

Elementary 2

Year 3 Book 1

E2 Year 3 Book 1

The Holy Spirit and the Early Church

USGA

The Holy Spirit and the Early Church



Teacher's Guide and Student Worksheets

ELEMENTARY 2 YEAR 3 BOOK 1

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE EARLY CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

The main objectives for this quarter are:

- To understand the important role of the Holy Spirit in the early church and in our lives.
- To learn more about the early workers of the church and the significance of their actions.
- To gain an overall understanding of where Paul went and what he did on his missionary journeys.

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Revised October 2014.
All Scripture is NKJV unless otherwise noted.

LESSON GUIDE

The E2 lessons can be separated into 3 sections with several subsections that, as a whole, are aimed to provide a comprehensive Bible study of the selected topic.

The first section is an **introduction** to the lesson and includes the Objectives, Memory Verse, Prayer, Overview, Background Knowledge for the Teachers, and Reaching Out to Your Students sections. This section is meant for the teacher to study while preparing the lesson so that the teacher will know in which direction to guide the students while teaching.

The second section includes the **main content** of the lesson that will be taught to the students during class. Here the teacher will find the Opener, Vocabulary, Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching, Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs, Check for Understanding, Life Application, and Activity sections.

Lastly, the students will have a homework assignment to take home and complete after class as a **review** of the lesson. The students are expected to bring back the homework assignment to the next class completed and with a parent signature.

This lesson guide will list each subsection and explain its purpose, as well as how teachers should use the information in that subsection.

I. Introduction to the Lesson

1. Objectives

These are the objectives that the lesson aims to fulfill. The teacher should always remember to reinforce ideas and teachings that will fulfill these objectives.

2. Memory Verse

The teacher should go over the memory verse at the beginning of class and ask the students to have it memorized by the end of class.

3. Prayer

Go over these points with the students before beginning prayer so that they will know what they should pray for, in addition to their own prayer requests.

4. Overview

A simple lesson overview that emphasizes the important points of the lesson.

5. Background Knowledge for Teachers

Relevant biblical background knowledge that can aid the teachers in understanding the lesson.

6. Reaching Out to Your Students

This section provides an insight into how the students might react to the lesson and how to help the students understand the lesson.

II. Main Lesson Content

1. Opener // 5 Minutes

The purpose of the Opener is to ease the students into the lesson by bringing up relevant topics that will relate to the Bible study. This will give students time to calm down before the teacher goes into the main content.

2. Vocabulary

The vocabulary is provided to explain some of the more difficult terms. The teacher can choose to go over the terms before beginning the Bible study or as the terms come up during the lesson.

3. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching // 30-35 Minutes

This is the main section of each lesson. It will provide an in-depth study of the selected topic and the students will also be provided worksheets to fill in as the teacher conducts the lesson. The teacher should look at the worksheets while preparing the lesson and print out a copy to use as an answer key during class. The aim of the worksheets is to keep the students focused and to let them actively participate instead of passively listen.

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs // 2-5 Minutes

It is important to tie each lesson back to the Ten Basic Beliefs to reinforce the students' knowledge of the Beliefs; therefore, this section will briefly tie back the lesson to the Basic Belief to which it relates.

5. Check for Understanding // 5 Minutes

This section tests the students' comprehension of the teachings they just learned in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

6. Life Application // 10 Minutes

The Life Application section aims to make the lesson content more life applicable and will allow the students to relate the lesson's teachings to events that happen in their daily lives. The goal is to give the students a chance to apply what they have learned in the lesson to their daily lives.

7. Activity // 10-15 Minutes

Each lesson will include one or two activities that relate back to a teaching or story in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

III. Homework Assignment

Students are to take this home and return it the next week completed. There are four elements to the homework assignment: (1) Bible reading and prayer chart, (2) what they learned from the Bible, (3) memory verse, (4) and a lesson-specific assignment. The Bible reading and prayer chart is provided to track the students' progress during the week. In addition, the students will have to write down the memory verse and two things they learned from the Bible during that week. The last part of the homework assignment is specific to that week's lesson. It is advised that the students obtain a parent signature to make sure that the parents know what the students are learning each week.

IV. Suggested E2 Class Timeline

5 min.	Opening Prayer
5 min.	Opener
30-35 min.	Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching
2-5 min.	Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs
5 min.	Check for Understanding
10 min.	Life Application
10-15 min.	Activity
5 min.	Ending Prayer

Total: 1 hr. 12 min. - 1 hr. 20 min.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Upper Elementary/Primary Stage (Ages 9-11)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
<p>Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generally healthy 2. Active 3. Begin to step into puberty stage, get hungry easily 4. Girls become taller than boys toward later stage 5. Increase in stamina 	<p>Encourage healthy eating habits Can plan for outdoor activities/fellowships sometimes Prepare snacks if their time in church is especially long Teach them how God values their character; build healthy self-esteem Have challenging and difficult activities</p>
<p>Mind</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Like to collect things 2. Very creative 3. Begin to think and deduce 4. Like asking questions 5. Have good memory 6. Limited understanding of profound/abstract matters 7. Increased reading ability and comprehension 	<p>Include more challenging activities Provide creative and Bible-related activities Use pedagogy that enhance critical thinking Provide satisfactory and biblical answers Encourage memorization of Bible verses Need to explain abstract terms Nurture interest in reading the Bible/Christian materials</p>
<p>Mood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express emotions easily 2. Short-tempered; lose patience easily 3. Like humor 4. May have feelings of withdrawal (may be scared, anxious, etc.) 	<p>Provide routines that help students to quiet down and get ready to focus Teach students how to control emotions and appropriate ways to express emotions Include some humor while teaching Show more care and concern; teach them the importance of relying on God</p>
<p>Social Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loyal toward friends of the same age more than parents or teachers 2. Like to make friends of the same gender 3. Loyal to groups or teams 4. Enjoy competitive games or activities 5. Like to joke around; may make fun of others 6. Admire favorite teachers and classmates 	<p>Encourage friendship, but stress the importance of respecting parents and elders Can separate into girls and boys for group discussion Teach students how to discern negative peer pressure Provide competitive games where everyone can participate Encourage healthy jokes without hurting others' feelings; teach mutual respect Suggest some Christian biographies for students to read; set good examples for the students; share your personal faith and convictions</p>
<p>Spirituality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express maturity in accepting the way of salvation 2. Worship heroes 3. Can study the Bible and pray 4. Can accept a deeper level of Bible teaching 5. Show concern over the souls of others 	<p>Talk about salvation seriously; share with them how God changed your life Teach stories of Bible heroes and spiritual characters; provide good Christian living examples Encourage daily spiritual cultivation (pray/read the Bible) Help the students to discover the teachings from the Bible Encourage students to pray and/or bring family members or friends to the Lord</p>

