

Daily Bible Reading

Thursday, April 17 — Acts 15:1–5

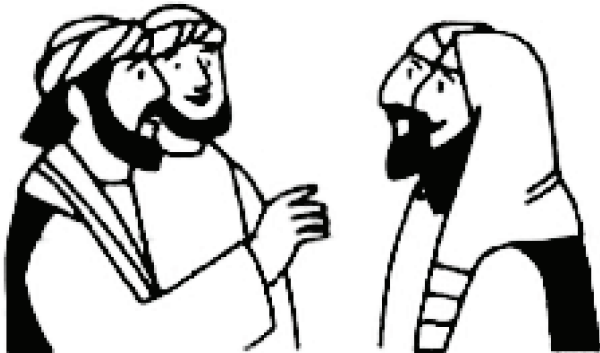
Friday, April 18 — Acts 15:6–21

Saturday, April 19 — Acts 15:22–35

Memory Verse

Acts 15:17

So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
even all the Gentiles who are called by my name.



Lesson 1

Conflict Over Circumcision/ Council in Jerusalem

Sunday, April 20

Conflict Over Circumcision - Acts 15:1-5

1. And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”
2. Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders about this question.
3. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Pheonicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.
4. And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were recieved by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.
5. But some of the sect of the Parisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”.

Fill In The Missing Letters

1. Look back in Acts 14:27. What group of people had become followers of Jesus?
_ _ _ _ _

2. Where was the last place Paul and Silas went on the first missonary journey? (Acts 14:26)
_ _ _ _ _

3. Where did Paul and Barnabas go to discuss the question of circumcision?
_ _ _ _ _

4. Which law did the Pharisees demand the Gentiles to keep?
_ _ _ _ _

Council in Jerusalem - Acts 15:6-21

6. So the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.
7. And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.
8. "So, God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us,
9. "and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.
10. "Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
11. "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."
12. Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.
13. And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me;
14. "Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.
15. "And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:
16. "After this I will return
And will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen down.
I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up,
17. So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,
Says the Lord, who does all these things," (Am 9:11-12)
18. "Known to God from eternity are all His works.
19. "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,
20. "but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.
21. "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

Fill in the Blanks and Short Answer

1. The apostles and _____ came together in Jerusalem.
2. _____ stood up just to talk.
3. Through the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ we are saved.
4. Look up grace in a Bible dictionary. What does it mean?
5. _____ and _____ declared miracles and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles.

Ministry of Paul and Barnabas - Acts 15:22-35

22. Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.
23. They wrote this letter by them;
The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,
To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia;
Greetings.
24. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" – to whom we gave no such commandment –
25. it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
26. men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
27. We have therefore send Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth
28. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:
29. that you abstain from things offered to idolss, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.
Farewell.
30. So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter.
31. When they had read it, they rejoiced over it's encouragement.
32. Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted the bretheren with many words and strengthened them.
33. And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren and apostles.
34. However, it seemed good to Silas to reamain there.
35. Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Find the Hidden Words

1. Who went with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch?
2. The apostles, elders and brethren wrote a letter to Gentiles in what three areas?

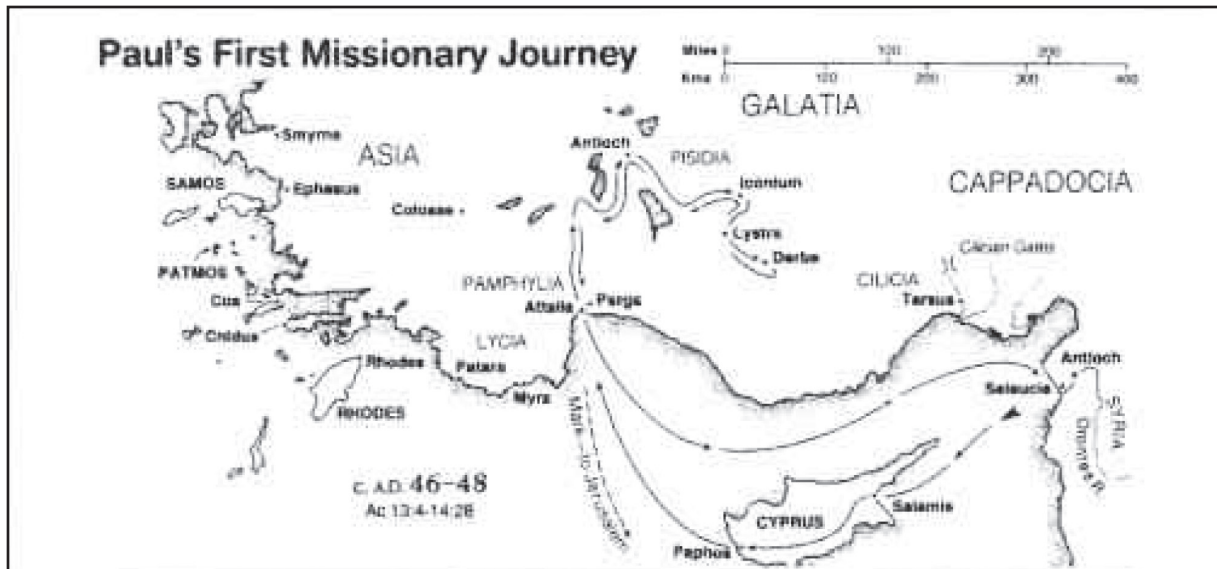
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Map Study

