

LESSON 10

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the main destinations and events of Paul's first missionary journey.
2. To learn that preaching the gospel is engaging in a spiritual warfare for the souls of men.
3. To learn about the spiritual tools needed for evangelism.

MEMORY VERSE

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

(Romans 10:15)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, God, for bringing us together on this Holy Sabbath Day to worship and praise You.
2. You have given us the word of life, which is able to lead us into eternal life.
3. Through our study of Paul's first missionary journey, we will learn that it is Your desire for us to bring the gospel to the people of the world so that they, too, can receive the hope of salvation.
4. May You guide us through today's lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. To the End of the Earth

- Antioch in Syria
- Paphos
- Antioch in Pisidia
- Iconium
- Lystra

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Salvation

3. Life Application

- The Battle between God and Satan
- Our Tools and Weapons

4. Activity—Gospel Shoes Magnet



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Before the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave the disciples the Great Commission: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

In the earlier chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, we can see how the gospel gradually spread from Jerusalem to wider circles. Due to persecution, the members of the Jerusalem church had scattered and spread out throughout Judea and Samaria, taking the gospel with them. Then, Gentiles began to enter the fold. With Paul's first missionary journey, the time was ripe for the church to enter the third phase of the Great Commission: witnessing for Christ to the end of the earth.

Directed by the Holy Spirit, Paul and Barnabas embarked on their journey to bring the gospel to far lands. Why did Paul and Barnabas go where they did?

- a. The Holy Spirit led them.
- b. They followed the communication routes of the Roman Empire, which made travel easier.
- c. They visited key population and cultural centers to reach as many people as possible.
- d. They went to cities with synagogues, speaking first to the Jews in the hopes that they would see Jesus as the Messiah and help spread the gospel to everyone.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Students at this age typically have no concrete idea about the importance of evangelism and missionary trips. Therefore, learning about Paul's missionary journeys is integral to helping them understand why we need to preach and why everyone has the responsibility of telling the good news to others.

Even though our students may be too young to go on missionary journeys, they can participate in the work by remembering to pray for the safety of the pastors and workers and for the gospel to spread quickly. One way to make it real for them is to invite a pastor or a member who has volunteered in missionary trips to do an experience talk. The stories and testimonies from such sharing will certainly impress the importance of evangelism on their young minds.



Opener

5 Minutes

Have you ever been on a trip with your family or friends?
Did you write about the things you saw, the food you ate, and the fun things you did?
After the trip, to whom did you talk about your trip?

Today, we are going to learn about a trip that two apostles, Paul and Barnabas, made. Theirs was not an ordinary trip; rather, it was a missionary trip that would bring the gospel to the people of different lands.



Vocabulary

missionary: a person who is sent to preach the gospel

fasting: the act of refraining from eating and drinking for a period of time

opposition: the actions or opinions of people who disagree with something or someone

sorcery: the use of powers obtained through the evil spirit to do things such as fortune telling

persecute: to treat someone cruelly or unfairly because of their race or beliefs



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

- Prepare a map (that incorporates Israel and Asia Minor) and five colored postcard-sized cards for each student.
- Prepare a large-sized map and post it on the white board.
- As you speak about each location, write the place names on your map and have students do the same. After you talk about each location, allow time for students to write their postcards.
- After the lesson, post the students' maps and the postcards on the wall. Use short pieces of yarn and pushpins to connect the locations on the map.

As we go through this lesson, imagine that you are traveling with Paul and Barnabas on this epic first missionary journey. Your job is to chart the progress of the journey on the map and to send out postcards to the church in Antioch from each destination. You may choose to address the postcards to the entire church or to one

particular person. Write about the main events that happened at each location and include your personal thoughts and feelings.

1. Antioch in Syria

One day, as some of the prophets and teachers were worshipping and fasting here in the church in Antioch, the Holy Spirit spoke with an important message. He said, "Separate Barnabas and Paul to Me for the special work I have for them."

After more fasting and prayer, the men laid hands on them, and then they set off on their first missionary trip.