MEMORY VERSES

1. "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)
2. "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6)
3. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."
(Romans 8:16-17)
4. "Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality." (Romans 12:13)
5. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."
(Romans 8:14)
6. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)
7. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
(Ephesians 2:8-9)
8. "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."
(1 Peter 5:6-7)
9. "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)
10. "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)
11. "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2a)
12. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak new tongues; [...] they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:17-18b)

LESSON 1



THE DAY OF PENTECOST

OBJECTIVES

1. To pray constantly for the Holy Spirit or the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
2. To submit our lives to the guiding hands of God by obeying His word.
3. To pray for godly wisdom and walk by the Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

“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)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, God, for sending Your Spirit to guide us in our everyday lives.
2. We pray that you give us understanding so that we can know Your words and grow every day in Your wisdom and truth.
3. May You guide us in today's lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. When Jesus goes to heaven, the Holy Spirit will come
2. The Holy Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost
3. The Holy Spirit gives people power to witness
4. The Holy Spirit gives people power to bond together
5. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit
6. Life Application—Profile: The Holy Spirit
7. Activity—A Letter to God about His Spirit



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to the descent and indwelling of God's Spirit, which usually occurs during prayer. The sign and evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is the speaking of tongues. Everyone who receives the Holy Spirit prays to God with a spiritual tongue without having to be taught how to do so. In addition to speaking in tongues, there may also be body movement, warmth, and indescribable inner joy.

The Lord Jesus has promised this precious gift to anyone who believes and sincerely asks Him. Experience God personally by asking Him to forgive your sins and come into your hearts. Receiving the Holy Spirit can be a wonderful experience. The transforming power of the Holy Spirit delivers true believers from sinful and depraved lives. People who used to indulge in their evil desires are now set free from the control of sin.

God has promised, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (Eze 36:26-27). God's Spirit can revive our souls and make us new beings that lead an active Christian life and possess the hope of eternal life.



Reaching Out to Your Students

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Rev 1:3). In order for us to receive salvation, we must heed the words of God and act upon them. But God knows that this is not an easy task. Therefore, He has promised to give us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, to guide us in His wisdom in the end times (Jn 14:26). “But God has revealed [the wisdom of God] to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Cor 2:7, 10). We cannot rely on our own power to be saved. We must constantly strive for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to help us pursue the wisdom of God and to be able to walk in the path of righteousness. It is important to help students understand that receiving the Holy Spirit is not simply a way to “get extra help,” but that it is an essential step to receiving salvation (Jn 3:5). Encourage them to pursue the kingdom of God by submitting their lives to His ways so that they can be motivated in the right way to continue praying for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus Christ promised His disciples the coming of the Holy Spirit, they were unaware of its power until the Day of Pentecost. Similarly, the students that have not received the Holy Spirit may not realize the importance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is critical for teachers to provide constant encouragement. The students need to understand that the Holy Spirit is a guarantee from God of the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven. Without it, their salvation is incomplete. Invite pastors, brothers, or sisters to give testimonies on how receiving the Holy Spirit has helped them and changed their lives. If any of your students are having difficulty overcoming a problem, explain that the Holy Spirit can help them. God lives in everyone through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Also, set aside time regularly to pray together as a class, for with numbers comes strength. When your students receive this kind of help and guidance, they will be able to realize the importance of the Holy Spirit better and pray more fervently for it.



Opener

5 Minutes

Students, raise your hand if you have been praying for the Holy Spirit. Let me ask you a question: Why are you praying for the Holy Spirit? [Pause to allow students to think.] Is it because your R.E. teachers and your parents have told you to do it? If not, why do you want or need it? [Ask some of your students to share their answers.]



Vocabulary

Holy Spirit: the one true God; we use the pronoun “He” to refer to the Holy Spirit, and Jesus also used the same to refer to the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:8)



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

I. The Holy Spirit will come when Jesus goes to heaven

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent forty days with His disciples. He met them at various times and in many places. Each time He met them, He explained part of His plan. Jesus had to prepare His disciples for His departure—He was going to return to heaven. Do you remember how Jesus returned to heaven? [Let students answer.] He was taken up to heaven and a cloud received Him! And He will return to earth one day. When? We don’t know. But what we do know is that when He comes

back, He will judge every one of us and decide whom He will take with Him to heaven: His true followers. Having said that, how do we know if we are on the right path to be one of them? How can we become His true followers who will inherit His kingdom? Let’s continue with the story, and we will discuss this as we go.

Jesus’ parting words instructed the disciples to remain in Jerusalem and wait for a very special event—the coming of the Holy Spirit! Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would be with them always after He departed

from them (Jn 14:16-17; 16:7). He would dwell with them, and with all those who believe in Jesus, to give them godly wisdom, correct them, and guide and strengthen them to walk in the ways of God. Soon after Jesus had said these things, He was taken up to heaven in the sight of His disciples.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet for students to complete as you teach. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version to reference throughout the lesson.

II. The Holy Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost

On the Day of Pentecost, about a hundred and twenty people were gathered in one place. Suddenly, from heaven above, there came a sound like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were. Many of them felt a special movement and warmth as divided tongues, as of fire, rested on them. They were speaking in tongues! The Holy Spirit had come. They all received it, as Jesus had promised! Among the people in Jerusalem, there were some who didn't quite understand what was happening, and others even mocked them, saying that they were drunk.

III. The Holy Spirit gives them power to witness

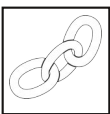
After such an amazing event, the apostles were greatly moved by the Holy Spirit and were now ready to preach the gospel with boldness. They knew that it was time for them to begin the work of the great commission—"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk 16:15-16). Immediately, they began to preach! Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and confirmed to the crowd once again that Jesus, who is God Himself, had risen up

and poured out His Spirit to abide with them. After hearing Peter's sermon, around three thousand people were cut to the heart and wanted to be saved. Here, we can see that not only did the Holy Spirit give courage to the apostles to speak, He also opened the hearts of many people. They wanted to follow Jesus who brought them hope for salvation! They asked Peter and other apostles, "What shall we do?" And Peter answered, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Then, they were all baptized and determined to obey all that Jesus had taught the apostles. They continued in fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers together as one body of Christ.