- Using the map below, underline.
Antioch Jerusalem Cilicia Syria



Daily Bible Reading

Monday, April 21 — Acts 15:36–41

Tuesday, April 22 — Acts 16:1–10

Wednesday, April 23 — Acts 16:11–15

Memory Verse

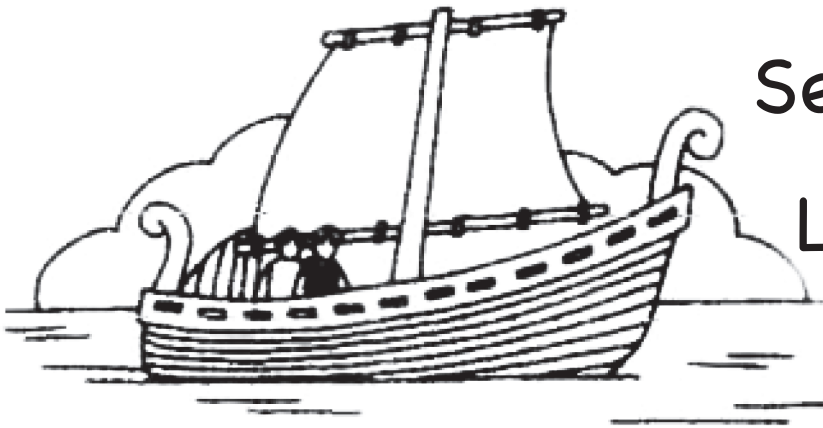
Acts 16:5

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

Lesson 2

Second Missionary Journey Lydia Converted

Wednesday, April 23



Division Over John Mark - Acts 15:36–41

36. Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.”
37. Now Barnabus was determined to take with them John called Mark.
38. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.
39. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;
40. but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.
41. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

True or False

- ___ 1. Barnabas suggested to Paul that they go back and visit the brethren they saw on their first journey.
- ___ 2. Paul wanted to take John Mark with them on their second journey.
- ___ 3. John Mark had left Paul and Barnabas in Perga and didn't complete the first journey.
- ___ 4. Barnabas decided to take John Mark and sailed to Cyprus.
- ___ 5. Paul's new partner is Peter.
- ___ 6. At a later time, Paul wants John Mark to work with him. (Hint: II Timothy 4:11)

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas/Macedonian Call- Acts 16:1-10

1. Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.
2. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.
3. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.
4. And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.
5. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.
6. Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
7. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.
8. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.
9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
10. Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Song 572 "Send the Light"

Fill in the Blanks

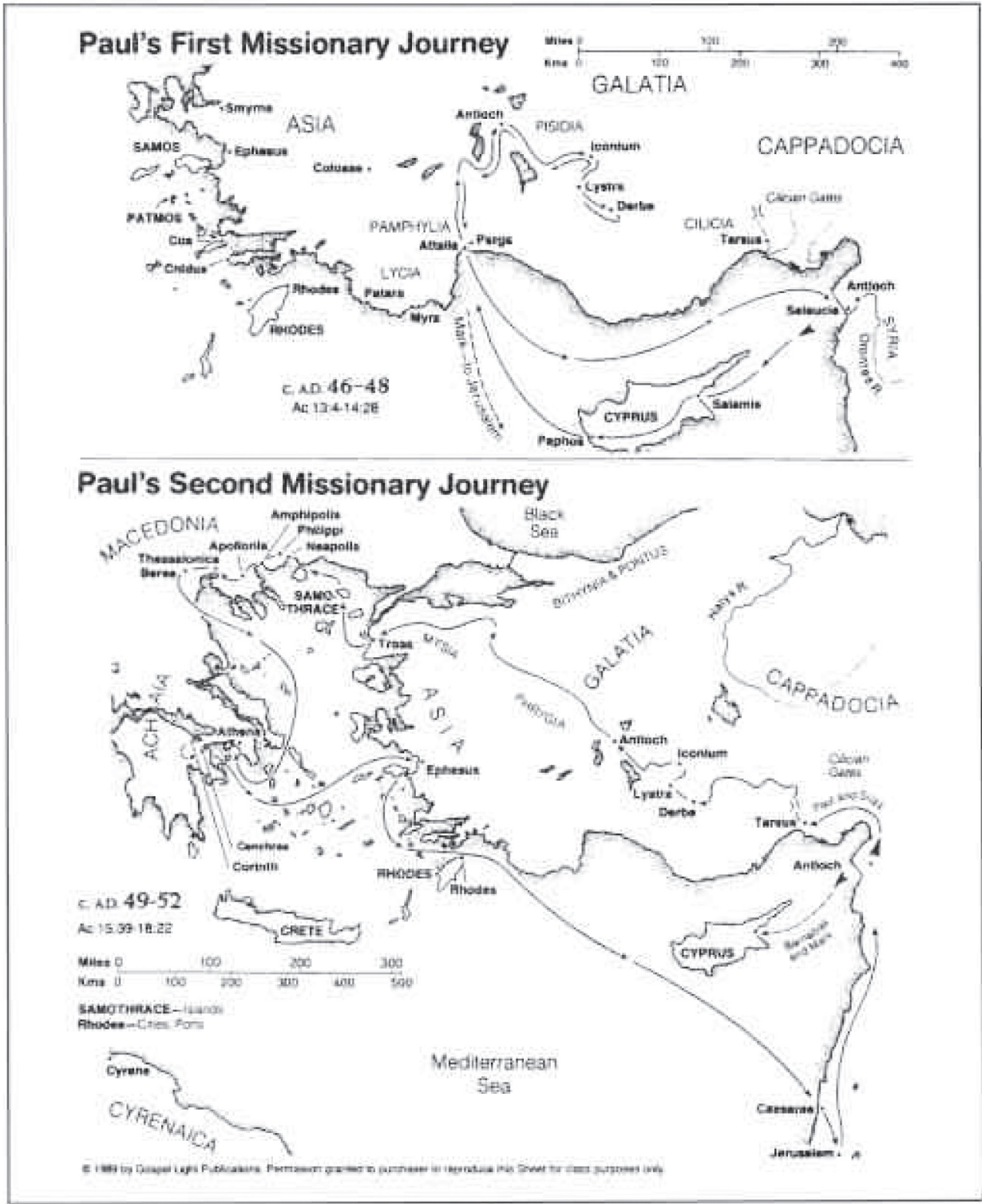
1. When Paul and Sila traveled to Lystra, they met _____ and asked him to join their trip.
2. Timothy's father was _____. His mother was _____.
3. The Holy Spirit told Paul, Timothy and Silas not to go to _____ and to _____ to preach.
4. In _____, a vision appeared to _____ saying, "Come over to _____ and help us."
5. Name the people who went with Paul to Macedonia. (Hint: verse 10 shows the pronoun we.)
_____, _____, and _____.

Fill in the Blanks

Who were Timothy's mother and grandmother? Read II Timothy 1:5.