2. Paphos

One of the main stops that the Holy Spirit directed Paul to was the island of Cyprus. When they came to Paphos,

they met a Jewish sorcerer called Bar-Jesus, or Elymas in Greek. Elymas was connected to the proconsul of that island, whose name was Sergius Paulus. The proconsul was an intelligent man, and he invited Paul and Barnabas to share the gospel with him, but this did not please Elymas. Elymas urged the governor not to pay attention to what they were saying, and he tried to keep him from accepting the gospel. But Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, rebuked the sorcerer severely. Let's turn to Acts 13:10 to find out how Paul rebuked him.

Why do you think Paul called the sorcerer the "son of the devil," "an enemy of all righteousness"? Who prevents people from believing in the Lord? That's right, Satan. Satan tries his best to hinder people from knowing God and from being saved. Therefore, anyone who prevents others from receiving the gospel would be doing the same works as Satan. Like Satan, he would be an enemy of all that is good. Paul faced hindrances and opposition to the gospel such as these time and time again on this missionary journey.

Now let's turn to Acts 13:11-12 to find out what happened to the sorcerer after Paul rebuked him.

God struck the sorcerer with blindness for a while. Instantly, darkness came upon him and he became blind. He had to beg for someone to lead him. When the governor saw what happened to the sorcerer, he fully believed in the power of God and the message of the gospel.

3. Antioch in Pisidia

Paul's next stop was a city called Antioch in Pisidia. This Antioch in Pisidia is different from Antioch in Syria. [Have students locate this on the map.]

On the Sabbath, Paul and those with him went to the Jewish synagogue for services as usual, where the rulers of the synagogue invited him to speak. This was a great opportunity to tell the Jews and the Gentiles there about the Lord Jesus. After the service, they were asked to return the next week.

The following week, almost the entire city turned out to hear the word of God. However, further opposition arose.

Read Acts 13:45. What were the reasons for the opposition? [Allow students time to answer.] When the Jews who did not believe in the message saw the great crowd that had shown up to listen to Paul, they became very jealous and began to curse and argue with Paul.

So, Paul and Barnabas boldly said to them, "The word of God was given to the Jews first; but since you reject it, we will offer it to the Gentiles." When the Gentiles heard this

they were very glad. The gospel spread throughout that area.

The Jewish leaders did not give up. They continued to make trouble by turning the people against Paul and Barnabas so that they were forced to leave the town.

4. Iconium

When Paul and those with him came to Iconium, they went as usual to preach in the synagogue where many people believed, Jews and Gentiles alike. But again, the unbelieving Jews began to say all sorts of evil things about them. However, this did not discourage them. They stayed in Iconium for quite a long time preaching, and the Lord performed great signs and miracles through the apostles. But when Paul and Barnabas learned of a plot to attack and stone them, they fled and went to preach the gospel in other cities instead.

5. Lystra

When the apostles came to Lystra, they met a man who had been crippled since birth. Read Acts 14:9-10 to find out what happened to this man.

When the crowds saw how the lame man was healed, what was their response? [Allow students time to answer.]

When the crowds saw what God had done, they shouted, "The gods have come down as men!" They thought that the apostles were gods in the flesh. They then decided that Barnabas was the Greek god Zeus and that Paul was Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The local priests began to bring cartful of flowers and oxen, and they wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

What did Paul and Barnabas do when they saw what was happening? That's right. They tore their clothes and ran to the middle of the crowd, crying, "We are human beings like you! We are here to ask that you turn from the worship of these useless things and pray instead to the living God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them." After they said this, the apostles could barely restrain the people from sacrificing to them.

What strategy did Satan use here to hinder the gospel? [Allow students time to answer.] Satan does not only use persecution to stop the spreading of the gospel. In this instance, he tried to cause the apostles to fall into temptation. If the apostles grew proud and accepted the honor and glory that the crowds were laying on them, they would have fallen right into Satan's trap and sinned against God.

When Paul and Barnabas resisted the temptation, Satan again tried to oppose the work by turning the people against them.

Read Acts 14:19-20 to find out what happened to Paul. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium that had been persecuting Paul and Barnabas came to Lystra to do the same. They convinced the same crowds, who just recently had wanted to worship them, to turn against them. Together, they stoned Paul and, thinking that he was dead, dragged him out of the city. But when the believers gathered around him, they realized that he was still alive. He got up and went back into the city.

they had visited on this trip. Even though they had faced persecution in those places, they were not discouraged. They were eager to encourage the believers to remain strong in the faith.