IV. The Holy Spirit gives them power to bond together

The day that the Holy Spirit came marked the birth of the church. As the apostles continued to preach diligently about Jesus and His saving grace, more and more people came to believe in Christ and were baptized into His church. The Holy Spirit also gave the Christians power to love one another. They met together, cared for one another, and shared all that they had with everyone in the church. They enjoyed worshipping and praising God together. It is just like our church today!

In this lesson, we can see that the Holy Spirit is very powerful. He moved the apostles to speak of Jesus with boldness and pointed other people's hearts towards Him. Receiving the Holy Spirit was indeed an amazing experience with God. Earlier, I asked you a question: How do we know if we are on the right path to become one of His true followers and enter the kingdom of heaven? The answer is easy. If we are constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, we know that we are on the right path to receive salvation because with the Holy Spirit comes a godly person who understands and obeys the word of God. Let's discuss this further in the Life Application section.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Spirit

The True Jesus Church believes that receiving the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the heavenly inheritance (Eph 1:13-14). Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:5). He gave us the Holy Spirit so that we can have eternal life (Jn 4:14). In the Bible, the speaking of tongues is proof of receiving the Holy Spirit, as evidenced by the apostles' experience on the Day of Pentecost. Therefore, we also believe that speaking in tongues is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit, which can be heard and seen.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What were Jesus' last instructions to His disciples?** He instructed the disciples to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.
- 2. What did the Holy Spirit sound like when He came?** A rushing mighty wind, which filled the entire house.
- 3. What did Peter say to those who believed that Jesus was God? What did they have to do in order to be saved?** "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- 4. What did people do to bond with one another after they had received the Holy Spirit?** They continued in fellowship, cared for one another, shared all that they had with one another, and worshipped and praised God together.



Life Application

10 Minutes

PROFILE: THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a personal Counselor who is always there for you.

In the Old Testament, God sent His Spirit to help His chosen ones accomplish difficult tasks. For example, Samson was able to kill a lion with his bare hands when the Spirit of God came upon him (Jdg 14:6). However, the Spirit of God didn't dwell with those in the Old Testament. Rather, He only came to empower God's chosen ones when needed. After Jesus had returned to heaven, He promised to send us the Holy Spirit who will be there for us always (Mt 28:20). He will dwell within all who follow Him with a sincere heart. Today, we learned that, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon around three thousand who determined to follow Jesus. The apostles were empowered to preach the gospel in the name of our Lord Jesus. The people were edified to walk in God's ways. Signs and miracles followed them! These were all the works of the Holy Spirit. In fact, our church today is also the work of the Holy Spirit! Without Him, we'd be so lost. No one in this world alone has the power to lead us towards Jesus, who is in heaven waiting for us right now

Today, the Holy Spirit is a personal Counselor who will lead us all individually on the same path—the path to our heavenly home! We NEED it in our everyday lives. Even the Bible tells us that unless one is born of water (baptism) and the Spirit (Holy Spirit), he cannot enter the kingdom of God (Jn 3:5). So, how does the Holy Spirit direct us in our everyday lives? How reliable is He? Let us look into the Bible and see what it says!

1. The Holy Spirit gives you wisdom to fully understand God's word.

Let's turn to Isaiah 11:2. What is the Holy Spirit also called here? [Allow students to answer.]

- The Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
- The Spirit of counsel and might; and
- The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit moved many to receive Christ into their hearts. They were able to understand and accept everything that Peter told them concerning Jesus and His salvation because the Holy Spirit had given them wisdom. It was amazing! Today, in order for us to understand fully everything that God wants to reveal to us, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. He will humble us, take away all doubts, and allow the wisdom of God to dwell in our hearts. This is why we often ask the Holy Spirit to guide our worship so that everyone who hears the message of God can be edified.

God promised to send His Spirit to those who have a sincere heart to follow Him. Through His Spirit, He will give them wisdom to understand His words. Likewise, the Holy Spirit will not come upon those who are not eager to learn the ways of God because they will not treasure His help! Students, let us examine our hearts today. Do you have a burning desire for godly wisdom to understand God's words when you pray for the Holy Spirit?

2. The Holy Spirit guides and strengthens you to walk in God's ways.

Turn to Ezekiel 36:27. Let's read this verse together! "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Jesus gave His Spirit to help us walk in His ways and keep His commandments. The Holy Spirit is also called the "Spirit of Wisdom," "Spirit of Truth," and "Spirit of Knowledge." He can help us discern between what is right and what is wrong; what is true and what is not; and what is wise and what is foolish. Today, many things around us can cause us to walk away from God. Satan is constantly working to distract us from the things of God. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, it will be very difficult for us to stay focused. He is always there to remind us of the wisdom of God and help us act upon it. When you think, "I don't want to listen to my parents!", then the Holy Spirit will move your heart to remember that God wants you to obey your parents and that He will reward you for choosing to obey Him rather than following your own will. When you face important decisions to make, difficulties to overcome, or situations you don't understand, the Holy Spirit will help you. He will move you to understand what is the best decision to make and the best way to solve a problem. He is a trustworthy Helper and Teacher from God!

Let me share a testimony with you:

Steve used to have a very successful business many years ago with his best friend William. He worked very hard for this business and put a lot of time and money into it. However, this business ended up going into bankruptcy because William had taken all the money out of it and run away. He never contacted Steve ever again. At that time, Steve was very angry with William. He didn't understand why his best friend had done such a horrible thing to him.

A few years later, Steve received an e-mail from William one day. William explained in his e-mail what had happened to him a few years ago and why he had taken all the money from their business. He seemed very apologetic and regretful. In his e-mail, William also mentioned that he was searching for God and that he was hoping that Steve could bring him to his church.

