21? "I have done the Lord's work humbly. Yes, I have served him with tears. I have faced great danger from the plots of the Jews against my life. Yet I never stopped telling you the truth, either publicly or in your homes. I have had one message for Jews and Gentiles alike. I have told you to turn from sin to God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

4. **PERSONAL:** Do you do special things for the Lord? Do you do it with humility or pride? What do these Proverbs say about pride and humility?

Proverbs 11:2 “Proud people end in shame. But the humble become wise.”

Proverbs 29:23 “Pride ends in a fall, but humility brings honor.”

5. The Holy Spirit is leading Paul to Jerusalem. What was the message the Holy Spirit gave to Paul? Verse 23: “But I do know that jail and suffering lie ahead for me. I know this because the Holy Spirit has told me.”

Read Acts chapter 20, verses 28 – 38.

The definitions of the words below are from the HOLT DICTIONARY.

Flock (1) A group of animals or birds of one kind which travel or feed together. (2) A large number of people together, especially the members of a single church.

Shepherd (1) A person who takes care of sheep. (2) A minister, priest or other religious leader; to take care of; guide; lead.

1. Paul tells the elders they are to take care of themselves and their flock. The job of the elders is to work as shepherds. What will happen to their flock if they mess up on their job? Verse 29: “I know that after I leave you, false teachers will come. They will be like vicious wolves, not sparing the flock.”

2. Sometimes God calls people sheep. A sheep needs the shepherd to take care of him. A sheep can do nothing to help himself get out of the trouble he makes for himself. It is then that the shepherd saves the sheep. God has given the shepherd a very important job. And if the shepherd fails in his job, he’s in BIG trouble with God. Sometimes shepherds are called teachers. What does James 3:1 say can happen to teachers when they mess up? “Brothers, don’t be too eager to tell others their faults. We all make many mistakes. When teachers do wrong, their punishment will be greater than it would be for others.”

3. How do these verses warn us to be on the lookout for false teachers, shepherds and prophets?

2 Peter 2:1 “But there were false prophets in those days. And there will be false teachers among you, too. They will cleverly tell their lies about God. They will even turn against their Master who bought them. But theirs will be a swift and terrible end.”

1 John 4:1 “Dearly beloved friends, don’t believe everything you hear. Be careful even if someone says it is a message from God. Test it first to see if it really is. For there are many false teachers around.”

Jude 4 “Some godless teachers have wormed their way in among you. They say that after we become Christians we can do what we like. They say we don’t have to fear God’s punishment. The fate of such people was written long ago. They have turned against our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

4. What does Jesus say about wolves in Matthew 7:15? “Be careful of false teachers. They come dressed up like harmless sheep. But they are wolves who will tear you apart.”
5. How did the Ephesian elders act when they sent Paul on his way; and why did they act that way? Verses 36-38: “When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. They cried out loud as they hugged him in farewell. They were very sad because he had said he would never see them again. Then they went with him down to the ship.”
6. **PERSONAL:** How is your memorization coming? Memorizing scripture helps us to think about the things of God. Knowing what the Word of God says helps us to quickly find a scripture when we are asked about our faith. Which verse did you memorize this week?

Paul’s Third Missionary Journey



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ACTS LESSON 20

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 21, verses 1 – 14.

1. Everyone was sad when Paul said goodbye to the Ephesian elders. How does Luke tell about this farewell?

2. **CHALLENGE:** For this journey, Paul's group is taking a ship. What did they do on Cyprus?

3. How long did Paul and his group stay in Tyre?

4. What do you learn about Philip in Acts 21:8,9?

5. The book of Acts gives us more information about Philip, and it is found in the following verses. What do they say about Philip?

Acts 8:5,6

Acts 8:30,31,34,35,38-40

6. We read about Agabus in Acts 11:28. In this verse we are told he came from Jerusalem to Antioch. He predicted a famine would come over the entire Roman empire. It was fulfilled about ten years after he gave his prediction. Agabus spoke and showed this new prophesy. How did he show the prophesy and what was it about?

7. Paul's companions begged him not to go to Jerusalem. In Acts 20:23 Paul had been told by the Holy Spirit what he was in for. In Matthew 16:21-24 and Mark 8:31-33 Jesus also knew the time for His crucifixion was near, and that it was going to happen in Jerusalem. Peter tried to keep Jesus from going to Jerusalem, but he failed to convince Jesus. What was Paul's answer to his friends in Acts 21:13?

8. Paul also talks about God's will in Acts 21:14. What do the following verses say about God's will?

James 4:15

Proverbs 16:9

9. **CHALLENGE:** Paul's message from God through the Holy Spirit told him he would have big problems in Jerusalem. But Paul didn't mind what was going to happen as long as the Good News was given to everyone and God would be praised. Three men in the Old Testament felt the same way. In fact, they told King Nebuchadnezzar, "We are not afraid of what will happen to us. If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God can save us. And he will save us out of your hand, O king. But if he doesn't, even then we will never serve your gods. And we will never worship the gold statue you have made." Can you name these three men? Can you tell your class anything else about these men? (You'll find their story in Daniel chapter 3.)

Read Acts 21, verses 15 – 26.

1. How did the believers in Jerusalem feel about Paul's visit?
2. The elders praised God for using Paul's ministry to tell the Gentiles about salvation. But they also told Paul a rumor was spreading around about him and his teaching. What was that rumor?
3. The elders asked Paul to follow the Jewish custom of purification. Jewish custom was that when a Jew had been with a Gentile, he had to be cleansed. This cleansing showed their loyalty to the sacred Jewish writings called the Torah. Paul agreed because he didn't want to cause any trouble in Jerusalem. He knew trouble would find him soon enough. Once, he wrote to the Corinthians, "Sometimes I am with people whose consciences bother them easily. I don't act like I know it all. I don't say they are foolish. And because of this, they are willing to let me help them. Whatever a person is like, I try to be like him. Then he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Good News to them. I also have a blessing when I see them come to Christ" (1 Corinthians 9:22,23). Even though Paul agreed to this purification, what did the elders say about the Gentile believers in Acts 21:25?

Read Acts 21, verses 27 – 40.

1. How long did the days of purification last?
2. **HARD CHALLENGE:** Did Paul stay the number of days he needed to complete his vow?

3. Why had these Jews decided that Paul had broken Jewish Law?

4. These men did not tell the truth. They made a judgment against Paul, based on what they saw and not on what they knew. What do the following verses tell about making judgments?

Matthew 7:1,2

Luke 6:37

5. The message the Jews from Asia told caused a riot among the people. Soon the Roman soldiers came and tried to bring order and control. That's not so different than what we see on our TV news broadcasts. People become disorderly, they begin to cause trouble, then the police and soldiers have to try to stop what's happening. What did the Roman soldiers have to do in order to get Paul away from the mob?

6. What two languages did Paul use in verses 37-40? Write the language and the verse you found it in.

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY-ONE

DISCUSSION LESSON 20

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON-POP RELAY

Divide into two teams behind the start line. At the opposite end of the room, place a chair for each team. Give each player a balloon. Each player must blow up the balloon and tie it closed just prior to his turn to run. HINT: Blowing up the balloon to its fullest will ensure easier popping. The first player blows up his balloon and runs to the opposite chair. He puts the balloon on it until it pops. If it doesn't pop on the first try, he continues bouncing until it does pop. When it pops, he races back to the second player, tags him, and then another balloon is blown up and the race resumes. The first team to pop all their balloons wins.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 20

to end of class CRAFT: LOVE ONE ANOTHER BANNER *

MATERIALS:

dark-colored crayons	pencils
scratch paper	permanent felt markers
scissors	measuring stick
newspapers	paper towels
iron	12" dowels
yarn	hot glue/gun
8 1/2" x 11" sheet of coarse sandpaper per child	
10 1/2" x 13" plain white or light-colored fabric	

Cover work area with newspapers. Heat iron to medium. Before drawing on the sandpaper, make a sample design on the scratch paper. Be sure the words "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" are part of the design. Use crayons to draw the design on the sandpaper leaving room for the words. DO NOT include the words on the sandpaper, as they would appear backwards on the banner. Apply the crayons heavily, or they will not transfer when ironing. When design is completed, lay sandpaper face up on pad of newspapers. Fold over along one edge, front to back, 1" of fabric and hot glue along edge to make a casing. Lay front side of fabric over sandpaper and cover fabric with two layers of paper towels. Iron entire area slowly for 10-15 seconds. Peel fabric away from sandpaper. With felt markers, write LOVE ONE ANOTHER on the banner. Run dowel through casing; tie each end of length of yarn to dowel ends for hanging.

*from Safari Crafts for Kids, published by Gospel Light, used by permission.

ACTS LESSON 20 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 21, verses 1 - 14.

1. Everyone was sad when Paul said goodbye to the Ephesian elders. How does Luke tell about this farewell? Verse 1: “After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Cos” (NIV). [Cos is south of Ephesus.]
2. **CHALLENGE:** For this journey, Paul’s group is taking a ship. What did they do on Cyprus? [Nothing, they sailed past.] Verse 3: “We sighted the island of Cyprus and passed it on our left. And we landed at the harbor of Tyre, in Syria, where the ship was unloaded.”
3. How long did Paul and his group stay in Tyre? Verse 4: “We went ashore and found the local believers there. And we stayed with them for a week. These disciples warned Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. For they knew through the Holy Spirit that trouble awaited him there.” [In Acts 20:16b we read that Paul was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem. He had collected money from the churches he had started and wanted to bring it to the disciples in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had warned Paul of the trouble he would face in Jerusalem, Acts 20:23. There is discussion among scholars whether Paul was pushing his own agenda, or if he was truly following the Lord. Probably the Ephesian elders had misinterpreted what the Holy Spirit told them. Instead of this precaution being a warning from the Holy Spirit for Paul not to go, the Holy Spirit was telling them what to expect for Paul in Jerusalem.]
4. What do you learn about Philip in Acts 21:8,9? “Then we went to Caesarea. While there, we stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist. He was one of the seven deacons. He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy.”
5. The book of Acts gives us more information about Philip, and it is found in the following verses. What do they say about Philip?

Acts 8:5,6 “Philip, for instance, went to the city of Samaria. He told the people there about Christ. Crowds listened to what he said because of the miracles he did.”

Acts 8:30,31,34,35,38-40 “Philip ran over and heard what the Ethiopian was reading. ‘Do you understand it?’ he asked. ‘Of course not!’ the man replied. ‘How can I when there is no one to teach me?’ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Was Isaiah talking about himself or someone else?’ So Philip began with this same Scripture to tell him about Jesus. Then he used many others to tell him the Good News. [The eunuch] stopped the chariot and went down into the water. And there Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again. But he went on his way full of joy. Meanwhile, Philip found himself at Azotus! He preached the Good News there. Then he traveled to Caesarea and preached in every city along the way.”

