

Elementary 1

Year 3 Book 3



The Lord Guides Our Path

Teacher's Guide & Student Worksheets

This Teacher's Guide is dedicated to those
who serve God in the children's ministry.

May God continue to grant you wisdom
and strength to impact the future generations.



"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in
that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 5:8)

Elementary 1 Year 3 Book 3

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All Scripture is quoted in NKJV.

Revised December 2014.

Always pray for your students and pray for the wisdom to teach!

Welcome to the world of six to eight-year-olds!

This is a wonderful age range to be teaching, as students are beginning to mature and understand more about the world around them. However, they haven't all grown up yet and still need your gentle nurturing to guide them.

Although your students are beginning to read, they still learn in a variety of ways, including visually, kinesthetically, and aurally. This means that it will be very important to use pictures and hands-on experiences as you tell the story in order to meet the needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are always good reminders at any level because they help the students make connections to the story and retain information. Hands-on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. For example, the students can be involved in making the scenes for the days of creation. This will help them remember what happened much better than just through a telling of the story. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned at the end of each lesson. By letting your students retell the information they have heard, you will be able to see what they really understood, and what might need to be revisited before you move on. Knowledge and learning need to be built upon what they have already grasped. Only then can the students build on their experiences and make the proper connections in future lessons. Furthermore, since they are learning to read, it is vital to ask students to read at least one verse from the Bible each week during class time. You can assist them if they are having difficulty with **vocabulary** words, but this is the time to help them practice turning to the right section of the Bible they are studying. This is a great habit to build up now.

This book is designed to be teacher-and-student friendly, and each lesson follows the same structure. As in all of the textbooks, there are sections before the start of the lesson that give relevant Bible background information. Take the time to review the **Before You Teach** and **Understanding Your Students** sections to familiarize yourself with the teachings since your students are more sophisticated and require more than just an overview of the Bible story. Occasionally, there will be some teaching ideas included. These are simply suggestions you may want to consider as you prepare your lesson. Of course, you can adapt them as you need for your class and students. The story section is a retelling of what is recorded in the Bible.

*“Him we preach,
warning
every man
and teaching
every man
in all wisdom,
that we may
present every
man perfect in
Christ Jesus.”*

—Colossians 1:28

Vocabulary

Before You Teach

Understanding
Your Students

You are encouraged to read it through, but remember to be ready to share the words of God, not to literally read from the pages of this guide. Please also review the story by using the questions provided in the **Check for Understanding** section. This will give you a good idea of how much the students understand. You can ask each question directly or use other creative ways to have students share their answers.

Check for Understanding

A key indicator to a successful lesson is what the lesson means to each student. What have they walked away with and how can they apply what they have learned? The lesson is not complete until you have shared the discussion questions found in the **Spiritual Teaching and Life Application** section. You want your students to leave the class with the feeling that they want to draw even closer to God through specific actions they can take. Help them make goals and be sure to encourage them in their efforts.

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

The last thing you will need to consider for class time is which **activities** will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several from which to choose. Again, depending on the time and the abilities of your class, you may choose to do one or two to reinforce the teachings of the lesson.

Activity

Since your students are learning to read and write, this guide has included a **Homework Assignment** section. This serves to remind the students of God's word at home during the week. There is **no** separate student workbook so you are encouraged to photocopy the homework sheets. The students can store their work in a binder or file folder. You can provide homework each week for them to insert in their folder or reproduce all twelve lessons at the beginning of each new quarter. Review the homework before they leave class so that the students are aware of what to complete and how to do it. You may need to brainstorm ideas for the life application questions so that the students have something to build on when they return home. All teachers need to consistently check homework to make this a useful tool and a good extension of the teachings. The students are also encouraged, via the homework assignment, to develop a daily Bible reading and prayer devotional time. Be sure the parents are aware of this expectation. A partnership between the teachers and parents will greatly facilitate the growing faith of the students.

Homework Assignment

Remember that your students are still growing. There are so many things they can do independently, but there are areas where they need extra support. Take time to get to know each of your students so that you can meet their needs. Most importantly, remember to allow time for yourself to grow closer to God as you help your students develop their relationship with Him!

You can't do **MORE** for your students until you have knelt down and **PRAYED** for each of them daily.

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.”
—Zechariah 4:6

YOUR TEACHING PROCEDURES

1

Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help the students praise God through hymnal worship.

Procedure: Always start a session in the name of our Lord Jesus. The teacher or assistants will then lead the students in simple hymns or action rhymes.

Be Prepared

Be Organized

Be Flexible

2

In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: To let the students hear a Bible story and respond to its teachings.

Procedure: Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship procedure. They are:

- 1) Bible Story
- 2) Check for Understanding
- 3) Spiritual Teaching and Life Application

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words and practice the memory verse, which are listed in each lesson.

3

Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help your students become familiar with the word of God is part of a teacher's mission, but an equally important part of the job is to help the students put the word of God to work in their own lives. The activities have been planned to encourage your students to act upon what they have learned.

Procedure: Let the students work on the activities. If the activities require group involvement or cutting and pasting, be sure to have assistant teachers. We have come up with a variety of activities, as well as optional ones. Please see what suits your students' needs. End the activity with a concluding prayer.

Teaching with Music

Do your students seem to enjoy music more than the lesson itself? Music can be an effective teaching technique within a lesson.

- Hymns that tell stories can enhance your lessons.
- Many students learn more easily if they can “feel” the material you are teaching. Choose hymns with motions and physical movement.
- Students who do not show emotion easily may find it easier to express themselves through hymns.

Keep these in mind when using music with your students:

- Learn the hymns before you teach them.
- Sing the new hymn to the students before you have them sing it.
- Sing the hymn in a variety of ways—assign parts, use rhythmic instruments, move around, and so on.

Teaching with Bible Dramatics

- Playacting can make Bible stories come alive for the students.
- Let the students volunteer for the roles they want.
- Encourage students to think about the mood, the setting, the characters, and their expressions and motives. They all contribute to making the story come alive.
- Encourage creativity. Acting out Bible stories can help students see the story and characters in a new way.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Elementary 1 (Ages 6-8)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
<p>Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still developing/growing, though the pace is slowing 2. Still get tired easily 3. No longer play alone; can adapt to group games or activities 	<p>Increase levels of difficulty in activities as the students become more able physically Do not stretch one activity for too long; find a balance between times of quietness and action Encourage student involvement with more cooperative group games; show respect to everyone</p>
<p>Mind</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have strong sense of imagination 2. Still think according to words on paper; cannot accept abstract ideas 3. Concept of space and time is still limited 4. Reading ability is gradually strengthening 5. Have excellent memory 6. Deductive thinking is still limited 	<p>Encourage the use of imagination, but help students to discern fact from fiction Use familiar similes and parallels to which students can relate, just like how Jesus used the familiar to teach the unfamiliar Be careful when describing time and space Encourage the reading of books that promote spirituality Encourage the memorization of Bible verses Repeat content regarding abstract terms and truths</p>
<p>Mood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very sensitive; can have outbursts of emotion 2. At the adorable stage: like to please teachers and receive praise 3. Full of compassion and care for others 4. Still tend to fear and withdraw 	<p>Get excited or saddened easily Easy to discipline, but pay special attention to giving praise and encouragement Nurture students to help, serve, and treat others fairly Provide a sense of security</p>
<p>Social Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make friends easily 2. Like to please adults 3. Like to cooperate and do not like to compete 4. Have good social skills; desire acceptance from others 5. Still like to quarrel with friends; always change their best friends 	<p>Help them to establish friendships Establish a student-teacher relationship Promote cooperation by offering group projects/activities Be careful not to promote hypocrisy when teaching Place emphasis on teaching students to love one another; encourage a giving spirit instead of a selfish one</p>
<p>Spirituality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a simple faith, are interested in a life of faith; will initiate prayer 2. Curious about death and heaven 3. Like to attend RE classes 4. Are learning to differentiate between real biblical stories and fictional fairy tales or legends 5. Are learning the moral teachings of good and evil 6. All spiritual experiences come from imitating adults 	<p>Use a systematic way of teaching faith and the truth; encourage prayer Simply explain the truth of salvation Nurture their interest in Bible reading and church activities Emphasize that the Bible contains the words of God and is not a common book, but one inspired and written by God Emphasize the moral aspects of the Bible Set a good example; share more spiritual experiences with students</p>

MEMORY VERSES

E1 Year 3 Book 3

March, April, May

1. "But do not forget to do good and to share." (Hebrews 13:16a)
2. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)
3. "Distributing to the needs of the saints." (Romans 12:13a)
4. "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."
(2 Thessalonians 3:3)
5. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15b)
6. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)
7. "Praying always for you." (Colossians 1:3b)
8. "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8b)
9. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." (Hebrews 4:12a)
10. "Sing to God, sing praises to His name." (Psalm 68:4a)
11. "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2a)
12. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."
(Acts 1:8a)

LESSON 1

THE EARLY CHURCH IS ESTABLISHED

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Pentecost

Pentecost, one of the three major annual Jewish feasts, marked the completion of the barley harvest. On this holiday, about fifty days after Jesus' resurrection and ten days after His ascension, Jewish people throughout the Roman empire gathered in the city of Jerusalem to observe the festival of thanksgiving (Lev 23:16).

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit came down fifty days after the crucifixion. Its coming was marked by the sound of a rushing mighty wind and tongues of fire. This fulfilled John the Baptist's words about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire (Lk 3:16), and Prophet Joel's words about the Spirit's outpouring (Jl 2:28-29). The Spirit enabled the apostles to speak in tongues they had not experienced before, allowing the people of many nationalities gathered there to hear their native languages being spoken. As a result, the people were able to see the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles

In Acts 1:26, the disciples were called apostles. Disciple means "follower" or "learner"; apostle means "messenger" or "missionary." During the life of Jesus, the disciples followed Him and He treated them like students. But they had a different role after the ascension of Jesus Christ. They had the special responsibility of preaching the gospel and spreading the news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The believers in Jerusalem set good examples for everyone to follow. They gathered together frequently for fellowship, prayer, and teachings by the apostles. They also shared all that they had. They recognized that they were all part of God's family and that it was their responsibility to help one another in any way possible.

It is important for your elementary students to develop this same attitude of worship. At this age, they enjoy worshipping with their peers. With encouragement and guidance, they can learn to commit themselves to the work of God. Lead a discussion on what fellowship means to them. Allow them to brainstorm the many ways they can be like the believers of Jesus' time. To encourage them to participate in God's work, assign specific tasks for them to do during each class (e.g., cleaning up, wiping the board, or collecting the books/materials). By beginning to work for God at this age, they will gradually come to appreciate the responsibility and role they play as a member of God's household.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 2; 4:32-40

BIBLE TRUTH

The first church in Jerusalem grew as Christians worshipped and worked together.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To encourage the students to take part in God's church and work.

MEMORY VERSE

"But do not forget to do good and to share."

(Hebrews 13:16a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for bringing us to church safely so that we can worship You. Last quarter, we learned about how You died on the cross and resurrected to give us salvation. You are the living God and You give us the precious Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus, we are about to begin a new quarter. Please help us understand Your words and teachings so that we can be good Christians. We need Your continuous guidance always. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

Pentecost: Jewish festival celebrated at the end of the barley harvest

disciple: follower, learner

apostle: missionary, messenger

ascension: the act or process of going up

REVIEW

Last quarter, we learned about the life of Jesus. While He was on earth, He went many places to preach the word of God. He also helped and healed many people. In Jesus' last week, after His grand entry into Jerusalem, He spent a lot of time with His disciples, teaching them more about God's kingdom. He shared Holy Communion with them, washed their feet, and prayed with them. Then, Jesus was crucified. But as He had promised, He resurrected three days later and stayed in the world for another forty days to teach His disciples. Jesus instructed them to spread the gospel of salvation to the people. The disciples were strengthened, and they bravely witnessed for God.

BIBLE STORY

The Holy Spirit Comes

Before His ascension to heaven, Jesus gave His disciples the important mission of preaching the gospel and caring for the church members. But because Jesus was no longer going to be in the world, He told them to wait in Jerusalem for something very important that would help them spread God's message of salvation. Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus were probably dreading the time when Jesus would ascend to heaven. He had been their Master and Teacher. Boys and girls, if someone close to you who teaches and guides you all this time suddenly needs to go away, how would you feel? How would you react if you were one of His disciples?

Nonetheless, the Lord said to them that He would not leave them alone. Although He was going to ascend to heaven, the Lord promised to send down the Holy Spirit to be with them and to guide them.

After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter and the other disciples stayed in Jerusalem, meeting every day and praying together. They waited patiently for Jesus' promise.

Ten days after Jesus' ascension, the people in Jerusalem gathered to celebrate the Pentecost. It was a special time to thank God for the harvest. The disciples were all praying together in one place. As they prayed, there was suddenly a sound like a rushing mighty wind that filled the house where they were staying and tongues of fire appeared and rested on them. This was the promised Holy Spirit. It filled the apostles, and they began to speak in tongues. They prayed so loudly that the people who had gathered to celebrate the Pentecost began to wonder what was happening. Among the crowd, there were devout Jews who came from many places outside of Jerusalem. They were shocked when they heard their native language

being spoken by the believers who were praying at that time. So the people began to talk among themselves and they wanted to know what all this meant. Some people were amazed, but others thought that the disciples had simply drunk too much wine and didn't know what they were saying.

Peter Comes Forth and Speaks Courageously

The disciples were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Now they realized the importance of the strength from God. After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up and went to speak to the crowd that had gathered. He realized that the people were in awe. But first, he wanted to correct those who thought they were drunk.

Peter said to the crowd, "What I have to say is very important. You must all listen carefully. We are not drunk, as some of you think. It is only nine in the morning."

Peter spoke with power from God and all the people listened with interest.

Peter continued to say, "What you have just seen and heard is the power of the Holy Spirit from God. Jesus told us that He would give us the Holy Spirit to help us. This is proof to you that Jesus is indeed God. You crucified Jesus on the cross but He has risen and is now in heaven."

3,000 Are Baptized

When the people heard this powerful message, they felt ashamed. They were cut to the heart. Now they believed in Jesus and were sorry that they had crucified Him.

The crowd cried out, "What should we do now?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The people who heard this were glad they still had a

chance to change their ways. They admitted their sins and were baptized. On that day, three thousand were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Now, they were part of God's family.

The Members Share Everything

After that day, the members of God's family met often and talked about Jesus. It was the beginning of regular worship and similar to how we go to church these days. The disciples taught the people about Jesus and what He did while He was on earth. They also sang hymns and prayed together. It was a joyous time for everyone.

However, some of the members did not have a lot of money. They had very few clothes and sometimes, they didn't even have enough food to eat. Their brothers in church who had more money thought that they should

help them, so they decided to share with the ones who had less.

One of the believers who wanted to help was called Barnabas.

"I have a big field," thought Barnabas. "I can sell the land and share the money with the members of God's family."

So Barnabas went and sold his field. He gave the money to the leaders of the church. He knew that Peter and the other apostles would use the money to help the poor people by buying them clothes and food to eat. The other members who could help also shared what they had so that no one in God's family had to suffer. They knew that Jesus wanted them to share and help one another in every way possible.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the _____ (Holy Spirit).
2. Peter told the crowd to repent and be _____ (baptized).
3. The believers _____ (shared) everything so that no one would be in need.
4. The Holy Spirit came the same day Jesus ascended to heaven. False; ten days after.
5. On the Day of Pentecost, over three hundred people got baptized. False; three thousand.
6. Why did some people in the crowd think that the apostles were drunk? Because the apostles were speaking in tongues, which they had never seen or heard.
7. Why did Jesus promise to give His believers the Holy Spirit? So they would have the power to preach and live godly lives.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"But do not forget to do good and to share." (Hebrews 13:16a)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. mighty wind
2. fire
3. baptized, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit
4. False; the people in the crowd heard the disciples speaking their native languages.
5. "But do not forget to do good and to share." (Hebrews 13:16a)
6. To wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit.
7. The Holy Spirit gave him strength.
8. Barnabas
9. They listened to the word of God, sang hymns, prayed together, and shared everything with one another.
10. We can speak words of kindness and care for them by praying for them, especially those who are weak in faith and in health. The Bible teaches us that we need to pray and care for one another.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Testimony: "For Everyone Who Asks, Receives"

In 1984, my family and I were baptized in the True Jesus Church. I was a teenager then. I did not understand the importance of religious education. I was not keen to go to church. As a result, I did not know the teachings of Christianity. Believers used to visit me. After each visit, I would attend a service or two, but would stop after that.

When I was in my first year at college, I started to seek God. I learned that I needed to receive the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of my salvation. But I did not know how to pray for the Holy Spirit. I became worried. A friend I spoke to invited me to attend a charismatic church. I went. Much to my delight, the talk was on how to pray for the Spirit. The speaker said that the Holy Spirit would fill me if I prayed with my hands raised and face lifted, saying "Hallelujah." When the preacher laid hands on me, I fell backwards. But I felt no Holy Spirit filling me. I stood up and felt a little ashamed. I watched the others praying. There was a boy who fell backwards on the floor. He was shouting in agony and was foaming at the mouth. I went home utterly confused.

I related the incident to a religious education teacher in the True Jesus Church. He explained to me that if it was truly the Holy Spirit from God, no one would be physically thrown backwards, foam in the mouth, or be in any agony. For God is a God of love, joy and peace. I felt ashamed before God. So great were my feelings of guilt and shame that I cried instantaneously. I went home and prayed, asking for the forgiveness of God.

The following morning, I felt my guilt and shame lifted. I thanked God for answering my prayer. I promised myself I would never again attend the services of other churches.

In 1988, I attended a student spiritual meeting at the True Jesus Church in Jakarta, Indonesia. On one of the nights, I had a dream. In the dream, I was praying in a field. Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew, accompanied by a loud sound. I swayed slightly but remained upright. Due to the strength of the wind, my body and tongue vibrated. I had the same dream twice. It was strange. The following morning, I went to church with the confidence that I would surely receive the Holy Spirit. I prayed with faith and great fervor. When I uttered, "Hallelujah," my body and tongue suddenly started vibrating. I could neither control my tongue nor understand the words uttered. I was crying and my heart was filled with joy, for the Lord had answered my prayer. After the prayer, I was very joyful.

I am convinced that the Lord Jesus truly loves His children. We must believe that our prayers will be heard by God and ought to persevere in our prayers. Our God is indeed a living God!

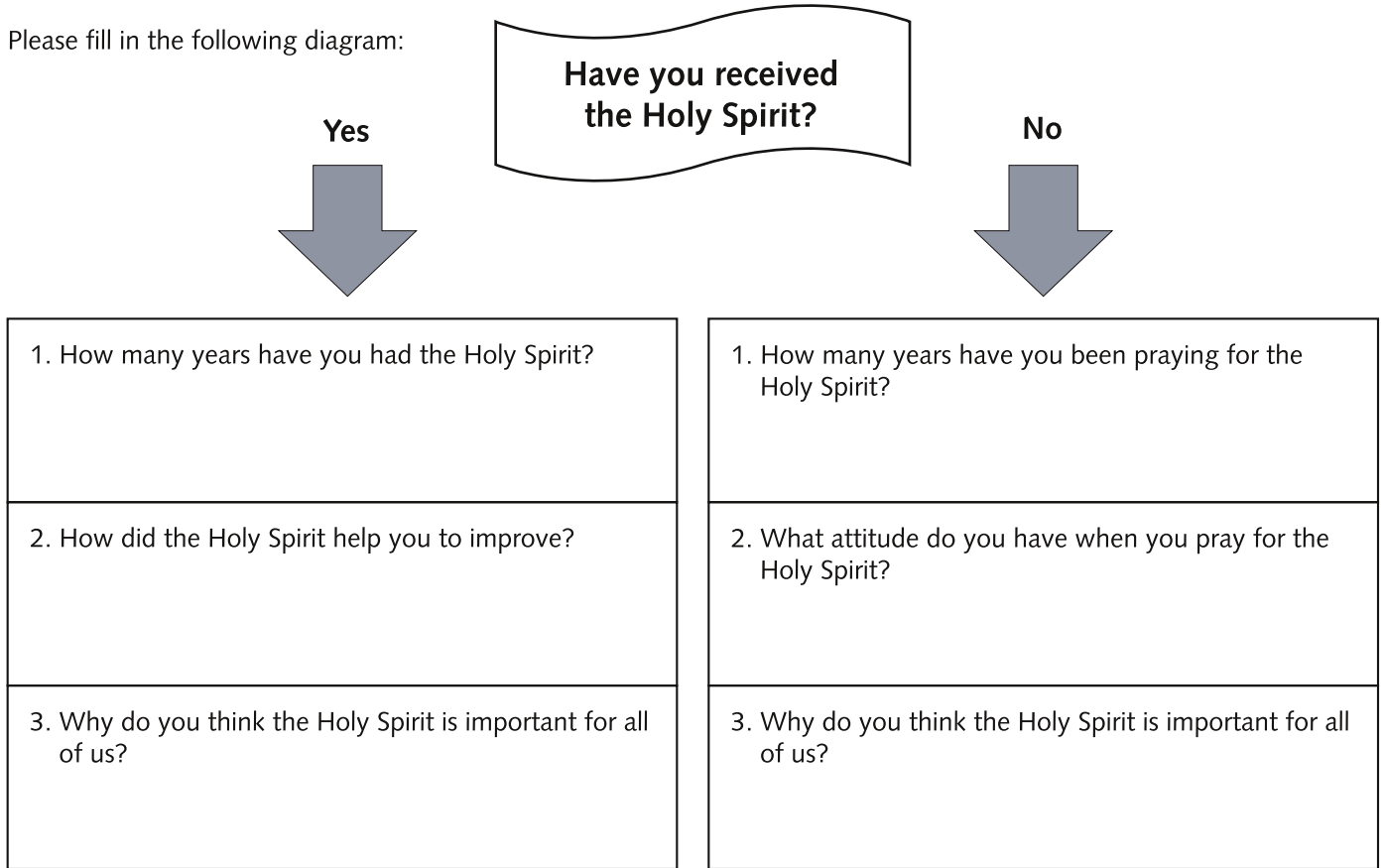
True or False

1. The Holy Spirit that we receive in True Jesus Church doesn't make us fall backward because there is no biblical teaching that says people fall backward when they receive the Holy Spirit. (True.)
2. It is important not to attend other churches and pray in the same manner because they don't have the same Holy Spirit as we do. (True.)
3. It is not necessary to repent to God when we sin. (False.)
4. When we repent and ask God for forgiveness, He will hear our prayers. (True.)
5. When we truly seek Him with all our heart and pray earnestly without doubt, God will grant us the Holy Spirit in His time. (True.)

A. Pray for the promised Holy Spirit

The Lord promised that after He ascended to heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit to the believers. The Lord loved all of His disciples, and He promised that He would not leave them to be orphans. Today, He loves all of us and wishes to give us the promised Holy Spirit, too. All we need to do is to pray earnestly and ask the Lord to send down His Holy Spirit to us.

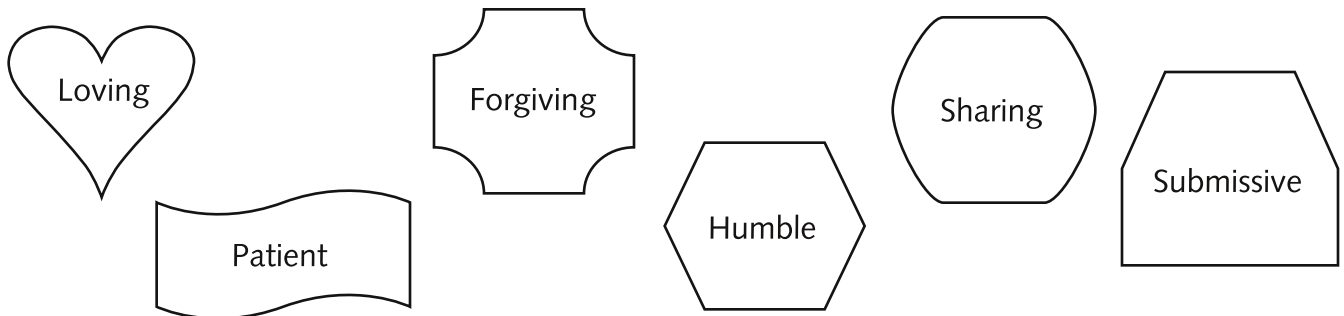
Please fill in the following diagram:



B. Living a life of fellowship with believers

After the disciples received the Holy Spirit and the numbers of believers increased, the church was established. All of the believers lived a life of fellowship with one another, sharing many things in common and showing care for one another.

In order for all of us to live a life of peace with our brothers and sisters in church, we need to have these following characteristics:



Pick any 2 of these good characteristics and give some examples of what you can do to help the brothers and sisters live a life of fellowship in the church.

ACTIVITY

1 In the Church

Objective: To help students identify ways they can share within the church.

Instructions: Remind the students that everyone who is a part of the church can share in its work. In each section, discuss whether your students can do what is listed. Let them suggest others ways to help. Afterwards, have each student choose one thing they will do to help this week.

I can share: my Bible / my hymn book / my pencils / my offerings.

I can pray for: the pastor / my teachers / my friends / those who are weak.

I can say to people: "Jesus loves you" / "Welcome to True Jesus Church" / "I will pray for you."

I can help: clean up the church / the teacher in the class / the elderly.

2 I Can...

Objective: To help students identify things they can do within the church.

Instructions: Look at the word search carefully. They are many words hidden within it. They are all things that you can do in church. The words are horizontal and vertical and can be backward or forward. Some words share letters with other words. See how many you can find! Good luck!

share preach pray clean help obey offer

W	S	H	A	R	E
P	R	E	A	C	H
R	C	L	E	A	N
A	J	P	O	L	R
Y	E	B	O	S	T
D	O	F	F	E	R

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 1—The Early Church Is Established

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: The first church in Jerusalem grew as Christians worshipped and worked together.

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students to take part in God's church and work.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Hebrews 13:16a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

mighty wind	fire	Holy Spirit	baptized	Jesus Christ
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1. When the disciples were praying, there was suddenly a sound of a rushing _____.
2. As the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, tongues of _____ appeared and rested on them.
3. "Repent and be _____ in the name of _____ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the _____."
4. **True or False:** Everyone in the crowd understood what the disciples were saying in their prayers. _____

Short Answer

5. Write down this week's memory verse without looking.

6. What did Jesus ask His disciples to do after His ascension to heaven?

7. Why do you think Peter had the courage to preach to the crowd?

8. Who sold his field and gave his money to the church?

9. What did the believers do when they gathered together?

10. What can you do to show your love towards your brothers and sisters in church?

LESSON 2

A LAME MAN WALKS



BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Beautiful Gate

The Beautiful Gate was one of the entrances to the temple court. This gate was also known as the Nicanor Gate, being about seventy-five feet high and sheathed in bronze. Since this was one of the favorite entrances to the temple area, many people passed through it on their way to worship. In addition, the Jews observed three times of prayer: morning (9:00 am), afternoon (3:00pm), and at sunset. It was, thus, a strategic spot for the lame man to be begging for money.