Map Study

1. Review of First Missionary Journey.
 2. Second Missionary Journey
- Find these cities on your map and underline them.
 Antioch Derbe Lystra Troas Samothrace Neapolis



Daily Bible Reading

Thursday, April 15 — Acts 16:16–24

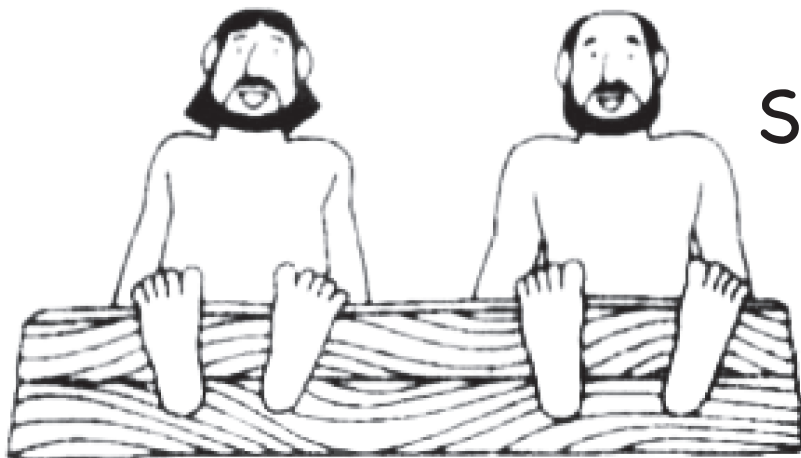
Friday, April 16 — Acts 16:25–34

Saturday, April 17 — Acts 16:35–40

Memory Verse

Acts 16:30–31, 33b

And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household,” And immediately, he and all his family were baptized.



Lesson 3

Second Missionary Journey: Philippian Jailer

Sunday, April 18

Paul and Silas Imprisoned - Acts 16:16–24

16. Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.
17. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation,”
18. And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.
19. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.
20. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;
21. and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.”
22. Then the multitude rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.
23. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.
24. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

True or False

- ___1. A certain slave boy followed Paul and Silas.
- ___2. The masters made a little money because the young slave girl could tell fortunes.
- ___3. The slave girl said these men are servants of the devil.
- ___4. Paul commanded that the unclean spirit come out of the slave girl.
- ___5. The slave girl's masters were angry that the little girl couldn't make money for them.
- ___6. The masters had Paul and Barnabas arrested, beaten and put in prison.

The Philippian Jailer Saved - Acts 16:25-34

- 25. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
- 26. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundation of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.
- 27. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself,
- 28. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."
- 29. Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
- 30. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
- 31. So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- 32. They they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
- 33. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.
- 34. Now when he had brought them into his house, he sat food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Short Answer

- 1. What time of the night were Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns to God?
- 2. What three things happened inside the prison?
- 3. Why did the jailer drew his sword? (Hint: According to Roman law, a guard who allowed the escape of a prisoner was put to death.)
- 4. What did Paul say to the jailer?
- 5. How did the jailer and his family express their belief in Jesus Christ?

Daily Bible Reading

Monday, April 19 — Acts 17:1–4

Tuesday, April 20 — Acts 17:5–9

Wednesday, April 21 — Acts 17:10–15

Memory Verse

Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Lesson 4

Second Missionary Journey: Thessalonica Jason's House

Wednesday, April 21



Preaching Christ at Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-5

1. Now where they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
2. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
3. explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”
4. And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.
5. But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Short Answer

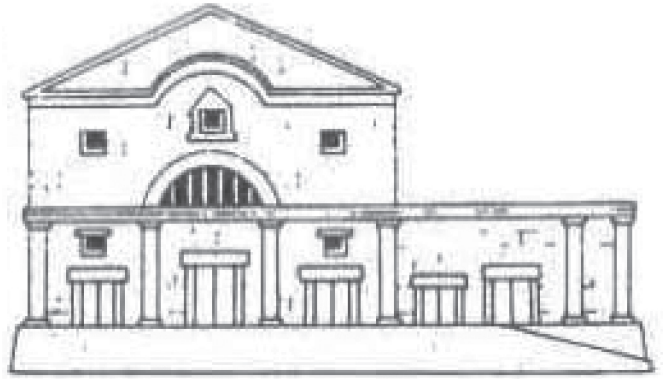
1. Mark Paul's next stop on your map – Thessalonica.

2. Who do you think Paul's companions were? (Hint: Look at the pronoun in verse 1.)

3. Where did Paul usually go to preach when he came to a new city?

4. What did Paul talk about?

5. Who believed what Paul said?



Assault on Jason's House - Acts 17:5-9

6. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.
7. "Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king – Jesus."
8. And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.
9. So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

True or False

- ___1. The Jews were jealous of Paul and Silas and used evil men to start a riot in Thessalonica.
- ___2. After the Jews couldn't find Paul and Silas in Jason's house, they dragged Jason and other Christians to the Roman rulers.
- ___3. The Jews accused the Christians of acting contrary to the decrees of Herod.