6. We read about Agabus in Acts 11:28. In this verse we are told he came from Jerusalem to Antioch. He predicted a famine would come over the entire Roman empire. It was fulfilled about ten years after he gave his prediction. Agabus spoke and showed this new prophecy. How did he show the prophecy and what was it about? Verse 11: “He took Paul’s belt and tied up his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, ‘The Holy Spirit declares, “This is how the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the owner of this belt. Then they will turn him over to the Romans.””
7. Paul’s companions begged him not to go to Jerusalem. In Acts 20:23 Paul had been told by the Holy Spirit what he was in for. In Matthew 16:21-24 and Mark 8:31-33 Jesus also knew the time for His crucifixion was near, and that it was going to happen in Jerusalem. Peter tried to keep Jesus from going to Jerusalem, but he failed to convince Jesus. What was Paul’s answer to his friends in Acts 21:13? “But he said, ‘Why all this crying? You are breaking my heart! For I am ready to be jailed at Jerusalem! What’s more, I’m even ready to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus!’”
8. Paul also talks about God’s will in Acts 21:14. What do the following verses say about God’s will?

James 4:15 “You should say, ‘If the Lord lets us, we shall live. We will do this or that.’”

Proverbs 16:9 “We should make plans, but count on God to lead us.”

9. **CHALLENGE:** Paul’s message from God through the Holy Spirit told him he would have big problems in Jerusalem. But Paul didn’t mind what was going to happen as long as the Good News was given to everyone and God would be praised. Three men in the Old Testament felt the same way. In fact, they told King Nebuchadnezzar, “We are not afraid of what will happen to us. If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God can save us. And he will save us out of your hand, O king. But if he doesn’t, even then we will never serve your gods. And we will never worship the gold statue you have made.” Can you name these three men? Can you tell your class anything else about these men? (You’ll find their story in Daniel chapter 3.) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel 3:16-18.

Read Acts 21, verses 15 - 26.

1. How did the believers in Jerusalem feel about Paul’s visit? Verse 17: “All the believers at Jerusalem welcomed us kindly.”
2. The elders praised God for using Paul’s ministry to tell the Gentiles about salvation. But they also told Paul a rumor was spreading around about him and his teaching. What was that rumor? Verse 21: “Stories are going around among the Jewish Christians about your teachings. They have been told that you are against the laws of Moses and our Jewish customs. They have heard that you don’t let Christians circumcise their children.”

3. The elders asked Paul to follow the Jewish custom of purification. Jewish custom was that when a Jew had been with a Gentile, he had to be cleansed. This cleansing showed their loyalty to the sacred Jewish writings called the Torah. Paul agreed because he didn't want to cause any trouble in Jerusalem. He knew trouble would find him soon enough. Once, he wrote to the Corinthians, "Sometimes I am with people whose consciences bother them easily. I don't act like I know it all. I don't say they are foolish. And because of this, they are willing to let me help them. Whatever a person is like, I try to be like him. Then he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Good News to them. I also have a blessing when I see them come to Christ" (1 Corinthians 9:22,23). Even though Paul agreed to this purification, what did the elders say about the Gentile believers in Acts 21:25? "We don't ask the Gentile Christians to follow these Jewish customs. We wrote them a letter about this. It said, 'Do not eat food offered to idols. Do not eat unbled meat from strangled animals. And do not commit any sexual sins.'"

Read Acts 21, verses 27 - 40.

1. How long did the days of purification last? Seven days.
2. **HARD CHALLENGE:** Did Paul stay the number of days he needed to complete his vow? Verses 27,28: "The seven days were almost over. But some Jews from Asia Minor saw Paul in the Temple. They stirred up a crowd against him. They grabbed him, yelling, 'Men of Israel! Help! Help! This is the man who preaches against our people. He tells everybody to disobey the Jewish laws. He even speaks out against the Temple. And he makes it impure by bringing Gentiles inside!'" [According to the scriptures, it appears Paul had not totally completed his vow. Acts 24:18 adds more information to this situation: "My accusers saw me in the Temple as I was giving my thank offering. I had shaved my head as their laws said I should. There was no crowd around me, and no rioting! But some Jews from Asia Minor were there."]
3. Why had these Jews decided that Paul had broken Jewish Law? Verse 29: "For they had seen him in the city with Trophimus earlier that day. Trophimus was a Gentile from Ephesus in Asia Minor. They thought that Paul had taken him into the Temple."
4. These men did not tell the truth. They made a judgment against Paul, on what they saw and not on what they knew. What do the following verses tell about making judgments?
Matthew 7:1,2 "Don't judge others. Then you won't be judged. For others will treat you the way you treat them."
Luke 6:37 "Never criticize or condemn. If you do, it will all come back on you. Go easy on others. Then they will do the same for you."
5. The message the Jews from Asia told caused a riot among the people. Soon the Roman soldiers came and tried to bring order and control. That's not so different than what we see on our TV news broadcasts. People become disorderly, they begin to cause trouble, then the police and

soldiers have to try to stop what's happening. What did the Roman soldiers have to do in order to get Paul away from the mob? Verse 35: "As they reached the stairs, the crowd grew very violent. The soldiers had to lift Paul to their shoulders to keep him safe." [Josephus, the Jewish historian does record the uprising mentioned in verses 37,38.]

6. What two languages did Paul use in verses 37-40? Write the language and the verse you found it in. Greek from verses 37,38. Hebrew or Aramaic, from verse 40.

ACTS LESSON 21

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 22, verses 1 - 10.

1. In chapter 21, Paul's preaching made some Jews angry. A Roman guard saved him from the angry crowd. What happened to the mob when Paul began to speak to them?

2. Paul says he was born in Tarsus of Cilicia and brought up in "this city". Cilicia was part of the Roman Empire. What is the name of "this city"? You may have to reread Acts 21:31 to find your answer.

3. Paul was always prepared to defend his faith in Jesus. In fact, the book of Acts tells us Paul defended his faith six times. In Paul's letter to Timothy he told Timothy to be prepared to stand up for Jesus. What are the words Paul uses to Timothy and us in 2 Timothy 4:2 about being prepared?

4. **PERSONAL:** Are you always ready to tell someone what God's word says? How about the time you were with your friends and they were talking about someone? Did you tell them it is unkind to talk about others, or to gossip? You can read about these things for yourself in Proverbs 6:16-19, 11:13, and 16:28. By memorizing scripture, you will be prepared to stand up for Jesus and to defend your faith.

5. **HARD:** When Paul spoke Aramaic or Hebrew to the people, he was telling his listeners he was equal with them. He did this so they would be ready to hear what he had to say. What words does Paul use in verse three to identify himself with those in the crowd? HINT: there are three words, or phrases, in this verse that are important to your answer to the question.

Read Acts chapter 22, verses 11 - 21.

1. Paul was led into Damascus because he was blinded by the intense light. He tells them about a vision he had, and in the vision he saw Jesus. What does Paul say to Jesus about himself? Give verses with your answer.
2. What does Paul say Jesus told him in Acts 22:21?

Read Acts chapter 22, verses 22 - 30.

1. **HARD:** The crowd listened to Paul until he said something that made them angry again. What was it Paul said? HINT: You may have to reread Acts 22:19-21 for your answer.
2. What was Paul's question to the centurion? A centurion is in charge of 100 men.
3. How did the commander become a Roman citizen? How did Paul become a Roman citizen?
4. **RISKY:** Did Paul spend any time in jail?

Read Acts chapter 23, verses 1 - 16.

1. Paul was brought to speak before the Sanhedrin. This was a group of about 70 men, which included the Jewish high priest. These men wrote religious laws, and made judgments according to how they understood the Mosaic Law. Two groups, the Sadducees and Pharisees, made up the Sanhedrin. Of which group had Paul once been a member?
2. What is the difference between Pharisees and Sadducees?
3. What did the Pharisees say about Paul in verse 9?
4. Late that night, after Paul testified before the Sanhedrin, who visited Paul and what did he say?
5. Some Jews took a vow not to eat or drink until Paul had been killed. Who overheard their plot and what did he do about it?

Read Acts chapter 23, verses 17 - 35.

1. After the commander heard about the plot to kill Paul, how did he protect Paul?
2. Who else was the commander going to send to Felix?
3. Where did Felix keep Paul?

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY-TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 21

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players are chosen to be IT. They join hands and with their free hand try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two IT. The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two IT. Only end players (IT) may tag. It is permissible for a player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become IT. Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 21

to end of class CRAFT: SPICY ART

MATERIALS:

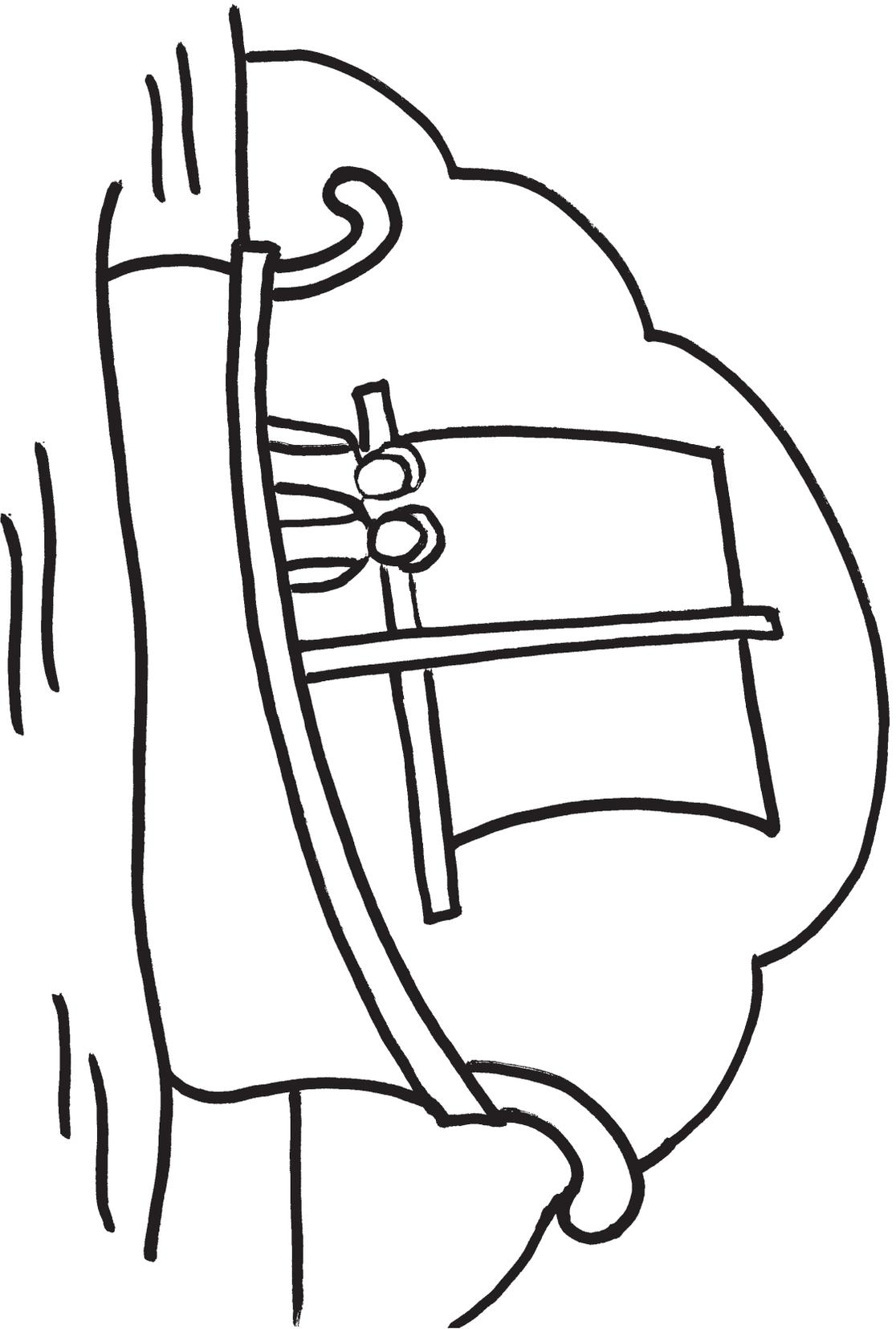
colored markers, crayons
white glue
newspapers

various spices
paint brushes
bowls

Make a copy of page 187 for each child. Cover work area with newspapers. Dilute remaining glue with water and place in bowls. Use markers or crayons to color the parts of the picture that will not be covered with spices.