After reading William's email, Steve wasn't sure what to do. He had not forgiven William, even after all these years. Whenever he thought about his old business, Steve would still become angry. That day, Steve spent a lot of time in prayer. He prayed that God would teach him what to do and give him the power to do His will. During his prayers, Steve was reminded about how much God loves him, about how many things God has blessed him with, and about how many times God has forgiven him. Even though Steve was praying about what he should do with William, in his mind, he could only think about all these things God had done for him. Suddenly, Steve realized that the Holy Spirit was teaching him to do the same to William! The Holy Spirit knew that God wanted Steve to forgive William and bring him to Christ. When Steve understood what the Holy Spirit was guiding him to do, he continued to pray for the strength to be able to do the will of God. The longer he prayed, the more he felt empowered. At the end of the night, Steve was determined to walk in God's way. He was very much strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The next day, Steve called William and told him that he had forgiven him and that he wanted to bring him to church. William began to go to church with Steve and was later baptized into Christ. Steve and William became friends again and are now brothers-in-Christ!

Reflection Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit guide Steve to understand the will of God?

In Steve's prayers, the Holy Spirit moved Steve to think about how much God loves him and had forgiven him before. Steve then realized that God wanted him to do the same to William.

2. How did the Holy Spirit strengthen Steve to do the will of God?

The more Steve prayed, the more he felt empowered to walk in God's way. In the end, he was able to forgive William and bring him to Christ.

3. The Holy Spirit corrects you when you have done wrong.

1 John 2:27 says, "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." This verse refers to the anointing of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised to send us. His Spirit will teach us all things and be with us always (Jn 14:16, 26). He is our Teacher who will only teach us what is true—that is, what is right in God's eyes. When we have done something against God's will, the Holy Spirit will help us know. He will prompt us to repent and to remember not to make the same mistake again. How is this possible? Does the Holy Spirit speak? To help you understand better, let me share a story with you.

Last Sunday, Lori's parents had to run some quick errands together in the afternoon, and they had told Lori to finish practicing piano while they were gone. However, as soon as they left the house, Lori left her room and started watching TV. She didn't think that her parents would ask her if she had finished practicing. That night, when they were having dinner together, Lori's mom suddenly asked Lori, "How did your piano practice go after we left today? Did you get to practice the other songs, too?" At that moment, Lori knew that she had to lie to her parents in order not to make them angry since they had asked her to finish practicing piano before watching TV. She said to her mom, "...Yes! I did. I practiced all the other songs too after you left. It went pretty well!" Lori was very quiet for the rest of the night. She felt very guilty about lying to her parents.

As usual, Lori prayed that night before going to bed. However, she felt something was wrong, as if God wasn't happy with her. Immediately, the Holy Spirit moved her to know that she had done something wrong that didn't please God—she lied! She had to repent before praying about anything else. In fact, Lori had been feeling guilty ever since dinner. The Holy Spirit reminded her that lying was a sin in God's eyes. Lori began to feel very sorry and she started praying to God for forgiveness.

After her prayer, Lori went to the living room to look for her mom. She told her the truth and apologized to her. She also told her mom that she felt very guilty after she lied and that she really regretted lying. Because of the Holy Spirit, Lori knew that she had sinned against God. She said, "I never want to lie again—it's such a terrible feeling to know that God is disappointed with me!"

If Lori didn't have the Holy Spirit, she probably wouldn't feel bad at all about lying to her parents. In fact, when people don't have the Holy Spirit, they either don't know that they are sinning against God, or they just don't feel bad about it! No one is there to correct them and help them get back on the right path to walk in God's ways. Remember, any path that is not God's way cannot lead us to the kingdom of God. Without the Holy Spirit, we may not even know that we are on the wrong path when we make mistakes. Students, do you want to enter the kingdom of heaven? Do you always want to be on the right path? If your answers are "yes" to both questions, let's be more eager to pray for the Holy Spirit, starting from today!

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. forty; heaven; Holy Spirit
2. Pentecost; 120; mighty wind; Holy Spirit
3. Peter; 3,000; baptized
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. Speak boldly about Jesus and preach the gospel
8. Love one another; share what they have with one another; meet together to worship and praise God in one accord; etc.
9. He can help us fully understand the words of God; guide and strengthen us to walk in God's ways; correct us when we have done something wrong in God's eyes; etc.



Activity

A Letter to God about His Spirit

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To encourage students to ask God for the Holy Spirit, or the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says, “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [...] If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Lk 11:9, 13). God promised to give us the Holy Spirit, as long as we ask. How much do you want to receive Him—He who will be with you always to give you wisdom, guide you, and strengthen you as you journey to inherit the kingdom of God—into your heart?

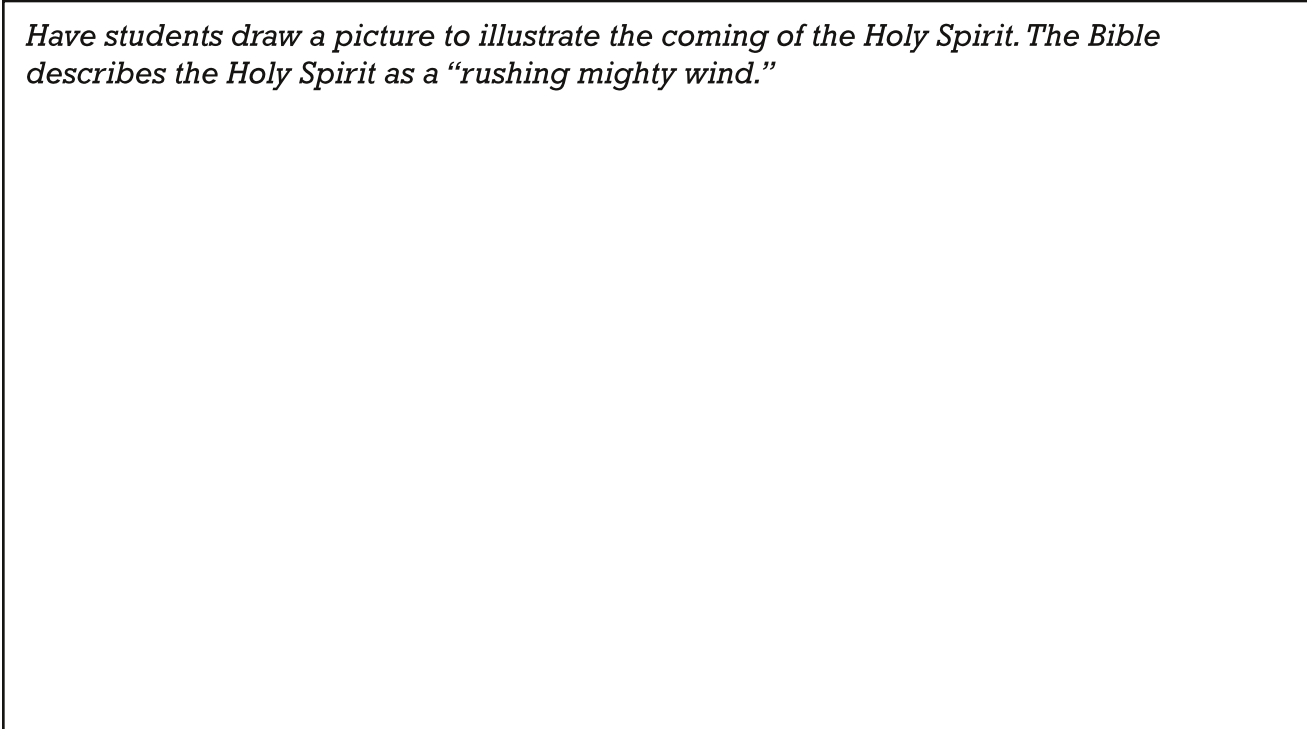
Write a letter to God and tell Him how much you are longing to receive the Holy Spirit. If you have already received it, write to God about how you want to be empowered by the fullness of the Holy Spirit to walk in His ways.