So, after revisiting Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia, they made their way down to the coast where they found a ship that would take them back to Antioch in Syria. When they arrived, they called together the believers and told them all that God had done on their first missionary journey.

Going Home

After this, Barnabas and Paul returned to the places that



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation is given by grace through faith.

God desires that all men come to the knowledge of Him, to believe in Him and be saved from eternal punishment. This saving grace can only be obtained freely through faith in the Lord Jesus and no other.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

First Missionary Journey Review

Preparations

Before class, cut out the provided cards. Make one set of cards per 2-3 students. Mix up the cards and put them in an envelope or a plastic bag.

Instructions

1. Divide the students into small groups of two or three and give each group of students a set of cards.
2. Ask the students to place the cards in the order of the journey horizontally, with the first city on the very left. [The cards should read, left to right: Antioch in Syria, Paphos, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra.]
3. Working in their groups, the students will read each event card and then place it under the city in which it occurred.

Answers

Antioch in Syria

- Here, the Holy Spirit instructed Paul and Barnabas to be separated for His work.

Paphos

- It was at this city that the gospel was preached to the proconsul Sergius Paulus.
- Elymas, also called Bar-Jesus, tried to obstruct the gospel in this city.

Lystra

- Paul healed a lame man in this city.
- The people of this city thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods, and they wanted to worship and offer sacrifices to them.
- Paul was stoned and, presumed dead, dragged out of this city.

Antioch in Pisidia

- On the Sabbath, Paul was invited to speak in the synagogue here.
- In this city, Paul said that the gospel would be offered to the Gentiles because the Jews rejected it.

Iconium

- Paul and Barnabas fled this city when they found out about a plot to attack and stone them.



Life Application

10 Minutes

A. The Battle between God and Satan

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. Guide them to complete the worksheet as you teach.]

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, man became bound by sin and came under the dominion of Satan. Man would be doomed to suffer eternally in hell. But God loved men, and He desired that all men be delivered from darkness, sin, judgment, and death. So, He came to the earth to die on the cross so that, through His blood, man can be cleansed of sin. To accomplish this great task, God needs us to go out and preach the gospel and rescue the souls of men from the hands of Satan.

But Satan will not let go of these souls so easily. He does not want people to know the Lord Jesus and receive eternal life, which is why he makes every effort to oppose and stop the work of the gospel. He will utilize people to obstruct the gospel. In 1 John 5:19, it tells us that because the people of the world belong to Satan, they are under his influence.

From today's lesson, we can see that Paul and Barnabas encountered trouble at every location they came to. Can you identify those whom Satan used to oppose Paul and Barnabas?

Paphos	Elymas the sorcerer tried to prevent the proconsul from believing.
Antioch	The unbelieving Jews spoke against Paul and turned the rest of the people against them.
Iconium	The unbelieving Jews spoke evil against Paul. They plotted to stone and attack the apostles.
Lystra	The people of the city wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. They later stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Paul encourages the members in the church in Thessalonica to remember to pray for two things. One is to pray that the gospel can spread quickly and unhindered. The other is that when Paul and the other workers go forth to preach, they can be kept safe from people whom Satan uses to harm them. These are things that we should remember in our daily prayers.

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

B. Our Tools and Weapons

Since preaching is a battle between God and Satan, we need tools and weapons that will help us fight effectively. Let's look at some of the tools that enabled Paul to fight effectively on the missionary battlefield.

a. Filled with the Holy Spirit

Because Paul was filled with the Spirit of God, he had the courage to speak the word of God boldly and correct those who opposed him. Through the Holy Spirit, Paul had the power to perform great miracles, he had the strength to endure hardships, and he had the wisdom to see through the tricks of the devil.

b. Never Discouraged

Paul understood that spreading the gospel was a battle between God and Satan for men's souls. As the chosen vessel of God to preach the gospel, Paul fought hard to win souls for God. Even when faced with constant persecution and opposition, Paul was never discouraged but rather fought with the spirit of a Christian soldier.

c. Remained Humble

Paul recognized that the power to perform miracles or convert people to the truth did not belong to him, but to God. Knowing that he was just an instrument used by God kept him humble.

d. Filled with Love

Paul's love for mankind motivated him to devote his life to sharing the gospel. In Romans 9:3, Paul says that he was willing to be separate from Christ and give up his own chances of being saved if it meant that his countrymen could be saved. Paul had an abundant love for others because he understood God's undying love for him.