To apply spices: using a paint brush, cover small sections of the picture with the diluted glue. Then sprinkle a spice or spices on the areas painted with the glue mixture. Use complementary spices in different areas. Allow to dry.

Paul Traveled to Tell People about Jesus



God is a sweet smell in our lives. It is the scent of Christ within us. It is an aroma to both the saved and the unsaved all around us.

2 Corinthians 2:15

ACTS LESSON 21 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 22, verses 1 - 10.

1. In chapter 21, Paul's preaching made some Jews angry. A Roman guard saved him from the angry crowd. What happened to the mob when Paul began to speak to them? Verse 2: "When they heard him speaking in Hebrew, they were even more quiet."
2. Paul says he was born in Tarsus of Cilicia and brought up in "this city." Cilicia was part of the Roman Empire. What is the name of "this city"? You may have to reread Acts 21:31 to find your answer. The city is Jerusalem. Acts 21:31 reads: "As they were about to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman garrison. He was told that all Jerusalem was in an uproar."
3. Paul was always prepared to defend his faith in Jesus. In fact, the book of Acts tells us Paul defended his faith six times. In Paul's letter to Timothy he told Timothy to be prepared to stand up for Jesus. What are the words Paul uses to Timothy and us in 2 Timothy 4:2 about being prepared? "Preach the Word of God at all times. Do it whenever you get the chance. Do it in season and out. Do it when it is convenient and when it is not. Correct and rebuke people when they need it. Encourage them to do right. All the time feed them patiently with God's Word." [The six times Paul defended his faith are: Acts 22:1-30, in Jerusalem; Acts 23:1-10, in Jerusalem; Acts 24:10-23 in Caesarea in front of Felix; Acts 24:24-27 second time in front of Felix in Caesarea; Acts 25:8-12 in the tribunal; and Acts 26:1-32 in the auditorium in Caesarea.]
4. **PERSONAL:** Are you always ready to tell someone what God's word says? How about the time you were with your friends and they were talking about someone? Did you tell them it is unkind to talk about others, or to gossip? You can read about these things for yourself in Proverbs 6:16-19, 11:13, and 16:28. By memorizing scripture, you will be prepared to stand up for Jesus and to defend your faith. Proverbs 6:16 "How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver! The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life. Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud." 11:13 "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." 16:28 "A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends" (all quotes from NIV)
5. **HARD:** When Paul spoke Aramaic or Hebrew to the people, he was telling his listeners he was equal with them. He did this so they would be ready to hear what he had to say. What words does Paul use in verse three to identify himself with those in the crowd? HINT: there are three words, or phrases, in this verse that are important to your answer to the question. (1) "I am a Jew". (2) "Learned to follow our Jewish laws." (3) "I wanted to honor God".

Read Acts chapter 22, verses 11 - 21.

1. Paul was led into Damascus because he was blinded by the intense light. He tells them about a vision he had, and in the vision he saw Jesus. What does Paul say to Jesus about himself? Give verses with your answer. Verses 19,20: “‘But Lord,’ I argued, ‘they know that I once caught and beat Christians from every synagogue. And when your witness Stephen was killed, I was standing there. I watched the coats they laid aside as they stoned him.’”
2. What does Paul say Jesus told him in Acts 22:21? “But God said to me, ‘Leave Jerusalem. For I will send you far away to the Gentiles!’” [This vision possibly occurred during Paul’s first trip to Jerusalem after his conversion. It explains his ministry to the Gentiles, but why he shared it, is unclear even to the scholars.]

Read Acts chapter 22, verses 22 - 30.

1. **HARD:** The crowd listened to Paul until he said something that made them angry again. What was it Paul said? HINT: You may have to reread Acts 22:19-21 for your answer. Paul’s statement in Acts 22:21 “But God said to me, ‘Leave Jerusalem. For I will send you far away to the Gentiles!’” [The Jews figured since God had chosen them to be His people, no others should be given the opportunity for eternal life.]
2. What was Paul’s question to the centurion? A centurion is in charge of 100 men. Verse 25: “They were tying Paul down to whip him. But Paul spoke to an officer standing there. ‘Is it legal to whip a Roman citizen without a trial?’ he asked.” [In “the Roman method, the culprit was stripped, stretched with cords or thongs on a frame, and beaten with rods. There were two ways of scourging— one with thongs or strips made of rope ends or scraps of leather, the other with rods or twigs” (UNGER’S). Paul wasn’t being whipped because he had done anything wrong, but because this was a method to extract information. The centurion wanted to know the reason the crowd was so angry with Paul. But under the Roman law, a Roman citizen could not be bound and whipped.]
3. How did the commander become a Roman citizen? How did Paul become a Roman citizen? Verses 27-28: “So the commander went over to Paul. He asked him, ‘Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?’ [Paul answered.] ‘Yes, I certainly am.’ ‘I am too,’ the commander muttered. ‘And it cost me plenty!’ [Paul said,] ‘But I am a citizen by birth!’” [There were several ways a person could become a Roman citizen, these are only two of the ways: through purchase (bribery) or birth. A freed Roman slave was also given, or could purchase, citizenship; or through political bribes.]
4. **RISKY:** Did Paul spend any time in jail? Give the verse or verses where you found your answers. Verses 29,30: “The soldiers were about to whip Paul. But when they heard he was a Roman citizen, they quickly backed away. The commander was afraid because he had ordered him bound and whipped. The next day the commander freed Paul from his chains. And he ordered

the chief priests into session with the Jewish Council. He brought Paul in to speak before them. He wanted to find out what the trouble was all about.” [Through the wording in these verses, it would appear Paul spent at least one night in jail.]

Read Acts chapter 23, verses 1 - 16.

1. Paul was brought to speak before the Sanhedrin. This was a group of about 70 men, which included the Jewish high priest. These men wrote religious laws, and made judgments according to how they understood the Mosaic Law. Two groups, the Sadducees and Pharisees, made up the Sanhedrin. Of which group had Paul once been a member? Verse 6: “Then Paul thought of something! Part of the Council were Sadducees, and part were Pharisees! So he shouted, ‘Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were all my ancestors! And I am being tried here today because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!’” [Paul probably belonged to the Sanhedrin, based on information found in Acts 26:10. Paul states that he cast a vote against the saints. Only those who belonged to the Sanhedrin could vote. More than 20 years have passed since Paul’s conversion, so it is possible Paul didn’t personally know the high priest Ananias. Ananias had struck Paul without hearing his case. This was against the Jewish law: a person could not be punished until after his trial. This looked like unwarranted punishment to Paul.]
2. What is the difference between Pharisees and Sadducees? Verse 8: “For the Sadducees don’t believe in the resurrection. They don’t believe in angels either. And they don’t believe people have an eternal spirit. But the Pharisees believe in all of these things.”
3. What did the Pharisees say about Paul in verse 9? “So a great argument arose. Some of the Jewish leaders jumped up to argue that Paul was right. ‘We see nothing wrong with him,’ they shouted. ‘Perhaps a spirit or angel did speak to him there on the Damascus road.’”
4. Late that night, after Paul testified before the Sanhedrin, who visited Paul and what did he say? Verse 11: “That night the Lord stood beside Paul. ‘Don’t worry’, he said. ‘You have told the people about me here in Jerusalem. In the same way, you must also be my witness in Rome.’” [No mention is made about Paul’s release, so this must be the second night Paul is under guard in Jerusalem.]
5. Some Jews took a vow not to eat or drink until Paul had been killed. Who overheard their plot and what did he do about it? Verse 16: “But Paul’s nephew heard about their plan. So he came to the armory and told Paul.” [Verse 12 begins “The next morning,” indicating the day after Paul stood before the Sanhedrin. The plot was still a day away.]

Read Acts chapter 23, verses 17 - 35.

1. After the commander heard about the plot to kill Paul, how did he protect Paul? Verses 23-24: “Then the commander called two of his officers. ‘Get 200 soldiers ready to leave for Caesarea at nine o’clock tonight!’ he ordered. ‘Take 200 spear men and 70 mounted cavalry. Give Paul a

horse to ride and get him safely to Governor Felix.” [This is a total of 470 men sent to protect one man. This nine o’clock time was the night of the day the plot was made. This would have been the third night Paul was under guard. Although Jerusalem was the center of Jewish law, Caesarea was the center for Roman law. And Paul, being a Roman citizen, had the right to be heard before a Roman court of law.]

2. Who else was the commander going to send to Felix? Verse 30: “But then I was told about a secret plan to kill him. So I decided to send him on to you. I will tell the Jews to bring their charges before you.” [Felix had once been a slave, but had worked to free himself from slavery. He then worked his way up to being a governor. He used people in order to gain this position. He was considered brutal, unscrupulous, and incompetent. It wasn’t beneath him to have someone murdered. He is now to be Paul’s judge. The letter received by Felix was probably read aloud in the courtroom, thereby making it public knowledge. This is likely where Luke learned about the letter and its contents.]

3. Where did Felix keep Paul? Verse 35: “‘I will hear your case fully when your accusers come,’ the governor told him. Then he ordered him kept in the prison at King Herod’ palace.”

ACTS LESSON 22

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 24, verses 1 - 16.

1. The commander of the Roman Army in Jerusalem was Claudius Lysias. He sent Paul under military protection to Governor Felix in Caesarea. Claudius Lysias also included a letter to Felix and told him Paul's accusers would be coming too. How long did it take Paul's accusers to get there?

2. From Jewish historians, we know that Felix was a man who would murder, steal, lie and do other lawbreaking things to get what he wanted. The Jews disliked Felix so much, that their dislike had turned to hate. Tertullus used a smoke screen of praise for Felix so that Felix would do what the Jewish rulers wanted. What did the smooth talking lawyer say about Felix?

3. Of what things did Tertullus accuse Paul?

4. **RISKY:** Tertullus stands before Governor Felix. Tertullus fills Felix ears with the untruthful praise we read in verses 2b-4. Then he blasts Paul with accusations. When Tertullus calls Paul a ringleader of the Nazarene (from the town of Nazareth) sect, it sounds like a mean and nasty word. After reading John 1:45-46, do you think Tertullus was right? What does John 1:45,46 say?

5. Even though Tertullus says the word Nazarene in an unkind way, who does Mark in chapter 1 verse 24 say came from there?

6. Tertullus says Paul tried to make the Temple impure or dirty. How does Acts 21:27-29 tell the story?

7. **CHALLENGE:** Does Paul give praise to Felix? What does Paul say to Felix?