The Sanhedrin

The rulers, elders, scribes, and priests made up the Sanhedrin, or Jewish Supreme Court. It had seventy members and the high priest at that time presided over any proceedings. The Sadducees made up the majority of this ruling council. They were members of a small but powerful Jewish religious sect who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They were wealthy and intellectual, gaining financially by cooperating with the Romans. They also controlled the temple and had unlimited power over the temple grounds. Therefore, when Peter and John preached the resurrection of Christ, they quickly seized them and put them in jail. But because Peter and John were taken in the evening, the council had to wait until the next day for a court session.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

To many unbelievers, the Bible is like a good fiction novel, filled with stories about a great God with vast powers. To them, God is similar to today's superheroes, as He has the power to help the weak and destroy evil. But it was people who created these superheroes and people who brought them to life. They are nothing more than markings on a piece of paper. However, God is real and the Creator of all. In addition to being all-powerful, He can also give people the power to do special things. This is what sets Him apart.

Relate to your students that the people in the Bible were just ordinary people like them. But because they trusted God, He gave them the power to accomplish many things. When Jesus ascended to heaven, the power of God did not leave with Him. Rather, it continued through the power of the Holy Spirit. Remind your students that they need strength from God at all times. A superhero may seemingly have the "power" to do whatever he wants, but only God has the real power to do whatever He wants. Encourage your students to pray constantly so that they can develop a personal relationship with Christ.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 3; 4:1-31

BIBLE TRUTH

Peter and John received power from God to do great things.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To trust that God can help us accomplish more than we can on our own.
2. To learn how to trust in God when we do not have the ability or strength to do something.

MEMORY VERSE

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

(Philippians 4:13)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us walk on this heavenly journey to Your kingdom. We know that without Your aid, we cannot do anything. But when we trust in You, You can help us do great things. Please fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can do Your will. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- lame:** crippled; unable to walk
resurrect: to revive, raise
threat: an indication to hurt someone; intimidation

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. When the apostles were praying near the temple in a house, there was suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind and then tongues of fire came to rest upon them. The Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised had come, and they began to speak in tongues. After being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter went and preached to the crowd that had gathered after seeing and hearing the miracles. When they heard Peter's powerful words, they felt ashamed and they repented. They realized that Jesus was indeed God. About three thousand people were baptized that day. From then on, the believers gathered often to worship God and learn about Him from the apostles. They also shared what they had with one another so that no one among them would be in need. We learned that we should follow the example of the believers and worship God faithfully, as well as share what we have with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

BIBLE STORY

A Crippled Man

One day, Peter and John went to the temple in Jerusalem to pray. They wanted to worship God because they had so much for which to be thankful. He had given them power through the Holy Spirit to do His work, and they were happy that so many people repented and got baptized. They were glad to be able to do what Jesus had commanded them to do.

As Peter and John neared the temple, they saw a poor man sitting by the entrance gate. As they came closer, they realized that this man was lame, unable to walk. This man's friends carried him to the temple gate every day so that he could ask the people passing by for some money. He had been unable to walk for forty years. Because he couldn't work, this was the only way he could feed and clothe himself.

When someone passed by, he would ask, "Please give me some money. I have been crippled all my life and I cannot work." Of course, some of the people who came to the temple would feel sorry for the man and they would give him some money to help him. Others would just ignore him and walk right on.

The Crippled Man Healed

When Peter and John arrived at the gate, the man looked at them and asked them for money, just like he always did.

"Please spare some change for a crippled man like me," he begged. The man held out his hands, hoping Peter and John would give him some money.

But instead of reaching into his pockets, Peter said to the man, "Look at us!"

The man was surprised by these words. Usually, people

either just gave him money or ignored him and walked on. None of them would actually say anything to him. So the man stared at Peter and John, expecting a large sum of money. He was not prepared for what was about to happen. Peter continued to speak.

"I don't have any silver or gold to give you," he said. "But I will give you what I can. In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk."

Then Peter reached out and took the man by his hand. He helped the man stand up. The man didn't have time to think about what was happening to him, but he believed what Peter had just said to him. He stood up courageously and began to feel the strength in his ankles and legs. Soon, he stood up completely and was even able to take some small steps. The man was overjoyed. He never expected to be able to walk. This was the greatest gift anyone could have given to him.

The man followed Peter and John into the temple. Along the way, he shouted praises to God. The people who regularly came to the temple were shocked to see him standing and walking about. They knew that he was the crippled man who sat by the gate every day.

They began to wonder and whisper among themselves, "Isn't he the lame man? How come he is able to walk now? How did it happen?"

Soon a large crowd gathered around this man and they wanted to know what had happened.

Peter Tells the Crowd About Jesus

When Peter saw the great excitement, he stepped up and began to talk about Jesus.

"It wasn't our power that healed this man," said Peter.

“It was Jesus’ power. Jesus was put on the cross and He died for our sins. But God brought Him back to life. John and I know because we were with Him after He rose from the dead. Right now, Jesus is in heaven. Jesus is God. If you repent and become baptized, He can save you, too.”

The people who heard this message were moved. They believed and wanted to be baptized.

Peter and John Are Arrested

As Peter and John spoke about Jesus, the leaders of the temple were also there listening to their message. They didn’t agree with Peter and John because they didn’t believe that Jesus was God and that He had resurrected. The leaders were so angry that Peter and John were teaching about Jesus in the temple grounds that they threatened the two apostles.

“Don’t talk about Jesus here anymore,” they ordered.

But Peter and John bravely answered, “God raised Jesus from the dead. He’s the only one with the power to save us.”

After hearing this, the leaders became even angrier. In fact, they were so mad that they arrested Peter and John and put them in jail. It was late in the evening already so they were going to wait until the next morning to question the two apostles. However, those who had seen the miracle and heard God’s message still believed and more people got baptized. Now the number of believers rose to more than five thousand.

Peter and John Are Questioned

The next morning, Peter and John were released from jail

and brought before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court. Many believers also came to see what would happen. The court officials wanted the two apostles to explain where they got the power to perform such a miracle.

Peter, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, answered, “It was by the power of Jesus Christ that the crippled man was healed. This is the same Jesus Christ whom you crucified. But God raised Him from the dead. He is the only one who can offer salvation.”

The leaders did not like what they had just heard. But because many people had gathered to watch and were praising God for the miracle, they were afraid to punish Peter and John. Instead, they warned the apostles not to speak about Jesus again and let them go.

The Believers Pray

After Peter and John were released, they told the other believers what had happened to them. Then everyone prayed to God to thank Him for His guidance and protection.

They said in their prayer, “Lord, we know You’re in charge of all things. You made the whole world and You planned everything in it. We will continue to rely on your power to help us preach about You. We will not be afraid of the threats from other people who do not know You. Please fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit.”

God did answer their prayer because He gave them the strength and courage they needed. Filled with this courage and strength, they went everywhere, telling others about Jesus.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The crippled man wanted _____ (money) from Peter and John.
2. Instead of giving the lame man money, the apostles _____ (healed) the man and he was able to walk.
3. After being healed, the man went into the temple with Peter and John, shouting praises to God. True.
4. How many people now believed in God after Peter and John performed this miracle? About five thousand.
5. What did the leaders of the temple do to Peter and John? They put them in jail.
6. The leaders arrested Peter and John because they were preaching about how Jesus rose from the dead and that He had the power to save. True.
7. Peter and John were afraid to continue preaching about Jesus after they were released because of the threats from the Jewish leaders. False; they received courage from God and boldly went out to preach.
8. Why was healing the crippled man a better gift than money? He could now walk and earn his own money to make a living.
9. Where did Peter and John get their power? They got it from God through prayer.
10. How can you have the same kind of trust and faith in God? By relying on God through prayer.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Testimony: Healed from A Malignant Brain Tumor

Note: Read this testimony to your students and discuss the following points.

Sister from Fuzhou, China

I was raised in a Christian family from the True Jesus Church. Presently, I am 21 years old and live in the provincial town of Fuzhou, China.

My sickness began in January 1996 with headaches, which I mistook for flu symptoms. However, as the pain became more acute, I went for a CT scan at the local hospital on April 22nd. The results revealed a 2 x 2.5 cm tumor. On April 29th, I was admitted to the General Hospital of the Nanjing Military Sector in Fuzhou for a 1.5T Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan, which showed a 4 x 2.5 cm tumor located at the central part of my brain. It was at the terminal stage of malignancy, and surgery was not possible. The only alternative was laser therapy, but the high cost (tens of thousands Renminbi) and the possible side effects, which included brain damage, deterred us from continuing the treatment after two futile sessions.

My condition worsened by the day. The increased swelling of the tumor pressed against some nerves, causing me to lapse into periods of unconsciousness. During the first half of May, these occurred once or twice a day, each time lasting for about 30 minutes. On May 20th and 21st, the frequency increased to more than ten times. On May 22nd, I was unconscious most of the day. During the brief periods of consciousness, I was gripped by such excruciating pain that I kept screaming and wishing that I were dead. To relieve my agony, the doctors had operated twice on me (May 5th and 9th) to drain out the fluid that had accumulated in my brain. What came out was bloody and purulent, filling a few small containers. The best doctors in that hospital could do nothing to cure me. I was contemplating a transfer to another hospital but a doctorate holder and authority in the specialist field of brain tumors told me that I was suffering from the worst of three incurable pathological conditions in medical science. Moreover, the tumor was so precariously positioned that no medical technology in the world could help. Even if I were to transfer to another hospital for surgery, at best I would end up a living vegetable. "If this hospital cannot do anything," he said, "it will be worse elsewhere." So I decided to go home and rely totally on the Lord. When we came to a dead end, God began His work.

On May 23rd, I returned home. The doctors feared that the tedious journey might put me in danger. They specially arranged for oxygen tanks to be taken along. Also, my family prepared for the worst. However, under God's protection and care, during the journey, I experienced none of the half-hourly bouts of pain leading to unconsciousness. I felt very little pain. My family realized that there was no cure that medical science could offer me; only by relying totally on God Almighty could we have a ray of hope. My entire family fasted and prayed. At the same time, many churches offered intercessory prayers for me. Many brethren came to visit and prayed with me for the mercy of God.

On May 24th, at midnight, I felt someone telling me I had only four days to live, and I became frantic. This was the devil's work. On May 25th (Sabbath day), many believers were praying for me at noon when the devil appeared. He announced that he had come from Xiamen to disturb me because I had given him an opportunity through my love of the world and my weak faith. After much earnest prayer, we drove Satan away and I felt much relieved. At 2:00 pm the same day, we started praying earnestly again, and I was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, "The Lord will operate on me." At that moment, I felt the tissue around the tumor being removed.

The next day, at about 7:30 pm, the grace of the Lord came upon me. Everyone in the house except my mother had gone to church and I was lying in bed praying, when suddenly, a shockwave ran through my head, leaving it numbed, as if an electric current had run through it. I thought it was another seizure, and that the Lord was taking me home. So I shouted, "Mo~m, pray! Quick!" Suddenly I felt something that reminded me of being given anesthetics. At this thought, my entire body became anesthetized from head to toe. Only my mouth could manage some hymns. Half an hour later, I was filled with the Spirit in prayer, and felt a force opening up my clasped hands and placing a soft round object in my palm. After that, I clasped my hands tighter, but the force opened up my hands again. This happened a total of four times. On the last time, I even tossed the object in my hand lightly a few times. Great comfort and joy swept over me.

It was past 8:00 pm, and I was still praying as the people returned from church. As they were about 50 meters away from my house, they heard the sound of many people praying in my room. My relatives thought that something unfortunate had happened to me. They rushed in but were amazed to see only my mother and me. Actually, a host of angels had been praying for me, and operating on me. They even placed the excised tumor in my palm to make this experience more vivid. On May 28th, I could sit up by myself on the bed (previously, I had to be supported by others) and even get down to walk. Deep in my heart I knew that the Lord had sent His angels to perform surgery on me. Oh, what joy I felt! I laughed and sang loudly, praising Jesus for His glorious work on me. It was then that my mother discovered a surgical scar on the right side of my skull, shaped like an olive. This was the exact position where the doctors had intended to make the surgical incision. The angelic surgeons had left this mark on me as a testimony for the Lord. Before my sickness, I had a full head of beautiful hair. At Fuzhou Hospital, my hair was totally shaven off. Now that my hair has started to grow, it contrasts with the whitish scar on my head, attesting to the greatness of God's grace.

I can now eat and drink normally, and attend Sabbath services. Not only can I walk normally, I can even stand for an hour to testify in church. This is how the Lord personally healed me of a brain tumor. I will lift up my voice to praise Jesus, for only He is my greatest trust, and only He is able to heal me.

O Lord, You are the Almighty and Sovereign. I will follow You and bear witness for You all the days of my life. To You, I pledge my faithful service and resolution to proclaim Your gospel. May all glory be given to God in heaven. Hallelujah, Amen!

Teachings:

It is clear from the Bible that Jesus healed—and healed often. In Matthew 4:23, we can see that Jesus' main ministry consisted of three things.

- “And Jesus went about all Galilee,
 (1) teaching in their synagogues,
 (2) preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and
 (3) healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

Healing people was not something that Jesus simply did on the side. It was one of His main reasons for coming. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus still heals according to His plan and will. We need to ask ourselves whether or not we have trust and faith in God.

God will do for you according to your belief. If you believe Jesus has the power, you can completely trust in Him and have faith. James 5:15 states that a "prayer of faith will save the sick." From this, we can see that there is an important component that we need in our prayers if we want to get well. There must be **faith** involved in the prayer.

Having faith is having complete trust in Christ and relying on Him alone for everything. Thus, when we believe and have faith or pray in faith, we are committing ourselves completely to the will of our Savior. Everything is done according to His will. We just need to fully trust in Him. If we put our complete trust in Him, great things will happen.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. I, Christ, strengthens
5. We can pray to God, sing hymns, and read the Bible.
6. They healed the crippled man in the name of Jesus. They bravely talked to the crowd and the leaders of the temple.
7. Those who have not yet come to know Him, such as our family and friends who aren't in church.

ACTIVITY

1 Relying on Jesus

Objective: To identify things that are difficult for the students to do.

Instructions: Divide the class into two or three teams, depending on the number of students (maximum 5 students per team). Have each team take turns suggesting things they find difficult to do. Record their suggestions on the board. You may wish to divide the board into two or three columns, according to each team's ideas. You can also begin this activity by giving some of your own suggestions. Possible ideas are:

1. Doing homework when you want to play with your friends.
2. Being nice to someone who is mean to you.
3. Saying "I am sorry" after you've done something wrong.
4. Saying "No" to a good friend even though what they are asking you to do is wrong.
5. Not talking back to parents or teachers.
6. Telling a friend to follow Jesus.
7. Not using bad language when all of your friends are.

After the suggestions have been given, have each team huddle and decide as a team three things they find difficult to do. They must agree as a team. They can select from the list on the board. Have each team report their top three, then lead a discussion on how they can overcome these difficulties. Remind them that they can rely on God's power because He is all-powerful and nothing is impossible for Him!

2 Strength from God

Objective: To remind the students to rely on God's power and strength.

Materials

- Markers
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Tape
- Scissors

Instructions: Make sure that each student has a copy of the mini-poster on page 15. Let them color it in and highlight the memory verse. Then glue each one on a piece of construction paper that has been cut to the same size. Encourage your students to hang the poster in their rooms to remind them to rely on God.

3 Christ Gives Me the Strength

Objective: To reinforce to students that our strength comes from God.

Materials


- Poster paper
- Markers, colored pencils

Instructions

1. Ask your students, "What are some things you cannot do if you cannot move your legs?"
2. Have students brainstorm and draw pictures on the edges of the poster.
3. Then have students write down the following Bible verse in the center of the poster. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13)
4. Decorate the remaining space of the poster.

While doing the activity, remind the students that it is God who gives us the ability to do all things, even everyday things like walking, talking, and learning. Encourage them to always pray to God when they come across something difficult to do, for God will surely help them!

I can do
all things
through
Christ
who
strengthens
me. (Philippians 4:13)



E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 2—A Lame Man Walks

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Peter and John received power from God to do great things.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To trust that God can help us accomplish more than we can on our own.
 2. To learn how to trust in God when we do not have the ability or strength to do something.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Philippians 4:13)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : After the crippled man was healed, a large crowd gathered around. When Peter and John saw them, what did they do?
 - a. Asked them to give the man money.
 - b. Preached about Jesus to them.
 - c. Told them to leave the man alone.

2. ____ : When the leaders of the temple questioned Peter and John, _____.
 - a. They told Peter and John not to speak about Jesus anymore.
 - b. They also wanted to believe in Jesus.
 - c. They were happy that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus.

3. ____ : After Peter and John were released from jail, _____.
 - a. They were afraid to talk about Jesus.
 - b. They went to eat something.
 - c. They thanked God, continued to preach about Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Fill In the Blank

4. " ____ can do all things through _____ who _____ me." (Philippians 4:13)

Short Answer

5. How can we show that we trust in God to help us?

6. How did Peter and John show that they trusted in God's almighty power?

7. To whom can we bravely talk about Jesus?

LESSON 3

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Barnabas

Barnabas was a Levite by birth but his family was from Cyprus. He was a cousin of Mark and nephew of Mary. He would make important contributions to the life and ministry of the early church. Although Joseph was his real name, the believers called him Barnabas, the "son of encouragement". Barnabas made a generous donation of land to the church. Although as a Levite he likely would not have owned inherited land in Palestine, as Levites carried out temple duties and were supported by the rest of the Israelites, Barnabas may have owned land in Cyprus. In any case, his generosity would stand in sharp contrast to the subsequent actions of Ananias and Sapphira.

The Early Church

Early believers relied on each other tremendously for support. Some were poor and in need. Often, Jews who accepted Jesus as the Messiah were cut off from their families. As a result, believers shared their homes, their food and any resources available. The number of believers grew by the day, and this sharing became even more of a necessity.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Ananias and Sapphira thought that they could get away with lying about their offering because they didn't think anyone would know. But they forgot about God. He sees and knows all things. According to Jeremiah 23:23-24, God is everywhere and can see everything that people do. No one can hide from Him.

Although none of your students would be guilty of such a crime, it is still important to have them understand that God is omnipresent. Perhaps at some point in their lives they have said to themselves, "No one will find out. Besides, it's only this one time." Ananias and Sapphira might have said the same thing. They probably didn't even realize they had broken one of the Ten Commandments in the process. Sometimes, a person's downfall only takes that one moment of wavering between doing what is right and what is wrong.

At this age, your students are beginning to know the difference between right and wrong. But if they always keep in mind that God is constantly watching them and examining their hearts, it will make it easier for them to make the right decision during times of trials. Life is full of temptations. If students can begin now to appreciate the love and power of God, they will be able to stand firm in their faith as they grow in the Lord.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 4:32-5:11

BIBLE TRUTH

God is almighty and knows the thoughts of every person.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To know that God is constantly watching, and that He loves a cheerful giver.
2. To learn the importance of being honest and truthful in front of God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Distributing to the needs of the saints."

(Romans 12:13a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You so much for watching over us through another week. We are here to count Your blessings and remember how much You love every one of us. In our class today, we are going to learn about two people who did not share willingly. Please open our ears and hearts so that we may understand Your teachings. Please also help us to be generous with one another and share the things that we have, as it is Your will. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- omnipresent:** God is a spirit and is everywhere at all times
apostle: twelve original followers of Jesus
lying: telling an untrue statement to mislead others
truth: a statement according to what is real

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Peter and John healed a crippled man. Do you remember what happened? [Wait for students to respond.] This crippled man had been unable to walk all his life. He always begged for money at the temple's gate, but Peter and John gave him a new chance in life by healing him completely. What did the man do after he was well again? [Pause.] That's right! He followed the two apostles into the temple and praised God for this miracle. All the people who saw him were amazed. Because Peter and John preached about the power of Jesus, the leaders of the temple arrested them and put them in jail because they didn't believe in Jesus. Do you remember what happened to Peter and John the next day? [Pause.] The leaders decided to let Peter and John go because they couldn't find any fault with them. All the believers then praised God for His protection, and were filled with the Holy Spirit. They bravely went out and preached God's message of salvation.

BIBLE STORY

Tell Lies or Tell the Truth?

[To begin the story today, bring two clear cups, one filled with clear dish detergent and water, and the other with only water.] Boys and girls, can you tell if both cups look the same or different? [Allow students to look and discuss.] Well, both cups may look the same, but they are actually different. Sometimes, we simply cannot "see" when someone is lying, but guess what? God can. God knows and sees all things, so He knows when we have not been honest. [Show students that one cup actually has soapy water in it by stirring the mixture to create soap bubbles.] Sometimes, it may seem easier to tell a lie than to tell the truth, but God really doesn't like it when we do that. In our story today, we are going to learn about a husband-and-wife pair who decided to lie to people and to God, and the horrible consequences of their action.

The Believers Share

After Lord Jesus died, Peter and the other apostles went to many places to preach the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Whenever they went somewhere to preach, many people believed and got baptized. The number of followers grew more and more each day. The believers included all sorts of people: young and old, Jews and Greeks. Some were rich while some were poor. But they all had one thing in common: their love for Jesus.

Even though some of the believers had very little money, no one was ever without food to eat or clothes to wear. This was because all the believers shared what they had with each other. Some of the people even sold the things they owned and gave the money to the apostles. The apostles used this money to buy food and clothes to

distribute among the needy. Everyone was joyous and thanked God every day.

Barnabas Shares

One of the believers who shared his belongings with others was a man called Barnabas. He owned a piece of land and one day, he decided to sell it to help the needy.

He thought to himself, "I will give the money to the apostles. They know who needs the most help, and I am sure they will use the money to take care of them."

After Barnabas sold his land, he went to the apostles.

"Here's all the money from the land I sold," Barnabas said. "Please use it to help the believers who need food and clothes."

Barnabas really wanted to help the church and by sharing what he had, he showed how much he loved Jesus.

Ananias and Sapphira

Among the believers was a married couple that also owned a piece of land. Their names were Ananias and Sapphira. They heard about how Barnabas had sold his land and given the money to the apostles to help the poor. They also heard all the good things people were saying about Barnabas for being so kind and generous. They wanted other people to think that they were kind and giving too, so they decided to sell their land.

But after they sold it, they realized the land was worth a lot of money. They changed their mind about what they were going to do with the money. Instead of giving all of the money to the apostles, they were going to keep some for themselves. However, they wanted everyone to praise

them and think that they were just as generous as Barnabas. So they decided to tell a lie.

"We will keep some money for ourselves," Ananias and Sapphira thought, "but we will tell the apostles that we gave them all the money from the sale of the land." They thought that this was a great plan. Now they would have money and still be praised for their good work. They didn't care that they were lying.

Ananias Lies

So, Ananias took the money that was left and brought it to Peter. Just as he and his wife had planned, he lied to the apostle.

"Here is all the money I received from the piece of land I sold," announced Ananias. "Use it to help the poor."

But Peter wasn't fooled by his words. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that Ananias was lying.

Filled with the Spirit, Peter immediately said, "Ananias, why have you done this? You didn't have to sell your land. And even after you sold it, you didn't have to give us all the money. So why did you tell us that you offered everything? You haven't lied to us, but to God."

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. Those who heard about what had happened were struck with fear when they learned of the punishment for sinning against God. After Ananias died, some young men carried out his body and buried him.

Sapphira Lies

Later that day, Sapphira came to the church to look for her husband. She did not know what had happened earlier.

When Peter saw her, he asked her a very important question.

"Did you and your husband sell the land for this much money?" Peter asked.

Sapphira did not hesitate and answered, "Yes."

Peter was giving her a chance to admit the truth but Sapphira chose to lie instead.

Then Peter said, "How could you agree with your husband to test the Spirit of the Lord? Now you will be carried out just like your dead husband."

Immediately upon hearing these words, Sapphira fell down and died. Everyone who heard about this incident became afraid. They realized the power of God.

Share Willingly

The Bible says that Ananias and Sapphira were punished because they lied about what they did. They didn't really want to share their money. They only wanted to sell their land so that others would say that they were generous and good people. That day, everyone learned that sharing with others with the intention to impress was wrong. God is only pleased when people share willingly. Boys and girls, what can you do to be a cheerful giver at home, at school and at church? Can you think of any examples of sharing willingly and honestly? [Encourage students to share how they can show their love to others by being a cheerful giver.]

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Were all the Christians required to sell property and give money?** No.
2. **Who was the person that sold all his property and donated all his money?** Barnabas.
3. **Who did Barnabas give his money to?** The apostles.
4. **Why were the apostles accepting money from the believers?** To help needy Christians.
5. **Why did Ananias and Sapphira decide to tell a lie?** They wanted to look good in front of people.
6. **What was the outcome of Ananias and Sapphira's actions?** God struck them dead.
7. **What does it mean to be honest?** To be completely truthful.
8. **What can we do to share with others willingly every day?** Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Distributing to the needs of the saints." (Romans 12:13a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

God knows the deepest part of our hearts

It's not easy to be honest and truthful all the time, is it? Even adults need constant reminders to fear God and to remember that God is always watching us. Nothing escapes Him! If even the slightest evil thought comes to our mind, God knows. Have students take turns reading the scenario below, then answer the questions that follow:

Just the other day, Doug met Tony and liked his new friend immediately. Tony told Doug that he could do cool things like play the 12-string guitar and ride horses at his ranch in the mountains. Tony promised to teach Doug how to play his guitar, but the guitar was always in the shop. Tony told Doug that it would be fixed some time, and then he would teach Doug how to play. Tony also promised that he would take Doug to his ranch in the mountains, but they never seemed to have a chance to go there either.

One day, Doug borrowed another friend's guitar, since Tony had promised to teach him how to play. When he reached Tony's house, Tony was out, but Doug told his mom the plan. Tony's mom was greatly surprised. She said Tony was out with his dad, and she was surprised

that he would offer to teach Doug how to play the guitar since Tony didn't even know how to play the guitar himself. Doug also found out that Tony didn't have a ranch in the mountains either. Tony had only wanted to impress Doug but he had lied to do it. Tony had not been truthful to his new friend. It really hurt Doug to find out that his new friend had lied to him.

Questions to Think About

1. Why did Tony lie to Doug?
2. Why would Ananias and Sapphira lie to Peter?
3. Why would it be foolish to try to lie to God?

Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land to give the money to the church, but they did not tell the truth about how much they sold the land for. They lied. They kept some of the money back, but they wanted everyone to think they had made a big sacrifice by selling their land. Instead of only lying to people, Ananias and Sapphira lied to God, and they paid a terrible price for their lie.

God knew the deepest part of their hearts. God knew Tony's heart, and He knows ours, too!