Have the class read the following scenarios, and then divide the students into smaller groups of two or three for the discussion. Allocate time at the end for the groups to come together to share ideas with the rest of the class.

Instructions: Match the scenarios below with the tools and weapons we need to wage the battle for the gospel.

[Refer to the worksheet for the scenarios. Suggested answers for the discussion questions are provided below.]

Scenario 1 (Filled with the Holy Spirit)

- **What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?**
- **Which tool would you need? Why?** When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He will lead us to say the right things and have the courage to speak up for the truth.
- **What would you say to your classmates?**

Scenario 2 (Remain Humble)

- **What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?**
- **Which tool would you need? Why?** We need to remember that it was the Lord Jesus, not us, who died on the cross and shed His blood to save the souls of men. We have no power or ability to save. Therefore, when we have the opportunity to bring others to the Lord, we should serve humbly, faithfully, and with a thankful heart.
- **How would you respond to the praise?**

Scenario 3 (Filled with Love)

- **What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?**
- **Which tool would you need? Why?** While we are in this world, we will encounter all kinds of troubles and problems. As God's children, we are very fortunate in that we have a heavenly Father to whom we can turn. But for those who don't know God, this is the best time for us to show God's love to them. We can tell them about God. We can share our own stories about how God helped and comforted us. We can also pray for them. Even though they may not respond immediately, we can still use different ways to show love. Oftentimes, people heal faster because of the love of others.
- **What would you say or do to comfort Brent?**

Scenario 4 (Never Discouraged)

- **What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?**
- **Which tools would you need? Why?** It's easy to give up when you don't get a positive response after preaching to others. But from Paul's example, we learn that we should not be discouraged, even when the situation appears to be hopeless. The most effective way is to pray for them because only God can remove the obstacles that hinder a person from seeing the truth. Perhaps we can come up with other ways of sharing the truth with them. We can send cards or letters to let them know that we are thinking of them, we can send them church magazines, and we can always demonstrate a Christ-like character. Sometimes, our good conduct can win over those who disbelieve. If we pray for them unceasingly, we will see good results in God's time.
- **What would you say to your aunt?**



Activity

Gospel Shoes Magnet

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind students of the importance of preaching the gospel to everyone around us.

Materials

- Play dough for baking, various colors
- Magnetic strips/circles
- Strong glue
- Sharpie
- Shoe template
- Oven