8. In verses 11-13 Paul challenges Felix to check out the charges Tertullus has brought against him. What does Paul admit to doing?

Read Acts chapter 24, verses 17 - 27.

1. Luke wrote about Paul's visit to the temple in Acts 21:26. What challenge did Paul give his accusers in Acts 24:20?

2. What does Paul guess the charge might be?

3. **RISKY:** Felix knew about the Way. He adjourned the court to wait for Lysias to come. He was the commander who sent Paul to Felix. Was Paul set free, or did he remain under guard?

4. Who is Drusilla and what did she want?

5. Every time Felix sent for him, Paul spoke about faith in Jesus. What was another reason Felix sent for Paul?

6. **PERSONAL:** Felix had many opportunities to submit to God's authority and become a believer in Jesus, but he kept putting it off. He thought he had plenty of time to get saved. How about

you? Have you heard the Gospel message and are still waiting for the right time to be saved? In 2 Corinthians 6:2 we read: “For God says, ‘Your cry came to me at a good time. The doors of welcome were wide open. I helped you on a day when salvation was being offered.’ Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you.” Are you ready to accept His gift of salvation?

7. How long did Paul stay under guard?

Read Acts chapter 25, verses 1 - 12.

1. Felix is gone. Festus has taken his place. How long was he in the province before he traveled to Jerusalem?
2. After two years the Jews still wanted to kill Paul. When Festus returned to Caesarea, he called for Paul to see him. Paul must have been excited about this interview. He probably thought he was going to be set free. But that isn't what Festus had in mind at all. He wanted to hear what Paul had to say in his own defense about the charges the Jews had brought against him. What does Paul say in verse 8?
3. What appeal did Paul make that Festus was eager to answer?

Read Acts chapter 25, verses 13 - 27.

1. King Agrippa and Bernice visited Festus. Festus told the King about Paul. What did Festus think of the charges against Paul?
2. How did King Agrippa and Bernice enter the audience room?
3. The Jews shouted for Paul's death. Did Festus agree with them?

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY-THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON 22

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BASE TAG

Use old file folders cut in half, or cereal box sides, for “bases,” One base for each player. Scatter bases around the playing area. Choose IT, who stands on one of the bases near the center of the playing area. Other players each stand on one base. When IT leaves his base, so must the others. IT tries to tag a player before the player reaches a new base. Only one player may stand on a single base. If a player is tagged, he becomes the new IT.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 22

to end of class CRAFT: DOOR KNOCKER

MATERIALS:

felt squares colored wooden beads
scissors
ribbon or yarn in yellow, red, green, brown, white

Cut out a basic house shape from the square of felt. Cut a hole in the center of the house, so the house can be slipped over a doorknob. Cut the yarn/ribbon into 8” lengths. Give each student one strip of each color. Tie a knot at one end of the yarn/ribbon. Thread two or three wooden beads onto the ribbon. Make a small slit near the bottom edge of the felt house, slip the unknotted end of yarn/ribbon through the slit, and tie a knot. Follow the same procedure for each of the colored ribbons, alternating the number of beads on each ribbon. Hang the finished knocker on a doorknob.

The doorknocker reminds us that the Lord hears and cares and will answer our prayers, if we knock through prayer. Each part of the knocker is symbolic to Scriptures in the Sermon on the Mount.

yellow — shining light — Matthew 5:14-16
red — resolving conflict — Matthew 5:23-24
green — giving service — Matthew 5:41-42
white — Lord’s Prayer — Matthew 6:9-13
brown — not judging — Matthew 7:1-5

ACTS LESSON 22 – ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 24, verses 1 – 16.

1. The commander of the Roman Army in Jerusalem was Claudius Lysias. He sent Paul under military protection to Governor Felix in Caesarea. Claudius Lysias also included a letter to Felix and told him Paul's accusers would be coming too. How long did it take Paul's accusers to get there? Verse 1: "Five days later Ananias the High Priest came. He brought some of the Jewish leaders and the lawyer Tertullus with him. They wanted to make their charges against Paul." [Caesarea was about 65 miles from Jerusalem. It was the headquarters of the Roman military.]
2. From Jewish historians, we know that Felix was a man who would murder, steal, lie and do other lawbreaking things to get what he wanted. The Jews disliked Felix so much, that their dislike had turned to hate. Tertullus used a smoke screen of praise for Felix so that Felix would do what the Jewish rulers wanted. What did the smooth talking lawyer say about Felix? Verses 2b-4: "Governor Felix! You have brought a great peace to our land. And you have treated the Jews fairly during your time of rule. And for this we are very, very thankful to you. But I don't want to bore you. Please be kind and listen as I bring our charges against this man."
3. Of what things did Tertullus accuse Paul? Verses 5-6: "For we have found him to be a troublemaker. He has caused riots among the Jews throughout the Roman world. And he encourages them to rebel against the Roman government. He is a ringleader of the sect known as the Nazarenes. Moreover, he was trying to make our Temple impure when we arrested him. We would have given him what he justly deserved."
4. **RISKY:** Tertullus stands before Governor Felix. Tertullus fills Felix ears with the untruthful praise we read in verses 2b-4. Then he blasts Paul with accusations. When Tertullus calls Paul a ringleader of the Nazarene (from the town of Nazareth) sect, it sounds like a mean and nasty word. After reading John 1:45-46, do you think Tertullus was right? What does John 1:45,46 say? "Philip now went off to look for Nathanael. He told him, 'We have found the Messiah! This is the one Moses and the prophets told about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth!' 'Nazareth!' exclaimed Nathanael. 'Can anything good come from there?' 'Just come and see for yourself,' Philip said."
5. Even though Tertullus says the word Nazarene in an unkind way, who does Mark in chapter 1 verse 24 say came from there? "Why are you bothering us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us demons? I know who you are! You are the holy Son of God!"

6. Tertullus says Paul tried to make the Temple impure or dirty. How does Acts 21:27-29 tell the story? “The seven days were almost over. But some Jews from Asia Minor saw Paul in the Temple. They stirred up a crowd against him. They grabbed him, yelling ‘Men of Israel! Help! Help! This is the man who preaches against our people. He tells everybody to disobey the Jewish laws. He even speaks out against the Temple. And he makes it impure by bringing Gentiles inside!’ For they had seen him in the city with Trophimus earlier that day. Trophimus was a Gentile from Ephesus in Asia Minor. They thought that Paul had taken him into the Temple.”
7. **CHALLENGE:** Does Paul give praise to Felix? What does Paul say to Felix? Verse 10: “Now it was Paul’s turn to speak. So the governor motioned for him to rise. Paul began, ‘I know sir, that you have judged Jewish cases for many years. For this reason, I am happy to make my defense before you.’”
8. In verses 11-13 Paul challenges Felix to check out the charges Tertullus has brought against him. What does Paul admit to doing? Verses 14-16: “It was no more than 12 days ago that I went to Jerusalem. I wanted to worship at the Temple there. You will find that I never caused a riot in any synagogue. I have never caused trouble on the streets or any city. And these men cannot prove the things they charge me of doing. But one thing I do admit! I believe in the way of salvation, which they refer to as a sect. I follow that of serving the God of our ancestors. I firmly believe in the Jewish law. And I believe everything written in the books of prophecy. I believe, just as these men do! I believe that both the righteous and the ungodly will rise from the dead. Because of this, I try to keep my conscience clean before God and man.”

Read Acts chapter 24, verses 17 – 27.

1. Luke wrote about Paul’s visit to the temple in Acts 21:26. What challenge did Paul give his accusers in Acts 24:20? “But look! Ask these men right here what the Council found I had done.”
2. What does Paul guess the charge might be? Verse 21: “I did say one thing I shouldn’t have. For I said, ‘I stand before the Council because I believe that the dead will rise again!’”
3. **RISKY:** Felix knew about the Way. He adjourned the court to wait for Lysias to come. He was the commander who sent Paul to Felix. Was Paul set free, or did he remain under guard? Verse 23: “He [Felix] ordered Paul to prison but told the guards to treat him well. He told them to allow his friends to visit him and bring him gifts. That way his stay in prison would be more comfortable.”
4. Who is Drusilla and what did she want? Verse 24: “A few days later Felix came with Drusilla. She was his legal wife, and a Jewess. Sending for Paul, they listened as he told them about faith in Christ Jesus.”

5. Every time Felix sent for him, Paul spoke about faith in Jesus. What was another reason Felix sent for Paul? Verse 26: “He also hoped that Paul would bribe him. So he sent for him from time to time and talked with him.”
6. **PERSONAL:** Felix had many opportunities to submit to God’s authority, and become a believer in Jesus. But he kept putting it off. He thought he had plenty of time to get saved. How about you? Have you heard the Gospel message and are still waiting for the right time to be saved? In 2 Corinthians 6:2 we read: “For God says, ‘Your cry came to me at a good time. The doors of welcome were wide open. I helped you on a day when salvation was being offered.’ Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you.” Are you ready to accept His gift of salvation?
7. How long did Paul stay under guard? Verse 27: “Two years went by in this way. Then, Felix was replaced by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jews, he left Paul in prison.”

Read Acts chapter 25, verses 1 – 12.

1. Felix is gone. Festus has taken his place. How long was he in the province before he traveled to Jerusalem? Verse 1: “Festus arrived in Caesarea to become the new governor. And just three days later, he left for Jerusalem.”
2. After two years the Jews still wanted to kill Paul. When Festus returned to Caesarea, he called for Paul to see him. Paul must have been excited about this interview. He probably thought he was going to be set free. But that isn’t what Festus had in mind at all. He wanted to hear what Paul had to say in his own defense about the charges the Jews had brought against him. What does Paul say in verse 8? “Paul denied that he had done these things. ‘I am not guilty,’ he said. ‘I have not gone against the Jewish laws. I have not made the Temple unclean. And I have not rebelled against the Roman government.’”
3. What appeal did Paul make that Festus was eager to answer? Verses 10-12: “But Paul replied, ‘No! I want my privilege of being judged by Caesar himself. You know very well I am not guilty. If I have done something worthy of death, I don’t refuse to die! But if I am innocent, no one has the right to turn me over to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!’” Festus talked with his advisors. Then he said, “Very well! You have asked to be judged by Caesar. So I will send you to Caesar!” [Roman citizens had every right to take their case to Rome for a hearing. Festus no longer has to deal with this case.]

Read Acts chapter 25, verses 13 – 27.

1. King Agrippa and Bernice visited Festus. Festus told the King about Paul. What did Festus think of the charges against Paul? Verse 18: “But the charges they made against him weren’t at all what I thought they would be.”

2. How did King Agrippa and Bernice enter the audience room? Verse 23: “So the next day the king and Bernice went to the courtroom with great pomp. Many military officers and important men of the city went with them. Then Festus ordered Paul to be brought in.” [Bernice is Agrippa’s sister.]

3. The Jews shouted for Paul’s death. Did Festus agree with them? Verse 25,26: “But in my opinion he has done nothing worthy of death. However, he asked for Caesar to be his judge. And I have no choice but to send him to Caesar. But what shall I write the emperor? For there is no real charge against him! So I have brought him before you all. I bring this case especially to you King Agrippa. I want you to listen to him and then tell me what to write.”

ACTS LESSON 23

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- b. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- c. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 1 – 5.