Ministering at Berea - Acts 17:10-15

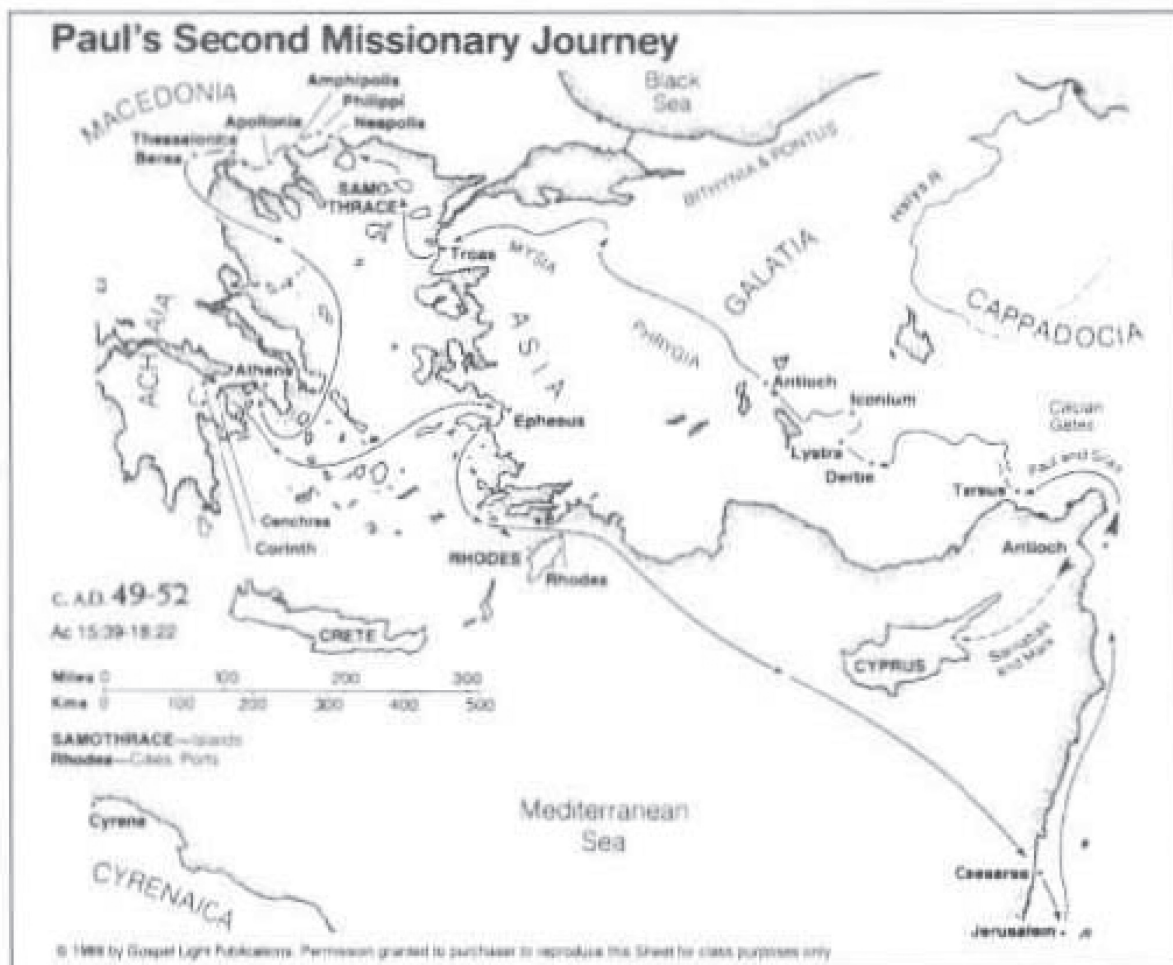
10. Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.
11. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
12. Therefore many of them believed, and also no a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.
13. But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.
14. Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.
15. So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

Short Answer

1. Where did Paul, Silas and Timothy go next? Mark this city on your map.
2. Who believed what Paul preached?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Who followed Paul and his companions to Berea?
4. When Paul left Berea, to what city did he go? Mark it on your map.

Bonus Questions

1. What two letters does Paul write to the brethren in Thessalonica?
2. Look up 1 Thessalonians 1:1. Who is mentioned in the "Salutation"?



Daily Bible Reading

Thursday, April 22 — Acts 17:16–21

Friday, April 23 — Acts 17:22–28

Saturday, April 24 — Acts 17:29–34

Memory Verse

Acts 17:31

Because He has appointed a day on which He will Judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained

Lesson 5

Second Missionary Journey: Athens

Sunday, April 25



The Philosophers at Athens - Acts 17:16-21

16. Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.
17. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.
18. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him, And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.
19. And they took him and brought him to the Areopaus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak?”
20. “For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.”
21. For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

Short Answer

1. Mark Athens on your map. Does that city exist today? What country is it in?
2. What did Paul see that provoked him?
3. Describe the word idol.

Draw and Idol

4. Where is the usual place Paul preached?
5. What name did some people call him?
6. Look up 1 Corinthians 2:1. Was Paul a good speaker?
7. Look up Areopagus in an encyclopedia. Describe it.
8. What did Athenians and foreigners like to spend their time doing?

Thought Question

What do you like to spend your time doing? How much time do you spend reading the Bible and praying?

Addressing the Areopagus - Acts 17:22-28

22. Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;
23. for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription; TO THE UNKNOWN GOD, therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you;
24. "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.
25. "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things,
26. "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed time and boundaries of their habitation,
27. "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
28. "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, "For we are also His offspring."

Fill in the Blanks

1. The men of Athens had made an altar to the _____.
2. God gives to all _____, _____ and all things.
3. In God we _____ and _____ and have our being.
4. Even the Greek poets said, "For we are also His _____."

Addressing the Areopagus (continued) - Acts 17:29-34

29. "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art or man's devising.
30. "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men every where to repent,
31. "because he has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
32. And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."
33. So Paul departed from among them.
34. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopogaites, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

True or False

- ___1. The true God is made in our image.
- ___2. God commands that all men repent.
- ___3. God will judge the world in righteousness.
- ___4. Some people laughed at Paul when he described the resurrection.
- ___5. No one in Athens believed Paul's teaching.

Daily Bible Reading

Monday, April 26 — Acts 18:1–8

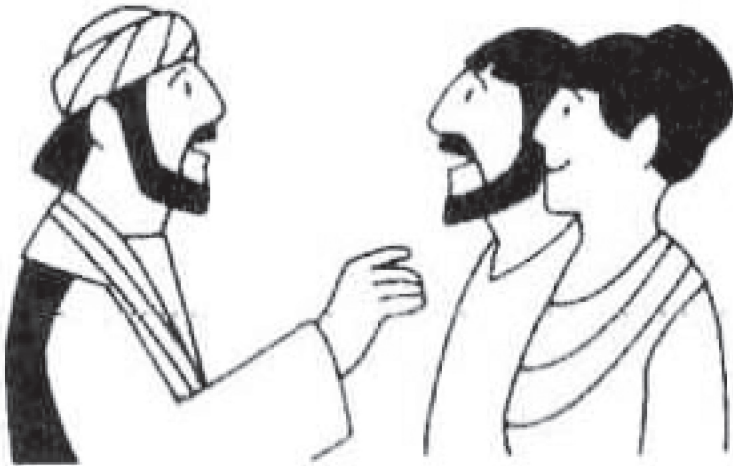
Tuesday, April 27 — Acts 18:9–17

Wednesday, April 28 — Acts 18:18–22

Memory Verse

Acts 18:9-10

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”



Lesson 6

Second Missionary Journey: Paul in Corinth

Wednesday, April 28

Ministering in Corinth - Acts 18:1-8

1. After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.
2. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.
3. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tent makers.
4. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.
5. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was constrained by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.
6. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
7. And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.
8. Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and they were baptized.