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. apostles
2. Peter
3. False; he was filled with the Holy Spirit and God revealed it to him.
4. True
5. Barnabas sold what he had and shared everything with those who were in need.
6. They wanted to look good and be praised by others.
7. Ananias and Sapphira were punished because they lied to God.
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITY

1**To Be Honest or Not?****Objective:** To learn to make the right choice and be honest and holy when facing different life scenarios.**Materials**

- Scenario print-outs
- Tape

Instructions

1. Print out or copy the scenarios below, and cut out each scenario.
2. Fold up each scenario, and tape them around the classroom.
3. Divide the students into four groups. Tell each group to find a scenario, read it and discuss among themselves what they would do.
4. Give the students 2 minutes to discuss, and then have each group share their response.

Scenario 1

Your mom gives you \$10.00 to buy a gift for your dad's birthday. The gift you choose only costs \$9.00. What do you do with the extra \$1.00?

Scenario 2

Your mom sends a package of candy to school for you to pass out for the class party. You give one candy to each child and there are several pieces left. What do you do with the extra pieces of candy?

Scenario 3

You invite 3 friends to come over to play. You have 8 cookies in the cookie jar. After you and your friends each eat one cookie, your friends each ask for another cookie. What do you say?

Scenario 4

The school is having a toy drive. You have already given away one of your toys. Your mom puts another toy in your backpack to donate, but you don't want to give it away. What do you do?

2

Act Out the Story

Objective: To review the story details and remind students again to always share what they have and to be honest and truthful at all times.

Instructions

Have students volunteer to act out the following roles:

- *Narrator*
- *Peter*
- *Ananias*
- *Sapphira*
- *Two body carriers*
- Remaining students to act as frightened *townspeople*

The students can follow the script below or use their own words to act out their parts. Once finished, lead a discussion to talk about how everyone feels about this story. What have they learned from Ananias and Sapphira? If they were Ananias and Sapphira and were given another chance to do everything again, what would they have done differently?

Acts 5:1-10
Ananias and Sapphira

Narrator: After Jesus died, there was a group of followers who sold what they owned and shared what they had with everyone who was in need of help. Ananias and his wife Sapphira also sold a piece of property. But they agreed to cheat and keep some of the money for themselves. So when Ananias took the rest of the money to the apostles, Peter said...

Peter: *[in a firm and powerful voice]* "Why has Satan made you keep back some of the money from the sale of the property? Why have you lied to the Holy Spirit? The property was yours before you sold it, and even after you sold it, the money was still yours. What made you do such a thing? You didn't lie to people. You lied to God!"

Narrator: As soon as Ananias heard this, he dropped dead *[Ananias act outs his sudden death]*, and everyone who heard about it was frightened. *[Townspeople act frightened.]* Some young men came in *[two body carriers come in]*, wrapped up his body, carried him out and buried him. *[Pause.]* About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Peter: "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

Sapphira: "Yes, that is the price!"

Peter: *[in an angry voice]* "How could you and your husband plan secretly to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also!"

Narrator: At that moment, Sapphira fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in *[body carriers come in again]* and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. The church members were afraid, and so was everyone else who heard what had happened.

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 3—Ananias and Sapphira

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God is almighty and knows the thoughts of every person.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To know that God is constantly watching, and that He loves a cheerful giver.
 2. To learn the importance of being honest and truthful in front of God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Romans 12:13a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

1. Barnabas sold a piece of land and willingly gave the money to the _____.
2. Ananias and Sapphira told _____ that they gave him all the money they got from selling their land.

True or False

3. Peter knew that Ananias and Sapphira were lying because he had overheard their plan earlier. _____
4. God wants everyone to do things willingly. _____

Short Answer

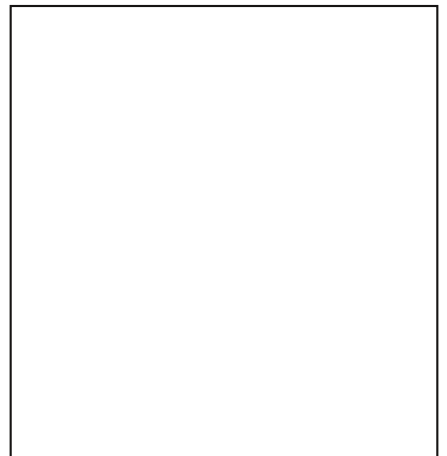
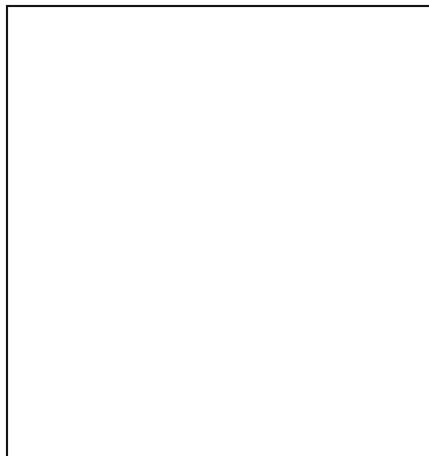
5. Why was Barnabas a good example of a cheerful giver?

6. Why did Ananias and his wife sell their land?

7. Peter said that Ananias and his wife didn't have to sell the land. They didn't even have to give all of the money. So why were they punished?

8. Do you think that God sees and knows everything that you do?

9. What have you learned from today's lesson? Draw three pictures to show what you've learned!



LESSON 4

STEPHEN IS STONED

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Early Church

As the early church continued to expand, some internal problems arose. Although the believers were Jewish, there were two groups of Jews within the fellowship. There were the Hebrews and the Jewish Christians, who made up the majority. Then there were the Hellenists, the Greek-speaking Jews who were probably converted at Pentecost. The Grecian Jews complained that their widows were being treated unfairly because they were not receiving their share from the food distribution. The apostles had been responsible for the entire ministry up to this point, but now it was difficult to oversee all aspects of the church life. Therefore, they decided to appoint seven men to be in charge of the food distribution. This solution allowed the apostles to focus on preaching and teaching about God. To show that there was no favoritism, seven Grecian Jews were elected to this work.

Stephen

Stephen was one of the seven who was chosen to manage the food distribution in the church. However, this was not a menial task. It required men who were honest and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Stephen met these requirements, so he was entrusted with such responsibilities. In fact, Stephen's responsibilities were that of a deacon in church.

Stephen was not only a good administrator, but also a powerful speaker who always defended his faith in Jesus, even to the point of death. He was the first Christian martyr, sacrificing his life for God's work. In many ways, his death was very similar to Jesus' death.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Stephen was very knowledgeable about the Old Testament and was able to bravely preach about God's message of salvation. Because of his complete trust in God, his faith did not waver even when he faced imminent death. Your students may not face this kind of persecution, but they will still encounter difficulties. Therefore, it is important for the students to understand why even the most fervent believers will sometimes face hardships. Faith in Jesus can bring great blessings, but God did not promise to keep His followers from all trouble. However, Jesus did promise to be with His believers during times of suffering. Your students can always experience comfort from the heavenly Father. Matthew 28:20 records that Jesus promised to be with His followers until the end. Encourage your students with these words. Whether they are preaching to others or facing personal problems, they can turn to God in prayer. When they have this kind of understanding, their faith will remain strong as they mature.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 6; 7

BIBLE TRUTH

Stephen was stoned because he believed and preached the words of Jesus.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to bravely preach the truth.
2. To learn to trust in God and rely on His power.

MEMORY VERSE

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

(2 Thessalonians 3:3)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord, thank You for all of Your love and for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us walk on this heavenly path. We want to be good workers for You. Please fill us with the power to be witnesses for You. Please help us rely on You at all times. May all the glory be unto Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- widow:** a woman whose husband has died
reputation: character, quality
Sanhedrin: the Jewish high court
blasphemy: the act of insulting or disrespecting God
martyr: a person who sacrifices himself for his religion

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about two different types of givers. Barnabas was a cheerful giver who willingly offered his money to help the needy in the church, but Ananias and Sapphira were the opposite. They only sold their land because they wanted people to praise them for their generosity. They even lied about how much they offered. However, God knows everything, and He revealed their lie to Peter through the Holy Spirit. Ananias and Sapphira were severely punished—they died instantly after lying to God. When the people heard about this, they were scared because they realized what a great sin it was to lie to God. We learned that God searches our hearts. He knows everything, and we cannot hide anything from Him. We also learned to always do things willingly and cheerfully. This is the only way to please God.

BIBLE STORY

The Church Grows

Has anyone ever told you a very important thing? [Discuss.] When they told you, you must've listened very carefully because you knew that it was very important. Wow, right now, I see that you are listening very carefully! Some of you are sitting straight up. Some of your eyes just got very big! And some of you are barely moving! [Please cater the aforementioned physical descriptions to your class.] Well, before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told the apostles a very important thing, and they also listened very carefully, just like you are doing right now. He gave them a very important job. Does anyone know what that was? [Discuss.] Jesus told His apostles to preach the gospel, or the word of God. Since God loves everyone so much, He wants them to hear the gospel and be saved. He wants them to go to heaven. After the apostles were commanded by Jesus to preach to the people, they worked hard at obeying Him. They walked a lot and visited many places to tell everyone about Jesus' resurrection. Thank God that many people who heard the message believed and turned to God. They were baptized and often worshipped together. The apostles were very happy to see so many people join the church.

Do you remember how many apostles Jesus chose? [Discuss.] Yes, He chose twelve! But, what happened to one of them? [Discuss.] Since Judas had betrayed Jesus and later committed suicide, the eleven apostles had to find someone to replace him. They prayed to God and chose Matthias, who was a man of faith. Then, there were twelve apostles once again.

The apostles had many responsibilities. Does anyone know what a responsibility is? [Discuss.] A responsibility is

a duty, or something that someone needs to do. For example, we all have responsibilities. Can you think of a responsibility that you have? Many students do chores at home. What kind of chores do you have? [Discuss.] So, doing chores would be one of your responsibilities. One of the apostles' responsibilities was to take care of all the believers.

Sometimes, the apostles didn't even have time to preach because they were busy taking care of the church and the needs of the people. You can imagine how busy the apostles must have been since they had to take care of an entire church. At home, your parents are probably very busy taking care of everyone in the family. In church, there is more than just one family!

There was a certain responsibility that the apostles were very concerned about: they had to take care of the widows. [Discuss the meaning of "widow."] If a widow had a family, like children or relatives, then it was the family's responsibility to take care of her. But if the woman did not have a family, the church had the responsibility of taking care of her. The church would look after her home and make sure that she had food and clothing. As more and more people joined the church, it became too much work for the apostles to take care of the widows.

The Choosing of Seven

The apostles began to worry about this problem. They wanted to take care of the widows, but they did not want to stop preaching God's salvation. So they decided to have a meeting with the believers to try and solve the problem.

The believers gathered together and the apostles began to speak. What did the apostles say? Let's turn to

Acts 6:2 and read together: "Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, 'It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.'" The apostles wanted to help the widows but they had to keep preaching the gospel.

When the people heard this, they agreed with the apostles. But who would help the needy if the apostles were preaching? The apostles continued to speak. Let's read verses 3 and 4: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The believers thought that this was a wonderful idea. They chose seven people. Their names were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas. After these people were picked, the apostles prayed and laid hands on them. Now they had the job of looking after the church in Jerusalem just like the deacons in the church today.

Stephen, a Powerful Speaker

So, the seven newly chosen deacons began their job. They made sure that the widows who needed help received it, whether it was food, clothing or money. The believers were very happy that there were people taking care of them now. Sometimes, the deacons also preached to the people and helped believers who had any questions about the gospel. This was because the apostles were not always in the church. They had to go out to preach.

One of the seven deacons was a powerful speaker who was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. He also performed many miracles. His name was Stephen. If anyone said that Jesus was not God, he spoke boldly with them. Stephen always stood strong in his faith. One day, there was a group of men who talked with Stephen about the gospel. When Stephen spoke, the group of men could not think of anything to say against him. These men were afraid of losing power, so they came up with a plan to stop Stephen.

Stephen Is Arrested

The group of men talked among themselves. They wanted to stop Stephen but they didn't know how. They were so desperate that they even arrested Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. Does anyone remember what the Sanhedrin is? [Discuss.] Right, it's the Jewish high court. They set up some false witnesses to lie to the court. The false witnesses told the court that they heard Stephen blaspheming, or cursing, against God.

"We heard this man say that Jesus will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses had given to us," they said.

Of course, these were all untrue. They twisted Stephen's words to make it sound like he was a bad person. When Stephen heard these false charges, he just

stood there calmly. He did not get angry or fight with the false witnesses. He did not yell back. He was calm because he knew that God was with him. In fact, the people who were there thought that his face was like the face of an angel.

When the high priest finally asked Stephen if the charges were true, he spoke powerfully about God. He reminded the people of how God had led the Israelites from the time of Abraham until now. Stephen talked about how God had used Moses to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt. He even spoke about the temple that Solomon had built. Even though the people believed in these things, they did not believe that Jesus was God, the Messiah. So Stephen told them what they really needed to hear.

"You stiff-necked people," he said. "You always resist the Holy Spirit. You killed the prophets who announced the coming of the Just One. Then you murdered Jesus Himself, you people who were given the law, but did not keep it."

Stephen Is Stoned

When the people heard this, they became very angry. Stephen was accusing them of betraying Jesus. Even though Stephen's words were very powerful and he spoke the truth, they still refused to believe that Jesus was God. Then suddenly, Stephen looked up to the skies.

He cried out loud, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

When the judges heard this, they shouted against Stephen. They covered their ears and became even angrier. They did not want to hear Stephen say that Jesus was God and that He was in heaven. They took Stephen out of the city and began to stone him because they did not believe his words.

It was painful to have stones thrown at him but Stephen remained faithful to God. As the stones hit him and angry words were shouted at him, he said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and prayed, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." He knew that God was with him. He even asked God to forgive the people who were trying to kill him.

After Stephen said this, he fell asleep and died. Everyone who stoned him was happy to see him dead. Now, he could not talk about Jesus anymore. But the believers were very sad. Stephen died because he stood up for Jesus. To them, he was a martyr, someone willing to sacrifice his life for God's work. He had even prayed to Jesus to forgive those people. The believers remembered him as a kind person who loved God very much.

Final Thoughts

So, what did we learn from the story of Stephen? [Allow students to think and share. Encourage the students to share one thing.] Yes, it's wonderful that our class was able to learn all these things.

We know that Stephen was faithful and trusted in God

even until his death. In the beginning of today's lesson, we learned that Stephen was one of the seven deacons who helped the church to make sure that the widows were taken care of. To be chosen to be a deacon, Stephen had to possess very good qualities. He had to be of good reputation, and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

We also learned that Stephen bravely preached the gospel and defended the truth. When the group of men didn't agree with the truth, Stephen boldly told them about God's words. He could have just sat back and listened to people say that Jesus wasn't God. That would have been easy! But, Stephen defended the truth. Even though the group of men arrested Stephen and brought him to the Sanhedrin, he bravely told the Sanhedrin the truth. He was able to speak so bravely and powerfully because he was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Stephen trusted in God all the way until his death. Today, we learned that if we trust in God, He will always be with us. Let us also bravely preach the gospel!

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **How many deacons did the disciples choose to take care of the widows?** Seven.
2. **Why was Stephen arrested?** A group of men couldn't find anything to say against Stephen's words, and they were afraid of losing power.
3. **What were the qualities of the seven people who were chosen to be deacons?** They had to be of good reputation, and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
4. **What did the high court do when they heard Stephen talk about the Bible stories and about how the Israelites did not listen to the prophets?** They became very angry and refused to believe that Jesus was God.
5. **What vision did Stephen see?** He saw the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
6. **Did Stephen trust in God? If so, how?** Yes. Even as people were stoning him, Stephen continued to pray to God.
7. **Why wasn't Stephen afraid of death?** He was full of faith and trusted in God. He knew that God was always with him.
8. **How can you rely on God's power?** Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; the people appointed seven people to take care of the widows.
2. False; Stephen was arrested because a group of men didn't agree with him.
3. False; they became angry with him and started to stone him.
4. False; he asked God to forgive the people.
5. lied
6. heavens, Jesus
7. God
8. B
9. C
10. We need to pray to God, humble ourselves, and ask God for guidance. We can also talk to our parents and ask for help.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Bravely preach the truth and rely on God's power.

From today's lesson, we learned that Stephen trusted in God and bravely preached the truth. Although a group of men spoke against the truth, Stephen bravely defended the truth. He knew that Jesus is God and spoke about it. He even told the Sanhedrin the truth! He was not afraid because he knew that God was with him. He completely trusted in God's power. Through the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Stephen was able to preach the word of God and glorify His name. He was also able to forgive the people who harmed him and stoned him.

How can we also bravely preach the gospel and tell others about the truth so they can also be saved?

1. God's Constant Abidance

Matthew 28:20 records that Jesus is "with [us] always, even to the end of the age." That means that Jesus is always with us! This is one of Jesus' promises! Sometimes when people make promises, they break them. Maybe they forgot. Maybe they just didn't want to keep the promise anymore. But, Jesus always keeps His promises. Since Jesus is with us, we don't need to fear! If we are ever afraid, we should pray to God and ask Him to help us. If our friends ask us why we pray before we eat, we don't need to be scared! Even if people laugh at us for doing so, there is no need to feel bad. We just need to explain and know that since God is always with us, He hears our prayers when we say them before eating a meal.

2. Fullness of the Holy Spirit

What three things did the deacons have? [Discuss.] One of them was the fullness of the Holy Spirit! We know how important it is to have the Holy Spirit. Why do we need it? [Allow for answers.] We need it to go to heaven! While we are on earth, we also need the Holy Spirit to help us! Stephen spoke powerfully through the fullness of the Holy Spirit! So, the Holy Spirit can help us when we don't know what to say. It is a wonderful Helper! It can also give us strength to say the right things to our non-believing friends if they ask us about the truth. Let us keep praying for the Holy Spirit! If we have the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit! We know that Stephen had the fullness of the Holy Spirit, not just the Holy Spirit. Let us ask, seek, and knock!

3. Preaching Through Our Actions

1 Peter 3:1 records that if we have good actions, we can bring others to church without even saying a word! Of course, we should always preach, but this verse encourages us to have good actions as well. Imagine if we spoke kindly to people but stole things from them. Would that be good? Of course not! Our actions must also be good. What are some actions that are good? [Reflect and discuss.]

ACTIVITY

1

Stand Up for Jesus Role-Play

Objective: To help students prepare themselves for answering anticipated questions.

Instructions

1. Ask the students, "Have your friends ever asked you about church or the truth?"
2. If "yes," list the questions they've been asked on the board.
3. If "no," write these questions on the board:
 - a. Why do you always pray before you eat?
 - b. The Bible is a boring book. It's not interesting, and it's so old.
4. Discuss possible answers together.
5. Choose students to act out scenarios in which one student asks a question and the other answers. Ensure that each student has had a turn.

Make sure the students are comfortable giving those answers if their friends were ever to ask them questions. Emphasize that we don't need to worry about what others think, or whether or not they will laugh or tease us. We know that God is always with us, just as He was with Stephen. Remind the students that when we answer honestly, we are standing up for the truth and faithfully testifying for God.

2 A Good Witness for Jesus Booklet

Objective: To help students defend their faith.

Materials




- Colored construction paper
- Pencils
- X-Acto knife

Instructions

1. Look at each picture and read the scenarios.
2. Ask the students, "How would you answer your friends if they asked you these questions?"
3. Brainstorm possible answers in small groups or together as a class and ask the students to write down their answers.
4. Then, have the students cut out the questions and answers into 6 separate boxes.
5. Take one piece of colored construction paper and fold it in half lengthwise.
6. Have students write "Be a Good Witness for Jesus" on the top of the cover. Then, have them paste the questions on the cover. (The 3 boxes don't need to touch.)
7. Afterwards, help the students to cut the top, right, and bottom of the boxes using the X-Acto knife, leaving the left side of the box attached. Make sure only to cut the cover only. The result should be 3 "doors" on the cover.
8. Then, have students paste the "Answers" inside the booklet. The spacing of the "Answers" should correspond to the "door" of the "Questions." The students can open the doors to outline the boxes on the inside if they need.

Questions

Answers

 <p>My mom says that Jesus was just a man from a long time ago.</p>	<p>I would say _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
 <p>Why do you pray every day? It's so weird.</p>	<p>I would say _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
 <p>Why do you have to go to church on Saturdays? Come and play with us instead.</p>	<p>I would say _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

3

Rely on God Interview

Objective: To help students rely on God by recounting God's guidance.

Materials

- Pencil
- Interview Sheet

Instructions

1. Guide the students to remember how God has guided them in their daily lives. Just as God guided Stephen all the way until his death, God also guides us. Have the students think about one time when God helped them.
2. Explain that the students will be interviewing another student and listening to how God has helped that student. In this way, they will learn about how God has guided others in their class. This also gives all the students the opportunity to be good witnesses for God by sharing their testimonies.
3. Pass out the "Interview Sheet."
4. Have the students complete it with a partner.
5. Afterwards, have the students share their interviews. Encourage the students to remember God's grace and how He guided them with His power.

4

We Are Good Helpers Poster

Objective: To help the students reflect and identify people to help.

Materials

- Chart paper or poster board
- White paper rectangles (8" x 11" paper cut into fourths)
- Colored construction paper (slightly bigger than the paper rectangles, to create a frame)
- Pencils
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Glue

Instructions

1. The seven deacons helped the widows because they did not have a family to help them. Ask the students, "Who can we help today?" Think of people at church, at home, or at school.
2. After the students have thought of someone to help, show them a white paper rectangle. Explain to the students what they should do:
 - a. Write their name on the top left.
 - b. Draw the person in the rectangle, leaving some space underneath.
 - c. Underneath their drawing, write how they can help the person.
 - d. Color the drawing.
 - e. Glue the paper rectangle onto the construction paper rectangle.
3. Then, distribute the rectangles.
4. On the chart paper or poster board, write "We Are Good Helpers!" as the title (this is only a suggested title; you can work with your students to come up with a different title).
5. When the students are finished, have them tape their rectangle onto the chart paper or poster board.

Interview Sheet

Name _____

Date _____

1. I am working with _____.

2. How did God help him/her?

3. What did you learn from his/her testimony?

4. How can I trust in God?

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 4—Stephen Is Stoned

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Stephen was stoned because he believed and preached the words of Jesus.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To learn to bravely preach the truth.
2. To learn to trust in God and rely on His power.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(2 Thessalonians 3:3)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. The twelve apostles stopped preaching to take care of the widows in church. _____
2. Stephen was arrested for stealing money from the church. _____
3. When Stephen told the high court Bible stories about how the Israelites did not listen to the prophets, the high court believed and repented. _____
4. Stephen was angry with the people who stoned him. _____

Fill In the Blank

God	lied	heavens	Jesus
-----	------	---------	-------

5. The false witnesses _____ to the high court and said that Stephen was blaspheming against God.
6. Stephen saw a vision of the _____ opened and _____ standing at the right hand of God.
7. Even while Stephen was being stoned, he knew that _____ was with him.

Multiple Choice

8. _____ : The disciples chose seven deacons who had _____.
 - a. Wealth, food, and wisdom
 - b. Good reputation, fullness of wisdom, and fullness of the Holy Spirit
 - c. Good reputation, food, and the Holy Spirit
9. _____ : Why was Stephen a powerful speaker?
 - a. He went to school to learn how to be a good speaker.
 - b. He was funny.
 - c. God gave him wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

Life Application

10. What can you learn from Stephen about what to do whenever there is trouble?

LESSON 5

PHILIP PREACHES

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Philip

The Philip that is mentioned in Acts 8 is not the apostle. He was one of the seven deacons chosen in the Jerusalem church. Due to the persecution in Jerusalem following the death of Stephen, Philip became an evangelist, traveling to nearby cities in the regions of Samaria and Judea to proclaim the Messiah. Philip was in fact one of the first to preach the gospel outside of Jerusalem.

The Ethiopian Eunuch

The man that Philip met was not actually from what is now known as modern-day Ethiopia. His home was part of the Ethiopian kingdom in present-day Sudan, just south of Egypt. He was likely a Gentile convert to Judaism, but he did not have a full understanding of the Christian faith or know who Jesus was, as evidenced by his conversation with Philip. However, the eunuch was still very dedicated. He had traveled all the way to Jerusalem for worship and it was on his journey back home that Philip met him. Because the eunuch was the treasurer of Ethiopia, his conversion to Christianity brought forth a new area. This marked the beginning of the gospel reaching to "the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Simon the Magician

Simon is like the great illusionists of today, except that illusionists today tell you that their magic is only an illusion, but Simon wanted people to believe that his magic was from a divine source. Simon practiced his sorcery to gain power and fame. He went everywhere "claiming that he was someone great" and all those people "heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time."

Today, there are still many people like Simon who utilize power to attract others for their own glorification and many are simply frauds trying to make money.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 8

BIBLE TRUTH

Philip preached the word during the persecution.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To know the importance of preaching the truth to everyone.
2. To understand that, even though we may encounter difficulties when preaching, we must always rely on God and the Holy Spirit to help us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

(Mark 16:15b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for protecting us every day. You give us the wisdom and the strength that we need to do Your work. Please help us draw closer to You and learn to testify for You to our friends and neighbors, just as the apostles and disciples did during the time of the early church. Help us to be powerful and strong when we speak Your words. May all the glory be Yours. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Philip was one of the people involved in the expansion of the church into areas outside of Jerusalem. Many believed and were converted, including Samaritans and Ethiopians, people whom the Jews did not think would be offered salvation. But God's grace is for everyone and Philip was obedient, going wherever the Holy Spirit led him. He was not prejudiced against anyone.

Likewise, your students should hold the same attitude. It is easy to make assumptions about whether someone will believe in God or not based on their background or personality. But God showed through the conversion of the Gentiles that the gospel is for everyone, regardless of race or culture. It is God who moves someone to believe. Your students need to understand that whenever they speak about God, it is another opportunity to spread the message of hope and salvation. They should not assume that their Buddhist friend or atheist neighbor will not care. They only need to plant the seed. God will do the rest.

At this age, it is easier for your students to openly talk

about God to a friend or relative, without the inhibitions that an adult may feel. Their faith is innocent and simple. However, they may still think that Philip was successful because of the miracles he performed, something they can't do. It's important for the students to understand that it is definitely not necessary to perform miracles when preaching. Letting others see Jesus in them through their actions and speech is already a very important part of preaching. Others will know we are different through our actions and may want to explore our beliefs and doctrines further.

Some of your students may have already received the Holy Spirit, while others have not. It's important to learn from this lesson that the Holy Spirit is a gift. It cannot be bought with money, traded, or taken by force. It must be given, and that makes it extremely precious. Those who have the Holy Spirit must strive to keep it and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Those who do not must continue to pray hard for it.

VOCABULARY

persecute: to harass, bother, oppress, especially because of one's belief

eunuch: a castrated man or boy usually reserved for work as an official in the king's court

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the seven people who were chosen to be deacons of the church in Jerusalem. They were chosen because the apostles wanted to spend more time preaching the gospel. Therefore, people who were of good reputation and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom were picked to do the work of caring for the believers. One of them was a man called Stephen. He was good at taking care of the church but he was also a powerful speaker, always talking about Jesus. The Jewish leaders did not like what he was preaching. They thought that he was taking away some of their power in the community because many people believed in Jesus after hearing him speak. So they had him stoned to death. But even as he was about to die, he was not afraid because he knew that God was with him. Stephen even asked God to forgive the sinners who were putting him to death. We learned that we need to bravely preach God's words. No matter what happens, God will be there to help us through.