Paul's testimony to King Agrippa is the sixth time in the book of Acts he has told his story. Every time he told it, he added to it. He didn't change his theme which was his search and capture of Christians; the light he saw on the road to Damascus; the voice, his blindness, and the change in his life this made by this experience. The other times can be found in (1) Acts 22:1-30 when he was in Jerusalem in front of the people and the Roman commander. We read his story again in (2) Acts 23:1-10, with Paul still in Jerusalem, but this time he stands before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish congress with the Pharisees and Sadducees. In (3) Acts 24:10-23 Paul speaks to Governor Felix in the city of Caesarea. We go down a few verses in (4) Acts 24:24-27, to find Paul again speaking not only to Felix, but Drusilla, too. Still in Caesarea, (5) Acts 25:8-12, we find Paul giving his testimony to Porcius Festus (he took Governor Felix' place), and the tribunal (Festus' council). Finally, here in (5) Acts 26:1-32 Paul is still in Caesarea, and he gives his testimony to Festus, Bernice, and Agrippa, as well as a very large audience. This is his last recorded testimony in the book of Acts.

1. King Agrippa wanted to see Paul. He wanted to hear for himself what Paul had to say, especially since Festus had told the king about the accusations made against Paul, which were not of any crimes he expected to hear about (Acts 25:18). Paul didn't commit any crime calling for the death penalty (Acts 25:25). What does Acts 26:3b say Paul begged Agrippa to do?

2. Paul says all the Jews knew about his life, how he had lived since he was a child. What facts do these scriptures give about Paul's life?

Philippians 3:5,6

Galatians 1:13,14

3. **HARD:** Paul says in these verses that his accusers have known him all his life. What does Paul dare them to testify to in Acts 26:1-5? Give the verse you used with your answer.

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 6 – 8.

1. Paul says that he is on trial “because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!” (Acts 23:6), and “because I believe that the dead will rise again!” (Acts 24:21). But he also says he has hope. From Psalm 25:5 what is Paul’s hope?
2. Reread Acts 13:32,33. Who was the one raised from the dead that gives Paul this hope?
3. What is God’s message found in Acts 10:36?

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 9 – 16.

In these verses, Paul tells Agrippa the kind of man he once was, which is about 20 years earlier.

1. What do you learn about Paul in 1 Timothy 1:13-15?

Paul is building rapport, or a relationship, with King Agrippa. Paul wants the king to know where Paul himself was once, and where he is now. He uses three steps to lead King Agrippa to salvation. The first step is to tell the king about Paul’s own sinfulness; then about his change inside, his conversion, and attitude adjustment; and last but not the least in importance, Paul tells King Agrippa about salvation. This example is one all Christians should develop in order to win more people into the family of God.

2. **PERSONAL:** Paul told King Agrippa about his own sinful past. Yet he had been changed. You may not have done the things Paul did, but you are also a sinner. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23, “Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.” And in Romans 5:8 we read, “But God showed his great love for us. He sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Have you told God you are a sinner and that you want His forgiveness? Do you want to have a changed life like Paul did? Well, stop right now and tell the Lord you have done wrong and want to be forgiven and have eternal life. If you have already asked Jesus to come and live in you, is there some sin you need to tell Him about? He knows what it is already, but He wants you to confess it to Him. If you need help with this, ask your leader, close friend, or your mom. Then you, too, will be changed inside.

3. When Paul says he put many saints, that is believers in Jesus, in prison, he was fulfilling a prophecy. What does Jesus prophesy in John 16:2?

4. On one of his journeys to a foreign city, Paul met Jesus. Why did Jesus appear to Paul, according to Acts 26:16?

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 17 – 23.

1. Why did Jesus tell Paul he would be a witness for Jesus?

2. Paul did not disobey his vision. The message Paul gave to the Jews and Gentiles was to repent of their sin. This was not a new message from God. But, what does Paul say happened to him because of what he said?

3. Paul wasn’t the only one who told the people to repent. What does the prophet Jeremiah say about the Jews in Jeremiah 7:26?

4. Someone else preached the message of repentance in Matthew 3:1-2. Who is this person?

5. **CHALLENGE:** What does Jesus say about His death in these verses?

Luke 9:22

Luke 24:45-48

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 24 – 32.

1. What did Festus call Paul?
2. Paul reminded King Agrippa that the king knew what was going on between the Jews and the Gentiles. The king had not been in hiding somewhere so as not to know what was going on. And with an attitude, the king said to Paul, “Do you expect me to become a Christian? You haven’t given nearly enough proof for me to believe!” Paul didn’t flinch. Politely, he gave his answer. What was Paul’s answer?
3. As the people left the audience room, they said Paul wasn’t doing anything wrong. What does Agrippa say to Festus?
4. **PERSONAL:** Did you memorize a Bible verse? How about Romans 3:23, “Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.” Or, in Romans 5:8 we read, “But God showed his great love for us. He sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Or maybe you chose another one? Be sure to say it to your leader.

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY-FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON 23

- 15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: TOSS AND CATCH

Form a circle, with one player in center. The player in the center tosses a ball into the air and calls the name of a player in the circle. The player whose name is called tries to catch the ball BEFORE it bounces. If he catches the ball, he becomes the one to toss and call. If he misses, he returns to the circle. Game ends when time limit has been reached.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 23
- to end of class CRAFT: STRING ART

MATERIALS:

creamy tempera paints
string, yarn, rickrack, bias tape: each 6" long with a knot at one end to clip inside clothespin
spring-type clothespins
paper — any type
paint brush

Using the end of the clothespin for a handle, dip one piece of string into paint. Allow excess paint to drip off or use paint brush to wipe off excess. Drop string onto paper in a variety of directions. Don't let go of the "handle" when dropping string. Use one string for one color. Use different size strings to create different affect. Experiment with creativity using a variety of strings and colors and techniques to create a picture.

ACTS LESSON 23 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 1 – 5.

Paul's testimony to King Agrippa is the sixth time in the book of Acts he has told his story. Every time he told it, he added to it. He didn't change his theme which was his search and capture of Christians; the light he saw on the road to Damascus; the voice, his blindness, and the change in his life this made by this experience. The other times can be found in (1) Acts 22:1-30 when he was in Jerusalem in front of the people and the Roman commander. We read his story again in (2) Acts 23:1-10, with Paul still in Jerusalem, but this time he stands before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish congress with the Pharisees and Sadducees. In (3) Acts 24:10-23 Paul speaks to Governor Felix in the city of Caesarea. We go down a few verses in (4) Acts 24:24-27, to find Paul again speaking not only to Felix, but Drusilla, too. Still in Caesarea, (5) Acts 25:8-12, we find Paul giving his testimony to Porcius Festus (he took Governor Felix' place), and the tribunal (Festus' council). Finally, here in (5) Acts 26:1-32 Paul is still in Caesarea, and he gives his testimony to Festus, Bernice, and Agrippa, as well as a very large audience. This is his last recorded testimony in the book of Acts.

1. King Agrippa wanted to see Paul. He wanted to hear for himself what Paul had to say, especially since Festus had told the king about the accusations made against Paul, which were not of any crimes he expected to hear about (Acts 25:18). Paul didn't commit any crime calling for the death penalty (Acts 25:25). What does Acts 26:3b say Paul begged Agrippa to do? "Please listen patiently!"
2. Paul says all the Jews knew about his life, how he had lived since he was a child. What facts do these scriptures give about Paul's life?

Philippians 3:5,6 "I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I was born into a pure Jewish home. It was a branch of the old original Benjamin family. So I was a real Jew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees. They demand strict obedience to every Jewish law and custom. And honest? Yes, so much so that I tried to destroy the Church. I tried to obey every Jewish law down to the very last point."

Galatians 1:13,14 "You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion. I went after the Christians with no mercy. I hunted them down and did my best to get rid of them all. I was one of the most religious Jews of my age in the whole country. I tried hard to follow all the old traditions of my religion."

3. **HARD:** Paul says in these verses that his accusers have known him all his life. What does Paul dare them to testify to in Acts 26:1-5? Give the verse you used with your answer. Verse 5: "They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I have lived as a Pharisee" (NIV).

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 6 – 8.

1. Paul says that he is on trial “because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!” (Acts 23:6), and “because I believe that the dead will rise again!” (Acts 24:21). But he also says he has hope. From Psalm 25:5 what is Paul’s hope? “Lead me. Teach me. For you are the God who saves me. I have no hope except in you.”
2. Reread Acts 13:32,33. Who was the one raised from the dead that gives Paul this hope? “And now Barnabas and I are here to bring you this Good News. God’s promise to our ancestors has come true in our own time! For God brought Jesus back to life again.”
3. What is God’s message found in Acts 10:36? “I’m sure you have heard about the Good News for the people of Israel. It says that there is peace with God through Jesus, the Messiah. And yes, the Messiah is Lord of all creation!” [The Hebrew word “Messiah” is and the Greek word “Christ” both mean “the Anointed One”.]

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 9 – 16.

In these verses, Paul tells Agrippa the kind of man he once was, which is about 20 years earlier.

1. What do you learn about Paul in 1 Timothy 1:13-15? “I used to scoff at the name of Christ. I hunted down his people. I hurt them in every way I could. But God had mercy on me because I didn’t know what I was doing. I didn’t know Christ at that time. Oh, how kind our Lord was! He gave me so much faith and love in Christ Jesus. There is a true saying. I long that everyone would know it. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I was the greatest of them all.”

Paul is building rapport, or a relationship, with King Agrippa. Paul wants the king to know where Paul himself was once, and where he is now. He uses three steps to lead King Agrippa to salvation. The first step is to tell the king about Paul’s own sinfulness; then about his change inside, his conversion, and attitude adjustment; and last but not the least in importance, Paul tells King Agrippa about salvation. This example is one all Christians should develop in order to win more people into the family of God.

2. **PERSONAL:** Paul told King Agrippa about his own sinful past. Yet he had been changed. You may not have done the things Paul did, but you are also a sinner. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23, “Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.” And in Romans 5:8 we read, “But God showed his great love for us. He sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Have you told God you are a sinner and that you want His forgiveness? Do you want to have a changed life like Paul did? Well, stop right now and tell the Lord you have done wrong and want to be forgiven and have eternal life. If you have already asked Jesus to come and live in you, is there some sin you need to tell Him about? He knows what it is already, but He wants

you to confess it to Him. If you need help with this, ask your leader, close friend, or your mom. Then you, too, will be changed inside.

3. When Paul says he put many saints, that is believers in Jesus, in prison, he was fulfilling a prophecy. What does Jesus prophesy in John 16:2? “For you will be expelled from the synagogues. And the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are serving God.”
4. On one of his journeys to a foreign city, Paul met Jesus. Why did Jesus appear to Paul, according to Acts 26:16? “Now stand up! For I have chosen you as my servant about my witness. You are to tell the world about this experience. And you will tell them about the many other times I will appear to you.”

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 17 – 23.