Dear God,

Sincerely,

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Have students draw a picture to illustrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as a “rushing mighty wind.”



1. What are His names?

The Spirit of truth, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge, and the Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

2. What is His role?

A Helper, Teacher, Counselor, etc.

3. What does He do?

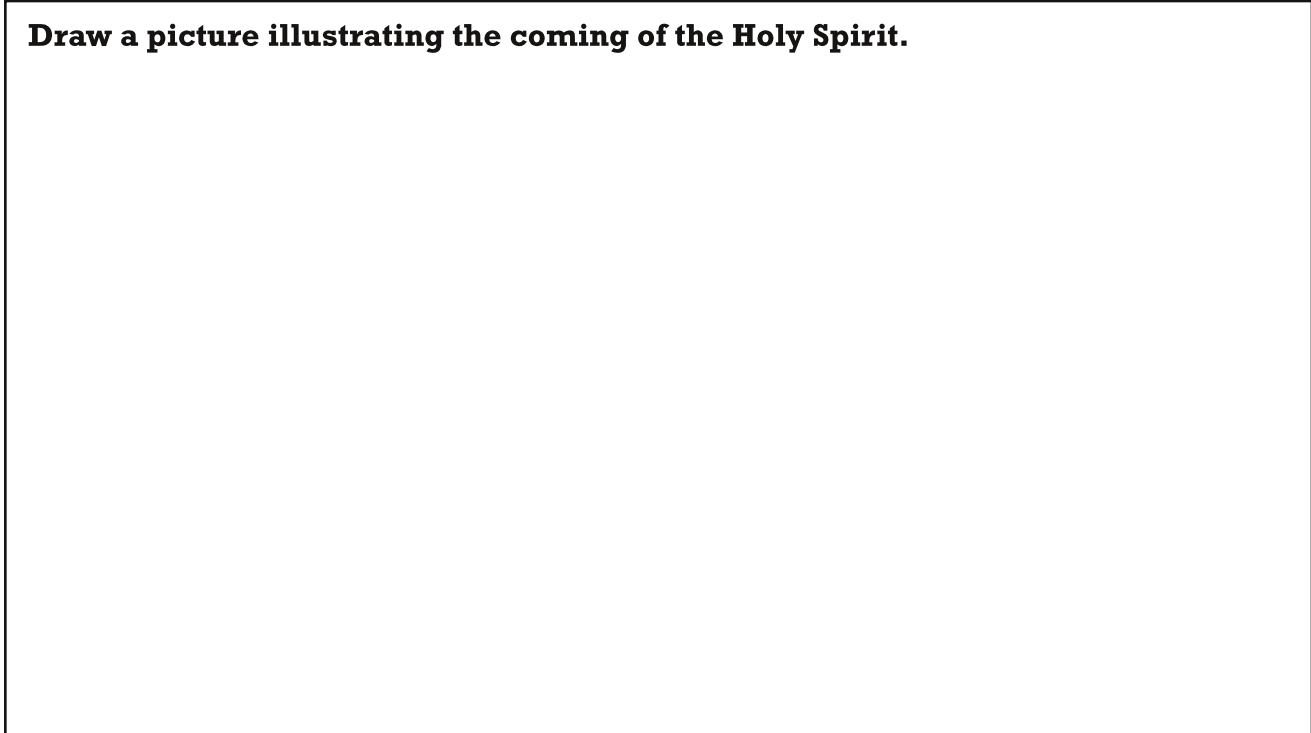
Gives us wisdom to understand God’s words fully, guides and strengthens us to walk in God’s ways, corrects us when we have done wrong, etc.

4. How can we receive the Holy Spirit?

Pray to God with a sincere heart, have a desire for godly wisdom, determine to pursue after the kingdom of God, etc.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Draw a picture illustrating the coming of the Holy Spirit.



1. What are His names?

2. What is His role?

3. What does He do?

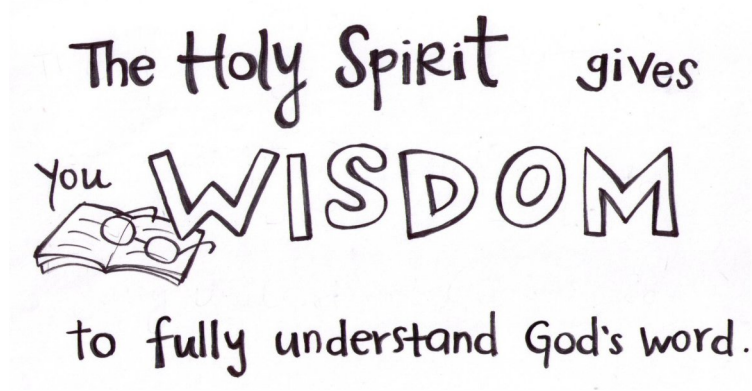
4. How can we receive the Holy Spirit?