BIBLE STORY

[Several cities are mentioned in this story. Use the provided map to give students a better idea on the locations.]

The Church Is Persecuted

The stoning of Stephen sent shockwaves through the thousands of believers in Jerusalem. Nobody thought anything this horrible would happen. But now, the Sanhedrin (the supreme council and court of justice among the Jews) and the Jewish leaders wanted to get rid of all the Christians before they got any stronger. A man called Saul of Tarsus was already going from house to house and arresting people whom he suspected were followers of Jesus. He took them and put them into prison just because of their faith. Because of this, many people were scattered throughout the city. They did not gather together to worship as they had done in the past. [Ask your students to imagine how difficult this must have been and compare to the freedom of religion we enjoy today.] Hundreds of Christians also fled the city of Jerusalem. Some went to Syria in the north while others fled to Egypt in the south. However, even though they could not be together in one place, their faith in Jesus was still strong and wherever they went, they preached the word of God. It was this way that the message of salvation spread to many new places outside the city.

Philip Preaches in Samaria

One of the people who left the city was Philip. He was one of the seven people chosen to become deacons; they specifically looked after the believers in Jerusalem. But now because of the persecution, he decided to leave the city and preach Christ to others. He went to the region of Samaria [refer to map] and talked to the people about Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and was able to perform miracles of healing. The responses from the people were tremendous. There were so many people who came to believe in Jesus in Samaria that Philip needed help. So when the apostles, who had remained in Jerusalem, heard about this, they sent Peter and John to help him. When the two apostles arrived, they talked more about Jesus and prayed with the new believers. They even laid hands on them to help them receive the Holy Spirit. The people in Samaria were happy to have found Christ. They prayed and worshipped God fervently.

Simon, the Magician

One of the new believers in Samaria was a man called Simon. He worked as a magician for a living and was very popular. [Explain to your students the difference between Simon and the magicians of today. See "Before You Teach" section.] But ever since Philip, Peter, and John arrived, he was no longer noticed because they performed much greater miracles than he had ever done. Whenever Peter and John laid hands on the people, they would receive the

Holy Spirit. When Simon saw this, he wanted the same power so that the people would think he was still a good magician. So he decided to ask the apostles.

"I want to be able to give people the Holy Spirit when I lay my hands on them," said Simon, "I will give you money for helping me."

When Peter and John heard his request, they were furious. How could he buy something that was a gift from God? It showed that he did not really understand the teachings and only wanted great powers so that he could be praised like before.

Peter answered him, saying, "Your money will perish with you. You thought that you could buy God's gift. You will have no part in God's work because your heart is not right before Him. You should repent right away and pray to God. He might forgive you for such evil thoughts."

Simon was scared when he heard these words. Even though he had made a wrong request, he did nevertheless believe in God. So he prayed to God and also asked the apostles to pray for him so that he might be forgiven. [Remind students about how precious the Holy Spirit is. See "Understanding Your Students" section regarding the Holy Spirit.]

The Ethiopian Eunuch

In the meantime, Philip continued to preach to the people in Samaria. It was a very huge region and there were many places to visit. But one day, an angel of God told Philip to go to a different place.

"Go toward the south, to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza," said the angel. [See map.]

Philip obeyed because he knew God must have been sending him there for a reason. When he reached the road, he noticed a well-dressed Ethiopian eunuch traveling by on a chariot. Although Philip did not know him, he could see that the man was a chief official in his own country. Actually, he was a eunuch who worked for the queen of Ethiopia. He had just gone to Jerusalem to worship God. Now he was on his way home.

As Philip watched the chariot go by, the Spirit suddenly spoke to him.

"Go up and join the chariot," said the Spirit.

He listened to the voice and began to run towards it. He wasn't sure what he was going to tell the man. When the eunuch realized Philip was chasing after him, he told his servants to rein in the horses. As the chariot came to a halt, Philip noticed that the man was reading from a scroll containing the book of Isaiah. Now he understood what God wanted him to do.

So he asked the eunuch, "Do you know what you are reading?"

The eunuch said that he did not and invited Philip onto the chariot to talk with him. The eunuch thought that maybe Philip could explain the words of Isaiah to him.

[Show students *Illustration 1*.]

The eunuch was reading a passage about how God's servant would be "led as a sheep to the slaughter."

He did not understand what these words meant and so he asked Philip, "About whom is the prophet talking?"

Philip took this opportunity to preach the good news of Jesus to him. Isaiah was talking about Jesus and how He would be crucified on the cross. So Philip told the eunuch about the death and resurrection of Christ. He also told him the importance of getting baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit. As they talked, the chariot began to move again.

The Ethiopian Is Baptized

As the chariot traveled along the road, the Ethiopian saw

some water. He believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized into His name.

So he turned to Philip and asked, "See, here is some water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Philip replied, "If you believe with all your heart, then you should." The eunuch proclaimed that he believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and then commanded the servant to stop the chariot and he and Philip got off. They walked to the water's edge and went into the water. Then Philip baptized the Ethiopian there. When they got out of the water, Philip suddenly disappeared. The Spirit of God had taken him away to preach to others elsewhere. But the Ethiopian was very happy. He was now a sheep in the house of God. He went home rejoicing.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Why were the believers in Jerusalem persecuted?** Because they worshipped and believed in Jesus.
2. **Where did Philip go first to preach?** Samaria.
3. **Who did the apostles send to help Philip in Samaria?** Peter and John.
4. **Why did Peter and John tell Simon the magician to repent?** Because it was wrong for him to ask if he could pay money to buy the power to give the Holy Spirit.
5. **Where did Philip meet the Ethiopian eunuch?** He met the eunuch on the road that went down from Jerusalem to Gaza.
6. **Philip did not question God and obeyed his instructions. Name some other Bible characters that also obeyed God all the time.** Examples: Noah, Joseph, and Jesus.
7. **How can you help other people know about God?** Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15b)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. persecuted
2. preach
3. Samaria
4. magician, buy
5. False; he obeyed God and ran up to the chariot.
6. True
7. True
8. B
9. C
10. D

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we “are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” We are a royal priesthood. It is our duty to preach the gospel and we can start with our friends and family. If you’re afraid of preaching, you must not only ask God to give you the courage but also be a good Christian example. An important part of preaching is to show others that we are different, separate and holy. In this way, it can be a living testament to others. When they know that we are different they may want to explore our beliefs and doctrines further, making preaching easier.

There are 4 main reasons we need to preach the gospel.

1. God instructed us to preach the word.

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)

The word 'preach' has a two-fold meaning:

A. It means to tell the word by mouth.

“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)

B. It means to live out the word of God or to manifest Christ in us.

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

2. We’re called to preach the gospel. It is a calling and not a profession.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.” (Eph 4:11)

3. The gospel is the power of God!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Rom 1:16)

“And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.” (Luke 4:32)

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor 1:18)

4. The gospel changes lives.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Cor 5:17)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24)

In this lesson, we also learned that the Holy Spirit is very precious. Some of you may have already received the Holy Spirit, while some of you may still be praying for it. It's important to remember that the Holy Spirit is a gift. It cannot be bought with money, traded, or taken by force. It must be given, and that makes it very, very precious. Those who have the Holy Spirit must strive to keep it and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't mean that after you receive the Holy Spirit you don't need pray hard anymore. We need the fullness of the Holy Spirit to help us bear the fruits of righteousness and receive the power from God to preach the gospel. The power of God can change our lives and make our lives worthy of His calling.

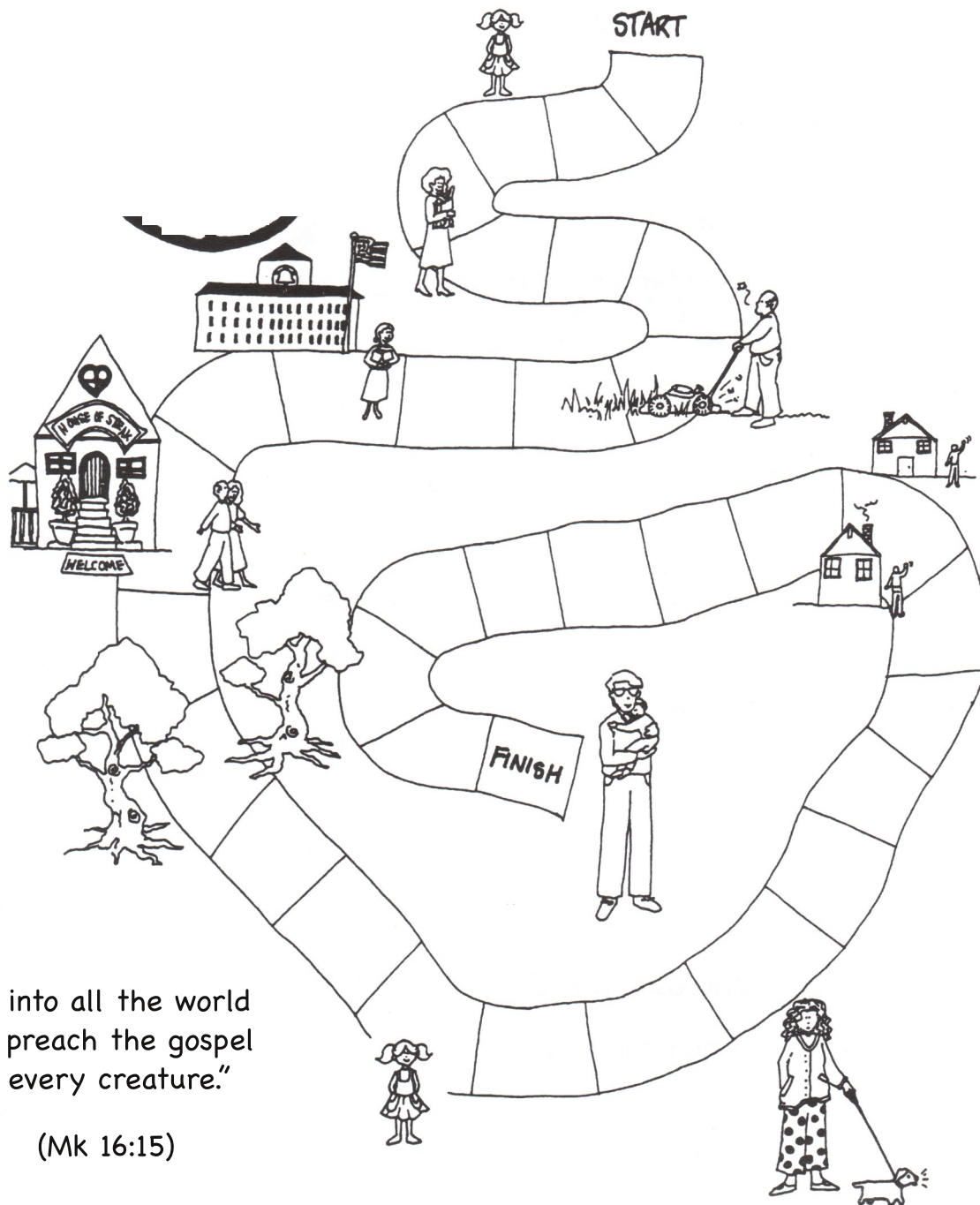
ACTIVITY

1

Preach to Everyone

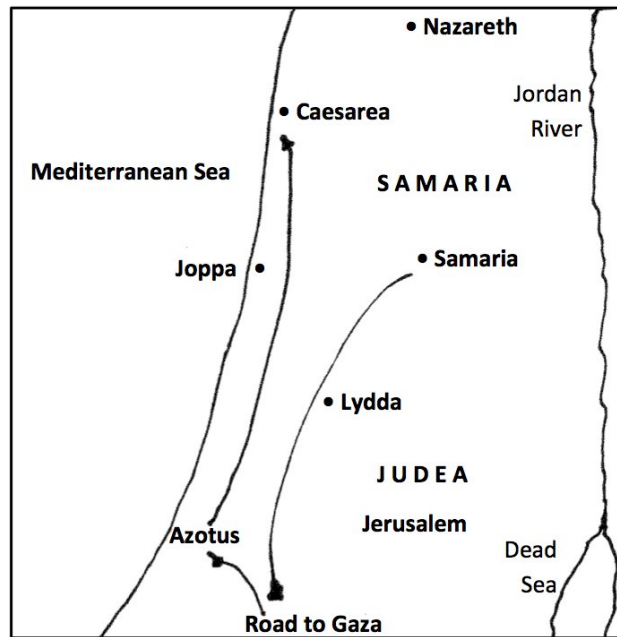
- Objectives:** 1. To help the students become witnesses for Jesus.
2. To give students the opportunity to experience preaching and defending their faith.

Instructions: Philip was guided by the Holy Spirit. He went wherever the Holy Spirit led him. Play this game as a whole class. Divide the class into two teams. Have each team come up with a team name. One team will begin by rolling a die. Then they will move the corresponding number of spaces. If they land on a picture square, they must brainstorm as to how they will share about Jesus with that person. When they have provided a good answer, the other team will take their turn and so on. If they land on a blank square, nothing happens and the other team will continue. Play until one team reaches the finish line.



"Go into all the world
and preach the gospel
to every creature."

(Mk 16:15)



Map



Illustration 1: Philip Preaching to the Eunuch

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 5—Philip Preaches

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Philip preached the word during the persecution.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To know the importance of preaching the truth to everyone.
 2. To understand that, even though we may encounter difficulties when preaching, we must always rely on God and the Holy Spirit to help us.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Mark 16:15a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

magician	Samaria	persecuted	buy	preach
----------	---------	------------	-----	--------

1. The believers in Jerusalem were _____ because they worshipped Jesus.
2. Even though they scattered to many places, they continued to _____ the good news about Jesus.
3. Philip went to _____ and preached to the apostle.
4. Simon was a _____ who wanted to _____ the power to give the Holy Spirit.

True or False

5. Philip was afraid of the Ethiopian eunuch and did not approach his chariot. _____
6. God wants us to preach the gospel to everyone, no matter where they are from. _____
7. Simon repented for making his request. _____

Multiple Choice

8. ____ : The Ethiopian was reading a scroll containing the book of ____.
 - a. Leviticus
 - b. Isaiah
 - c. Job
 - d. Exodus
9. ____ : Who did the apostles send to help Philip in Samaria?
 - a. Matthew and James
 - b. Paul and Silas
 - c. Peter and John
 - d. Andrew and John
10. ____ : Philip preached to the Ethiopian in _____.
 - a. A house
 - b. A manger
 - c. A temple
 - d. A chariot

LESSON 6

PETER WORKS FOR GOD



BEFORE YOU TEACH

Joppa

Joppa was a seaport city located twelve miles northwest of Lydda and thirty-eight miles northwest of Jerusalem. This ancient harbor was the same port from which Jonah tried to escape from God (Jon 1:3). Both gentiles and Jews lived in Joppa. Thus it was common for the residents to have two names, one Hebrew or Aramaic, and the other Greek. For example, in Acts 9:36, the disciple in Joppa was named both Tabitha (Aramaic) and Dorcas (Greek), both meaning “gazelle.”

Caesarea

Caesarea was a city thirty miles north of Joppa. It served as the capital city of the Roman province of Judea and thus was named in honor of Augustus Caesar. Caesarea was also the first city to have Gentile Christians and a non-Jewish church. Cornelius was stationed at Caesarea and commanded a military unit of one hundred men. The Latin word for one hundred is centum, thus the commander of a hundred soldiers is called a centurion. Although Roman centurions were well-respected, Cornelius was humble and generous. He prayed regularly to God and often helped those in need (Acts 10:2).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Through the blessings of God, your students enjoy comfortable and carefree lives. They possess more than the basic necessities of food and clothing. Thus they may take God’s blessings for granted and fail to appreciate His love. Students need to be reminded from a young age to acknowledge that their prosperity is a blessing and gift from God. They should be reminded not to waste the resources God has given. Most importantly, the students must understand that they should not use God’s blessings to glorify themselves, but rather use them to glorify God by doing good deeds. They should use God’s blessings to live for Christ and to serve others. The examples of Peter and Dorcas are great examples of those who lived for Christ and for men.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 9:32-43; 10

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. As instruments of God, we work to bring good news and peace to men.
2. God bestows blessings not only for us but also for the kingdom of God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To establish a life of living for Jesus and doing good deeds.
2. To use God’s blessings to help others.

MEMORY VERSE

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for choosing us to be Your special people. You love each of us very much. You also chose us for a special purpose: to help others and to tell others about You, just as Peter did. There are still many people in this world who do not yet know You. Every day, they meet with many problems and troubles. They have no joy or peace in their lives. Help us bring them to You so You can help them. Help us to live for You and glorify You. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

centurion: a Roman officer commanding a military unit of one hundred men

vision: a message from God seen in a dream or prayer

submissive: willing to yield to another person, especially to someone of authority

paralytic: someone who has lost complete or partial movement of his body

REVIEW

Last week, we learned how Philip shared the gospel of the Lord Jesus. First, he preached to the people of Samaria, where many people believed. Then, God called upon him to preach to an Ethiopian eunuch. After Philip explained a passage to the eunuch, his understanding of the Scripture deepened. The eunuch then asked Philip to baptize him, which Philip did after hearing the eunuch proclaim his complete belief in Christ. Upon coming out of the water, God carried Philip away so that he could preach to more people in other areas. The eunuch returned home with great joy. We learned that we should be like Philip and always be ready to share the gospel of the Lord Jesus with others.

BEFORE YOU TEACH

This lesson takes place in three different cities and involves four Biblical characters. To help your students with the lesson, draw a map and identify the cities of Jerusalem, Lydda, Joppa, and Caesarea. Also draw pictures of Peter (a man with traveling gear), Aeneas (a man lying on a bed), Dorcas (a woman surrounded by garments), and Cornelius (a Roman soldier). Place Aeneas, Dorcas, and Cornelius next to the cities of Lydda, Joppa, and Caesarea, respectively. Move Peter from Lydda, to Joppa, then to Caesarea in accordance with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY

Introduction

Have you ever been on a road trip? Where did you go? Perhaps during one of your road trips you had a chance to visit another church. You may have met brothers and sisters you had never met before. Today, we will learn how Apostle Peter went to different places to preach the gospel and help the believers he met on the way.

Aeneas in Lydda

In the beginning, the good news about Jesus began in Jerusalem. That was where all the disciples lived. But the good news was spreading to many different areas. Many people came to believe in places outside of Jerusalem. When Apostle Peter learned there were believers in other places, he decided to go on a trip to visit them and to spread the gospel.

Peter first visited a city called Lydda, which was 25 miles from Jerusalem. [Locate Lydda on the map.] At Lydda, Peter met a believer called Aeneas, who was a paralytic. Due to his condition, he had been unable to leave his bed for eight years. How do you think Aeneas felt about having to lie in his bed all the time? If you were Aeneas, what would be your greatest wish? [Allow students to respond.]

When Peter saw Aeneas, he felt very sorry for him and

wanted to help him.

So Peter said to the man, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ has healed you. Get up and make your bed!"

Immediately, Aeneas got up and walked. The people in the town were amazed at the miracle. Many believed in God and began to spread this news to the people in neighboring towns.

Dorcas in Joppa

When the news of the miracle reached Joppa, the believers there were very excited. [Locate Joppa on the map.] They wanted to invite Peter to their town because there was someone there who needed help. A believer named Dorcas had become sick and died. Many people loved Dorcas because she helped others and did many good deeds. She would sew fabric together using a needle and thread to make clothing and then give them to people who needed them. When the believers heard about the healing of Aeneas, they sent two messengers to ask Peter to come quickly. When Peter got the message, he hurried to Joppa.

When he arrived at Dorcas' house, he found widows crying around her. As the widows wept, they showed Peter the coats and garments that Dorcas had made for them. She had helped them so much but now she was no

longer with them.

Peter knew that there was nothing man could do to bring Dorcas back to life. Only God had the power. He sent all the women out of the room, then knelt down and prayed to God. After, he turned to look at Dorcas and said, "Tabitha, get up."

Immediately, Dorcas opened her eyes and sat up! God had listened to his prayers and made Dorcas alive again! Peter called all the believers and women into the room. They couldn't believe their eyes! Dorcas was alive! God is indeed an almighty God!

After this, the people in town couldn't stop talking about Jesus. Many people came to believe in God. Peter remained in the city for some time longer sharing the good news of the Lord Jesus.

Cornelius at Caesarea

Joppa and Lydda were not the only towns where people believed in God. In the city of Caesarea, there lived a Roman centurion named Cornelius. [Locate Caesarea on the map.] Cornelius was not a Jew like Jesus and Peter, and at that time, all the believers were Jews because the gospel was only preached to the Jews. The Jews were the descendants of Abraham and thus were chosen by God to be His people. The Gentiles, people who were not Jewish, were considered by the Jews to be unholy and unclean. Because of this distinction, the Jews and Gentiles did not get along and never ate together.

Though Cornelius was a Gentile, he and his family feared God. He was a generous man who helped the poor and also prayed to God regularly. This demonstrated how good of a person Cornelius was. Though he had not heard the gospel, he was able to do things that pleased God.

One day, while Cornelius was praying, an angel of God appeared to him. The angel said, "Cornelius, God has seen your prayers and your good works and they are remembered by God. Now go and find a man called Peter and ask him to come to you."

Cornelius did not know Peter, and he did not know what all this meant, but he obeyed and sent men to find Peter in Joppa.

Peter's Visions

During the afternoon of the next day, Peter was praying on the roof when he also saw a vision. He saw heaven opened and a great blanket coming down towards earth. Inside the blanket were all sorts of animals, insects, snakes and birds that the Jews were not allowed to eat.

Then Peter heard a voice say to him, "Rise, Peter; kill the animals and eat them."

Peter was shocked when he heard this command. "No, Lord, I have never eaten anything common or unclean in my life." To the Jews, these kinds of animals were unclean and Moses' laws instructed them not to eat them.

Then the voice said, "Don't call something unclean when God has made it clean!" This vision was shown to

Peter three times. Then the blanket was taken back up to heaven. Peter was very puzzled. What could the vision mean? What was he supposed to do? What was God trying to tell him?

As he was thinking this, Cornelius' three messengers had found the house where Peter was staying in. God told Peter, "Three men have come to see you. Go down, meet them and go with them. All is well. I have sent them."

Peter Visits Cornelius

The next morning, Peter, along with some believers from Joppa, went with Cornelius' men to Caesarea to see Cornelius. Normally, Peter would not have gone into the house of a Gentile, but he trusted and obeyed God. When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house, he saw that Cornelius had invited his relatives and close friends and they were waiting excitedly to listen to Peter.

Peter then began to preach to them the gospel of Jesus Christ. He preached about how Jesus had come to the world to die on the cross for sinners, and after three days, resurrected and ascended to heaven. Because Jesus resurrected, anyone who believed in Jesus would have their sins forgiven.

All of a sudden, as Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all who were listening to the message. They spoke in tongues and praised God. Peter was so amazed. How could it be that the Holy Spirit had also been given to the Gentiles? Could it be that God had chosen the Gentiles, too? They had received the Holy Spirit not while praying but while listening to the word of God. There was no doubt about it. It was very clear that God wanted to save not only the Jews but the Gentiles, too. Peter understood that the Lord Jesus did not just love the Jews, He loved all mankind and hoped that everyone could be saved. With great joy, Cornelius and all the people with him were baptized in the name of Jesus.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Peter healed Aeneas on his own.** False; God's power healed Aeneas.
2. **Peter's vision showed that God saved not only the Jews but the Gentiles, too.** True.
3. **When the voice told Peter to eat the unclean animals, Peter killed one and ate it.** False; he said he had never eaten anything unclean in all his life.
4. **As Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and all those who heard the word.** True.
5. **What did the people of Lydda do when they saw Aeneas walking?** They believed and praised the Lord.
6. **How do we know that Cornelius was a good person?** He feared God, prayed often and helped the poor.
7. **Why did many people cry when Dorcas died?** She was a woman who helped and cared for others.
8. **How did Peter demonstrate that he loved and cared for the believers?** He visited them and helped them.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:16)**

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; he had remained in bed for eight years.
2. False; Peter said that he didn't eat unclean animals.
3. True
4. True
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Living for Jesus

In today's lesson, we learned about three people who dedicated their lives to Jesus and to help others: Peter, Dorcas, and Cornelius.

Before Peter knew Jesus, he had been a fisherman. When Jesus called him, Peter decided to quit fishing and followed Him to do God's work. God gave Peter special gifts and powers, such as healing the sick and resurrecting the dead, to preach the gospel and to help people.

Dorcas also lived for Jesus. Dorcas was a skilled seamstress. She used her gift to help others by making clothes for the widows.

Cornelius was a Gentile who helped the poor. The Bible says that he feared God, generously gave alms to the people, and prayed to God always (Acts 10:2).

God wants us to dedicate our lives to Him and to serve Him. He has given us good food, beautiful homes and has

blessed us with many talents and gifts. God might have given us the ability to draw or play the piano. Or He might have blessed us with good food, nice toys, and clothes. How else has God blessed you? [Allow students to respond.]

God blessed us so we can share our gifts and serve Him with our talents. By demonstrating our charity and love, others will see that we are different from the selfish people of the world. Then they will praise our Father in heaven. This is how we live for God through our good deeds and bring glory to His name.

Let us read Matthew 25:34-40. Here, the Lord Jesus reminds us to serve and help others. When we do these things, we are not only helping people, but also helping God. The Lord will remember all of our good deeds and will bring us to heaven.

Ways to Live for Christ

Read God's Word

Bible reading is necessary for nurturing our relationship with God. Remember to read God's word several times a day: before you go to school, after you come back from school, and before going to bed. Also, be sure to read different parts of the Bible and not the same stories multiple times. Put up memory verses around the house to see God's word when you are walking around.

Serve and Love Others

Serving others is another way to show that we serve the Lord. The best way to do this is to serve your parents and other members at church or in your community. That is why we were created: to be helpers. We can step outside of ourselves and reach out to others. Keep this verse in mind when you are serving others: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

Worship Jesus

Praise Him throughout the day. "Thank You, Jesus, for such a beautiful, sunny day!" "May all the praise be unto You for Your mercy and grace today! You are wonderfully beautiful!" Another way to praise Him is to bring Him up in a casual conversation: "God is so miraculous for taking care of all of us!"

Pray in the Holy Spirit

Begin each day by inviting the Holy Spirit to be active in everything you do. Spend time in the mornings and evenings praying *with your parents*. Pray for your day, for others, for struggles you are having, for friends and relatives, or for whatever or whomever you think needs help. There is no end to who or what you can pray for. The idea is to pray, *not by yourself, but with family members*.

ACTIVITY

1**How Can I Help?****Objectives:** To encourage students to think of ways that they can serve God.**Preparation**

Write the scenarios listed below on index cards. If needed, prepare more scenarios so the activity may be extended for several additional rounds.