1. Why did Jesus tell Paul he would be a witness for Jesus? Verses 17,18: “I will keep you safe from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am going to send you to the Gentiles. Through you, I will open their eyes to their sins. That way they will be given the chance to repent. They will have a chance to live in the light of God instead of in Satan’s darkness. They will have a chance to be forgiven of their sins. They will be able to receive God’s blessings along with all the people whose sins are washed away. And they will have a chance to be blessed like all those who have faith in me.”
2. Paul did not disobey his vision. The message Paul gave to the Jews and Gentiles was to repent of their sin. This was not a new message from God. But, what does Paul say happened to him because of what he said? Verse 21: “The Jews arrested me in the Temple for preaching this. And they tried to kill me.”
3. Paul wasn’t the only one who told the people to repent. What does the prophet Jeremiah say about the Jews in Jeremiah 7:26? “But they wouldn’t listen or even try to hear. They are hard and stubborn. They are even worse than their fathers were.”
4. Someone else preached the message of repentance in Matthew 3:1-2. Who is this person? “While they were living in Nazareth, John the Baptist began preaching in the Judean desert. He said, ‘Turn from your sins! Turn to God! For the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon.’”
5. **CHALLENGE:** What does Jesus say about His death in these verses?

Luke 9:22 “For I, the Messiah, must suffer much,” he said. “I will be rejected by the Jewish leaders. The elders, chief priests, and teachers of the Law will not believe in me. And I will be killed. Then three days later I will come back to life again!”

Luke 24:45-48 “Then Jesus opened their minds to understand at last these many Scriptures! And he said, ‘Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die. It was also written

that he must rise again from the dead on the third day. It said that his message of salvation should be taken from Jerusalem to all the nations. Yes, there is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me! You have seen these prophecies come true.”

Read Acts chapter 26, verses 24 – 32.

1. What did Festus call Paul? Verse 24: “Suddenly Festus shouted, ‘Paul, you are insane! Your long studying has broken your mind!’”
2. Paul reminded King Agrippa that the king knew what was going on between the Jews and the Gentiles. The king had not been in hiding somewhere so as not to know what was going on. And with an attitude, the king said to Paul, “Do you expect me to become a Christian? You haven’t given nearly enough proof for me to believe!” Paul didn’t flinch. Politely, he gave his answer. What was Paul’s answer? Verse 29: “And Paul replied, ‘It doesn’t matter if my proofs are weak or strong. But I wish that you and everyone here might become the same as I am. Yes, I wish you’d be like me— except for these chains!’” [Paul wanted all to become servants of Jesus Christ. But, as is the case today, some will not believe. They remain slaves to Satan.]
3. As the people left the audience room, they said Paul wasn’t doing anything wrong. What does Agrippa say to Festus? Verse 32: “And Agrippa said to Festus, ‘We could have set him free! But he asked to be judged by Caesar.’”
4. **PERSONAL:** Did you memorize a Bible verse? How about Romans 3:23, “Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.” Or, in Romans 5:8 we read, “But God showed his great love for us. He sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Or maybe you chose another one? Be sure to say it to your leader.

ACTS LESSON 24

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- b. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- c. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 1 – 5.

Jesus was crucified in the Spring of the year 33. Paul was converted as he traveled the road to Damascus in the Summer of the year 35. Now Paul sets sail for his trip to Rome. It's the end of summer in the year 59. About 26 years have passed since the crucifixion, and 24 years since Paul's conversion.

During this time, Paul stayed in one place only long enough to start a church, or to encourage an existing church. Paul has written six letters which have become books in the New Testament: Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and Romans.

1. **CHALLENGE:** What pronoun is used in the first part of verse 1?

Paul was one of a group of prisoners accompanied by soldiers. They boarded a coastal ship, which is a ship that sails close to the shoreline, and does not go into the open sea. This ship would sail north, along the coast of Asia. They boarded this ship at the end of August of the year 59. The centurion booked this temporary passage on this ship until he could get passage on a larger ship that would sail out in the open sea. He wanted to get to Rome before the sailing became dangerous. The dangerous time of year was from the middle of November to March. They traveled 65 miles north to Sidon, up the coast of Asia from Caesarea to Myra.

Look at the map on page 212. Place your finger at Caesarea and go up the coast of Asia. As you trace Paul's sailing route, you can picture what might have happened along the way. The coastal ship stayed close to the shoreline until they passed Antioch. Then they had to sail across the open water between Cypress and Pamphilia before they landed at Myra in Lycia.

2. What kindness did Julius show Paul?

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 6 – 20.

1. What happened in Myra?
2. **CHALLENGE:** The ship had some trouble reaching Fair Havens. Paul warned the ship's captain, the owner, and the centurion that it would be better to stay where they were in Fair Havens. Why was his warning overruled?
3. A gentle wind came up which encouraged the decision to set sail. But not long afterwards, a strong wind came up. Name the two safety precautions listed in verse 17 that the ship's crew took.
4. If you put a ping pong ball in a glass or bowl of water and shake it, the ball will be tossed around. That's how the ship was tossed around. Water hit the deck from the rain and waves. The crew couldn't raise the sail. The prisoners were unchained in order to help bail out the water. They thought the boat was going to sink. What did they do the second and third days to lighten the ship?
5. How did the entire shipload of people feel?

Read Acts 27, verses 21 – 26.

1. What does Paul remind everyone to do in verses 22 & 25?
2. What promise did the angel of the Lord give Paul?

3. Who spoke to Paul in Acts 23:11, and what was the message?
4. Paul has faith God will do just what He says. But what must happen first?

5. Paul knew the promises of God. What do these verses say about God's promises?

Psalm 119:140

2 Corinthians 1:20

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 27 – 37.

1. The storm raged for 14 days before soundings were taken. Sailors would use a special tool to find out how deep the water was. Knowing how deep the water was told the sailors whether land was near. Some sailors might have trusted Paul's faith in God and believed God would keep His promise. Others might not have trusted, and some were afraid they might hit some rocks and the ship would sink with them on it. What did some sailors do?

2. Paul warned the soldiers that everyone had to stay on board so that all would be saved. What happened next?

3. **RISKY:** At dawn Paul encouraged the men to eat. For many days no one had eaten. Most were afraid, but Paul encouraged them to trust in his God. There were 276 people on board, and they listened to Paul. Even though a few hours earlier they had been afraid, now they were calmly sitting and eating. The storm was still raging. Do you think they trusted Paul's God? The following verses are good ones to remember when you have times of trouble.

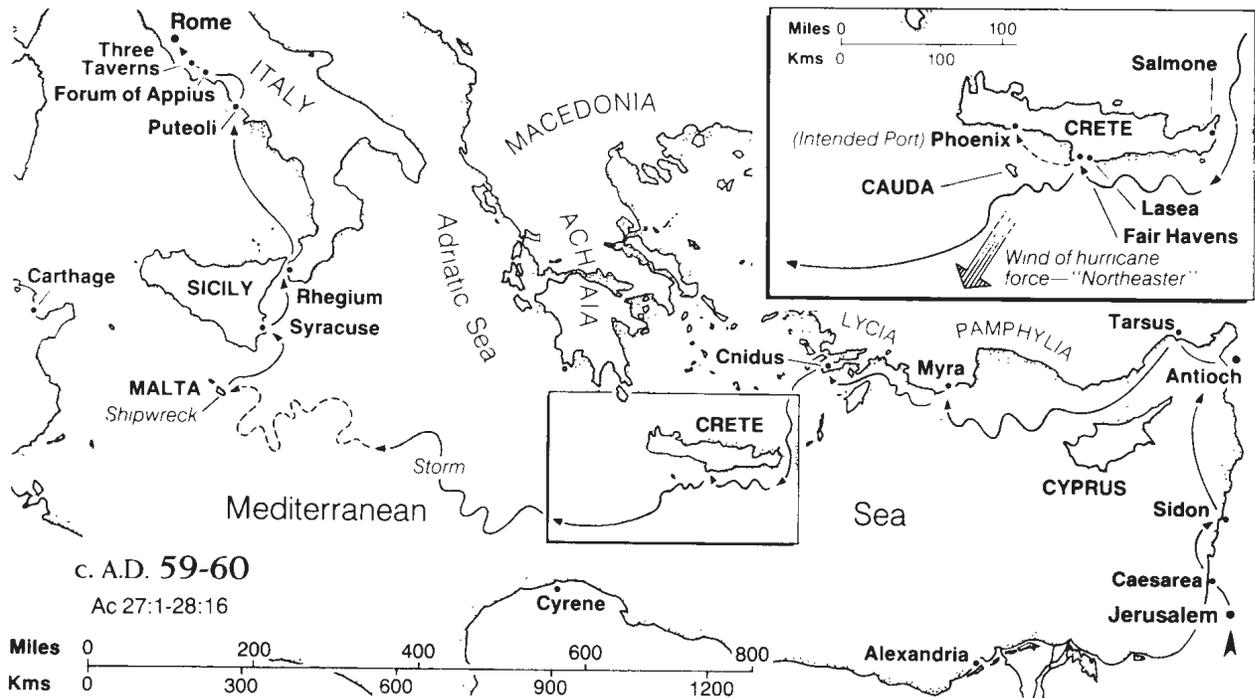
Proverbs 3:5,6

Matthew 10:30

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 37 – 44.

1. What happened at daylight?
2. What did the crew do to get the ship ready for landing?
3. When the ship struck a sandbar, it began breaking apart. The soldiers panicked; they didn't want to risk the prisoners escaping. So they decided to tie them to the remaining masts and let them go down with the ship. Is this TRUE or FALSE? Circle only one.
4. How did the centurion save the prisoners?
5. Did God keep the promise He gave Paul in Acts 27:24?

Paul's Journey to Rome



Map adapted from *Reproducible Maps, Charts, Time Lines & Illustrations*, published by Regal Books. Used by permission.

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY-FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 24

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BASKETBALL RELAY

Form two equal teams for this relay game. Each team has a basketball, or any kind of ball. The front player passes the ball over her head to the player behind her. The next player passes it between his legs to the player behind him. The next player passes the ball over his head, and so the play continues. Once the ball leaves a player's hands, he sits down. The first team sitting wins the game. You can make this interesting by adding more balls or other objects to pass.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 24

to end of class CRAFT: GRASS SEED EGGS

MATERIALS:

popsicle sticks
glue
grass seed
cotton

toilet paper cardboard tubes
felt markers or paint/brushes
fabric, buttons, sequins, stickers
empty egg shell halves

Cut popsicle stick in half and glue the 2 pieces to the bottom of a cardboard tube "body" as feet. Place egg shell "head" on the top of the tube, open side up. Paint or draw a face on the egg, then use glue to secure to tube. Use the stickers, fabric pieces or other items to "dress" the tube body. Paint or color the "shoes." Fill the egg shell half with cotton and sprinkle with water. Add grass seed. Store in a dark place until green shoots appear. Then move to a bright place. Be sure to sprinkle water on the cotton every day.

ACTS LESSON 24 — ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 1 – 5.

Jesus was crucified in the Spring of the year 33. Paul was converted as he traveled the road to Damascus in the Summer of the year 35. Now Paul sets sail for his trip to Rome. It's the end of summer in the year 59. About 26 years have passed since the crucifixion, and 24 years since Paul's conversion.

During this time, Paul stayed in one place only long enough to start a church, or to encourage an existing church. Paul has written six letters which have become books in the New Testament: Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and Romans.

1. **CHALLENGE:** What pronoun is used in the first part of verse 1? We. [The use of the pronoun "we" indicates Luke has again joined Paul's group.]