Short Answer

1. Underline on your map the next city Paul visited.
2. Who did Paul meet in Corinth?
3. From which country did Aquila and Priscilla come?
4. What was their occupation?
5. Why did Paul stay with them?
6. What did Paul do every Sabbath day?
7. Who joined Paul in Corinth?
8. What did Paul decide to do when the Jews opposed him?
9. To whose house (next to the synagogue) did Paul go?
10. Name the ruler of the synagogue who believed in Christ.

Thought Question

1. What are some things Crispus would have to give up once he became a Christian?
2. Are there things we must give up to be a Christian?

Ministering in Corinth - Acts 18:9-17

9. Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;
10. "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."
11. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
12. Now when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat,
13. saying, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."
14. And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you.
15. "But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters."
16. And he drove them from the judgment seat.
17. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

Short Answer

1. How did the Lord speak to Paul to assure him he would not be harmed in Corinth?

On what other occasion did God speak to Paul in this manner?

2. How long did Paul teach in Corinth? (During this time, it is thought that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.)

3. Why did the Jews bring Paul to the proconsul Gallio?

4. What did Gallio decide not to do?

Paul Return to Antioch - Acts 18:18-22

18. So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow.

19. And he came to Ephesus, and left there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

20. When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent.

21. but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

22. And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Short Answer

1. Where did Paul go after Corinth?

2. Who accompanied him?

3. What did Paul promise to do?

4. What did Paul do in Cenchrea?

5. Read Numbers 6:1-12. What vow did he take? What did the vow require?

6. After Paul went to Caesarea and Antioch, where did he go?

Daily Bible Reading

Thursday, April 29 — Acts 18:23–19:10

Friday, April 30 — Acts 19:11–20

Saturday, May 1 — Acts 19:21–41

Memory Verse

Acts 19:4

Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus”



Lesson 7

Third Missionary Journey: Ephesus

Sunday, May 2

Ministry of Apollos – Acts 18:23–28

23. After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over all the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.
24. Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.
25. This man had been instructed in the ways of the Lords; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.
26. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
27. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace;
28. for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Short Answer

1. From which city did Paul begin his travel on the third journey?

Who was with him on this journey?

2. Into what region did he travel?

3. Who taught Apollos the way of God more accurately?

Paul at Ephesus - Acts 19:1-10

1. And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples
2. he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."
3. And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."
4. Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."
5. When they hear this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.
7. Now the men were about twelve in all.
8. And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.
9. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.
10. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Short Answer

1. Where did Paul travel next?

Mark it on your map. In what region is this city?

2. Had Paul ever visited this city before? (Hint: Acts 18:19) Explain.
3. In what country is Ephesus today?
4. Whose disciples did Paul find in Ephesus? (Hint: verse 3)
5. When the disciples heard about Christ, what did they do?
6. How long did Paul speak in the synagogue?

In the school of Tyrannus?

Miracles Glorify Christ – Acts 19:11-20

11. Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,
12. so that even the handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.
13. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”
14. Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.
15. And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”
16. Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
17. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all., and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.
18. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deed.
19. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.
20. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Ephesus was noted for its focal point on magicians. The city was filled with wizards to exercise power of dark forces. God may have used such circumstances to show His miraculous power was greater than the powers of darkness.

Short Answer

1. Paul performed miracles in Ephesus. Look at Hebrews 2:3-4. Why were the apostles given this power?
2. What did the 7 sons of Sceva try to do?
3. How did the evil spirit answer?
4. What did the man with the evil spirit do?
5. How did this scene affect both Jews and Greeks?

What did the magicians do?

Riot at Ephesus - Acts 19:21-41

21. When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."
22. So he went into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time,
23. And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.
24. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.
25. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.
26. "Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying they are not gods which are made with hands.
27. "So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."
28. And when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"
29. So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions.
30. And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.
31. Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater.
32. Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.
33. And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people.
34. But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"
35. And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus?
36. "Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly.
37. "For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess.
38. "Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another.
39. "But if you have any other inquiry to make, it should be determined in the lawful assembly.
40. "For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering."
41. And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

During this stay in Ephesus, Paul writes the 1 Corinthian letter.

True or False

____1. Demetrius earned his living by making shrines to the goddess Venus.

____2. Demetrius told his fellow craftsman that Paul's preaching was threatening their livelihood.

____3. The mob seized Paul's companions Gaius and Timothy.

____4. The disciples wanted Paul to come into theater.

____5. The city clerk restored order to the angry mob.

Daily Bible Reading

Monday, May 3 — Acts 20:1–12

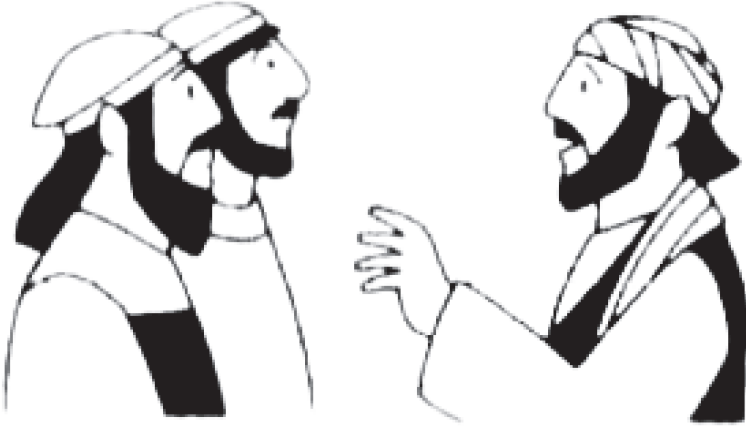
Tuesday, May 4 — Acts 20:13–24

Wednesday, May 5 — Acts 20:25–38

Memory Verse

Acts 20:35b

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus,
That he said, “It is more blessed to give than
to receive.”