- I have lots of toys.
- My brother does not have the Holy Spirit yet.
- I can play the piano.
- I have a lot of money in my piggy bank.
- I am good at drawing.
- Dad has just come home from work.
- My friend has not heard about the Lord Jesus yet.
- At school there is a girl/boy who has no one to play with.
- My little brother has spilled a cup of juice on the floor.
- Mom is unloading lot of grocery bags from the car.
- Grandma is in hospital.

Instructions

1. Pass out one index card to each student and place the rest in a box.
2. Ask each student to read the scenario on the card silently.
3. Tell them to come up with one way they can help or serve others based on the scenario on the card. Give them some time to think about it and then call on a student to come up to the front of the room.
4. The student will read the scenario and then tell the class how he will serve or help others.
5. Give each student a chance to come up and, if time permits and if there are enough cards, give the students another card to read and think about.
6. End the activity with an encouragement, telling the students that God has blessed them with many different gifts and opportunities to help and serve others, so they should always do it when they can.

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 6—Peter Works for God

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. As instruments of God, we work to bring good news and peace to men.
 2. God bestows blessings not only for us but also for the kingdom of God.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To establish a life of living for Jesus and doing good deeds.
 2. To use God’s blessings to help others.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Matthew 5:16)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Aeneas was a paralytic who had remained in bed for two years. _____
2. When the voice told Peter to eat of the animals, Peter took one and ate it. _____
3. The unclean animals in the vision represent the Gentiles whom God will also save. _____
4. Cornelius was a God-fearing man who prayed to God and gave alms to the poor. _____

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : Many people wept when Dorcas died because _____.
 - a. They would miss the beautiful clothes that she made.
 - b. She helped and cared for others.
 - c. They would miss the good food that she made.
6. _____ : God showed Peter the vision to tell him that _____.
 - a. The gospel was to save the Jews only.
 - b. The gospel was for everyone, not just the Jews.
 - c. The gospel was for the Gentiles only.
7. _____ : As Peter was preaching, _____.
 - a. Cornelius refused to believe what Peter said.
 - b. Cornelius and his family were very joyful.
 - c. The Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and all those who heard the message.
8. _____ : God gave Peter power and strength so he could _____.
 - a. Help the believers and preach the gospel to others.
 - b. Help himself.
 - c. Show off to others.
9. Think of one way that you can live for Jesus.

10. Follow the instructions below to find out what Jesus wants us to do:

First: **Cross out** all the names of people and places from today's lesson.

Second: **Cross out** all the names of colors.

Third: **Cross out** all the names of unclean animals.

Fourth: **Cross out** all the numbers.

AENEAS	BROWN	SEVEN	LET	PIG	WHITE	YOUR
THREE	LIGHT	CAMEL	GOLD	EIGHT	SO	DORCAS
SHINE	HORSE	FOUR	RED	BEFORE	PETER	ORANGE
PURPLE	MEN	SIMON	ALLIGATOR	FIVE	THAT	FIFTY
MOUSE	THEY	DOG	BLUE	MAY	CORNELIUS	TWO
THIRTEEN	GREEN	SEE	TABITHA	NINETEEN	SNAKE	YOUR
DORCAS	GOOD	SQUIRREL	WORKS	LYDDA	TIGER	AND
GLORIFY	YOUR	PINK	CAESAREA	YELLOW	FATHER	BLACK
LIZARD	IN	CORNELIUS	HEAVEN	TORTOISE	FIVE	JOPPA

What do the remaining words say? Write them in order on the lines below.

Matthew 5:16

LESSON 7

GOD DELIVERS PETER

BEFORE YOU TEACH

King Herod Agrippa I

During the Apostolic time, the king of Judea was King Herod Agrippa I. He was the grandson of Herod the Great, who was the king during Jesus' infancy (Mt 2:1). Herod the Great had six sons: Herod Philip II, Archelau, Aristobulus, Herod Antipas, Herod Philip I and Antipater. King Herod Agrippa I was the son of Aristobulus and the nephew of Herod Antipas.

Herod Antipas inherited the throne from Herod the Great. Herod Antipas beheaded John the Baptist because he condemned Herod Antipas for marrying Herodias, the wife of Herod Philip I, his brother (Mt 14:3-12) and tried Jesus before His death (Lk 23:8-12). Herod Agrippa I accused Antipas of rebelling against the Roman emperor and exiled Antipas to Gaul and became king of Judea. It included the territories of Galilee, Perea, Judea, and Samaria. Upon seeing the success and support of the Jews after beheading James, King Herod Agrippa I also arrested Peter in hopes of gaining more favor. King Herod Agrippa I died suddenly in AD 44 (Acts 12:20-23).

Passover

The Passover celebrates God delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Passover originated from the Hebrew word, "*Pesah*," meaning "to pass over." It recounts how God passed over the Israelites' houses while entering the Egyptian homes and killing their firstborns.

In accordance with Mosaic Law, there were specific rituals and restrictions to celebrating the Passover (Ex 12:1-27, 43-49; Dt 16:1-8). Each family was to sacrifice an unblemished, one-year-old, male lamb. It was to be roasted in fire. The Israelites were to eat the meat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Any remaining meat was to be burned. The Israelites ate the Passover quickly in a state of readiness, before their departure from the land of slavery. If a household was too small, it was allowed to eat the lamb with another family.

The day of Passover was followed by a seven-day festival called the Festival of the Unleavened Bread. Eventually, the entire week came to be called the Passover.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 12:1-17

BIBLE TRUTH

God delivered Peter from the hands of King Herod.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To teach students about the importance of intercession.
2. To encourage students to pray for others in need.
3. To demonstrate the importance of entrusting all to God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Praying always for you."

(Colossians 1:3b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord, You are the almighty and loving God. We know that You listen and answer our prayers whether we are happy or in need and that nothing is impossible for You. Lord, You want us to show love by praying for others, such as our family, our church brothers or sisters and our friends. Please bless them and help them experience You in their lives, too. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

King Herod Agrippa I imprisoned Peter and planned to execute him the next day. When the believers learned of this, they gathered and prayed for God to rescue Peter. God answered their prayers. He sent His angel to lead Peter out of the heavily guarded prison.

Your students are always encouraged to pray, but they may not understand the power of prayer. Through prayer, we ask God to help us or other people. The believers' prayers led to Peter being saved from the prison. Remind

your students to pray to God in good times and in bad. Pray to give thanks during prosperity or to ask for help during need. God is always listening. In addition, tell your students to pray with confidence. Jesus said, "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Mt 21:22). Encourage your students to include daily prayer in their lives. It will strengthen their spirituality and help their Christian life.

VOCABULARY

execute: to put to death

Passover: a Jewish festival remembering the deliverance of the Israelites out of Egypt

persecution: the practice of treating others badly because of their beliefs

intercession: the act of praying for others

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Peter worked mightily for God. During his ministry, Peter traveled to many places. In Lydda, he met a lame man named Aeneas. Peter had compassion on Aeneas and healed him in the name of the Lord Jesus. In Joppa, Peter also met Dorcas, a woman who loved and cared for those around her, and whom many mourned upon her death. Through God's power, Peter resurrected Dorcas, causing many who heard to believe in God! Lastly, we learned about Cornelius, a generous man who gave to the poor and prayed to God regularly. What was different about Cornelius? Yes! He was a Gentile. But through him, God taught Peter that the gospel was not only for Jews. Cornelius and those gathered with him received the Holy Spirit as Peter preached to them about Jesus. How great God's mercy is!

BIBLE STORY

Peter Is Put in Prison

After Jesus ascended to heaven, many people believed in the gospel. Those who believed in the Lord were called Christians, just like today. Many of the Jewish leaders did not like the Christians. The leaders persecuted them and treated them badly. At the time, King Herod Agrippa ruled Judea. He wanted to please the leaders, so he arrested many Christians and put them into prison. He even killed the apostle James, the brother of John. When Herod saw that James' execution pleased the Jewish leaders, he began arresting more apostles. He had heard that Peter was one of the leaders of the Christians. Peter preached bravely and turned many hearts to Jesus. So, Herod sent men to have Peter arrested. Herod wanted to kill Peter immediately, but because it was a special festival called the Passover, he had to wait a week for the festival to be over.

What is it like in a prison? Do you think it would be warm and cozy? Are you able to do whatever you want? [Allow students to answer.] King Herod put Peter inside a prison cell under very tight security to make sure that Peter could not escape. He ordered four soldiers to watch Peter

every minute of the day and night. In addition, Peter was chained and two soldiers were in the cell with him. It was impossible for Peter to escape!

The Believers Pray for Peter

When the believers heard of Peter's imprisonment, they became very concerned. Herod Agrippa had just killed James, and he would kill Peter, too. The believers knew that Peter required their help, but he was too well guarded for them to rescue him. If you were the believers, what would you have done to save Peter? [Hand out paper and allow students time to draw or write down their answers. Share students' answers.]

The believers realized that only God could save Peter. Thus, the believers gathered in a house and prayed earnestly for God to save Peter.

Peter's Miraculous Escape

The Passover week was about to end. The next day, Peter was to be executed. The believers prayed together through the night. Though God had not yet answered

their prayers, the believers' faith remained strong and they continued to pray for Peter.

While the believers were praying, Peter slept peacefully between the two guards in his cell. Do you believe Peter was frightened? No, he was not. Peter was not frightened because he knew that God loved him and would do what was best for him.

As Peter slept soundly, an angel suddenly appeared and lit up the jail cell. He struck Peter on the side and told him to wake up.

"Get up quickly!" said the angel. As Peter rose to move, the heavy chains on his hands just fell off. The two soldiers in the cell with him did not know that anything was happening.

"Put on your belt, your sandals, and your coat," the angel said, "and follow me."

Peter did as the angel told him. He did not know that the angel was real because he thought that he was dreaming. Peter walked by each soldier that was guarding him. They did not see the angel nor Peter. The angel took Peter to the great iron gate that led outside into the city. This was tightly secured and locked but amazingly, the great iron gate opened on its own. Peter and the angel walked out and along the road away from the prison. Then the angel left Peter. Peter realized he was standing alone on the road outside of the prison. He now knew that he had not been dreaming, but that God had sent His angel to rescue him from the evil hands of Herod. Peter quickly walked to the house where the believers were praying.

Peter Knocks on the Door

Arriving at the house, Peter knocked on the door. A young

servant girl called Rhoda answered the door. Who could it be at such a late hour?

She heard a voice say, "It's Peter." Rhoda recognized Peter's voice. She was so happy that she forgot to open the door, and instead ran inside to tell the believers that Peter was at the gate.

"It's Peter!" Rhoda shouted. "Peter's outside at the door!"

The people wondered how it could be Peter. Wasn't he still in prison?

"You're imagining things! You're out of our mind!" they said. "Maybe you saw his angel."

"But it's true," insisted Rhoda. "It is Peter!"

Again they heard knocking at the door. Together, they went out to see who was at the door.

The Believers Praise God

When they opened the door, there was Peter standing before them. Rhoda was right! Everyone was so excited and amazed that they all tried to talk at once. But Peter motioned them to be silent. They all went into the house and Peter told them how God had sent an angel to rescue him. God had truly answered their prayers. He also told them to tell the other apostles and believers that he was safe. After praying together to thank God, Peter left the house and Jerusalem. He wanted to get away from Herod and also tell other people about Jesus. Peter lived for a long time after this incident. Everywhere he went, he preached about Jesus. And he never forgot how God miraculously saved him from King Herod. Yes, God was a God who answered prayers!

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. King Herod had killed _____ (James) before arresting Peter.
2. The believers _____ (prayed) to God to deliver Peter.
3. An _____ (angel) rescued Peter from prison.
4. God is pleased when we _____ (pray) for others.
5. After being freed, Peter went to the house where the believers were praying. True.
6. Peter testified to all the believers about how God had saved him. True.
7. The believers believed Rhoda when she told them that Peter was at the door. False; they thought maybe she had seen Peter's angel.
8. When Peter was in prison, he was not afraid because he had faith that God loved him and would take care of him. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Praying always for you." (Colossians 1:3b)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. King Herod
2. The believers
3. Peter
4. The angel
5. Rhoda
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

A. For You I Am Praying

From today's story, we learned how the church prayed earnestly for Peter. Because of their prayers, God freed Peter from prison. God did not need to use a single key to free Peter from prison. Instead, He sent an angel to rescue Peter. Miraculously, the chains that bound Peter fell off his hands and the doors unlocked and opened on their own. This story demonstrates to us that God listens to our prayers, especially if we pray for others. Praying for others, or interceding, is a way to demonstrate our love for others. We pray that God will help and bless that person. And, because of our love, God will bless us, too.

[Hand out Worksheet A on page 59 for the students to complete, then go over the answers as a class. The answers are provided below.]

Worksheet: Connect each person to the person for whom he/she prayed. Look up the Bible verses to help you.

- a. Isaac (Gen 25:21) prayed for...Rebekah (so that she could have children)
- b. Paul (Eph 1:16; Phil 1:14; Col 1:3) prayed for...The church
- c. Lord Jesus (Luke 22:31-32) prayed for...Peter (that he will have faith)
- d. Peter (Acts 9:36-37, 40) prayed for...Dorcas (to resurrect)

B. For Whom Can I Pray?

There are many people who need our prayers. God is pleased when we pray for others. We can pray for our family members, for the brothers, sisters, teachers, or pastors in our church, and for our friends at school. But we should not forget to pray for ourselves.

[After the introduction, hand out Worksheet B on page 60 and give the students some time to fill it out. After they have finished, invite some students to share their charts with the class.]

Worksheet: In the space below, write the name of someone in your family, in church, and among your friends that you will pray for this week. What is it that you want God to help them with?

ACTIVITY

1

The Lord Sent His Angel

Objective: To remind students that God sent an angel to help Peter because of intercessory prayers.

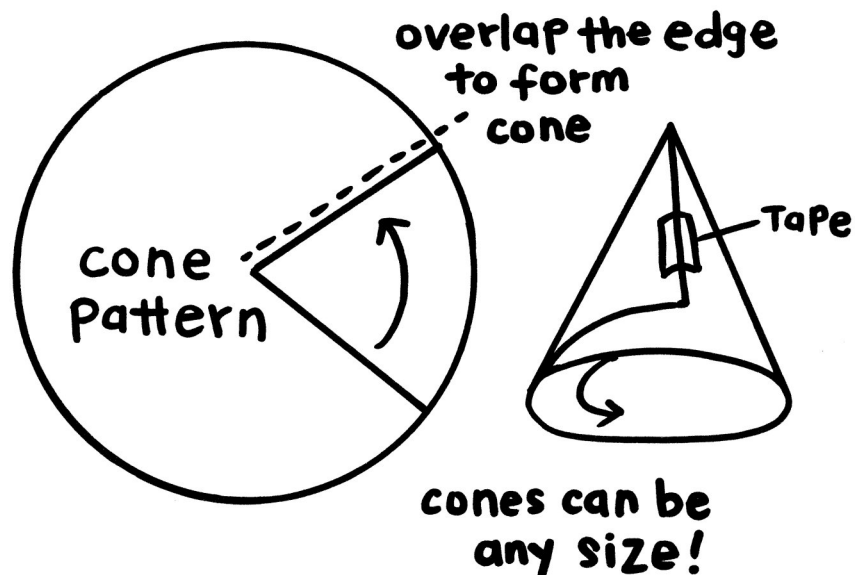
Materials

- Construction paper of various colors
- Paper doilies
- Glitter and sequins
- Markers or crayons
- Glue or tape
- Compass for drawing circles (optional)

Instructions

1. Using colored construction paper, cut out a large circle to make a cone for the angel's body and two small circles for the head. If desired, the teacher may use a compass to trace out the circles for the student to cut out.
2. Cut out a triangle from the large circle by making two cuts to the center of the circle as shown. The triangle should be one quarter of the circle.
3. Orient the large circle such that the curved side is toward the bottom and the opening is at the top.
4. Have students write "God will send His angel to protect you." in the center of the circle. Allow them to decorate the circle.
5. Fold the circle such that the two edges overlap to form a cone. Glue or tape the adjacent sides of the circle to secure the cone.
6. To make the angel's wings, fold a doily in half and glue the edges together to form a semicircle. Attach the semicircle to the back of the cone horizontally with the flat side up, making sure to evenly space the "wings."
7. To make the angel's head, start by gluing one of the small circles onto the tip of the cone, making sure it is at the front of the cone where the head should be. Glue the second circle onto the backside of the first circle, making sure to glue part of it onto the tip of the cone like the first.

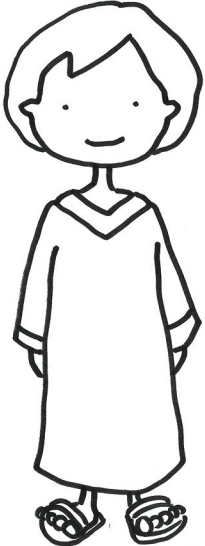
When the students have finished their angels, tell them that when they look at their angels, they can remember that because of the believers' intercession, God heard their prayers and sent an angel to free Peter from prison. They should follow the believers' example and always remember to always pray for others that are in need.



For Whom Did They Pray?

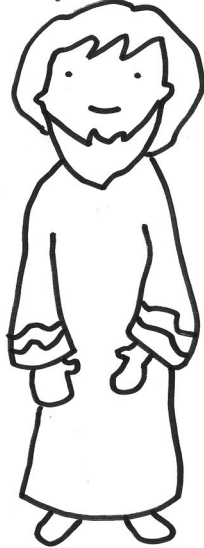
Connect each person on the top to the person on the bottom for whom he prayed.
Look up the Bible verses to help you.

Isaac



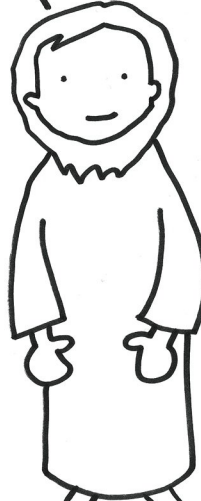
(Gen 25: 21)

Peter



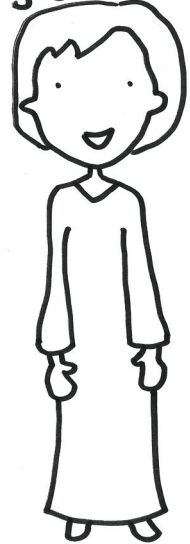
(Ac 9:36-37,
9:40)

Paul



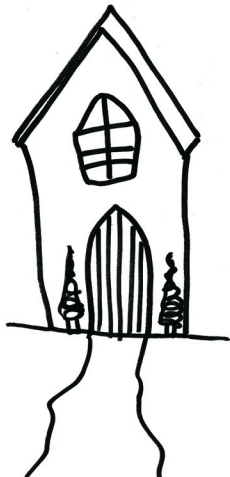
(Eph 1:16)
(Phil 1:14)
(Col 1:3)

Lord
Jesus



(Lk 22:31,32)

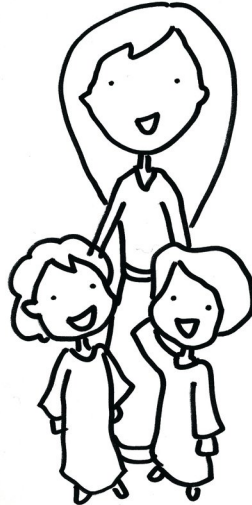
Church



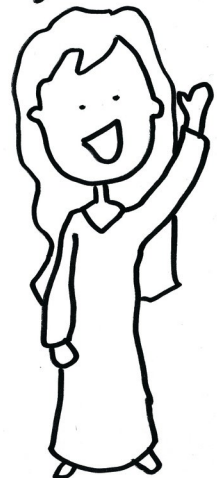
Peter



Rebekah



Dorcas



For Whom Can I Pray?

In the space below, write the name of someone in your family, in church,
and among your friends that you will pray for this week.

What is it that you want God to help them with?

family

friends



church

me

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 7—God Delivers Peter

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God delivered Peter from the hands of King Herod.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To teach students about the importance of intercession.
 2. To encourage students to pray for others in need.
 3. To demonstrate the importance of entrusting all to God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Colossians 1:3b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Who Said What?

The angel	King Herod	Peter	Rhoda	The believers
-----------	------------	-------	-------	---------------

1. _____ "The Jews were pleased when I killed James. I will please them further by arresting and killing Peter."
2. _____ "Oh, almighty God. Please save Peter from the hands of King Herod."
3. _____ "The Lord sent His angel to rescue me from prison and then he led me out of the city."
4. _____ "Arise quickly! Put on your garments and follow me."
5. _____ "It's Peter! He's at the door knocking!"

Multiple Choice

6. _____ : In the prison, Peter was _____.
 - a. Crying because he was afraid
 - b. Sleeping peacefully
 - c. Shouting to the guards to let him out

7. _____ : Peter was not afraid even though he was about to be killed because _____.
 - a. He knew that God loved him and would take care of him
 - b. He had a good escape plan
 - c. He and King Herod were friends

8. _____ : When the believers learned that Peter was in prison, _____.
 - a. They gave up because there was no way to free him
 - b. They went to beg King Herod to let Peter go
 - c. They prayed and asked God to deliver Peter

Short Answer

9. Think of someone who needs your prayers at this time. Write a short prayer to God to ask God to help him/her.

LESSON 8



SAUL IS CONVERTED

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Saul

Saul was born in Tarsus into a strict Pharisee family. In addition to being a Roman citizen (which was a great privilege during that time), he was also of high standing in Jewish circles. He was educated by Gamaliel, one of the most honored Jewish teachers of the time (Act 5:34). He had dedicated the first part of his life to persecuting Christians because he truly thought that it was a heretic belief. He was on close terms with the Jewish high priest, who granted him what he needed for his work in persecuting Christians. But after Jesus opened Saul's eyes to the truth, he became a great apostle to the Gentiles. After his conversion, Saul (now called Paul) traveled as a tireless teacher to many major cities throughout the Roman Empire. Beginning in Antioch, he launched three extensive missionary trips that sowed the seed for churches throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy.

Damascus

Damascus, a city located in the Roman province of Syria about 175 miles northeast of Jerusalem, had a large Jewish population and was a key commercial city. Several trade routes linked Damascus to other cities throughout the Roman Empire. Saul was afraid that if Christianity flourished in Damascus, it would quickly spread to other places. He wanted to prevent Christianity from expanding any further, so he asked the high priest for permission to imprison any Christians that he found in Damascus.

Early Christianity

During the time that Saul was persecuting Christians, the believers were also known as followers of the Way (Acts 9:2) since the word "Christians" was fairly new and not used by everyone. At this time, the followers of Jesus were all converted Jews. They formed a closely-knit community filled with love and fellowship that was blessed by God despite the persecution that people like Saul inflicted. The persecution actually caused them to scatter throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1), leading to the spreading of the gospel to these regions. Wherever these early Christians went, they were able to preach the gospel through their speech and their actions.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 9:1-22

BIBLE TRUTH

Saul was converted by Jesus and dedicated himself to God's work.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To become witnesses for God by living a Christian life.

MEMORY VERSE

"You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

(Acts 1:8b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for taking care of us every day. We know that it is impossible to repay Your kindness and love. But You have given us the Holy Spirit to help us be witnesses for You. Please help us be strong so that we can testify to our friends and neighbors about You and give all glory to Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Paul led a true Christian life. Once he was converted, he became a changed man, living and breathing every minute for Christ. He constantly praised God and helped others, edifying all who heard or saw him. Of course, Paul's shoes are hard to fill and your students certainly are not prepared to do God's work with that kind of power. However, they need to understand that being a Christian means more than just having that title. While they will not be able to preach like Paul, their lives should at least be a living testament of God's love and grace. Because they believe in Jesus, their actions and words should reflect the presence of Jesus in their lives. Otherwise, they are no different than

others who do not believe in the true God. More importantly, do they lead a different life outside of church? They may be model citizens during Sabbath, but what about when they go to school or the time they spend at home? Do they still behave the way that a good Christian follower should? It is vital for your students to understand that being a Christian is not a weekend role. Like Paul, it should be a part of everything that they do or say. Discuss what being a Christian means to them. Lastly, encourage them to pray to God so that their Christian beliefs will truly change their lives. Then they will be a living testimony of God's love.

VOCABULARY

converted: changed, transformed

persecute: to harass, torture, oppress, and sometimes even kill, often because of one's beliefs

synagogue: Jewish temple, church, or place of worship

high priest: the leader of the Jewish religion

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Peter was rescued from prison. King Herod had imprisoned Peter to please the Jewish leaders. The believers prayed very hard for Peter's safety. The night before Peter was about to be killed, an angel of God appeared in the prison cell and guided him safely out. Not one of the soldiers guarding him knew what had happened. When Peter was led past the gates, the angel disappeared. Only then did Peter realize what had happened. Quickly, he went to the house where the believers had gathered to pray for him. When they saw him, they were happy and they praised God for His love and protection. After telling everyone the miraculous story, Peter left Jerusalem to preach to others about Jesus' love. We learned that we should pray with faith like the believers and trust in God's protection.

BIBLE STORY

Saul's Persecution of Jesus' Followers

When Christianity first started, the Christians were very joyful. They lived like one big family and many Jews converted to join them. At the same time, many Jewish leaders were persecuting Jesus' followers. They were jealous because the Christians were growing in number quickly since so many Jews wanted to join them. The Jewish leaders like the high priest and his people even convinced the kings who ruled over Jerusalem to arrest and kill the leaders of the church. So, you can see that there were many people who did not like the Christians at all. What do you think the Christians did when so many people were trying to lock them in prison and kill them? They left!

The believers scattered and went to live in different

cities. [It may help to show the students a map of Judea and Samaria so that they can see where the early Christians scattered to.] But even then, there was one person who didn't give up looking for Christians and capturing them. He wanted to arrest all the followers of Jesus and put them into jail. This man's name was Saul. He was a very smart man who had studied the Old Testament for many years. He knew all about Jesus, but he didn't believe that Jesus was the Savior of mankind that the Old Testament was talking about. So he decided to spend his life getting rid of Jesus' followers. Saul was very close to the leaders of the Jews, and they were very happy that Saul was working so hard to put the Christians into jail. He was willing to travel anywhere to arrest Christians.

One day, Saul heard that Christians were preaching

and teaching about Jesus in a city called Damascus. Saul also heard that many people there believed and were getting baptized. He immediately went to the Jewish leaders and asked them for permission to go and find these people so that he could arrest them. The Jewish leaders were very happy to allow Saul to go.

The Lord Appears to Saul

Saul gathered some men to go with him and they started out toward Damascus. As they came near to the city, an amazing thing happened. As they were walking, a blaze of light brighter than the sun suddenly shone from heaven on Saul. Saul fell to the ground immediately, surprised and frightened. He had never seen anything like this before. Then a voice called out.

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” it said.

Saul was confused. “Who are You, Lord?” he asked.

“I am Jesus,” the voice answered back, “whom you are persecuting.”

When Saul heard this, he became amazed. Could it be true that Jesus was really God? Whose voice could it be but Jesus’ since it was coming from heaven?