PROFILE:

**THE
HOLY
SPIRIT**



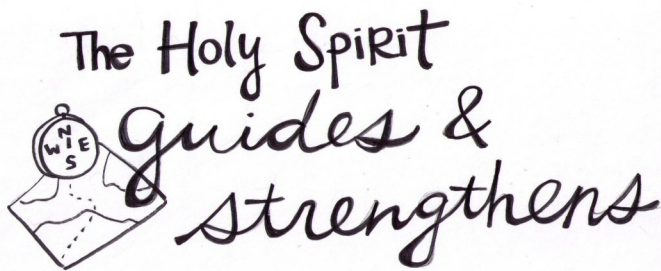
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Let's turn to Isaiah 11:2. What is the Holy Spirit also called here?

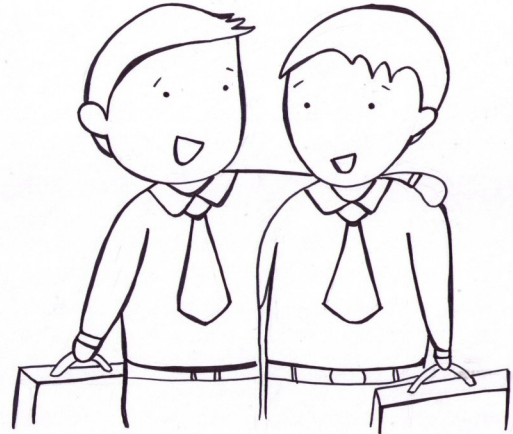
- The Spirit of _____ and _____;
- The Spirit of _____ and _____; and
- The Spirit of _____ and of the _____ of the _____.

Do you have a burning desire for godly wisdom to understand God's words when you pray for the Holy Spirit?



you to walk in God's ways.

Steve used to have a very successful business many years ago with his best friend William. He worked very hard for this business and put a lot of time and money into it. However, this business ended up going into bankruptcy because William had taken all the money out of it and run away. He never contacted Steve ever again. At that time, Steve was very angry with William. He didn't understand why his best friend had done such a horrible thing to him.



A few years later, Steve received an e-mail from William one day. William explained in his e-mail what had happened to him a few years ago and why he had taken all the money from their business. He seemed very apologetic and regretful. In his e-mail, William also mentioned that he was searching for God and that he was hoping that Steve could bring him to his church.

After reading William's email, Steve wasn't sure what to do. He had not forgiven William, even after all these years. Whenever he thought about his old business, Steve would still become angry. That day, Steve spent a lot of time in prayer. He prayed that God would teach him what to do and give him the power to do His will. During his prayers, Steve was reminded about how much God loves him, about how many things God has blessed him with, and about how many times God has forgiven him. Even though Steve was praying about what he should do with William, in his mind, he could only think about all these things God had done for him. Suddenly, Steve realized that the Holy Spirit was teaching him to do the same to William! The Holy Spirit knew that God wanted Steve to forgive William and bring him to Christ. When Steve understood what the Holy Spirit was guiding him to do, he continued to pray for the strength to be able to do the will of God. The longer he prayed, the more he felt empowered. At the end of the night, Steve was determined to walk in God's way. He was very much strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The next day, Steve called William and told him that he had forgiven him and that he wanted to bring him to church. William began to go to church with Steve and was later baptized into Christ. Steve and William became friends again and are now brothers-in-Christ!

Reflection Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit guide Steve to understand the will of God?
2. How did the Holy Spirit strengthen Steve to do the will of God?

3

The Holy Spirit CORRECTS you

when you have done wrong.

Last Sunday, Lori's parents had to run some quick errands together in the afternoon, and they had told Lori to finish practicing piano while they were gone. However, as soon as they left the house, Lori left her room and started watching TV. She didn't think that her parents would ask her if she had finished practicing. That night, when they were having dinner together, Lori's mom suddenly asked Lori, "How did your piano practice go after we left today? Did you get to practice the other songs, too?" At that moment, Lori knew that she had to lie to her parents in order not to make them angry since they had asked her to finish practicing piano before watching TV. She said to her mom, "...Yes! I did. I practiced all the other songs too after you left. It went pretty well!" Lori was very quiet for the rest of the night. She felt very guilty about lying to her parents.

As usual, Lori prayed that night before going to bed. However, she felt something was wrong, as if God wasn't happy with her. Immediately, the Holy Spirit moved her to know that she had done something wrong that didn't please God—she lied! She had to repent before praying about anything else. In fact, Lori had been feeling guilty ever since dinner. The Holy Spirit reminded her that lying was a sin in God's eyes. Lori began to feel very sorry and she started praying to God for forgiveness.

After her prayer, Lori went to the living room to look for her mom. She told her the truth and apologized to her. She also told her mom that she felt very guilty after she lied and that she really regretted lying. Because of the Holy Spirit, Lori knew that she had sinned against God. She said, "I never want to lie again—it's such a terrible feeling to know that God is disappointed with me!"



E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 1—The Day of Pentecost

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Acts 1:8)

Fill In the Blank

1. After Jesus resurrected, He stayed with His disciples for _____ days before ascending to _____. He instructed them to wait for a very special event—the coming of the _____.
2. On the Day of _____, around _____ people were gathered in one place. Suddenly, there came a sound from above like a rushing _____—it was the _____ that fell upon them!
3. After such an amazing event, _____ stood up with the other apostles and began to preach. On that day, the Holy Spirit moved about _____ people to get _____! They were all new souls added to the church of God.