Lesson 8

Paul's Third Missionary Journey (continued)

Wednesday, May 5

Journeys In Greece - Acts 20:1-6

1. After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to him, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia.
2. Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece
3. and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.
4. And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia – also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derge, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
5. These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.
6. But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Short Answer

1. Where did Paul go after Ephesus?
2. What did he do in Macedonia?
3. Where did he go next?

How long did he stay?

4. After Paul doubles back through Macedonia, who accompanies him from Philippi? (Note pronoun)
5. What six men met Paul at Troas?

Eutychus Revived at Troas - Acts 20:7-12

7. Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.
8. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.
9. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.
10. Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."
11. Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till day-break, he departed.
12. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

Short Answer

1. Why did the group with Paul come together?
2. How long did Paul preach?
3. What happened to a young man listening to Paul's sermon?
4. What did Paul do for the young man?
5. How much longer did Paul talk?

SONG 383 "Oft We Come Together"

From Troas to Miletus - Acts 20:13-16

13. Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot.
14. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.
15. We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios; the following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium;
16. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

Map Study

1. Underline these cities on your map
 - Troas
 - Assos
 - Mitylene
 - Chios
 - Samos
 - Trogylliums
 - Miletus

Short Answer

1. Who sailed from Troas to Assos?
2. Who walked to Assos?
3. Why was Paul in a hurry?
4. Look up Pentecost in a Bible dictionary. What does Pentecost mean?

Ephesian Elders Exhorted - Acts 20:17-38

17. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.
18. And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,
19. "serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;
20. "and how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,

21. “testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
22. “And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,
23. “except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.
24. “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of grace of God.
25. “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.
26. “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.
27. “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.
28. “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
29. “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
30. “Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
31. “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.
32. “And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
33. “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel.
34. “Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.
35. “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is better to give than to receive.”
36. And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.
37. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him,
38. sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Short Answer

1. Who did Paul ask to meet him at Miletus?

2. Look up another name for the word elders. (Acts 20:28, Titus 1:5-7)

True or False

- ___1. It was so easy for Paul to teach the gospel in Ephesus.
- ___2. While in Ephesus, Paul only taught in people's homes.
- ___3. Paul knew what was going to happen to him when he got to Jerusalem.
- ___4. The Ephesian elders would never see Paul again.
- ___5. Elders are like shepherds to the "flock of God."
- ___6. Paul stayed in Ephesus 5 years.
- ___7. Besides preaching, Paul worked and made a living with his own hands.
- ___8. Paul prayed with the elders before he left Miletus.
- ___9. The elders were glad to see Paul go.

Thought Question

1. Name the elders at Embry Hills.

-
-
-
-

Do you speak to them and let them know how much you appreciate their work for God?

Daily Bible Reading

Thursday, May 6 — Acts 21:1–14

Friday, May 7 — Acts 21:15–25

Saturday, May 8 — Acts 21:26–40

Memory Verse

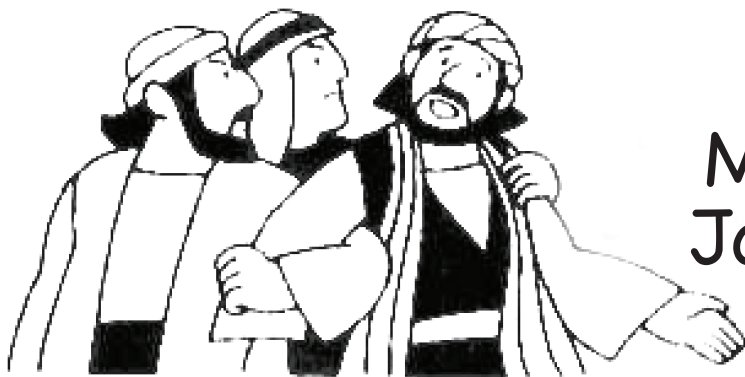
Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Lesson 9

End of Third Missionary Journey: Journey to Jerusalem

Sunday, May 9



Warnings on the Journey to Jerusalem - Acts 21:1-14

1. Now it came to pass, that when we had departed from them and set sail, running a straight course we came to Cos, the following day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.
2. And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.
3. When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo.
4. And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, til we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.
5. These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.
6. When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home.
7. And when we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them on day.
8. On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.
9. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.
10. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down to Judea.
11. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.”
12. And when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.
13. Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”
14. So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, “The will of the Lord be done.”

Short Answer

1. After leaving Miletus, Paul and his companions (note pronoun we) came to _____.

Rhodes and _____. After finding a ship, they sailed to Phoenicia.

The ships of Paul's day were sailing vessels. Draw a picture of how you think this ship would look.

2. Where did Paul's ship land?

3. At whose house did Paul and his companions stay?

4. Look back at Acts 6:5. Why was Philip called one of the seven?

5. Who was the prophet from Judea who came to visit Paul? What did he do?

6. What did the disciples plead with Paul not to do?

7. What was Paul's answer to them?

Thought Question

Paul and the disciples surrendered their will to God. Tell of an example when you had to turn a problem completely over to God and trust him.

Song "My Jesus, As Thou Wilt" Page 354

Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem at Pentecost - Acts 21:15-25

15. And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem.
16. Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them one, Mason of Cyprus, and early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.
17. And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.
18. On the following day Paul went in with us to James and all the elders were present.
19. When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.
20. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law;

21. “but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor walk according to the customs.
22. “What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come.
23. Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow.
24. “Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.
25. “But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.

Short Answer

1. At whose house did Paul and his companions stay?
2. Who met Paul and his companions?
3. Paul went to see James and the elders. This James was the brother of Jesus, not the apostle. Look back in Acts 12:2. What had happened to the apostle James?
4. What was James and the elders’ reaction to Paul’s report?
5. Look back in Acts 20:4. Who were some of the Gentile believers who accompanied Paul to Jerusalem?
6. James and the other disciples told that there were reports circulating that Paul had been urging Jews to abandon Mosaic traditions. To show his respect for the Jewish Christians, what did he do along with four men?

Paul Arrested in the Temple - Acts 21:26-40

26. Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each of them.
27. And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,
28. crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law and this place.”