Then Saul asked, “What do You want me to do now?”

The voice replied, “Get up and go into the city. When you get there, you will be told what to do.” After these words, the bright light disappeared.

The other men were very afraid. They had heard the voice but hadn’t seen anyone. Jesus had only appeared to Saul so they didn’t know what was happening. Saul slowly rose from the ground. He was still shaking from the experience, but he became even more scared when he realized that he couldn’t see anything. At first, he thought it was because of the bright flash of light, but now it was gone, and he only saw complete darkness. The men who were with him took his hand and helped him walk to Damascus.

Saul Begins to Change

After arriving in the city, Saul stayed in a house to wait for further instruction from Jesus. What do you think he did during those days? What would you have done? Saul just prayed and thought about what had happened to him. He didn’t eat or drink anything for three days and nights. He realized that Jesus was God because only God had such power. Can you imagine how much his life had been changed by this? Everything that he had worked so hard for before was all wrong! Inside, Saul felt like a new person. Even though he was blind, he didn’t want to harm Jesus’ followers anymore. In fact, he felt really bad about arresting the believers. So he waited patiently for God to tell him what to do next.

God Calls Ananias

In the meantime, the Lord appeared in a vision to another man who also lived in Damascus. His name was Ananias, and he was a faithful worker for God. God wanted

Ananias to help Saul become a new person.

In a vision, God called to him, saying, “Ananias.”

“Yes Lord, here I am,” Ananias answered.

“Get up and go to Straight Street, and at the house belonging to Judas, you will find Saul of Tarsus,” said the Lord. “He is praying to Me now. I have told him in his prayers that you will help him get his sight back.”

When Ananias heard this command, he was amazed. He knew about all the terrible things Saul had done to the believers of Jesus. Why would God want to help him?

So Ananias said, “Lord, I have heard how this man hates Your followers. I also know that he wants to arrest everyone who believes in You.”

But God answered, “Don’t worry. Do as I tell you. I have chosen Saul to carry My name to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the Jews. I will show him how much he will have to suffer for Me.”

After hearing this, Ananias knew that God had a special plan for Saul, so he obeyed God and went as God instructed.

Saul Regains His Sight

Do you think that Ananias was still scared when he arrived at the house where Saul was? Probably! But even though he was scared, he still did what God told him to do. When Ananias found him, Saul was blind, weak, and powerless. Ananias laid his hands on Saul and said to him, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who spoke to you on the road, sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

As soon as Ananias spoke those words, scale-like objects fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. He praised God and wanted to get baptized. After the baptism, he returned to the house and ate some food to gain strength again. He decided to stay with the Christian believers for a few days to learn all that he could about Jesus. On the Sabbath, Saul went to the synagogue and began to preach about Jesus. He started to obey the Lord right away, telling everyone he now believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He was very excited that Jesus had given him a chance to repent. Now he was going to spend his energy preaching the good news to others.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

This Bible story is suitable to turn into a storyboard activity or skit as a means to reinforce the story. Have your students create storyboards or have them act out the story to you. If you don't think there is enough time, you can pre-draw a storyboard, then cut out the pictures and have them place the pictures in the correct order. When they finish, they should be able to tell the story back to you. Alternatively, you can write out a script for them to act out the events. In this case, try to involve all the students.

After the storyboard activity or skit, discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you think Saul changed so suddenly and believed in Jesus?
2. How did Saul show that he was a new person?
3. How can you show that you are a Christian to others?

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
(Acts 1:8b)**

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Saul, Damascus
2. light
3. three
4. False; Saul completely changed and started preaching that Jesus was the Son of God.
5. True
6. Saul went around preaching that Jesus was the Son of God.
7. Answers may vary.
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

We should live a life that reflects the life of Christ.

1. Identify the change in Saul's life

- Cut out the following words describing Saul's life.
- Have the students group the words into before and after his conversion.

Before	After
Hated Christians	Believed in Jesus
Cruel, mean	Loved Jesus
Persecuted Christians	Loved Jesus' followers
Had no love	Preached the gospel
Did not know Jesus	Was willing to die for Jesus

From looking at the way that Saul behaved before and after his conversion, we can see that his life really changed. It is only through the changes in a person's behavior that others can see if someone has changed. If Saul started to believe in Jesus but didn't share his new beliefs or stop persecuting the Christians, then that would mean that he didn't actually believe in Jesus.

2. Identify things we need to change in our lives

In the same way that others could tell that Saul converted to Christianity, others should be able to tell from the way we behave and from our words that we are followers of Jesus.

Read the sentences below aloud to your students and have them identify the things in which they are lacking.

1. I always like to go to church.
2. I want to pray for the Holy Spirit.
3. I like to work hard in school.
4. I want to show love and kindness to everyone.
5. I need to stop complaining.
6. I need to stop telling lies.
7. I need to obey my parents.
8. I need to tell others about Jesus' love.
9. I need to finish what I start.
10. I need to clean my room.

For the ones that they identified, discuss ways that they can do them or do them better. Emphasize relying on God and prayer to help them do these. Draw from your own experiences of how you changed or overcame a problem or weakness. Also, emphasize that they should be Christian-like not only at church, but also at school and at home—they should be Christian-like everywhere.

ACTIVITY

Faith Witness Bracelet

Objective: To help the students share their faith.

Materials

- 3 different colors of yarn or nylon cording
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Assign a name—Faith, Hope, or Love—to each color of the yarn or cording. The primary color should be assigned “Love,” and it will act as the center of the bracelet.
2. Cut off 12” of the primary color.
3. The other two colors, standing for “Hope” and “Faith,” each need to be 48” long.
4. Pin the 12” Love cord to a board, desk or piece of cardboard so students can work on their knots easily.
5. Begin the bracelet with a square knot. A square knot consists of right over left and left over right.
6. Holding the Faith cord, make a loop to the left of the Love cord and over the top of it.
7. Bring the Hope cord over the end of the Faith cord, then behind the Love cord, and up through the Faith cord's loop. Tighten the knot.
8. Take the Faith cord (which is now on the right) and make a loop to the right of the Love cord and over it.
9. Bring the Hope cord over the end of the Faith cord, up behind the Love cord, and through the loop of the Faith cord. Tighten the knot.
10. Repeat these two knots until the bracelet is the length you want.
11. Tie a knot at the back of the bracelet, and cut the Faith and Hope cords off.
12. The Love cord will be used to tie the bracelet on the wrist.

Give the bracelet to a friend as a gesture of friendship to share your faith, or wear it yourself. Be ready to explain what it represents to those who ask.

Note: If square knots seem too difficult, braid the three cords to make a bracelet.

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor 13:13)

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 8—Saul Is Converted

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Saul was converted by Jesus and dedicated himself to God's work.

Lesson Objective: To become witnesses for God by living a Christian life.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 1:8b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

three	Saul	light	Damascus
-------	------	-------	----------

1. _____ was persecuting the followers of Christ. He even went as far as the city of _____.
2. Jesus spoke to Saul from a bright _____.
3. Saul couldn't see for _____ days and nights.

True or False

4. After Saul was healed, he became even angrier at Jesus and arrested more Christians. _____
5. Saul began to preach the word of God after he got baptized. _____

Short Answer

6. How did Saul show that he was a new person?

7. What are some ways that you have shown that you are a Christian at school?

8. What are some ways that you have shown that you are a Christian at home?

9. What are some things you will do to be a better Christian?

LESSON 9

PAUL PREACHES IN JESUS' POWER

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The First Missionary Journey

Paul's first missionary journey, which he took with Barnabas, spanned two years (AD 46-48). The Holy Spirit initiated and directed Paul and Barnabas throughout their mission. Paul and Barnabas followed the communication routes of the Roman Empire, which made traveling easier. They preached in major cities and cultural centers to reach as many people as possible.

In each city, Paul and Barnabas followed a specific pattern in preaching the gospel. First, they went to the synagogues and preached to the Jews hoping they would accept Jesus as the Messiah. Next, they preached to the Gentile population.

Paul and Barnabas traveled through the following cities during his first missionary journey: Antioch (in Syria); Seleucia; Salamis; Paphos; Perga; Antioch (in Pisidia); Iconium; Lystra; and Derbe.

On the return trip, they retraced their journey in the reverse order until they reached Perga. Instead of traveling to the island of Cyprus, they went to Attalia and then sailed to Antioch in Syria.

Paul's Name

God gave Paul the mission to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Paul traveled within the Roman Empire during his missionary journeys. Thus, Paul used his Roman name, Paul, and not his Jewish name, Saul (Acts 13:9).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Your students, at their current age, are likely not actively preaching. However, it is important to establish in their minds the importance of evangelism. Remind them that just as they have freely received salvation from God, they must freely spread the Gospel so others may also be blessed with God's salvation. Encourage them to share their faith with their friends and families. They may not see results quickly, but they will gain the understanding that preaching is fundamental to being a Christian.

In addition to actively evangelizing, your students may participate in evangelical work in other ways. They can pray for the ministers and workers who are evangelizing. They can also evangelize through their behavior, conduct, and speech. When your students emit the light of God in their behavior, conduct, and speech, their friends and family will notice and be drawn to God.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 9:23-30; 11:25-26; 13; 14

BIBLE TRUTH

Paul relied on the power of the Holy Spirit to testify for Christ.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage students to share their faith.
2. To teach students that people will react differently to the gospel.
3. To encourage students not to give up when situations become difficult.

MEMORY VERSE

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword."

(Hebrews 4:12a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for bringing us to church safely. We know that You are the true God. You provide us with everything. We want to repay Your love by preaching Your gospel so others may know You and become Your children. Please fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we may have the courage and love to share the good news to the world. May Your name be praised and glorified! Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

missionary: evangelist or preacher who brings the word of God to others

synagogue: a place of gathering and worship for Jews

REVIEW

Last week's lesson was about the conversion of Saul. Saul was a Pharisee who persecuted the followers of Jesus. On a trip to Damascus to arrest Jesus' followers, a bright light blinded Saul. In the light, Jesus spoke to him and he realized then that Jesus was really God. From then on, Saul preached boldly about Jesus being the Son of God.

BEFORE YOU TEACH

To help the students visualize Paul and Barnabas' journey, prepare a map of the Eastern Mediterranean. Have the students find the cities that Paul and Barnabas visited on their journey. As you progress through the lesson, draw a line from city to city along the route that Paul and Barnabas took.

BIBLE STORY

Set Aside Paul and Barnabas

Though Saul became a Christian and loved the Lord, the other believers were still afraid of him. They still remembered him as the man who persecuted and imprisoned them. Was it true that Saul had accepted the Lord Jesus? Could they trust someone who had hurt them before? None of the disciples accepted Saul, except one: Barnabas. The Bible describes Barnabas as a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Barnabas had a kind heart. While everyone was afraid of Saul, Barnabas took Saul to meet the other apostles. Later, Saul and Barnabas served God together.

One day, as all the believers were fasting and praying, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart Barnabas and Saul for a special job I have for them." God wanted Barnabas and Saul to go on a missionary journey to preach to the Gentiles. After they prayed more, the men laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them on their special journey that was to take them to many different places.

Paul and Barnabas' Adventure Begins

[Have students find Seleucia and Cyprus on their maps. Show answer on the enlarged map.]

Paul and Barnabas began their very first missionary journey. In those days, there were no planes or cars like we have today. Paul and Barnabas had to either travel by foot or by boat. Starting out from Antioch, they arrived at an island called Cyprus. In Cyprus, they preached from one town to another until they came to a place called Paphos. [Have students locate Paphos on the island of Cyprus.] In Paphos, there was a governor, or leader of the city, named Sergius Paulus. He called for Barnabas and Paul because he

wanted to hear the word of God.

Sergius had a man working for him named Bar-Jesus (who was also called Elymas). Let's look at Acts 13:6-8. What do we learn about Elymas? Elymas was a Jewish man but he was a sorcerer and a false prophet. God forbid His people to practice sorcery (Ex 22:18; Lev 19:26; Deut 18:10-13). Elymas was also a false prophet. God's prophets speak His truth and do not lie. Thus, Elymas was disobedient, wicked, and evil. Elymas did not want Sergius to hear the gospel from Paul. He made many attempts to prevent Sergius from believing in the truth.

When Paul saw how Elymas was trying to prevent Sergius from believing in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gave Paul the power to say, "You son of the devil and the enemy of everything that is right. God will now punish you and you will become blind." Immediately, Elymas found everything had become dark. He couldn't see a thing! He had to find someone to lead him by the hand. When Sergius, the official, saw what had happened, he fully believed in God.

God's enemy Satan will do whatever he can to keep people from being saved. He knows that God's word can save people and deliver them from his kingdom of darkness and sin. But God has the power to defeat Satan and overcome all of Satan's tricks.

Antioch of Pisidia

The next destination in which Paul and Barnabas planned to share the gospel was a city called Antioch of Pisidia. [Have the students find this city on the map. Also, have the students find Antioch in Syria to demonstrate to the students that they are different cities.] On the Sabbath, they went to the synagogue and there, Paul stood up and

told them that Jesus was their Messiah and King. He was the Savior who died for their sins. Through the Holy Spirit, Paul preached with great power.

The people who heard the message were eager to hear more so they invited Paul to come back again next week. At the next Sabbath, almost the whole city came to the synagogue to hear them speak the word of God. Many people believed, especially the Gentiles. They were happy that God was not only saving the Jews but the Gentiles, too. But when the Jewish leaders saw the crowds, they became jealous and began to turn the people against Paul and Barnabas and cast them out of the city.

How would you feel if people disliked you and told you to leave their town? Yes, we would feel very bad. But Paul and Barnabas did not feel upset or discouraged. They simply continued on their journey.

Iconium

Next, the apostles traveled to the city of Iconium. [Have the students find Iconium on the map.] Again, they entered the synagogue and spoke the words of God and Jesus' salvation. Many of the Jews and Gentiles believed, but there were those who did not. The Jews who refused to believe spoke evil of Paul and Barnabas and tried to turn the Gentiles against them. Even though there were people who stirred up trouble, the Holy Spirit gave Paul and Barnabas the courage and power to keep doing the work that God told them to do. Later, when the apostles learned that the unbelievers planned to capture and stone them, they quickly left Iconium.

Lystra

After leaving Iconium, Paul and Barnabas traveled to the city of Lystra. [Have a student locate Lystra on the map.] At Lystra, they met a man who was crippled from birth. The man was listening intently to Paul preach and he had faith that God could heal him. So Paul called to him, "Stand Up!" Immediately the man leaped to his feet and started walking!

The people were amazed at what they saw. A man who had never walked before was now walking before their very eyes. It was indeed a miracle! Who gave Paul the power to make the man walk? Yes, it was God. A miracle is something only God can do. When God performs a miracle, it is to show us His power and point us to Him. The correct response to seeing a miracle take place is to praise and thank God for what He has done.

Let's read Acts 14:11-12 to see how the people responded. The people who witnessed the great miracle thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods who had come down to earth in human form. They thought that it was Paul and Barnabas who had the power to make the man walk, so they brought flowers and oxen to make sacrifices to them.

When Paul and Barnabas saw what was happening, they ripped their clothes and ran to the people shouting,

"Men, what are you doing? We are human beings like you! We are not gods! We have come to tell you the good news about the living God who made the heaven, earth, sea and everything in them. You need to worship Him!"

We must not worship anything or anyone other than God. The first commandment is "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex 20:3). This includes people that we admire, such as our pastors or religious education teachers. They are servants of God to whom God gave responsibility to teach you about God and to bring you closer to God. Thus, we must only worship the Lord, the one true God.

Just as before, Paul and Barnabas' enemies turned the people against them. The people stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. But when the disciples found him, Paul rose up and went into the city.

Derbe

The next day, Paul and Barnabas left Lystra and went to Derbe. [Have the students locate Derbe on the map.] In Derbe, many of the people heard the gospel and believed.

After two years of traveling, Paul and Barnabas decided to go home. Derbe was close to Antioch in Syria, being only 300 miles away. [Show the students the most direct path from Derbe to Antioch in Syria.] But instead of taking the shorter route, they decided to travel back to each city. They returned again to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia. Paul and Barnabas loved the believers very much and wanted to visit them again to encourage them to remain faithful to God. Finally, they arrived back in Antioch in Syria.

The believers in Antioch were so excited to see Paul and Barnabas home, safe and sound. The two missionaries reported about their trip to the believers, telling how God had opened the door of faith not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles, too. The believers in Antioch thanked God for His protection and power when they heard of the dangers that Paul and Barnabas had faced. They also rejoiced greatly to know that the gospel was now reaching not only the Jews, but the whole world.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **The leaders of the church decided to give Paul and Barnabas a special mission.** False; the Holy Spirit called upon Paul and Barnabas to be separated.
2. **The Jews did not like Paul and Barnabas because they were from a different city.** False; the Jews did not like the attention that Paul and Barnabas were getting.
3. **After Paul healed the crippled man, the people of Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were gods.** True.
4. **How were Paul and Barnabas able to continue preaching even though they were being persecuted?** They relied on the Holy Spirit for courage and strength.
5. **Whenever Peter and Barnabas arrived at a new place, where did they first go to attend service and preach?** The synagogues.
6. **Why did Sergius Paulus send for Paul and Barnabas?** He wanted to hear the word of God.
7. **Why did God make Elymas blind?** He tried to prevent Paul from preaching the truth to Sergius.
8. **When we preach the word of God, who tries to keep people from being saved?** Satan, God's enemy.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." (Hebrews 4:12a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Did you ever have something wonderful happen to you that you needed to tell someone right away? You might have received first place in a contest or maybe Mom and Dad bought you a special gift. Your heart was so filled with joy and happiness that if you did not tell anyone, you would burst!

Paul and Barnabas also had good news to share with everyone. They wanted others to know about the Lord Jesus and how He had come into the world to save them. And if they believed in Him, they would be with Him forever in heaven. This was the good news that Paul and Barnabas wanted to tell the whole world. They were willing to travel to distant places to make sure that people heard the gospel. This was not easy. There were no cars, trains, or airplanes. They either walked or rode on boats or animals. They traveled miles and miles. They often did not have a place to stay or any money for food. Many times they were persecuted and even stoned by their enemies. Even then, they did not give up but continued to bring the word to others.

Today, our preachers and ministers travel to different places to bring the good news to people, too. Like Paul and Barnabas, they sometimes go through hardships and difficulties. Sometimes they lack food and water, face dangers, or become very sick. But through God's power and the prayers of the brothers and sisters, they are able to overcome these difficulties. Telling others about Jesus is not something only pastors should do. God wants us to

share about Jesus, too. Let us read Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

- Have you spoken to your friends about God?
- Have you told them that by believing in Jesus, they can be saved and go to heaven?
- Have you told them that Jesus is their best Friend and is willing to help them?
- Have you told your friends about the True Jesus Church?
- Have you prayed that your friends or family may know God?

Your friends may respond differently. Some may not wish to listen or learn. Some may be eager to learn more. What matters that we obey God's commandment to preach the gospel so that all may have a chance to be saved.

ACTIVITY

In Season and Out of Season

- Objectives:**
1. To demonstrate to the students how they may share the gospel with others.
 2. To teach the students that people will react differently to the gospel.
 3. To encourage the students not to give up when preaching the gospel.

Instructions

1. Make the following flashcards and post them up on the board.

Not interested	Laughs at you
Too busy	Doesn't treat you nicely
Believes in something else	Interested

2. Students will role-play sharing the gospel. Have each student take turns sharing the gospel with a truthseeker, played by the teacher. Below are examples of what your students can say when they preach.

"Hi _____ (ask students to think of a friend they would like to talk to God about). I believe in God. You can find out more about God at my church. Would you like to come?"

3. The teacher pretends to be the friend and responds with one of the following:

"Hahaha.... There is no God. I can't see Him. You're out of your mind. Hahaha..." (Laughs at you)

"God? What's that? Nah...I don't want to know." (Not interested)

"Going to church sounds like fun, but I have karate lessons on Saturday." (Too busy)

"I already believe in God, and I go to church on Sundays." (Believes in something else)

"Stop telling me about God. I'm not going to play with you. You're weird!!!" (Doesn't treat you nicely)

"There is a God in heaven? Wow, what's He like? I'd like to go to church with you." (Interested)

4. After each example, have students find the flashcard that best describes that response.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False; he became blind.
3. False; Paul survived the stoning and traveled with Barnabas to Derbe the next day.
4. False; not everyone will believe when you preach to them.
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.
10. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 9—Paul Preaches in Jesus' Power

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Paul relied on the power of the Holy Spirit to testify for Christ.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To encourage the students to share their faith.
 2. To teach the students that people will react differently to the gospel.
 3. To encourage the students not to give up when situations become difficult.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Hebrews 4:12a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Sergius Paulus sent for Paul and Barnabas because he wanted to hear God's words. _____
2. Elymas became deaf and dumb because he tried to prevent Paul from preaching the truth to Sergius. _____
3. The people in Lystra stoned Paul to death. _____
4. When we preach to others, everyone will believe in the truth. _____

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : The Holy Spirit told the church to set apart _____ for a special mission.
 - a. Paul and Peter
 - b. Peter and Barnabas
 - c. Paul and Barnabas
6. _____ : Throughout the trip, the _____ were jealous of Paul and Barnabas. They always turned the people against them.
 - a. Gentiles
 - b. Jews
 - c. Disciples
7. _____ : After Paul healed the crippled man, the people thought that Paul and Barnabas were _____.
 - a. Gods
 - b. Superheroes
 - c. Magicians

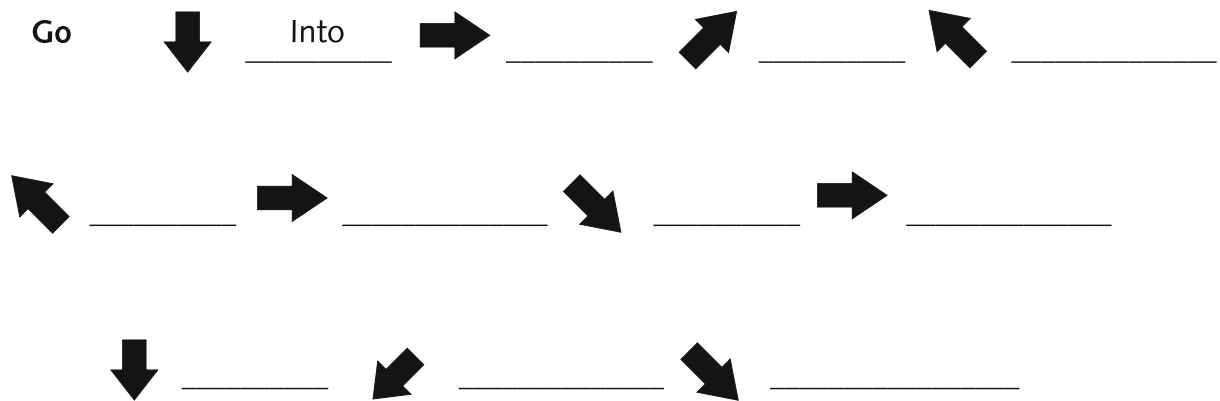
Short Answer

8. What did you learn from Paul and Barnabas about what you can do to please God?

9. Why is it important to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to your friends or family?

10. Beginning at the word "GO," follow the directional arrows to find out the next word. When you have filled in all the blanks, you will end up with an important Bible verse telling us something that Jesus wants us all to do.

	AND	PREACH	LIFE	PAUL
	SERGIUS	WORLD	THE	GOSPEL
Begin Here →	GO	STONE	THE	TO
	↓	ALL	EVERY	BARNABAS
	INTO	CRIPPLE	REJOICE	CREATURE



LESSON 10

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Second Missionary Trip

Paul began his second missionary trip about three years after completing his first trip. Prior to the second journey, Paul and Barnabas had a dispute (Acts 15:36-39). As a result, Paul and Barnabas separated and went on separate missionary journeys. On his second journey, Silas accompanied Paul. Silas was a leader in the Jerusalem church and was one of the brethren chosen to bring the letter from the Jerusalem Council to the Gentile Christians in Antioch (Acts 15:22-23). Timothy and Luke also joined them for a portion of the journey.

In addition to revisiting churches from the first journey, Paul and Silas pushed further west, as far as Greece. Their journey was as followed:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Antioch | 2. Tarsus | 3. Derbe | 4. Lystra |
| 5. Iconium | 6. Troas | 7. Neapolis | 8. Philippi |
| 9. Amphipolis | 10. Apollonia | 11. Thessalonica | 12. Berea |
| 13. Athens | 14. Cenchreae | 15. Corinth | 16. Ephesus |
| 17. Caesarea | 18. Jerusalem | 19. Caesarea | 20. Antioch |

Roman Citizenship

Having Roman citizenship was very valuable because it meant that you were a member of the most powerful empire at that time. Citizens were under the protection of the Roman Empire, even in foreign lands. You could obtain citizenship by buying it, but the cost was enormous. On the other hand, if your parents were citizens, you would automatically be born a citizen, such was the case with Paul (Acts 22:28).

A Roman citizenship carried certain privileges. For example, Roman citizens were entitled to a fair trial while non-Romans could be tortured or whipped without a trial. While in Philippi, Paul and Silas were beaten without a trial, which was illegal. This was the reason why the officials were alarmed when they discovered that Paul was in fact a Roman citizen by birth.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Many people find it difficult to praise God while experiencing suffering. But Paul said, "For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor 12:10b). God reminds people of His guidance by allowing them to be tried. Remind your students that God is more powerful than anything they will encounter in the world. When they rely on Him, He will protect them and strengthen them. During their trials, they may find it difficult to praise God, but remind them that God will open a path for them, like when He delivered Paul and Silas from prison. Encourage your students with the knowledge that God will always protect them. Their sole duty is to pray to and praise Him.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 15:35-41; 16:11-40

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. God protects His faithful workers.
2. God's workers praised God in all circumstances.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To remind the students that God is with them when they face trials, and that He will help them through their problems.
2. To illustrate the importance of singing hymns in all circumstances to praise God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Sing to God, sing praises to His name."

(Psalm 68:4a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for caring for us each day. You instructed Your disciples to spread the Gospel to everyone. We know that not everyone will accept Your truth. Today, we will study how Paul and Silas preached Your gospel in Philippi. While they were in prison, they sang hymns to praise You. Their actions remind us that we should preach the gospel, sing praises to You, and thank You in all circumstances. Teach us to praise You not only with our lips but with our hearts as well. May all glory be to You, our Lord Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

missionary: a person sent by a church into an area to preach

synagogue: a house of worship for Jews

fortune-telling: the act of predicting things that will happen in the future

stocks: a device used to punish and torture prisoners; it consisted of two pieces of wood with holes that clamped down over the prisoner's legs and hands

Roman citizen: a person who is a subject of the Roman Empire; this status held special privileges

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about Paul's first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas were led by the Holy Spirit to different cities to preach God's word. In each city, they told everyone about Jesus and His gospel. Many people heard their message and believed. However, some of the Jews did not accept the message and were jealous of Paul and Barnabas. They plotted to kill them but God protected them. After two years, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch. Everyone praised God for His love and guidance and for leading many people to believe in Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul and Silas Travel to Philippi

A few years after his first missionary trip, Paul really wanted to return to visit the brothers and sisters he had met during the first journey. Paul decided to go on a second missionary journey. For this journey, he took a man named Silas.