Multiple Choice

4. _____: When those gathered started speaking in tongues, some thought that they were _____.
 - a. Drunk with wine
 - b. Lying that they had received the Holy Spirit
 - c. Demon-possessed
5. _____: Peter told the congregation that they must first _____ in order to be saved.
 - a. Offer all they have to God
 - b. Receive the Holy Spirit
 - c. Repent and be baptized
6. _____: The coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost marked the beginning of _____.
 - a. The church of God
 - b. Jesus' ministry
 - c. The history of the Bible

Short Answer

7. On the Day of Pentecost, what did the Holy Spirit empower the apostles to do?

8. What did the Holy Spirit empower the believers to do thereafter?

9. What can the Holy Spirit empower us to do today?

LESSON 2

PETER AND JOHN HEAL THE LAME MAN

OBJECTIVES

1. To enable your students to witness and shine for the Lord.
2. To understand that the name of Jesus carries authority and power.
3. To remember to praise God for His healing and care.
4. To have courage like Peter to see opportunities and speak up and witness for Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

(Acts 3:6)

PRAYER

1. Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for gathering us to worship You and for all the things You have done for us in our lives.
2. We especially thank You for the name of Jesus, because it has lost none of its power, not only spiritually, but also physically.
3. We know that You can heal us and make us strong. We pray that You help make strong those of us who are sick and unwell.
4. May You give us the courage to speak up for You and share with people around us the power of Your name.



Overview

1. **Peter and John Heal the Lame Man**
2. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**
 - a. Jesus is our only Savior, and the one True God
 - b. How do we tell others about Jesus?
3. **Life Application**
 - a. Praise God! He Healed Me!
 - b. In the Name of Jesus
4. **Activity**—Play: “No Silver nor Gold” Miracle



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Jewish people prayed three times a day—morning (9:00 am), afternoon (3:00 pm), and evening (sunset). At these times, devout Jews and Gentiles who believed in God often went to the temple to pray. The Beautiful gate was an entrance to the temple, not to the city. It was one of the favored entrances, and many people passed through it on their way to worship. The lame man was begging where many would see him.

Giving money to beggars was considered praiseworthy in the Jewish religion. So, the lame man wisely placed himself where godly people might see him on their way to worship at the temple.

In the first century, being disabled meant total dependence on family and friends. The lame man was carried to the temple every day and put at the temple gate to beg for alms from those entering the temple to worship God. He was lame from birth and over forty years old (Acts 3:2; 4:22). More than forty years of begging may have left him feeling dejected and lonely. We can see this because when he asked for money, he didn't even look up at the people passing. Peter had to get his attention and tell him to look at them (Acts 3:4).

The lame beggar asked for money, but Peter gave him something far better—healing in the name of Jesus. When Peter said, “In the name of Jesus Christ,” he meant “by the power of Jesus Christ.” Peter and John knew that this power of healing could only come from the Lord. Following what happened at Pentecost, the disciples would have been praying to ask God to help them preach (Acts 4:29-31). Healing this lame man probably wasn't on Peter and John's to-do list that day. They were simply on their way to join the afternoon prayer and talk to more people about Jesus. It's interesting to note that it was on their way to pray that God gave the apostles this opportunity to preach.



Reaching Out to Your Students

When the lame man asked Peter and John for help, they could have given him some money and gone on their way. However, the apostles knew that glorifying God was more important. If they had provided the man with money, they would have been the ones being praised. But by healing the man, all glory was given to God.

Like Peter and John, your students don't know when the time may come when they can glorify God. But the apostles were ready to shine for the Lord. Likewise, your students can also be prepared to do the same. They may not be performing powerful miracles and glorifying God in that way, but with very simple words or small acts of kindness, they can be witnessing and spreading the message of love to others. They can begin by remembering to give thanks to Jesus to all situations. For example, when others praise them for their good work, they can say, "Thank God." Instead of focusing on themselves, they will bring attention to the power and love of Christ. When they develop this attitude of humbleness and thanksgiving, they, too, will be ready to shine for God in all situations.



Opener

5 Minutes

Before class, prepare the following items and place them into a bag: a pair of shoes, a small bag of coins, and a Bible.

Start the lesson by asking students to share about what God has done in their lives this past week. Then, bring the bag out and tell them that there are things in this bag relating to the lesson and to what God did for a man who was lame and helpless.

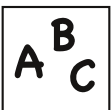
First, take out the shoes. Ask the students what shoes are used for. We wear our shoes to protect our feet when we walk. But what if we couldn't walk? How would we get from place to place? Ask the students if they have had someone carry them anywhere before. Have them share their experiences or ask them to think of times when a person might be carried.

- Babies need to be carried because they can't walk.
- When children fall asleep in the car, their parents sometimes carry them to bed.
- Firemen may carry people out of a burning building to save them.

Ask them what it would be like if they could never walk anywhere and always needed someone to carry them around. In today's story, we are going to talk about a lame man, a man who couldn't walk since birth. Back in those days, there were no wheelchairs, so he needed people to carry him around everywhere.

Next, take out the bag of coins. Ask them to identify what it is and what they have used money for. Money is important to the man in the story. He couldn't walk, so he couldn't work for money. However, he still needed money to buy food and pay for his daily necessities. So his only option was to spend every day begging for change.

Finally, take out the Bible. As arranged by God, one day Peter and John saw this lame man. Instead of giving him money, Peter introduced him to Jesus, the greatest gift in the world!



Vocabulary

lame: unable to walk, or having difficulty walking, because of an injury or illness affecting the leg or foot

alms: money given to poor people

boldness: courage and daring; the trait of not being fearful or scared when facing danger



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

After the Day of Pentecost

After the apostles received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached to a large crowd, and about 3,000 people believe in the Lord Jesus that day. And it didn't stop there. All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they all loved God, so every day they would gather at one place to eat and learn the word of God together from the apostles. So, the number of believers continued to increase DAILY! These were exciting times in Jerusalem! Lots of things were happening, and today we will learn more about the types of things that happened when the apostles went about sharing the gospel of salvation, of Jesus, with everyone.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students at this time. The students will be filling it out as you progress through the lesson. The answers have been underlined. Keep a copy to reference when teaching.

The Hour of Prayer

Let's read Acts 3:1. Fill in the worksheet as we go. "Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour." The ninth hour is about 3 pm our time. Jewish people prayed religiously, three times a day.

The famous prophet Daniel also prayed three times a day, no matter what. Let's read Daniel 6:10. "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days." It was Daniel's habit to pray three times a day. And it was a very good habit! Remember very carefully, going to pray in the temple was how this whole story began for Peter, John, and the lame man!

At the Beautiful Gate

Now, there was one man who went to the temple every day, but who did not go into the temple courtyard as everyone else did. He always stayed outside the gate because he could not walk. In fact, he had never walked in his life because he was born lame. People would carry him to the temple gate called "Beautiful," and put him down there. This would be where he would ask for alms, or beg, every day. Let's read Acts 3:2. "And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple."