29. (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)
30. And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.
31. Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.
32. He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.
33. Then the commander came near and took him, commanded him to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done.
34. And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. And when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks.
35. And when he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob.
36. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!"
37. And as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I speak to you?" He replied, "Can you speak Greek?"
38. Are you not the Egyptian who came time ago, raised an insurrection and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?"
39. But Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people."
40. So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying,

True or False

- ___ 1. The Jews from Asia accused Paul of teaching all men not to observe the law of Moses.
- ___ 2. The Jews from Asia accused Paul of bringing Greeks into the temple.
- ___ 3. The Jews did not really want to hurt Paul; they just wanted to scare him.
- ___ 4. The Roman commander rescued Paul from the mob.
- ___ 5. Paul spoke to the Roman commander in Hebrew.
- ___ 6. The Roman commander mistook Paul for an Egyptian who led 4,000 men in an assassination attempt.
- ___ 7. Paul spoke to the crowd in the Greek Language.

Thought Question

"Away with him" is an expression used by another crowd in a previous Bible story.

Look at Luke 23:18. Who did this crowd want to see put to death?

Would you be willing to die for Christ?

Daily Bible Reading

Monday, May 10 — Acts 22:22–23:10

Tuesday, May 11 — Acts 23:11–22

Wednesday, May 12 — Acts 23:23–35

Memory Verse

Acts 23:11

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”



Lesson 10

In Jerusalem: Paul Defends the Gospel

Wednesday, May 12

Before a crowd in Jerusalem, Paul (In Chapter 22) explained that he understood why they were zealous for God. Paul was not blaming them for what they had done to him. He pointed out that in his former zeal, he would have done the same thing and that his life was changed on the road to Damascus.

In what previous chapter did we read about Paul's conversion?

Paul's Roman Citizenship - Acts 22:22–23:10

22. And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!”
23. Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air,
24. the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him.
25. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?”
26. When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, “Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman.”
27. Then the commander came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman?” He said, “Yes.”
28. The commander answered, “With a large sum I obtained this citizenship.” And Paul said, “But I was born a citizen.”
29. Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.
30. The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.

Chapter 23

1. Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."
2. And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.
3. Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"
4. And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"
5. Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"
6. But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"
7. And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided.
8. For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.
9. Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God."
10. Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.

Short Answer

1. After Paul finished speaking, what did the crowd want to do with him?
2. How did they show their anger?
3. How did Paul's Roman citizenship protect him?

Do you remember what city Paul was from?

4. The next day, who did Paul appear before to give his defense? (Hint: 22:30)
5. What was Paul's beginning statement to this assembly?

6. What happened to Paul after he made this statement?

What was Paul's reaction to this?

7. Was Paul sorry that he had been disrespectful?

8. What two religious groups were represented in the council?

9. Look up Sadducees and Pharisees in the Bible dictionary?

10. Look in Acts 23:8. What two things did the Sadducees believe?

11. What group found nothing wrong with Paul?

12. What did the Roman commander decide to do with Paul?

The Plot Against Paul - Acts 23:11-22

11. But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

12. And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

13. Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy.

14. They came to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul.

15. Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

16. So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.

17. Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him."

18. So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you."

19. Then the commander took him by the hand, went aside, and asked privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"

20. And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him.
21. But do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you."
22. So the commander let the young man depart, and commanded him , "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me."

True or False

- ____ 1. During the night, the Lord spoke to Paul in jail and assured him he would bear witness in Spain.
- ____ 2. Paul's nephew heard about a plot by 50 men to kill Paul.
- ____ 3. Paul's nephew told the commander about the plot.
- ____ 4. The commander didn't believe Paul's nephew's story.

Paul Sent to Felix - Acts 23:23-35

23. And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night;
24. and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor."
25. He wrote a letter in the following manner:
26. Claudius Lysias,
To the most excellent governor Felix:
Greetings.
27. This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman.
28. And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council.
29. I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him deserving of death or chains.
30. And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him. Farewell.
31. Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.
32. The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks.
33. When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.
34. And when the governor had read it , he asked what province he was from. And when he understood that he was from Cilicia,
35. he said, "I will hear you when your accusers also have come." And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's Praetorium.

True or False

- ____ 1. The Roman commander decided to send Paul to the governor in Cilicia.
- ____ 2. Paul was escorted out of Jerusalem in the afternoon.
- ____ 3. The commander wrote a letter to the governor, Festus.
- ____ 4. The governor held Paul in prison in Herod's Praetorium.

Daily Bible Reading

Thursday, May 13 — Acts 24:1–9

Friday, May 14 — Acts 24:10–21

Saturday, May 15 — Acts 24:22–27

Memory Verse

Acts 24:25

Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self control, and the judgement to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”



Lesson 11

Paul Before Felix

Sunday, May 16

Before a crowd in Jerusalem, Paul (In Chapter 22) explained that he understood why they were zealous for God. Paul was not blaming them for what they had done to him. He pointed out that in his former zeal, he would have done the same thing and that his life was changed on the road to Damascus.

In what previous chapter did we read about Paul's conversion?

Paul Accused – Acts 24:1–9

1. Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul.
2. And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: “Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight,
3. we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness.
4. Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us.
5. For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.
6. He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.
7. But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands,
8. commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.”
9. And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

Short Answer

1. After how many days was the evidence brought to the governor against Paul?
2. Who came from Jerusalem to bring charges against Paul?
3. Who was the spokesperson?
4. Look in verses 5 and 6. With what three things did the Jews charge Paul?

The Defense Before Felix – Acts 24:10–21

10. Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: “Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself,
11. because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship.
12. And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city.
13. Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.
14. But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.
15. I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.
16. This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.
17. “Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation,
18. in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult.
19. They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me.
20. Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council,
21. unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.’”

True or False

- ___ 1. Paul was unhappy to give his defense before Felix.
- ___ 2. Paul said he had only been in Jerusalem fourteen days.
- ___ 3. Paul admitted that he disputed in the temple and incited the crowd in the synagogue.
- ___ 4. Paul confessed that he worshiped God and believed in the resurrection.
- ___ 5. Paul said he had a clear conscience toward God but not toward man.
- ___ 6. Paul said the real accuser (some Jews from Asia) should have come to give the accusations personally.