Paul was one of a group of prisoners accompanied by soldiers. They boarded a coastal ship, which is a ship that sails close to the shoreline, and does not go into the open sea. This ship would sail north, along the coast of Asia. They boarded this ship at the end of August of the year 59. The centurion booked this temporary passage on this ship until he could get passage on a larger ship that would sail out in the open sea. He wanted to get to Rome before the sailing became dangerous. The dangerous time of year was from the middle of November to March. They traveled 65 miles north to Sidon, up the coast of Asia from Caesarea to Myra.

Look at the map on page 217. Place your finger at Caesarea and go up the coast of Asia. As you trace Paul's sailing route, you can picture what might have happened along the way. The coastal ship stayed close to the shoreline until they passed Antioch. Then they had to sail across the open water between Cypress and Pamphilia before they landed at Myra in Lycia.

2. What kindness did Julius show Paul? Verse 3: "The next day we docked at Sidon. Julius was very kind to Paul. He let him go ashore to visit with friends."

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 6 – 20.

1. What happened in Myra? Verse 6: "There our officer found an Egyptian ship from Alexandria. It was sailing for Italy, so he put us on board."
2. **CHALLENGE:** The ship had some trouble reaching Fair Havens. Paul warned the ship's captain, the owner, and the centurion that it would be better to stay where they were in Fair Havens. Why was his warning overruled? Verse 12: "Fair Havens had an open harbor and was a poor place to spend the winter. Most of the crew wanted to go up the coast to Phoenix. It was a better harbor to spend the winter. Phoenix had a good harbor which was open to the northwest and southwest."

3. A gentle wind came up which encouraged the decision to set sail. But not long afterwards, a strong wind came up. Name the two safety precautions listed in verse 17 that the ship's crew took. "And then we banded the ship with ropes to keep it from falling apart. The sailors were afraid of being driven across to the quick sands of the African coast. So they lowered the topsails and were thus driven before the wind." [This time of year, mid November to early March, was a dangerous time for sailing. Storms could come up without any warning. As a result of storms, the sun, moon, and stars would be obscured, and they were used for navigation. The "banding" of the ship was a common practice to keep the ship from leaking when it was tossed around in a storm. Ropes called undergirders were passed around the hull. Or ropes "stretched between the stern and bow, adding strength that might prevent the ship from cracking in two in the heavy seas" (QUEST). "The Greek word translated 'sea anchor' is skeuos and literally means "vessel" or "equipment," so it could refer to any gear. Probably, however, it was an anchor." (WALVOORD) The Living Bible calls it "topsails".]
4. If you put a ping pong ball in a glass or bowl of water and shake it, the ball will be tossed around. That's how the ship was tossed around. Water hit the deck from the rain and waves. The crew couldn't raise the sail. The prisoners were unchained in order to help bail out the water. They thought the boat was going to sink. What did they do the second and third days to lighten the ship? "The next day the seas grew higher. So the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. The following day they threw out the tackle and anything else they could find."
5. How did the entire shipload of people feel? Verse 20: "The terrible storm blew for many days without stopping. And in the end, all hope was gone."

Read Acts 27, verses 21 – 26.

1. What does Paul remind everyone to do in verses 22 & 25? "But cheer up! Not one of us will lose our lives. However, the ship will go down. So take courage! For I believe God! It will be just as he said!"
2. What promise did the angel of the Lord give Paul? Verse 24: "He said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul. For you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God will do what you have asked. He will save the lives of all those sailing with you.'"
3. Who spoke to Paul in Acts 23:11, and what was the message? "That night the Lord stood beside Paul. 'Don't worry, Paul,' he said. 'You have told the people about me here in Jerusalem. In the same way, you must also be my witness in Rome.'"
4. Paul has faith God will do just what He says. But what must happen first? Verse 26: "But we will be shipwrecked on an island."
5. Paul knew the promises of God. What do these verses say about God's promises?

Psalm 119:140 "I have tested your promises. That is why I love them so much."

2 Corinthians 1:20 “He carries out all of God’s promises. It doesn’t matter how many of them there are. So we say “Amen” to God, giving glory to his name.”

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 27 – 37.

1. The storm raged for 14 days before soundings were taken. Sailors would use a special tool to find out how deep the water was. Knowing how deep the water was told the sailors whether land was near. Some sailors might have trusted Paul’s faith in God and believed God would keep His promise. Others might not have trusted, and some were afraid they might hit some rocks and the ship would sink with them on it. What did some sailors do? Verse 30: “Some of the sailors planned to leave the ship. So they lowered the lifeboat. They pretended that they were going to put out anchors from the prow.”
2. Paul warned the soldiers that everyone had to stay on board so that all would be saved. What happened next? Verses 31,32: “But Paul spoke to the soldiers and commanding officer. He said, ‘You will all die unless everyone stays on the ship.’ So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the boat fall off.”
3. **RISKY:** At dawn Paul encouraged the men to eat. For many days no one had eaten. Most were afraid, but Paul encouraged them to trust in his God. There were 276 people on board, and they listened to Paul. Even though a few hours earlier they had been afraid, now they were calmly sitting and eating. The storm was still raging. Do you think they trusted Paul’s God? The following verses are good ones to remember when you have times of trouble. [These verses are intended to show that God cares about everything in our life. Big and small, nothing is too hard for our God to handle. These men were trusting Paul’s God.]

Proverbs 3:5,6 “If so, then trust the Lord with all your heart. Don’t ever trust yourself. In all you do, put God first. He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”

Matthew 10:30 “And the very hairs of your head are all counted.”

Read Acts chapter 27, verses 37 – 44.

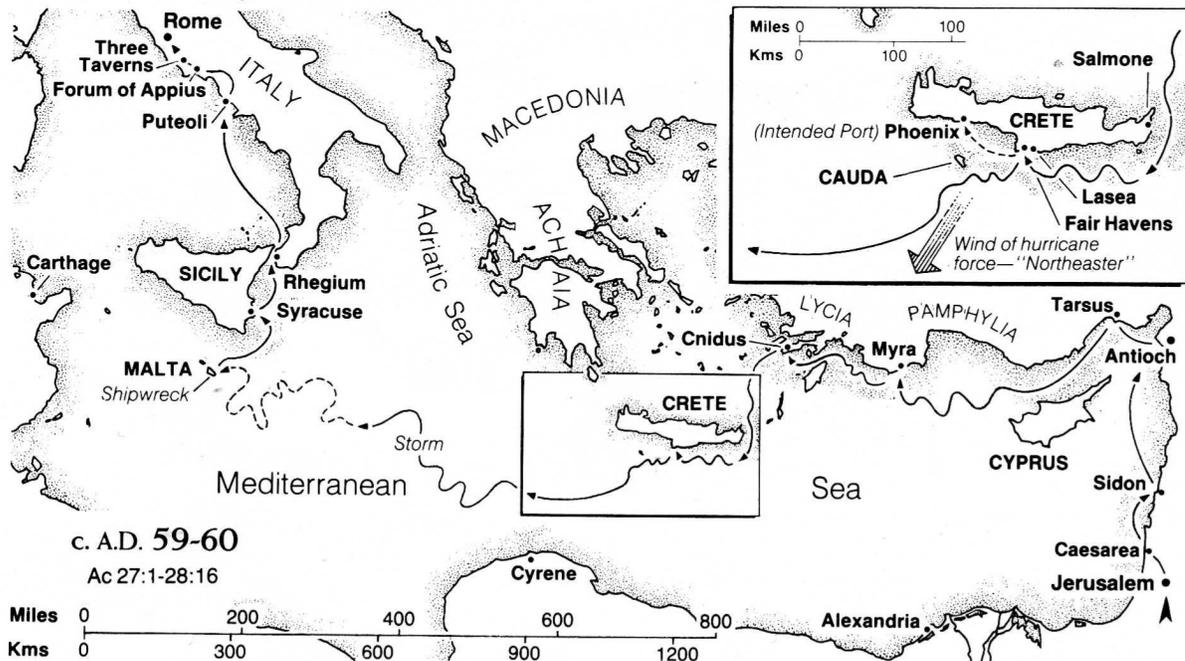
1. What happened at daylight? “When it was day, they didn’t know where they were. But they saw a bay with a beach. They wondered if they could get between the rocks and be washed onto the beach.”
2. What did the crew do to get the ship ready for landing? Verse 40: “They finally decided to try. So they cut off the anchors and left them in the sea. They lowered the rudders. Then they raised the foresail and headed for the shore.”
3. When the ship struck a sandbar, it began breaking apart. The soldiers panicked: they didn’t want to risk the prisoners escaping. So they decided to tie them to the remaining masts and let them go down with the ship. Is this TRUE or FALSE? Circle only one.
4. How did the centurion save the prisoners? Verses 43,44: “But Julius wanted to save Paul, so he

told them no. Then he ordered all who could swim to jump overboard and make for land. He told the rest to try for it on planks and boards from the broken ship. So everyone made it to the shore safely!”

5. Did God keep the promise He gave Paul in Acts 27:24? Yes. No one from the ship died. God promised Paul he’d get to Rome. Acts 27:24: “He said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Paul. For you will surely stand trial before Caesar!’”

ACTS LESSON 25

Paul’s Journey to Rome



Map adapted from *Reproducible Maps, Charts, Time Lines & Illustrations*, published by Regal Books. Used by permission.

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 11 – 16.

1. **RISKY:** If the shipwreck happened near the end of October or the first of November, 59, and they stayed on the island for three months, when did they board the new ship?
2. How long did they stay in Syracuse?
3. Paul was still a prisoner when they reached Puteoli. What did he find there and what did he do?
4. **CHALLENGE:** The centurion, Julius (see Acts 27:1), decided to walk the rest of the 150 miles to Rome. Some Christians from Rome came all the way out to the Forum, a market which is 43 miles from Rome; and to the Three Taverns, which is 33 miles from Rome, to meet Paul. When they got to Rome, Paul was given a house of his own and had only one guard. Why do you think Paul became a trusted prisoner? Read the following scriptures, write down key words and you will have your answer.

Acts 27:9-10

Acts 27:30-31

Acts 27:34

Acts 28:5-6

Acts 28:8

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 17 – 22.

1. Although Paul could not leave his house, he asked the Jewish leaders to come to him. Paul was in a place where he had to adjust his way of sharing the gospel. He was used to going out among the people to preach. But God had a different plan for Paul. What do these verses say about God's plans, where and how He wants them done?

Romans 8:28

Philippians 4:12,13

2. Paul told the Jewish leaders about the trouble with the Jerusalem Jews, and why he was a prisoner in Rome. What was their reply to Paul?
3. **HARD:** Even though these leaders said they had heard nothing about Paul, they do confess to hearing something about Christianity. Which verse gives the clue they knew more than they were telling Paul?

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 23 – 31.

1. Paul told them about the Kingdom of God, and about Jesus. He used the five books of Moses and the books of prophecy. He started in the morning and didn't quit until it was evening. Just think! They were in church ALL day. Did everyone who listened to Paul become Christians, believers in Jesus Christ as Messiah?
2. Paul knew the scriptures, so he wasn't surprised that some did not become believers. In fact, he quoted Isaiah. What was the quote?
3. What did Paul say about the Gentiles?
4. How long did Paul live in Rome and what did he do there?