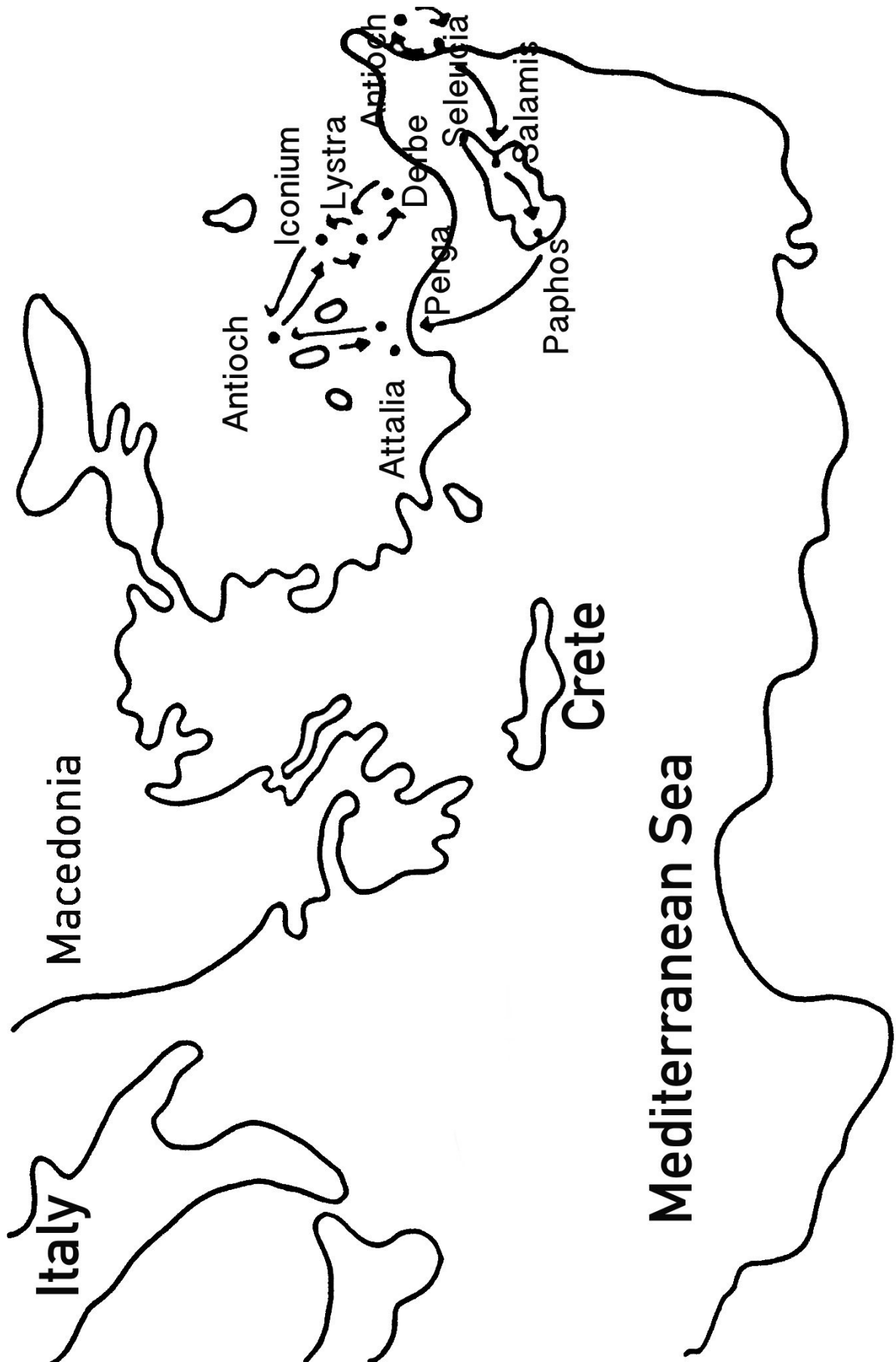
Instructions

1. Have students choose a color of play dough to be the base color for their gospel shoe.
2. Help students roll the dough to about half an inch thick.
3. Have students cut out the shape of the shoe using the template as a guide. Students may choose to create their own shoe.
4. Allow students to use other colors to decorate the shoe.
5. Place the completed shoes on a baking sheet and follow the instructions on the package to bake the dough.
6. After baking, allow the shoes to cool down sufficiently.
7. Ask students to use the Sharpie to write the memory verse, Romans 10:15, on the base of the shoe.
8. Attach a magnet to the back of the shoe using the glue.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Holy Spirit
2. lame man
3. spread the gospel
4. Jews
5. True
6. False; they tore their clothes and told the people that they were men, just as they were.
7. True
8. True
9. Answers may vary.
10. Those who preach the gospel spread the news about Jesus Christ, and by doing so, they share with others the chance to come to believe in Jesus Christ and receive water baptism, the Holy Spirit, and salvation.

Paul's First Missionary Journey



Paul's First Missionary Journey



Antioch in Syria	Paphos	Lystra
Antioch in Pisidia	Iconium	Here, the Holy Spirit instructed Paul and Barnabas to be separated for His work.
It was at this city that the gospel was preached to the proconsul Sergius Paulus.	Elymas, also called Bar-Jesus, tried to obstruct the gospel in this city.	Paul healed a lame man in this city.
The people of this city thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods, and they wanted to worship and offer sacrifices to them.	Paul was stoned and, presumed dead, dragged out of this city.	On the Sabbath, Paul was invited to speak in the synagogue here.
In this city, Paul said that the gospel would be offered to the Gentiles because the Jews rejected it.	Paul and Barnabas fled this city when they found out about a plot to attack and stone them.	