Felix Procrastinates - Acts 24:22-27

22. But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case."
23. So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.
24. And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.
25. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."
26. Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.
27. But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

Verse 22 says that Felix had knowledge of "The Way," or the Christian faith. He probably heard of it from his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. She was the great-granddaughter of Herod the Great who had tried to kill baby Jesus. She was the great-niece of Herod who killed John the Baptist. Her father was the man who had the apostle James put to death. Felix was also acquainted with Christianity from having governed Judea and Samaria for 6 years.

Short Answer

1. Look up the word "procrastinate" in the dictionary. What does it mean?
2. What did Felix do after he heard from the accusers and Paul?
3. Who did he want to hear before he decided Paul's case?
4. While Paul was being held, could he have visitors?
5. After a few days, to whom did Paul preach?
6. What three things did Paul preach (reason)?

7. What was Felix's reaction?

What was his statement to Paul?

8. What did Felix really want from Paul?

9. Who succeed Felix as governor?

10. How long was Paul kept in the Caesarean prison?

Song #21 "Almost Persuaded"

Daily Bible Reading

Monday, May 17 — Acts 25:1–12

Tuesday, May 18 — Acts 25:13–27

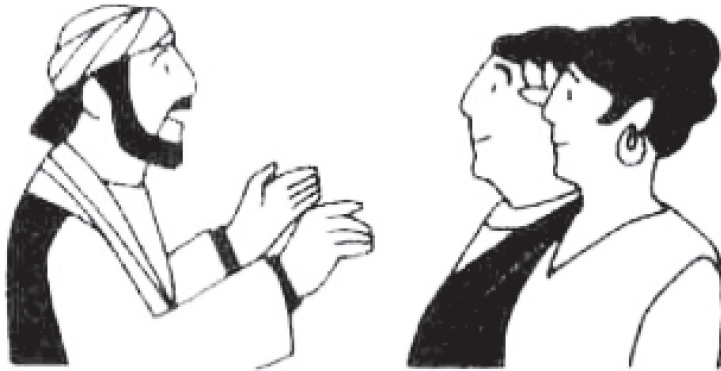
Wednesday, May 19 —

Acts 26:1–11, 24–32

Memory Verse

Acts 26:27–28

“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”



Lesson 12

Paul Before Agrippa

Wednesday, May 19

Paul Appeals to Caesar - Acts 25:1-12

1. Now when Festus had come to the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem.
2. Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him,
3. asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem – while they lay in ambush along the road to kill him.
4. But Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there shortly.
5. “Therefore,” he said, “let those who have authority among you go down with me and accuse this man, to see if there is any fault in him.”
6. And when he had remained among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day, sitting on the judgment seat, he commanded Paul to be brought.
7. When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove,
8. While he answered for himself, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.”
9. But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?”
10. Then Paul said, “I stand at Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know.
11. “For if I am an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.”
12. Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, “You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!”

Short Answer

1. Who did Festus visit in Jerusalem?
2. What did they request of Festus?
3. What was Festus' answer to them?
4. Could the Jews prove their accusations against Paul?
5. Paul also answered that they could not prove that he had done anything against _____, nor _____, nor against_____.
6. What did Festus do because he wanted to do a favor to the Jews?
7. Because Paul didn't want to be tried in Jerusalem before the Sanhedrin, to whom did he appeal?

Paul Before Agrippa - Acts 25:13-27

13. And after some days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus.
14. When they had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying; "There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix,
15. "about whom the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, when I was in Jerusalem, asking for a judgment against him.
16. "To them answered, "It is not the custom of the Romans to deliver any man to destruction before the accused meets the accusers face to face, and has opportunity to answer for himself concerning the charge against him."
17. "Therefore when they had come together, without any delay, the next day I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in.
18. "When the accusers stood up, they brought no accusation against him of such things as I supposed,
19. "but had some questions against him about their won religion and about one, Jesus, who had died, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.
20. "And because I was uncertain of such questions, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters.

21. "But when Paul appealed to be reserved for the decision of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I could send him to Caesar."
22. Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I also would like to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," he said, "you shall hear him."
23. So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in.
24. And Festus said; "King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he was not fit to live any longer.
25. "But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him.
26. "I have nothing certain to write to my Lord concerning him. Therefore I have brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write.
27. "For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not to specify the charges against him."

Short Answer

1. Who came to Caesarea to greet Festus?
2. What did the Roman law require an accused person to do?
3. Once he heard about Paul, what did King Agrippa want to do?
4. Look in verse 27. What was troubling about Paul's case?

Paul's Early Life - Acts 26:1-11

1. Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself;
2. "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all things of which I am accused by the Jews,
3. "especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.
4. "My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.
5. "They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

6. "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.
7. "To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.
8. "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?"
9. "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
10. "This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.
11. "And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to the foreign cities.

True or False

- ___ 1. Paul was not happy to present his case to King Agrippa.
- ___ 2. King Agrippa was familiar with the Jewish customs and questions.
- ___ 3. Paul was a strict Pharisee.
- ___ 4. At one time, Paul helped to put Christians in prison.

Agrippa Avoids Paul's Challenge - Acts 26:24-32

24. Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"
25. But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.
26. "For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.
27. "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."
28. Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
29. And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."
30. When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them;
31. and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying "This man is doing nothing worthy of death or chains."
32. Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Short Answer

1. After telling King Agrippa about his conversion on the road to Damascus, what did Festus accuse Paul?
2. What was the statement King Agrippa made to Paul? “You almost persuade me to become a _____.”
3. Did King Agrippa think Paul was guilty of death or chains?
4. Could Paul have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar?

Roman Citizenship

What did it mean to be a citizen of Rome?

1. A Roman citizen had the right to vote.
2. A citizen of Rome was guaranteed a fair trial.
3. A citizen was protected against certain forms of harsh punishment.
4. A Roman citizen could not be executed without a trial and could not be crucified except by order of the emperor.
5. A citizen could even appeal to Caesar in order to be tried in Rome.

Thought Question

1. Why do you think Paul really appealed to Caesar, to save his own life or to serve God? Acts 23:11
2. Tell ways in which you can use your American citizenship to advance the cause of Christ.