Paul and Silas' first stops were the cities of Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium. The believers were overjoyed to see Paul again. They worshipped together and praised God.

Next, Paul and Silas wanted to go to the cities nearby, but the Holy Spirit prevented them from going there. So, Paul and Silas traveled to a city called Troas. During the night, Paul had a dream from God. In the dream, Paul saw a man from Macedonia begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Paul knew clearly that God wanted them to spread the gospel there. Paul and Silas traveled by ship to Macedonia and soon they arrived at a city in Macedonia called Philippi.

A Woman Called Lydia

The city of Philippi did not have a synagogue, as there were not many Jewish people living there. As a result, Paul and Silas preached in open areas in the city. When the Sabbath came, Paul and Silas went to a riverbank where they knew people gathered to pray. There, they began speaking to the women about Jesus. One of the women was called Lydia. She sold purple cloth and worshipped God. But Lydia had never heard the good news about Jesus Christ. As Paul was teaching them about what Jesus had done, the Lord opened Lydia's heart toward Paul's words. She believed that the Lord Jesus had come to die for her, so she decided to get baptized. After her baptism, Lydia invited Paul and Silas to stay in her house while they

preached in Philippi.

A Slave Girl

While Paul and Silas continued to preach in Philippi, a slave girl began following them, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They are telling you how you can be saved." She followed Paul and Silas around for many days. How would you feel if someone followed you for many days? Yes, you would be very annoyed and you wouldn't be able to preach as well. The slave girl had an evil spirit inside her that allowed her to predict the future. Many people would pay her masters great sums of money for her to tell them their future.

At first, Paul just ignored her but after a few days, Paul finally turned around and said to the evil spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" The evil spirit immediately left the girl, and she stopped shouting and following Paul.

Paul and Silas Are Imprisoned

When the slave girl's masters saw that she was unable to tell people their futures, they were very angry. They could no longer make lots of money because she did not have the ability to tell the future anymore. They took Paul and Silas and brought them to the leaders. The owners said, "These Jews are making much trouble in our city. They are teaching things that are against Roman law." The leaders tore off Paul and Silas' robes and commanded that they be beaten. The crowd joined in the attack against them and beat them with rods. They hit them with these rods many times and then threw them into prison.

The jailer placed Paul and Silas in the inner prison. He placed their feet in stocks to keep them from fleeing. That

night, Paul and Silas were alone in a dark prison cell. If you were Paul and Silas, how would you feel? [Allow students to respond.] Normally, we would be very upset. We would wonder why we have been treated so badly when we have not done anything wrong. We may cry and just want to go home. Furthermore, we may feel that God's work is too difficult. We may even be angry with God for allowing us to suffer unfairly. To most people, it may have seemed like God had forgotten about Paul and Silas and that He had left them in prison without any way to escape. But God did not forget them.

Paul and Silas Praise God

As Paul and Silas sat in the prison cell, they did not feel sorry for themselves nor were they upset or angry with God. Rather, they prayed and sang praises to God. Paul and Silas knew that though their suffering was great, the Lord Jesus' suffering had been greater. The Lord Jesus was beaten, laughed at, and crucified on the cross. Paul and Silas were joyful that they too could suffer like the Lord Jesus for doing something good, for preaching the gospel.

As Paul and Silas sang and prayed, the other prisoners listened to them. They must have wondered: who were these two people who could be so joyful in such a horrible prison? Who was this Jesus to whom they were praying and singing? How can I also believe in Jesus, so I can have this joy?

An Earthquake

While Paul and Silas continued to pray and sing hymns, the ground began to shake and tremble. The trembling turned into a great earthquake and the whole prison began to shake. The walls and floor shook so hard that the doors of the cells swung open and the chains fell off each prisoner. What would you have done if you saw the doors opened and you were no longer chained? Yes, most prisoners would have thought that this was the perfect chance to escape.

When the jailer saw that the cell doors were open, he assumed that all the prisoners had escaped. He became very afraid because his job was to make sure the prisoners were securely locked in their cells. If even one prisoner

escaped, he would be killed. He decided to kill himself instead. He drew his sword and was ready to take his own life when Paul cried out with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, we are all here."

The jailer dropped his sword and then asked for a torch so that he could see more clearly. He ran into Paul and Silas' cell and saw that all the prisoners were still there. Not one had escaped!

The Jailer Accepts the Gospel

The jailer brought Paul and Silas out of their cell. He knelt before them and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Paul and Silas then preached to the jailer and his household. The jailer was amazed by the earthquake that freed the prisoners. But he was more amazed that God made the prisoners stay and not escape. Since they did not escape, he did not kill himself. Thanks to all these amazing events, the jailer and his family accepted Jesus and were baptized that night. Afterwards, the jailer invited Paul and Silas to his home, where they ate and rejoiced together.

Paul and Silas Set Free

The next day, the leaders sent messengers to the jailer to release Paul and Silas. The jailer was very pleased with the news and ran to tell them that they were now free. Upon hearing the news, Paul said, "We are Roman citizens and yet we were beaten and put into jail without cause. I will not leave. Let the leaders come themselves and get us out."

When the leaders learned that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were afraid. They had made a big mistake by beating and imprisoning Roman citizens without hearing their story first. The leaders could be punished for this. So they came and apologized to Paul and Silas. They begged them to leave the city because they didn't want any more trouble. Paul and Silas left the prison and returned to Lydia's house. They continued to travel to other towns to tell people about Jesus and His wonderful deeds.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Paul was instructed by God to go to Macedonia through a vision. True.
2. The slave girl's masters became angry and had Paul arrested because Paul had cast out the evil spirit in the slave girl so she could no longer tell people their future and earn money for it. True.
3. When the earthquake shook the ground and opened the prison doors, all the prisoners escaped. False; none of the prisoners escaped.
4. Paul stopped the jailer from killing himself by revealing that the prisoners were still there. True.
5. How did Lydia respond to Paul's message? The Lord opened Lydia's heart to understand and she chose to get baptized.
6. What did Paul and Silas do in prison? They prayed and praised God by singing hymns.
7. What did the leaders find out about Paul and Silas that made them afraid? They were Roman citizens.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name.” (Psalm 68:4a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

The Power of Hymns

From our story, we learned that Paul and Silas loved to sing hymns, even when they were hurting and suffering in prison. Do you like to sing hymns to praise God? We can sing hymns to praise God anytime, anywhere.

God loves to hear our voices, and He values our praises very much. When we sing and praise God, it can do wonderful things because we are glorifying God.

One time, when the people were moving the ark into the temple, the people sang and played instruments praising and thanking the Lord. As they were praising God, a huge cloud filled the temple and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

Through singing hymns and reflecting on the lyrics, God comforts, strengthens and draws us closer to Him. As a result, we have the power to overcome the fear, sorrows, and temptations from our trials.

Hymns can also help us overcome evil spirits. King Saul

was possessed by an evil spirit that troubled him. Whenever the evil spirit disturbed him, he would have David play a psalm from his harp. The evil spirit would leave King Saul and he would be at peace again.

We should remember to sing hymns to God regardless of how we feel. Try to memorize the hymns that we sing, so that we can glorify God anytime and anywhere.

Testimony

There was a little boy who was afraid to go to the bathroom by himself at home. He asked his mother to go with him. His mother encouraged him to be brave because Jesus was always with him. She then told him that as he went to the bathroom, he should sing the chorus to “Do Not Be Afraid” and she would sing with him. As the little boy went alone to the bathroom, he sang the hymn loudly. He could also hear his mother singing the hymn from another room. He learned that he did not need to be afraid because Jesus was with him everywhere and that he could sing hymns to God whenever he felt afraid.

The Power of God's Protection

As God's most precious children, we are protected by God's power. Just as it was with Paul and Silas, as long as we turn to God and trust in Him, His protection is always with us. Let's listen to the following testimony and see how the power of God protected this church member.

"You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance." (Psalm 32:7)

Testimony

In the name of Jesus Christ, I would like to bear testimony of how God saved me from serious bodily injury. If it were not for His compassion and His grace, I would have become an invalid, or even worse, I would not be around to write this testimony.

On September 24, 1995, which was a Sunday, my wife and I rushed home (in Vancouver, Canada) at about 9:30

a.m. after shopping for flowers. We were in a hurry so that I could get to church by 10:00 a.m. to attend to some work. Just as we pulled into the driveway, we noticed a friend waiting for us. It was not usual for her to rise early on weekends, so we were pleasantly surprised when she showed up unannounced. My wife promptly got into the house, while our friend followed me up to the sundeck to help me hang the big basket of flowers from the roof rafter. I stood on a foot-high milk carton so that I could reach the edge of the roof. To hang the basket of flowers, I leaned over the railing as far as my body could flex. Since I had elevated myself higher than the protective level of the deck railing, I instinctively realized that it offered no barrier should I tip over. Sure enough, I suddenly plunged head first over the railing towards the driveway some 4.5 meters (14 feet) below. It happened so fast that I did not have time to be afraid. In a blink of an eye, I laid prostrate on the asphalt, totally dazed and unable to focus on or comprehend my surroundings.

When I recovered minutes later, I crawled on my hands and knees into the house and waited for the ambulance. I was rushed to hospital. Before departing, first aid staff tested my faculties to make sure that I had not suffered a serious concussion. I responded well, and they told me that I was very lucky. I could have hit my head hard on the driveway or the big clay flowerpot nearby. It was like there was a protective shield. A cursory examination of the rest of my body also revealed no injury. I was even able to walk, albeit slowly, to the ambulance without help. My wife and our friend followed in her car. Thank God for the presence of our friend, for it was very unusual for her to show up on the day and time that she did, considering that she has never visited us on a Sunday morning. Was it coincidence? Or was it God's plan? At the hospital, the attending physician checked me up, and discharged me on the condition that I rested from work for at least a week just to be on the safe side.

At this juncture, it is important to mention one other thing. Because I am extremely myopic, I wear very thick glasses. Even if I had not broken any bones, one would have expected my glasses at least to be shattered due to the impact. By the grace of God, my spectacles were lying on the driveway, about two meters (7 feet) from where I landed, in a position as if someone had carefully left them on a shelf. They were not even chipped or scratched. The only rational explanation I can offer for this rather miraculous occurrence is that God knew how important my glasses were to me. They would have been very expensive to replace because of their specification and I cannot function at all without them.

During my recuperation, many of our church brothers and sisters visited and prayed with me. I am grateful for their love and concern. Despite my condition, I was extremely happy to experience such true love. It has taught me that while we have our own families, we also have an extended family in church; and when catastrophe strikes unexpectedly, we can count on church members for hope and encouragement. Thank God for them.

It is important after such a traumatic experience to reflect, examine, and discover some reasons for its occurrence. Had I offended God in some way such that He had to give me a wake-up call to check myself, or was it pure coincidence? Was it sheer good luck that I came through safe and sound, or was it God's mercy and constant care? We often do not realize that we can offend God daily in our lives, through wrong speech, wrong thoughts, wrong actions or wrong intentions. And so, if we do not constantly examine ourselves, we may fail somewhat in our Christian living. In the one week of rest, I had plenty of time to do some self-examination. I wrestled with the issues and concluded that this was indeed a wake-up call for me. But God had, through His grace and compassion, protected me from serious physical harm. Two office colleagues of mine had fallen from lower heights before. One became a quadriplegic; the other shuffles around with a walking stick, whereas today, I am as good as new. Given this scenario, I am convinced that when we serve God in some way, His great love abides with us. When we meet with adversity, we can trust that He will deliver and protect us, so that we remain physically capable of doing more work for Him. This testimony is therefore given for the glory of His name.

Hallelujah, Amen.

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. True
3. False; none of the prisoners escaped.
4. True
5. A
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITY

1

Sing Aloud to the Lord

- Objectives:**
1. To encourage students to praise God with hymns in all circumstances.
 2. To enable students to understand the power of singing hymns.
 3. To enable students to know that God speaks to us through the lyrics of the hymns.

Materials

- Index cards
- Hymn books
- Tape

Instructions

1. Write the hymnal numbers and scenarios from below onto separate flashcards.
2. Post the hymnal numbers on the board, but keep the scenarios.
3. Divide the class into teams of 3 or 4.
4. Distribute the scenarios evenly among the teams.
5. Have each team try to find a hymn that matches each of their scenarios.
6. Once all the teams are done matching their scenarios, ask the students to sit down.
7. Call up one team at a time to read their scenarios.
8. After each scenario, sing one verse from the matching hymn before moving onto the next scenario.
9. After all the teams have presented their scenarios and hymns, the teacher may ask the class to choose one to sing together to end the activity.

Teachers may create their own scenarios with appropriate hymns that are more familiar to the students.

Scenarios	Suggested Hymns
When I am happy	160, 162
When I should pray	410, 405, 259
When I am afraid of the dark and of being alone	151, 271
When I feel lonely and sad	265, 263, 339, 386, 406
When I want to thank God and praise Him for everything	393, 394, 248
When I need to pray for the Holy Spirit	358, 252, 408

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 10—Paul and Silas in Prison

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. God protects His faithful workers.
2. God’s workers praised God in all circumstances.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To remind the students that God is with them when they face trials, and that He will help them through their problems.
2. To illustrate the importance of singing hymns in all circumstances to praise God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 68:4a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Paul was instructed by God to go to Macedonia through a vision. _____
2. The slave girl's masters became angry because Paul had cast out the evil spirit in the slave girl so she could no longer tell people their future and earn money for it. _____
3. When the earthquake shook the ground and opened the prison doors, all the prisoners escaped. _____
4. The jailer and his family were baptized after Paul preached the word of the Lord to them. _____

Multiple Choice

5. ____ : What was the first city Paul and Silas arrived at in Macedonia?
 - a. Philippi
 - b. Philadelphia
 - c. Palestine
6. ____ : Who was the woman that accepted the gospel from Paul when he preached by the river?
 - a. Lydia
 - b. Miriam
 - c. Hannah
7. ____ : Who followed Paul and Silas when they were preaching in Philippi?
 - a. A dog
 - b. A slave girl that could predict the future
 - c. A beggar
8. ____ : What did Paul and Silas do in prison?
 - a. They prayed and sang hymns.
 - b. They got mad at God for letting them suffer.
 - c. They shouted at the jailer to let them out.

Short Answer

9. Name your favorite hymn that you sing to praise God. Why do you like this hymn?
-

LESSON 11

PAUL SAILS TO ROME



BEFORE YOU TEACH

Paul's Journey to Rome

Paul took his third missionary journey between AD 53-57. On his return trip, he decided to stop by Jerusalem. Although he was warned about the upcoming dangers, he did not turn back. After being arrested, he was tried by the Sanhedrin. Because of a plot to kill him, Paul was transferred to Caesarea. He remained imprisoned there for about two years before his request to see Caesar was granted. Paul set sail from Caesarea in the summer of AD 59. Later on, the ship met with fierce storms that caused a shipwreck on the island of Malta. This occurred in late October to early November. Because of the winter weather, they had to stay on the island for three months to wait for the sailing season to open in late February or early March (Acts 28:11). Leaving on another ship, Paul landed on the coast of Italy in the Bay of Naples soon after. He was met with a delegation of Roman Christians who had heard of his coming at the port. Eventually, Paul arrived in Rome, some seventy miles from the port. There he remained under house arrest for two years, preaching the good news about Jesus to all who came to visit him.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Paul was one of the greatest Christians who ever lived. But being a Christian did not mean all of his problems would suddenly disappear. Paul journeyed through a very difficult road, having to constantly run for his life. But he never gave up or quit. He knew that God would always protect him.

To your students, it may seem unfair that Christians have to suffer at all. Sometimes, they may feel that they are being unjustly punished or going through trials for no reason. They may even begin to complain. Explain to them that God has His reasons for everything that happens. He knows what is best. Encourage your students never to lose their faith. He may just be reminding them to pray and rely on Him more. Let them know that, as a class, everyone will pray for one another. Perhaps it is possible to set up a time every night when everyone can pray together so that the prayers will be more powerful. Just as Paul cared for the other passengers, your students can also care for one another. Through this community build-up, they will be encouraged and can remain faithful at all times.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 21:27-36; 23:11-24, 27;
28:1-2, 8-23, 30-31

BIBLE TRUTH

Paul was arrested, tried and shipwrecked before reaching Rome.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To be faithful to God under all circumstances.

MEMORY VERSE

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season."

(2 Timothy 4:2a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for keeping us safe this past week. We know that You are always looking after us and protecting us. But sometimes, we may still encounter problems. We need to remember to trust in You. No matter how difficult the situation, You will always show us a way. We thank You for Your love and guidance. May all glory be unto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

missionary: messenger, apostle, evangelist

trial: case, hearing, prosecution

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about Paul's second missionary trip. This time, he went with Silas. They went to many places, telling everyone about Jesus. When they preached in Philippi, they met with some interesting events. They baptized many people, including a woman called Lydia. She later opened her home to the two missionaries. Then, Paul cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl. Her masters were upset because she could not help them make money anymore. So, they had Paul and Silas arrested after they were severely beaten. But while they were in jail, there was a great earthquake. The jailer who was looking after the prisoners was about to kill himself when Paul told him to stop. None of the prisoners had escaped even though the cell doors were open. The jailer saw God's power, and he and his family believed and got baptized right away. The next day, Paul and Silas were set free. We learned to praise and pray to God under all circumstances, like Paul and Silas did. God will always protect us.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Travels to Jerusalem

After traveling with Silas on his second missionary journey, Paul returned to the Antioch church. After spending time with the believers there, Paul began his third missionary journey. He did not want to waste time because he knew how important it was to tell others about Jesus. He traveled to more places and spread the gospel to many people. Boys and girls, do you know how long it took Paul to complete his third missionary trip? Take a guess. This third journey took him about four years to complete. When he got near the end of this long missionary trip, he decided to go to Jerusalem to see the believers there. It had been such a long time since he had been there last.

When the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem knew that Paul was coming, they became excited. They had heard about all the good things he had done for Jesus. Now they could see him for themselves. Soon, Paul arrived and he spent time with them. He told them about his three trips. Everyone praised God after hearing about all the people who believed. This is similar to when we hear testimonies from church ministers who have gone to many places around the world to preach the gospel. We also like to know how the believers of True Jesus Church are doing in other parts of the world.

A Riot in Jerusalem

But the brothers and sisters were not the only people who had heard that Paul was in the city. The Jews who didn't like Paul had also heard. They tried to find a way to stop him from spreading the gospel.

One day, Paul went to the temple to worship. When the Jews saw him, they thought that this would be a good opportunity to capture him. The troublemakers followed Paul into the temple and began to shout loudly.

"Help, men of Israel!" they cried. "This man is teaching

others not to obey our Jewish law. He has even brought Gentiles into the temple. He has done terrible things!"

When other people heard the noise, they gathered around Paul and the troublemakers. These men were telling lies about Paul. He had not done anything wrong. But the people believed the Jews and began to shout against Paul, too. They became so angry that they dragged him out of the temple and began to beat him. They made so much noise that the commander of the Roman soldiers heard it. He quickly gathered some of his men and ran to the huge crowd. When the people saw him coming, they stopped beating Paul.

The commander asked his soldiers to take Paul away and put him in chains. Then he turned to the people and asked them what Paul had done wrong. The people all shouted at once, some saying one thing and others saying another. It was so noisy that the commander couldn't tell for sure what Paul had done. So, he just ordered his men to take Paul to the prison. As Paul was being carried away, the people kept shouting, "Away with him!"

The soldiers followed the order and put Paul into jail. But Jesus was with Paul this whole time. In fact, Paul saw the Lord standing by him in the cell and he heard God say, "Have courage! You have preached about Me in Jerusalem and now you will preach about Me in the city of Rome, too." When Paul heard this, he understood God's plan for him. So he waited patiently in prison. He knew God would open a way for him.

A Plan to Kill Paul

In the meantime, the Jews tried to think of a way to kill Paul. They did not want to wait for him to go to trial in case he might be freed. So they came up with a plan to take Paul away from the soldiers while they were taking him to the judges. But Paul's nephew learned of their plot.

So, he quickly went to tell his uncle.

"The Jews are planning to kill you. They have formed a group of forty people to take you away from the soldiers when they are taking you to see the judges. They also vowed not to eat until they kill you," the nephew said.

Paul then said, "You must help me. Go and tell the commander what you have just told me. He will know what to do."

So his nephew immediately went to find the commander and told him everything he knew. After listening to the young boy, the commander thanked him.

"You have done the right thing by telling me," the commander said, "Don't worry. Just keep this a secret and I will take care of your uncle."

After this meeting, the commander called two of his officers and said, "Get two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen ready. Then take Paul out of the city at nine o'clock tonight."

That night, the soldiers took Paul away to another city called Caesarea.

Boys and girls, do you think it was by chance that Paul's nephew happened to hear the plot to kill Paul? No, it was not by chance at all. It was God's special guidance and His protection toward Paul. God protected Paul from this group of evil people in the same way that God protected Paul during the riot in Jerusalem. From here, we can learn that when we work and testify for the Lord, He will protect us and bring us out of difficult situations and danger.

Paul Sets Sail for Rome

After arriving in the new city, Paul was given a trial. The governor did not really understand why Paul was in prison. But just to please the Jews, he left Paul in prison. But after two years, there was a new governor and Paul was given a new trial. During that trial, Paul asked the governor to allow him to take his case to the city of Rome, where the highest court was. The governor agreed and ordered a guard to take him there.

Soon, Paul was on a boat with other prisoners, all on their way to Rome. At first, the trip was very smooth but soon, they met with fierce winds and high waters. When they reached a small island, they decided to stop over for a while to wait for better weather. Much time had been lost and sailing had already become dangerous. Paul spoke up and pointed out the dangerous risks of continuing to sail. But the captain did not want to wait out the entire winter at the small island. Instead, when he saw the winds were blowing in the right direction, he put the ship back to sea.

A Big Storm

At first, the ship sailed in the right direction, enjoying good weather. But not long after, the winds began to pick up. Soon the skies turned dark, and it started to rain. The rain then turned into a full-blown storm, whipping the ship back and forth on the waters. The soldiers tried hard to keep

the ship afloat. The storm kept on for many days and everyone became afraid. But Paul prayed for them, asking God to take care of everyone.

One day, Paul wanted to encourage the passengers.

He said, "Men, you should have listened to me and stayed at the island. But now that we are here do not be afraid. God spoke to me last night and He will take us to Rome. We will lose the ship and end up on another island first but everyone will live."

The others were comforted a little after hearing Paul's message, but the storm still scared them. The next night, the storm was just as fierce and the ship sailed very close to some large rocks. Some of the people wanted to lower a lifeboat into the water and escape before the ship crashed into the rocks, but Paul told the soldiers that unless everyone stayed on board, no one would be saved. So, they forced the people to stay on the ship. Paul knew that they would soon see land so he encouraged everyone to eat some food. He took some bread, thanked God, and passed the food to others.

Paul Reaches Rome

This land was called Malta. The people who lived there were very friendly. They took care of Paul and the others, giving them food and a place to stay until they could take another ship to Rome. While Paul was there, he also told the people about Jesus. Three months later, another ship was ready to take Paul to Rome. After saying good-bye to the people of Malta, they set sail. This part of the trip was much smoother than before. Soon, they reached Rome.

After Paul talked to the Jewish leaders in Rome, they did not find anything terribly wrong with Paul's work. But they did not want to set him free either, in case the other Jews became upset. So, they let him live by himself, with a soldier guarding him day and night. But during this time, he was allowed to preach to the people who wanted to see him. So in this way, Paul stayed in Rome for two years, telling whoever came to see him about Jesus Christ.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The crowd in Jerusalem was planning on killing _____ (Paul).
2. God told Paul that he would be going to _____ (Rome).
3. Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Paul? They didn't want him to be freed.
4. Paul was traveling to Rome as a free man. False; he was under arrest at the time.
5. How did Paul's nephew save his life? He told Paul about the plot to kill him.
6. Paul spent his time in Rome preaching to the people about Jesus. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2a)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; the sailors wanted to save themselves by escaping in a lifeboat.
2. True
3. So he could preach to the people there.
4. Paul's nephew
5. They accused him of teaching others not to obey the Jewish law and of bringing Gentiles into the temple.
6. He spent 4 years on his third missionary trip.
7. Malta
8. Yes, God was with Paul through all of his trials. He was always there.
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

[Hand out the worksheet on page 91 and go over the following with the students.]

a) Paul's dedication in his service to God

One important thing we can learn from Paul is to be dedicated in serving God. Paul put in his greatest effort and energy, and his heart and soul to serve God. What do you think gave him the ability to do so?

Worksheet: List out a few things you can think of in the boxes and explain how they can relate to your life.

b) Overcoming problems when doing God's work

Paul met with many different problems such as: people wanting to kill him; a big storm at sea; being put in prison; enduring beatings; and constantly having to move from one place to another to be put on trial. The reason why many problems occur when we work for God is because doing God's work is spiritual warfare. The evil one and people who belong to the world do not want the gospel of Jesus to be spread far and wide. Therefore, we will face a lot of opposition as we serve the Lord.

However, from Paul's journey, we can learn that it does not matter what the difficult situations are, the Lord will be by our side and help us overcome all these problems.

Worksheet: Please finish the following sentence and share how you would deal with these different situations.

ACTIVITY

1**Paul's Final Trip to Rome****Objective:** To allow the students to have an understanding of Paul's journey to Rome.

Provide a map for each student. Highlight the places that Paul and the passengers of the ship visited. Trace the route from city to city to let the students know how long and difficult the journey to Rome was. Remind them of the incidents that occurred in each of the important cities.

2**God's Missionaries****Objective:** To remind the students of the people who worked as missionaries for God.

Instructions: Read the following sentences. Which missionary is each sentence talking about?

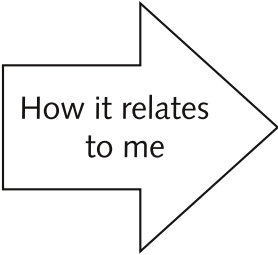
Philip**Peter****Paul****John****Barnabas****Silas**

1. I was with Paul on his first missionary journey. _____
2. I helped a woman called Dorcas and preached to a man called Cornelius. _____
3. I was going to the temple with Peter to worship God when we healed a lame man. _____
4. I went to Samaria to preach to the people. I was also told by God to go preach to an Ethiopian eunuch. _____
5. I traveled with Paul on his second missionary journey. _____
6. I went to many places to tell people about Jesus, who changed my life when He spoke to me on the road to Damascus. _____

A. Paul's dedication in his service to God

One important thing we can learn from Paul is to be dedicated in serving God. Paul put in his greatest effort and energy, and his heart and soul to serve God. What do you think gave him the ability to do so?

List out a few things you can think of in the boxes and explain how they can relate to your life. The first box has been completed for you.