Paul's First Missionary Trip

A. The Battle between God and Satan

1. From today's lesson, we can see that Paul and Barnabas encountered trouble at every location they came to. Identify those whom Satan used to oppose Paul and Barnabas.

- a. Paphos - _____
- b. Antioch in Pisidia - _____
- c. Iconium - _____
- d. Lystra - _____

2. In 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Paul encourages the members in the church in Thessalonica to pray for two things. Fill in the blanks to find out what these are:

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the _____ of the _____ may _____ and be _____, just as it is with you, and that _____ may be _____ from _____ and _____ men; for not all have _____.

B. Our Tools and Weapons

Since preaching is a battle between God and Satan, we need tools and weapons that will help us fight effectively.

a. Filled with the Holy Spirit

Find the answers from the word pool to see how the Holy Spirit helped Paul.

correct wisdom boldly power courage strength

He had the _____ to speak the word of God _____.

He was able to _____ those who opposed him.

He was given _____ to perform great miracles.

He had the _____ to endure hardships.

He had the _____ to see through the tricks of the devil.

b. Never Discouraged

Even when faced with constant persecution and opposition, Paul was _____.

He fought with the spirit of a _____.

c. Remained Humble

Paul recognized that the power to perform miracles or convert people to the truth was from _____. Knowing that he was just an _____ used by God kept him _____.

d. Filled with Love

Paul had an _____ for _____ because he understood _____ undying love for him.

Match the scenarios below with the right tools and weapons.

- Filled with Love
- Filled with the Holy Spirit
- Never Discouraged
- Remain Humble

Scenario 1

During lunch at school, some of your classmates talk about how man came from monkeys. "Only stupid people believe that God created humans," they say. One of them then turns to you and asks, "Hey, don't you believe in God and go to church?"

- What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?
- Which tool would you need? Why?
- What would you say to your classmates?

**Scenario 2**

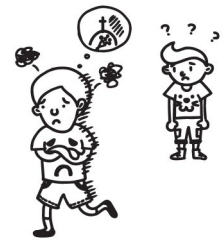
Austin, your friend from school, and his mom have been coming to church each Sabbath. Austin likes church and enjoys attending the R.E. classes. During an R.E. prayer session, Austin receives the Holy Spirit and the following Spiritual Convocation, he and his mother get baptized. Everyone is very joyful, especially you. Someone then comes up to you and praises you for doing such a great job in bringing your friend to church.

- What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?
- Which tool would you need? Why?
- How would you respond to the praise?

**Scenario 3**

Ever since Brent, your friend from next door, lost his father, he has not been his usual fun-loving, talkative self. In fact, he has been behaving like a totally different person. He no longer shows interest in playing ball or doing any of the fun stuff you both used to do. Brent now prefers to be by himself.