So ends the story of the beginning of the church and of Paul's life. Paul wrote the epistles of Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians while he was under this two year house arrest.

5. **PERSONAL:** Which memory verse was your favorite? You did memorize some, didn't you? If not, try to find a verse and memorize at least one.

ACTS - WEEK TWENTY-SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON 25

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: EGG ROLL

Choose teams, equal in size if possible. Set goal lines. First person on each team has a hard cooked egg placed in front of him. At the signal, the leader kneels down and with the tip of the nose pushes the egg to the other goal line. When reached, he picks up the egg, races back to his team and places the egg in front of the next team player. The player kneels down and begins to push it with his nose, and the runner goes to the end of the line. The last player leaves the egg at the goal line, races back to the end of his team line and they all sit down. The first team to sit wins.

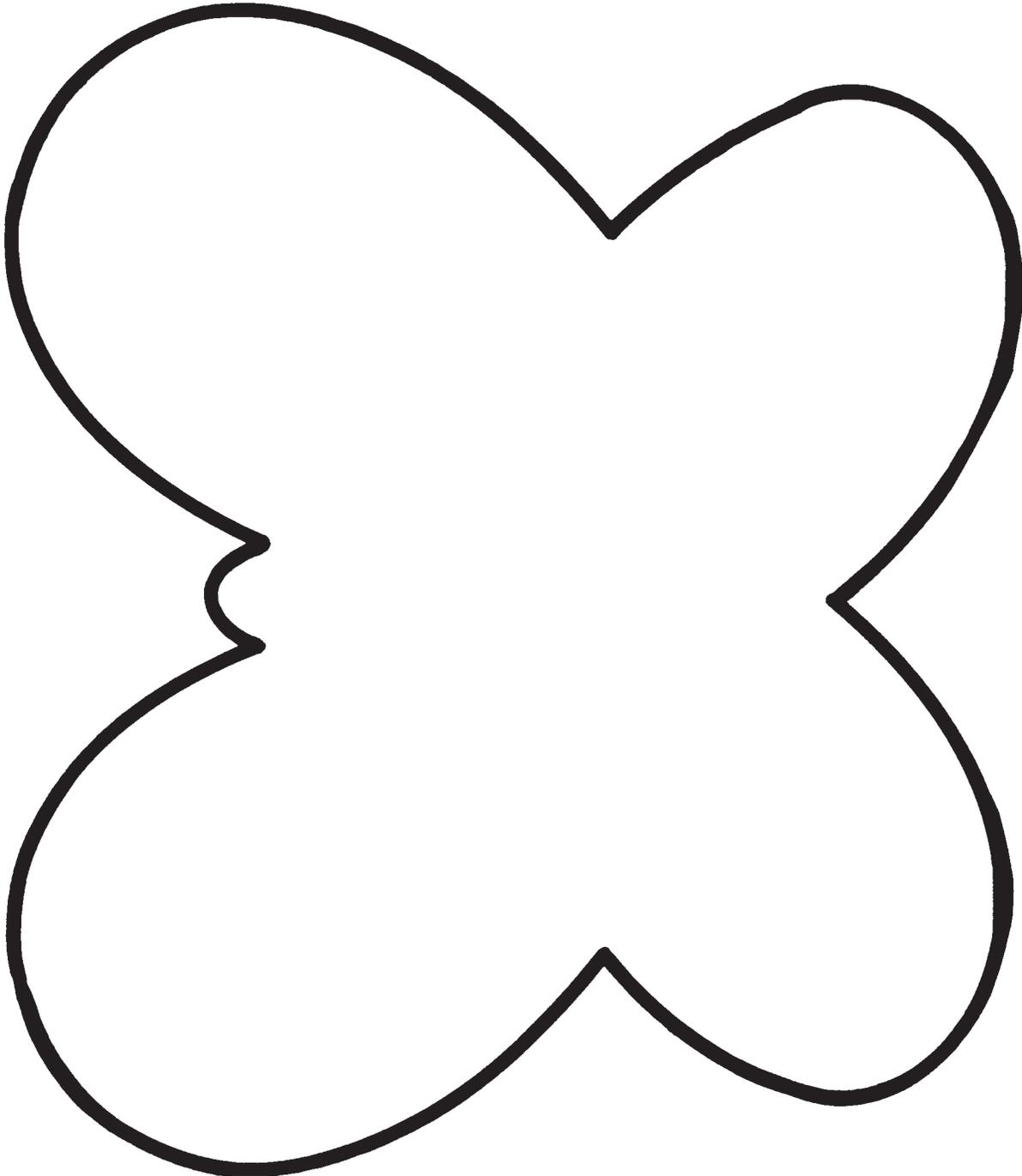
15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 25

to end of class CRAFT: BUTTERFLY MAGNET

MATERIALS:

12" pipe cleaners	thread
Optional: cardstock	felt-tip marker
pretty magazine pictures or colored tissue paper	
scissors	glue/hot glue gun
small round magnet	stapler

Fold pipe cleaner in half; bind together with thread so the folded halves do not come apart. Curl the loose ends slightly so they form a small loop for feelers. Copy butterfly pattern from next page onto cardstock to make it easier to trace around, copy onto regular white paper. Cut out the butterfly pattern. Trace the butterfly onto the back side of the magazine picture, using a felt-tip marker so it's easy to see, or trace onto tissue paper. Accordion fold the picture or tissue paper. Carefully unfold the accordion pleats. Cut out the butterfly. Staple or bind with thread the center of butterfly. Glue pipecleaner onto picture side of body and magnet onto underside of body.



ACTS LESSON 25 - ANSWERS

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 1 – 10.

1. In chapter 27, the 276 passengers on the ship fought the high waves and strong winds, and swam to land and safety. What was the land called? Verse 1: “We soon learned that we were on the island of Malta.”
2. How did the islanders show their kindness to these tired, shivering, underfed men? Verse 2: “The people of the island were very kind to us. They made a bonfire on the beach to welcome and warm us in the rain and cold.”
3. What did the islanders think of Paul after the poisonous snake had bitten him? Verse 4: “The people of the island saw it hanging there. They said to each other, ‘A murderer, no doubt! He got away from the sea. But justice will not allow him to live!’” [The islanders believed murder was the worst crime to commit. They thought Paul’s being bitten was punishment on land because he didn’t die at sea.]
4. What did Paul do with the snake? Verse 5: “But Paul shook off the snake into the fire and was unhurt.”
5. Why did the islanders call him a god? Verse 6: “The people waited for him to begin swelling or to suddenly fall dead. But they waited a long time and no harm came to him. So they changed their minds and decided he was a god.”
6. Who was Publius and what did he do? Verse 7: “Near the shore where we landed was some land belonging to Publius. He was the governor (or chief official) of the island. He welcomed us kindly and fed us for three days.”
7. Paul healed Publius’ father, and other sick islanders. How did they pay Paul? Verse 10: “As a result the people gave us many gifts. And when it was time to sail, the people gave us all we needed for the trip.”

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 11 – 16.

1. **RISKY:** If the shipwreck happened near the end of October or the first of November, 59, and they stayed on the island for three months, when did they board the new ship? Around the end of January, first of February of 60.
2. How long did they stay in Syracuse? Verse 12: “Our first stop was Syracuse, where we stayed three days.”
3. Paul was still a prisoner when they reached Puteoli. What did he find there and what did he

do? Verse 14: “And there we found some believers! They begged us to stay with them seven days. Then we went on to Rome.” [Puteoli, current day Pozzuoli, just south of Rome. Likely, the gospel had spread to Rome from the Jews who had been to Jerusalem at Pentecost, about 30 years later. The week long stay in Puteoli may have been the need of the centurion to complete business, and not because of Paul’s ministry.]

4. **CHALLENGE:** The centurion, Julius (see Acts 27:1), decided to walk the rest of the 150 miles to Rome. Some Christians from Rome came all the way out to the Forum, a market which is 43 miles from Rome; and to the Three Taverns, which is 33 miles from Rome, to meet Paul. When they got to Rome, Paul was given a house of his own and had only one guard. Why do you think Paul became a trusted prisoner? Read the following scriptures, write down key words and you will have your answer.

Acts 27:9-10	<u>Paul gives advice</u>
Acts 27:30-31	<u>Paul warns about a mutiny</u>
Acts 27:34	<u>Paul encourages the ship’s passengers</u>
Acts 28:5-6	<u>Paul survives snakebite</u>
Acts 28:8	<u>Paul heals Roman official’s father</u>

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 17 – 22.

1. Although Paul could not leave his house, he asked the Jewish leaders to come to him. Paul was in a place where he had to adjust his way of sharing the gospel. He was used to going out among the people to preach. But God had a different plan for Paul. What do these verses say about God’s plans, where and how He wants them done?

Romans 8:28 “Everything that happens to us is working for our good. We know this is true if we love God and fit into his plans.”

Philippians 4:12,13 “I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned a secret. I can be content and happy in every situation. It doesn’t matter if I have a full stomach or am hungry. I am content if I have plenty or am in need. I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.”

2. Paul told the Jewish leaders about the trouble with the Jerusalem Jews, and why he was a prisoner in Rome. What was their reply to Paul? Verse 21: “We have heard nothing against you! We have had no letters from Judea. No reports about you have come from our brothers in Jerusalem.”
3. **HARD:** Even though these leaders said they had heard nothing about Paul, they do confess to hearing something about Christianity. Which verse gives the clue they knew more than they were telling Paul? Verse 22: “But we want to hear what you believe. We know that people everywhere are speaking against these Christians!” [It is likely these leaders wanted to hear Paul’s side of the story before making a judgment.]

Read Acts chapter 28, verses 23 – 31.

1. Paul told them about the Kingdom of God, and about Jesus. He used the five books of Moses and the books of prophecy. He started in the morning and didn't quit until it was evening. Just think! They were in church ALL day. Did everyone who listened to Paul become Christians, believers in Jesus Christ as Messiah? No. Verse 24: "Some believed and some didn't." [Christianity is a fulfillment of Judaism. Christianity is not in competition with Judaism.]
2. Paul knew the scriptures, so he wasn't surprised that some did not become believers. In fact, he quoted Isaiah. What was the quote? Verses 25b-27: "Paul said, 'The Holy Spirit was right when he spoke through Isaiah the prophet. The Holy Spirit said, "Say to the Jews, 'You will hear and see but not understand. For your hearts are too fat and your ears don't listen! You have closed your eyes against understanding. For you don't want to see and hear. You don't want to understand either. You refuse to turn to me so I can hear you.''"
3. What did Paul say about the Gentiles? Verses 28-29: "I want you to know that this salvation from God is for the Gentiles too. Yes, and they will accept it!" [Paul used this concept to present the Gospel: explain it, testify as to how it changed your life, and persuade. This technique appeals to the intellect, emotions, and will.]
4. How long did Paul live in Rome and what did he do there? Verses 30,31: "Paul lived for the next two years in his rented house. He welcomed all who came to visit him. He told them boldly about God's Kingdom and the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him."

So ends the story of the beginning of the church and of Paul's life. Paul wrote the epistles of Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians while he was under this two year house arrest.

5. **PERSONAL:** Which memory verse was your favorite? You did memorize some, didn't you? If not, try to find a verse and memorize at least one.