He wanted to repay God's grace in saving him from sin.	 <p>How it relates to me</p>	When I came to believe, I asked God for repentance and He forgave my past sins. So, I wish to serve God and thank Him for this.
Paul loved the brothers and sisters in the church.		

B. Overcoming problems when doing God's work

From Paul's journey, we can learn that it does not matter what difficult situation we are in, the Lord will always be by our side, helping us overcome all these problems.

Please finish the following sentences and share how you deal with these different situations.

When a friend starts to say bad things about you when you talk about your faith...

What would you say to your friend?

What would you say to your family members?

If your family members are not church members, and they do not want you to do holy work at church...

If you seem to have lots of problems and difficulties when doing God's work....

How can you encourage yourself to keep doing God's work?

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 11—Paul Sails to Rome

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Paul was arrested, tried and shipwrecked before reaching Rome.

Lesson Objective: To be faithful to God under all circumstances.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(2 Timothy 4:2a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. When there was a huge storm, the sailors on the ship wanted to throw Paul overboard in order to save themselves.

2. Paul told the soldiers that unless everyone stayed on the ship, no one would be saved. _____

Short Answer

3. Why did God want Paul to go to Rome?

4. Who heard the plans of those who wished to kill Paul and informed the commander of them?

5. What did the people accuse Paul of doing while he was in Jerusalem?

6. How many years did Paul spend to carry out his third missionary trip?

7. What was the name of the island that Paul stopped at before he headed to Rome?

8. Do you think God was with Paul when he suffered through all his trials?

9. How do you know that God is always with you?

LESSON 12

EVANGELISM: A SPECIAL MISSION FOR ME

BEFORE YOU TEACH

When someone is dying or leaving us, his last words are very important. The last words Jesus spoke to His disciples were a command to take the gospel to Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth. They were to make disciples of all nations, to baptize them and to teach them to obey him (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). Thus, we are to go – whether it is next door or to another country – to make disciples. The Lord gave all the believers not an option, but a command. We may not all be gifted evangelists but we can fulfill this command through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a debt of love that we, the young and the old, need to repay. Paul said, “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor 9:16). Therefore, instilling the concept of evangelism in our students from a young age is of vital importance. It will enable them to realize their purpose and responsibility as a disciple of Christ and to live a life worthy of our calling.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Most people, including children, are afraid to evangelize. They are worried that people will mock or ignore them, or they believe they lack the eloquence or wisdom to preach. Children may not fully understand evangelism, but they understand sharing and having compassion for others. You need to remind your students how blessed they are to have a God who can help them. There are many other children who do not know God, and do not have God on whom they can rely in times of trouble. In addition, because they do not know God, they do not have the hope of eternal life in heaven, like your students do. With this understanding, the students will recognize the importance of evangelism and helping others.

BIBLE TEXT

Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. Jesus gave us a special commission to preach the gospel.
2. Preaching is the best way to love God and others.
3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to preach.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn the importance of sharing our faith.
2. To learn that the Holy Spirit is the key to evangelism.
3. To learn that preaching is the greatest love we can show to others.

MEMORY VERSE

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

(Acts 1:8a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for giving us another opportunity to learn Your word. Your word is so precious because it allows us to draw close to You. There are many people in the world who do not know You nor Your word. Help us to understand today's lesson so that we may know the importance of spreading Your word to our family and friends. Please grant us the Holy Spirit so that we may have the courage and power to witness for You. May all praises be unto our Lord Jesus! Amen.

VOCABULARY

evangelism: to preach the gospel and tells others why you believe in Jesus

mission: an important job that is given to us

witness: someone who tells others what they have seen, heard, or experienced

gospel: the message concerning the Lord Jesus, His kingdom, and salvation

BIBLE STORY

The Great Commission

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave His disciples a very special task called the Great Commission. Let's read Mark 16:15-16 to find out what the Great Commission was.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

- What was the Great Commission that Jesus gave His disciples?
- To whom were they to preach?
- What will happen to the people who believe and those who do not?

The Great Commission Jesus gave to His disciples was to take the gospel everywhere and to everyone. Those who believed in the gospel would be saved, but those who did not accept would be condemned. This is an incredibly important task that the Lord Jesus has given each one of us. We learned in Lesson Five how the disciples fled from Jerusalem because of persecution and were scattered to different areas, taking the gospel with them. Can anyone remember the name of the evangelist who also fled from Jerusalem and preached in many places? That's right. Philip brought the word of God to Samaria. He performed many signs and miracles, such as casting out evil spirits and healing the lame and the sick. The whole city was filled with great joy because they had received Jesus! After this, God gave Philip another important mission. Who did God want Philip to preach to next? That's right, Philip was to preach to the Ethiopian eunuch, who was traveling home from worshipping God in Jerusalem. Philip saw that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading from the Book of Isaiah, but he did not understand what he was reading. Philip explained the scriptures and introduced the Lord Jesus to the eunuch. Having believed, the Ethiopian eunuch was immediately baptized.

The Lord Commands that We Preach the Gospel

From this, we learn that Philip obeyed what God commanded him to do, which was to preach the good news to everyone, everywhere.

Today, this same Great Commission has been given to

every one of us, too. Raise your hands if you have ever shared about the Lord Jesus to someone before. [Allow students to respond and share.] God has given us the special mission of preaching to others.

Let's turn to Isaiah 52:7. This verse speaks about the people who preach and all the wonderful things that they bring to others. What things do we bring to people if we preach?

- a. We bring good news.
- b. We bring peace.
- c. We bring glad tidings of good things.
- d. We bring the news of salvation.
- e. We bring the message that God reigns.

What is the good news? The Bible tells us that every person in this world has sin from the time they were born. Because of sin, no one can see God or be with God and eventually they would have to be punished in hell. But God loves man so much that He showed them a way to remove sin and be saved. This way is called the good news or the gospel, and it is found in the Bible. Today, our church has the true gospel that can save people's souls. Not only does the gospel bring salvation, but it can also bring peace and good things. People of the world are suffering. They have family problems, sickness, or bad habits that they can't change. They have no one who can help them. They have no joy or peace in their hearts. But when we bring the good news about the Lord Jesus to them, it is like a light shining in their cold and dark world. The message of the Lord Jesus warms up their heart. They learn that God is living, that He is almighty, and that He will bring them joy, hope, peace, and blessings.

That's why it is so important to go out and share the gospel with others. Paul understood this clearly. In 1 Corinthians 9:16-17, Paul teaches us that we have been given this special mission and that if we carry it out willingly, God will reward us for our work. But if we do not preach the gospel, woe and trouble will be upon us.

Preach through the Power of the Holy Spirit

Perhaps we think we are too young or we are too scared to preach. Maybe we do not know what to say, or we don't know who to preach to.

Let's read another important verse. Turn to Acts 1:8. "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."

The Lord Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit for a very special purpose. The Holy Spirit gives us the courage, the power and the strength to go and be witnesses for Jesus. What does it mean to be a witness? To be a witness means to tell others what we have seen, heard, and experienced in our lives concerning the Lord Jesus. It means to tell others about how our family came to believe in the Lord Jesus and then to share how they too can know Him and be saved.

The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to speak about the Lord Jesus boldly and powerfully. Before the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they dared not tell others about the Lord Jesus. They dared not even admit that they were followers of Christ. The disciples were afraid of the Jews so they shut themselves in the room (Jn 20:19). However, after the disciples received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they changed completely! The Holy Spirit gave them the power to witness for the Lord. Peter and the other eleven disciples were no longer hiding in a room; instead, they stood up and witnessed openly and boldly to a great number of people. On that day, 3,000 people were baptized and many signs and miracles were performed to show that the gospel they preached was true.

On another day, when Peter and John were going to the temple to pray, they met a lame man at the Beautiful gate asking for alms. When Peter and John saw him, they took pity on him and, through the power of the Lord Jesus, caused the lame man to walk. When the priests and rulers knew of this, they captured Peter and John. When they appeared before the rulers, they were not afraid. Let's read Acts 4:13. The Bible tells us that the rulers saw that Peter and John were full of boldness. When the rulers commanded Peter and John not to speak anymore about the Lord Jesus, Peter and John replied that they could not obey them. Read Acts 4:19-20. Where did they get such courage and power? Absolutely, they received it through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God has given every one of us a special commission. The Lord Jesus wants each of us to carry out this mission before we can go to heaven. God understands that we cannot do this by ourselves, so He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill us with the power and courage to preach to others like the disciples did. For those who do not yet have the Holy Spirit, let us pray and ask God to give us His Spirit soon so that we can carry out the Great Commission.

Preach Because We Love Others

Let's turn to Romans 13:8. It reads, "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

What does it mean to owe something? It means that we have to pay back something to someone. Have you owed anyone anything? The Bible tells us that we should

owe no one anything. However, there is one thing that we owe everyone and that is love. God loves us so much that He died on the cross for our sins. God hopes that we can repay the love that we received by loving not only God, but also the people around us. Do you think we can ever repay God for all the love He has shown us? No, that is why we have a debt of love. This means we owe love to God and to men.

What are some of the ways we can show love to others? [Allow students to respond, and then write their answers on the board.] Our answers show that we can love others in many different ways. We can provide food, clothing, money, comfort, or help to those who need it. But what is the greatest love we can show to others?

That is right. We can preach to them so that they can get to know the Lord Jesus and enter into heaven later.

Without knowing the Lord, they cannot be saved and they will suffer in hell. We can see that giving food, money, or clothing is good, but, on the other hand, the gift of salvation is eternal and most precious.

Testimony

There was a sister from the United States who visited her cousin in Taiwan. When she met her cousin, she said to her, "I'm sorry I didn't bring any gifts for you. But there is a gift I would like to share with you. To me, this gift is the most precious thing in the whole world. Can I share it with you?"

Her cousin was very puzzled and wondered what this gift could be. "Tell me about this gift," she said.

"The most precious gift I have is Jesus Christ," the sister began. "If you come to know the Lord Jesus and pray to Him, He will give you everything you need. I know the Lord Jesus, and He listens to all my prayers. Whenever I'm sad and lonely or whenever I have problems, I pray to Jesus and I can experience His love for me. I found the Lord Jesus in the True Jesus Church. You can, too! He is real!"

"Really? Jesus is real?" her cousin asked.

The sister knew that her cousin had problems in the family and that she needed God. Sensing that her cousin was willing to hear more, the sister asked, "Do you want me to teach you how to pray? You can pray to Him anytime, anywhere. You can tell Jesus all your troubles and He will listen to you. You don't even have to pay any money. Jesus is right beside you. This is how I learned to pray. We begin in the name of Jesus Christ, and then we say 'Hallelujah' repeatedly. 'Hallelujah' means 'Praise the Lord.' If you pray like this, you will soon find out that God is true. And when you do experience God, will you let me know?"

After hearing this, her cousin said, "All right. I will try. Thank you for telling me about Jesus."

A few months after the sister returned to the U.S., she received a letter from her cousin in Taiwan.

"Yes!" her cousin wrote, "You were right. Your God is

an awesome God!"

Thank the Lord that afterwards, her cousin continued to go to church and she eventually received the Holy Spirit and was baptized.

- In this testimony, how did the church sister love her cousin?
- What is the most precious gift that the cousin received?

- What might have happened if the sister did not preach to her?

Because the cousin was introduced to the Lord Jesus, she was able to receive joy and peace and most importantly, eternal life.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **The Holy Spirit gives us the courage, power and wisdom to preach.** True.
2. **When Peter and the eleven disciples received the Holy Spirit, they were still too afraid to tell others about Jesus.** False; they boldly went out to preach everywhere.
3. **The best way we can show love to others is to give them food, money, or clothing.** False; the best way to show love is to tell others about God.
4. **Only the adults need to preach the gospel.** False; children should also witness for Jesus.
5. **The Great Commission God has given us is to go into the world and spread the gospel.** True.
6. **When we preach the gospel, we bring good news, peace, good things, the news of salvation, and the message that God reigns.** True.
7. **The debt we owe to everyone is love.** True.
8. **People can still be saved if they do not believe in the Lord Jesus.** False; those that do not believe will be condemned.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1:8a)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False; after receiving the Holy Spirit, they boldly went out to preach.
3. True
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. Answers may vary; possible answer: make an invitation to invite people to church.
8. It is a commandment of God, and it is how we can love others.
9. Answers may vary; possible answer: my neighbor, my classmate, my family

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

A. Have You Told Others about Jesus?

Instructions

1. Before class, cut out pictures of individual people from magazines or write random names on small pieces of paper.
2. In class, scatter the small pictures or pieces of paper around the room.
3. Ask for a volunteer. When you say "go," have the volunteer gather as many "people" (pictures or pieces of paper) as possible in a specified amount of time (about five seconds).
4. Count how many people the student was able to gather.
5. Ask the students if more people could be gathered if that student had help.
6. Scatter the pictures or pieces of paper around the room again, and ask the entire class to help.
7. Have the students gather as many people as possible in the same amount of time as before.
8. Count how many people everyone was able to gather.

Ask students the following questions:

- How many persons did one student preach to?
- How many persons did the whole class preach to?
- What did you learn from this activity? Yes, the more students who preach, the more people who have the opportunity to hear the gospel and be saved.

The Lord Jesus gave us the Great Commission so that we can preach to the world about Jesus and so that everyone can believe in Him and be saved. Those who do not believe in Jesus cannot be with Him in heaven. Instead, they will suffer eternally in hell. That is why we must preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus. We must tell our friends that the Lord Jesus loves them very much and that He has the power to save them from sin. Later, He will take them to heaven where they can live with Him forever.

Preaching the gospel is the best way to show our love for others. If every believer went and preached the good news to others that Jesus loves them and is able to save them, many more people would be able to hear the gospel and believe.

Have you told others about Jesus? We can begin to preach with small steps. God will reward and bless us as long as we try our best.

What can you do to preach? [Have the students brainstorm ideas.] Some ideas could be:

1. Pray daily to ask God to help us tell others about Him. Ask God to give us the courage and the proper words to preach to others.
2. Pray for the pastors and workers who preach the gospel.
3. Be a good Christian. Be friendly and help others. When people see our good behavior, they will know that we are believers of Jesus, and they may want to find out more about God.
4. Talk to our friends about God. We can share our testimonies about how God loves and helps our families and us. We may also invite our friends to come to church.
5. Pin a button on your backpack telling others that "Jesus Loves You".
6. We can give our friends or neighbor our church flier or booklet that explains how to become a Christian [teacher can show samples of these]. Put the flier or booklet in your backpack and be ready to preach when God sends someone your way.
7. Make our own invitation cards to invite people to church.

B. Preach the Word

Role-Play

In this activity, the students will be given different scenarios with which they will practice preaching the gospel.

1. Select a scenario for the students to perform.
2. Select the appropriate number of students and explain the scenario to them.
3. Have the student(s) act out what they would do in that scenario.
4. Go through enough scenarios to allow each student to participate.

Use the following examples or create your own:

Scenario 1 (three students): Your friend comes to school looking very sad. She tells you that her father is sick and can't work. Her mother is also very worried. *What would you do or say to your friend?*

Scenario 2 (two students): You see a neighbor with an armload of groceries. One of the grocery bags breaks, and the groceries fall onto the ground. *What would you do?*

Situation 3 (two students): You are playing with your friends. A child, who has just moved in next door, stands at a distance looking at you and your friends play. *What would you do?*

Situation 4 (two students): You have a good friend who lives next door. S/he is not a member of our church. You think s/he might enjoy coming to church next week. *What would you do?*

Situation 5 (two students needed): It is an evangelical service at church. Your mom's friends and their daughter/son, who are not members of the church, have come to attend. It is their first time coming to church. *What would you do or say to make them feel welcome?*

[Show and explain to students the church welcome card and prayer card. Tell our students how they can make their friends feel welcome at church. Our students should be familiar with how to pray so that they can share this information with their friends.]

Glad you could join us today. Please help us get to know you better.

welcome

Mr. Mrs. Miss Date: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State & ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Interested in knowing more about God, Truth, Holy Spirit & Salvation?

REQUEST

Join Mailing List? (Sermon, Music, Testimonies)

Bible Study with you? At Home At Church

Best Time? Sun Mon Tue Wed Thrs Fri Sat

Prayer Request? _____



Testimony

Once there was a church sister who was eager to preach to her aunt. She would visit her aunt often to tell her about the Lord Jesus. The sister knew that the Spiritual Convocation was approaching. She wanted to invite her aunt to attend the evangelical service. On the evening of the evangelical service, she rushed to her aunt's house and preached the gospel to her and invited her to the church.

When the niece began preaching to her aunt, the aunt became impatient and angry. She was tired from working. She found her niece's preaching annoying, and she didn't want to hear anymore. So, she shoved her niece out of her house and slammed the door. Feeling very tired, she took a nap. When she woke up, it was already dinnertime and she felt hungry. She decided to buy something for dinner from outside. When she opened the front door, she found her niece still standing outside the door.

"Why are you still here?" the aunt asked. "I already told you that I don't want to hear any more of your

preaching. Why have you not gone home?"

The niece replied, "When you pushed me out the door, you slammed the door so quickly that my skirt got caught in the door. I tried to pull my skirt from the door, but I couldn't. I wanted to tear the skirt to free myself, but that would have ruined my skirt. I decided to wait here and pray for you until you opened the door. I asked God that if you opened the door tonight, it meant that you would be willing to listen to the gospel. Look, you have opened the door! Now, will you come with me to the service tonight?"

The aunt could not believe how persistent her niece was. She was also touched by her love. She decided to attend that evening's evangelical service with her niece. Later, the aunt believed in the Lord Jesus and received baptism.

ACTIVITY

Tell Others About Jesus

Objectives: To encourage students to preach the gospel to others.

"Jesus Loves You" Greeting Card

Ask the students to think of people to whom they could share about Jesus, such as friends, neighbors, and relatives. Next, have students make a greeting card to let the people know that Jesus loves them and to invite them to church.

Materials

- Cardstock, different colors
- Colored tissue paper
- Glue
- Markers
- Envelopes

Instructions

1. Have students fold a piece of cardstock in half so that it can fit into an envelope.
2. Have the students decorate their cards using the materials provided.
3. After the card is dry, have students write a simple message inside the card, such as "Jesus loves you and I do, too."
4. Encourage students to write their own personal message as well.
5. Once the cards are completed, insert them into the envelopes and have the students pass out/mail their cards to the person they wish to invite to church.

Remind the students that there are many people out there who have not yet come to know Jesus, so they should always take the opportunity to tell others about Jesus and invite them to church.

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 12—Evangelism: A Special Mission for Me!

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

- Bible Truths:**
1. Jesus gave us a special commission to preach the gospel.
 2. Preaching is the best way to love God and others.
 3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to preach.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To learn the importance of sharing our faith.
 2. To learn that the Holy Spirit is the key to evangelism.
 3. To learn that preaching is the greatest love we can show to others.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 1:8a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True and False

1. _____ The Holy Spirit gives us the courage, power, and wisdom to preach.
2. _____ When Peter and the eleven disciples received the Holy Spirit, they were still too afraid to tell others about Jesus.
3. _____ When we preach the gospel, we bring good news, peace, good things, the news of salvation, and the message that God reigns.

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : The best way we can show love to others is _____.
 - a. To give them food, money or clothing
 - b. Be their friend
 - c. To share the gospel with them
5. _____ : Who did God instruct to preach the gospel?
 - a. Adults only
 - b. Those who only speak English
 - c. Every believer, young and old
6. _____ : What is the Great Commission that God has given us?
 - a. To go into the world and preach the gospel
 - b. To go and be good students
 - c. To go into the world and enjoy ourselves

Short Answer

7. Name one way that you can preach the gospel.

8. Why do we have to preach the gospel?

9. Name one person to whom you will tell about the Lord Jesus this week.

LESSON 13

REVIEW



This lesson is meant for review purposes. There are many ways to conduct a review. Here are some ideas for you.

1. It can be in a standard test format. Elementary 1 students should be able to answer the following types of questions without much difficulty: true or false, fill in the blank, and short answer. Depending on your class's needs, feel free to create your own test by selecting questions found in the **Check for Understanding** section of each lesson. Alternatively, you can look through some of the **homework assignments** for ideas. Be sure to think about **life application questions** in addition to the knowledge-based ones. Never forget to ask the students to remember the **memory verses** that they have learned.
2. The review can be done as a game. Playing games is a fun way to share information. It can be a simple game like Jeopardy or a race to the finish line (moving spaces as students take turns to say the correct answer). Students can also create their own questions and quiz each other. The possibilities are endless!
3. You can think of this class as a brand new lesson. You can select certain characters to study and compare, or themes to look at to review the whole quarter. Look at the memory verses and see how they can be a springboard into a review. These require a little bit of work on your part, but it can be a rewarding way to tie up the past twelve weeks.

Finally, remember to soak in the words of God. After reviewing God's wonderful teachings, have a small snack fellowship. Sing hymns, or go outside and enjoy His creations. You can do a play that sums up the learning that has taken place. And don't forget that you work with a wonderful group of teachers. Brainstorm with your fellow RE workers for fantastic ideas to end your quarter. May God remember all your labor for Him.

For those teachers who have great ideas as to how to review all twelve lessons, we welcome you to email USGA with all the details. We can upload your ideas to the RE link and let other teachers share your creativity.

REVIEW ANSWER KEY

Paul's Journey of Faith

From top to bottom: 6, 4, 10, 2, 9, 1, 5, 3, 8, 7

True or False?

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 2. True | 3. False | 4. False | 5. True |
| 6. False | 7. True | 8. False | 9. False | 10. True |

Complete the Memory Verses!

1. good, share
2. things, Christ, strengthens, Philippians
3. world, gospel
4. light, works, glorify
5. witnesses, earth, Acts
6. word, powerful
7. sing, praises
8. preach, ready

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. B

Short Answer

1. By being kind to others, showing love to others, saying grace before eating, etc.
2. You can pray for them, ask if they need help, smile at them, etc.
3. He sold all his land and gave his money to the apostles willingly. He did not have selfish ambition.
4. He immediately began preaching that Jesus was God to others.
5. They prayed, ate, and sang hymns together, learned about the gospel, and shared all they had with one another.
6. Answers may vary.

Paul's Journey of Faith

Put the events in order using the numbers 1 to 10. The first event has been numbered for you.

- Paul went on a missionary journey with Barnabas to preach in many places. _____
- God called Ananias to heal Saul, and then Saul praised God and was baptized. _____
- Paul arrived at Rome but was not set free. Instead, Paul lived under house arrest in _____
Rome for two years and preached to whomever wanted to learn about God.
- A bright light shone upon Saul and Jesus spoke to him. _____
- Paul journeyed to Rome after being arrested, but was shipwrecked on the way. _____
- Saul persecuted Christians and wanted to go to Damascus to arrest them. 1 _____
- Saul, now Paul, became a changed man and started to obey the Lord and preach. _____
- Saul now knew that Jesus was God, but he remained blind for three days and nights. _____
- Paul preached to a jailer whose entire family accepted the gospel and was baptized. _____
- Paul went with Silas on another missionary journey but they were arrested. _____

True or False?

Write **True** or **False** beside each sentence.

1. _____ : Everyone in the crowd understood what the disciples were saying in their prayers after they received the Holy Spirit.
2. _____ : Barnabas sold a piece of land and willingly gave the money to the apostles.
3. _____ : Peter knew that Ananias and Sapphira were lying because he had overheard their plan earlier.
4. _____ : Philip was afraid of the Ethiopian eunuch and did not approach his chariot.
5. _____ : God wants us to preach the gospel to everyone, no matter where they are from.
6. _____ : While in prison, Peter was shouting to the guards to let him out.
7. _____ : When the believers learned that Peter was in prison, they prayed and asked God to deliver Peter.
8. _____ : After Saul was healed, he became even angrier with Jesus and arrested more Christians.
9. _____ : When the earthquake shook the ground and opened the prison doors, all the prisoners escaped.
10. _____ : The jailer and his family were baptized after Paul preached the word of the Lord to them.

Complete the Memory Verses!

Fill in the blanks using words from the word bank. Each word should only be used once.

Acts	Christ	powerful	sing	good	Philippians	share
praises	gospel	word	preach	witnesses	earth	strengthens
works	ready	glorify	things	world	light	

1. "But do not forget to do _____ and to _____." (Hebrews 13:16a)
2. "I can do all _____ through _____ who _____ me." (_____ 4:13)
3. "Go into all the _____ and preach the _____ to every creature." (Mark 16:15b)
4. "Let your _____ so shine before men, that they may see your good _____ and _____ your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)
5. "You shall be _____ to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the _____." (_____ 1:8b)
6. "For the _____ of God is living and _____, and sharper than any two-edged sword." (Hebrews 4:12a)
7. "_____ to God, sing _____ to His name." (Psalm 68:4a)
8. "_____ the word! Be _____ in season and out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2a)

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : After the crippled man was healed, a large crowd gathered around. When Peter and John saw them, what did they do?
 - a. Asked them to give the man money
 - b. Preached about Jesus to them
 - c. Told them to leave the man alone
2. ____ : After Peter and John were released from jail, _____.
 - a. They were afraid to talk about Jesus.
 - b. They went to eat something.
 - c. They thanked God, continued to preach about Jesus, and were filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. ____ : The disciples chose seven deacons who had _____.
 - a. Wealth, food, and wisdom
 - b. Good reputation, fullness of wisdom, and fullness of the Holy Spirit
 - c. Good reputation, food, and the Holy Spirit

4. ____ : Why was Stephen a powerful speaker?
- God gave him wisdom and the Holy Spirit.
 - He was funny.
 - He went to school to learn how to be a good speaker.
5. ____ : Many people wept when Dorcas died because ____.
- She helped and cared for the others.
 - They would miss the beautiful clothes that she made.
 - They would miss the good food that she made.
6. ____ : God showed Peter the vision with the animals in the blanket to tell him that ____.
- The gospel was for the Jews only.
 - The gospel was for the Gentiles only.
 - The gospel was for everyone, not just the Jews.
7. ____ : God gave Peter power and strength so he could ____.
- Help himself
 - Help the believers and preach the gospel to others
 - Show off to others
8. ____ : Peter was not afraid even though he was about to be killed because ____.
- He knew that God loved him and would take care of him.
 - He had a good escape plan.
 - He and King Herod were friends.
9. ____ : The Holy Spirit told the church to set apart ____ for a special mission.
- Paul and Peter
 - Peter and Barnabas
 - Paul and Barnabas
10. ____ : What did Paul and Silas do in prison?
- They got mad at God for letting them suffer.
 - They prayed and sang hymns.
 - They shouted at the jailer to let them out.

Short Answer

1. What are some ways you have shown that you are a Christian at school and at home?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Write 3 things you can do to show your love towards your brothers and sisters in church.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Why was Barnabas a good example of a cheerful giver?

4. How did Saul show that he was a new person?

5. What did the believers do when they gathered together?

6. Think of someone who needs your prayers at this time. Write a short prayer to God to ask God to help him/her.

"Blessed is every one who fears the Lord,
who walks in His ways." (Ps 128:1)

Y 3 Bk 3



The Lord Guides Our Path

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