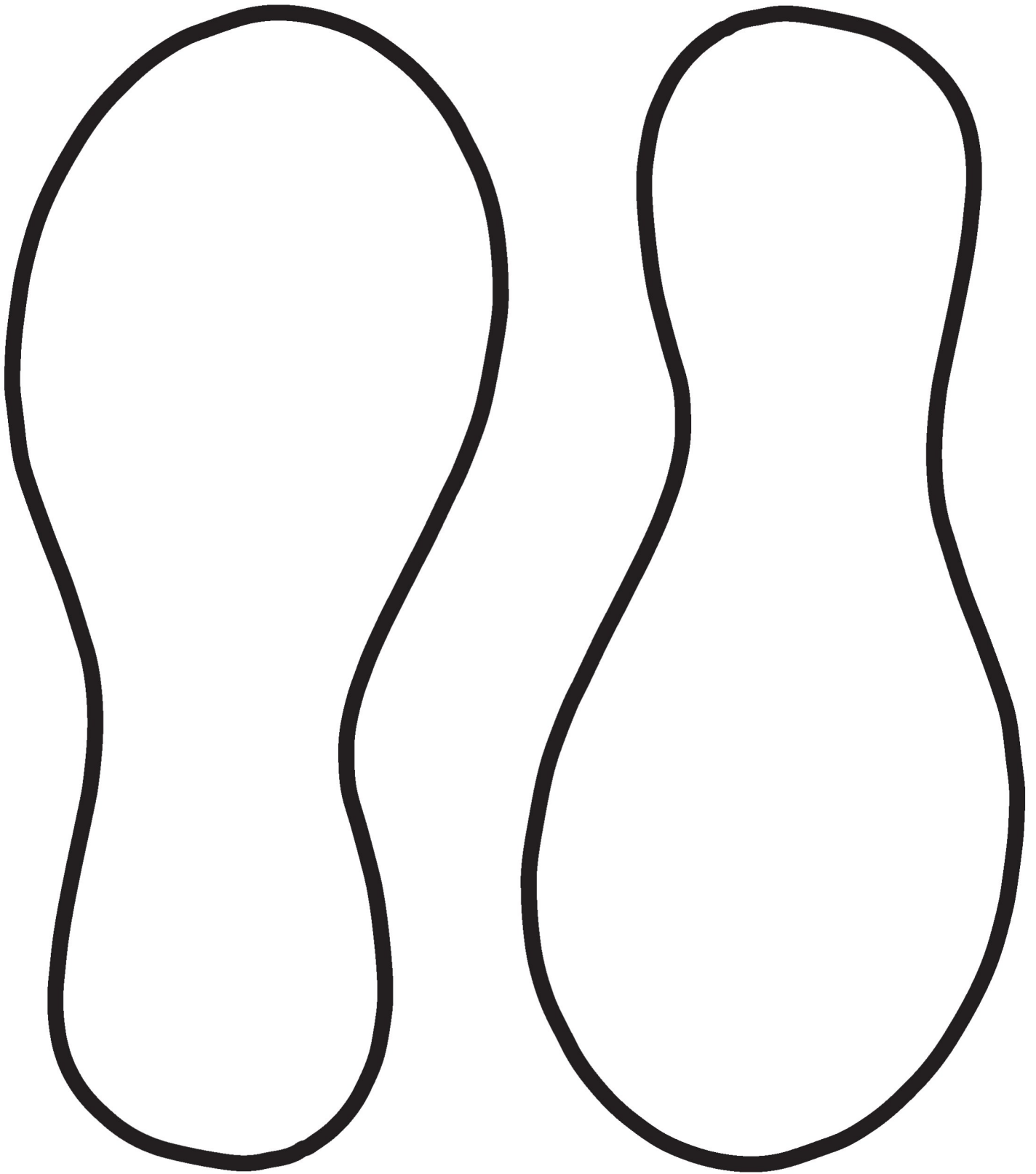
- What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?
- Which tool would you need? Why?
- What would you say or do to comfort Brent?

**Scenario 4**

Aunt Kate is your favorite aunt. During her visits, she brings small treats and sometimes you do exciting things together. However, Aunt Kate does not believe in God. Whenever your parents speak to her about going to church, Aunt Kate just keeps quiet. You learn from R.E. class that if Aunt Kate does not accept the gospel, she will not have a chance to go to heaven. You decide to invite her to come to church each time you see her. One day, after speaking to her about church, Aunt Kate sternly warns you to stop talking to her about God otherwise she will no longer visit.

- What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?
- Which tools would you need? Why?
- What would you say to your aunt?





E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 10—Paul's First Missionary Journey

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Romans 10:15**)

Circle the Correct Words

1. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the (Jews, apostles, Holy Spirit) said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
2. At Lystra, Paul healed the (sorcerer Elymas, lame man, proconsul).
3. A missionary is someone who is sent to (build churches, help the poor, spread the gospel).
4. At Antioch in Pisidia, the (Jews, Gentiles, Romans) opposed Paul because of their unbelief and jealousy.

True or False

5. Paul and Barnabas faced much persecution and trouble when preaching the gospel because Satan tried to hinder the truth. _____
6. Paul and Barnabas allowed the people of Lystra to worship them when they thought they were gods. _____
7. After seeing how Elymas the sorcerer was struck with blindness, the proconsul believed in the gospel. _____
8. God wants us to preach the gospel so that the souls of men can be rescued from the hands of Satan. _____

Short Answer

9. If you were a missionary, what would you want to share with people about God?

10. Review this week's memory verse. Why are the feet of those who preach the gospel beautiful?