The hour of prayer would be a very busy time because lots of people would be coming to pray. People that went to the temple to pray were usually godly, religious people that would most likely give him alms because God had told His people to look after the poor and needy. It's possible that people would stop and give him some money, but most likely, people would just pass by him without notice on their way to the temple courtyard.

Silver and Gold I Do Not Have

The lame man did what he did every day: ask for alms. Little did he know that God was going to make this day a very special day for him! The lame man saw Peter and John coming through the Beautiful Gate to go to the temple to pray. So he asked them for money. Let's read Acts 3:3.

But what Peter and John were about to do was something he did not expect. Let's see what Peter and John did by reading Acts 3:4-6.

"And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, 'Look at us.' So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'"

Peter and John had to tell the lame man to look at them. This shows that the lame man was probably in the habit of looking downwards at the ground, instead of making eye contact with the people walking by. When Peter and John told the lame man to look at them, he must have thought Peter and John would be giving him something.

But to his surprise, Peter said he didn't have any silver or gold! It was because Peter was about to offer the lame man something even BETTER than silver and gold. Peter wanted to give the lame man something that was worth far more than gold. Peter wanted to give the lame man what he had—the most precious thing he had—the name of Jesus Christ!

Walking, Leaping, and Praising God!

The Bible describes the healing of this lame man with lots of action! Let's read Acts 3:7. "And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

As soon as Peter helped lift him up, the lame man, who had never once stood up before in his life, felt his feet and ankle bones become strong! How strange this must have been for someone who had never used his feet before.

Usually people who have not used their feet for a long time need to do lots of physical therapy to help them learn to balance and strengthen their muscles. Sometimes, people even need to learn how to walk again! But God's miraculous healing was immediate.

Continue to read Acts 3:8. "So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God."

The man was so excited that he kept walking and jumping and calling out praises to God. He followed Peter and John into the temple courtyard. Everyone heard him and came to have a look at what the noise was all about.

What happened to him? Let's read Acts 3:9-10.

All the people who had walked past him to go to the temple recognized that he was the man who had always begged at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. So they were all amazed at what had happened to him! They were all filled with wonder and amazement.

Since so many people had gathered around Peter and John, Peter responded to the people by telling them about Jesus. Let's read Acts 3:12-15. Peter started to preach and pointed out that the Jewish people had done a very bad thing in crucifying Jesus. But the Jesus they had killed is now alive again, and it was by faith in Jesus' name that this lame man was healed (Acts 3:16). So, Peter told them all to repent, turn away from their sins, and believe in Jesus!

Peter and John Arrested!

While Peter was talking to the people, some priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees overheard. They did not like what Peter was saying (Acts 4:1-2). They

didn't believe in Jesus, and they didn't want anyone else to either. They were so angry that they arrested Peter and John and put them in jail (Acts 4:3).

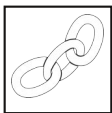
The next day, all the Jewish leaders, and even the high priest, gathered for a big meeting (Acts 4:5-6). They asked Peter and John to tell them what had happened. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave a good speech, telling them that the lame man was healed by the name of Jesus and that there is no other name under heaven by which mankind can be saved!

The priests and Jewish leaders couldn't believe how bravely Peter spoke about Jesus. They couldn't do anything bad to Peter and John because the man whom they had healed was standing right there with them. So, they decided to threaten Peter and John, telling them that they were not to speak to anyone about Jesus anymore!

What were Peter and John to do? Let's read how they responded in Acts 4:19-20. "But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'" Nothing was going to stop the apostles from preaching, because that's what God had told them to do. There was nothing more to say, so the Jewish leaders let them go.

Guess what Peter and John did right after they were released? They prayed for boldness to keep preaching.

From this story, we can see that while it is a kind gesture to help the needy by donating money to them, it is even better to share the gospel of salvation with them. Their money will disappear once it has been used, but salvation is everlasting!



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The lame man in today's story was able to be healed and walk again because he believed in Jesus and the power of Jesus' name (Acts 3:16).

- What do we believe about Jesus?
- We believe that Jesus came into this world to die on the cross for us, sinners.
- We believe that Jesus resurrected on the third day and ascended to heaven.
- We believe Jesus is our only Savior, the Ruler of the heavens and earth and the only true God.

And through our faith in Him and in His name, we can be saved.

We may think it's simple to believe Jesus is God's name. But there are so many people in the world today that do not know this or do not believe this.

What God wants is simple: He wants everyone to turn away from sin and be saved. To save us, Jesus has already died for us on the cross and resurrected. God has done His part to save us from sin. Now it's our turn. Our job is to make sure that everyone knows about Jesus so that they can have the chance to be saved, too!

Sometimes, we are scared to speak up about Jesus. Or we may not know what to say or how to tell other people. That's okay. Believe it or not, the disciples also had the same problems. How did they solve it?

Let's read Acts 4:29-30. "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

[Hand out the Ten Basic Beliefs worksheet to the students now. Go over the three points, and then ask them to follow the directions on the worksheet.]

What can we learn from the apostles in today's story?

1. *Pray!*

What were Peter and John on their way to do when this story happened? They were on their way to the temple for the hour of prayer! If they didn't think to pray, then they would have missed this opportunity to show everyone the power that is in the name of Jesus.

2. *Ask God for boldness*

Even the apostles prayed and asked God to give them boldness so that they could speak God's word. If, by praying in Jesus' name, a lame man can jump up and walk, then, by praying in Jesus' name, a scared Christian can also become strong and brave!

3. *Use what you have for a small act of kindness*

One small act of kindness by Peter and John led to the unexpected healing miracle of a man who was lame for over forty years! This then gave Peter an opportunity to preach about Jesus!

We can do what Peter did, too! Just as Peter said to the lame man, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you," we can say the same! We may not have silver or gold, but we can give people what we have. We have the knowledge of Jesus. We have our faith. We have our voices that we can use to sing praises to God.

If we don't have silver and gold, we can still give what we have. Acts of kindness come in all forms and sizes!



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Where were Peter and John going when they bumped into the lame man?** They were going to the temple to pray.
2. **Why was the lame man carried to the temple?** So that he could beg for alms, or money.
3. **What time did Peter and John go to the temple?** They went at the ninth hour: the hour of prayer.
4. **When the lame man asked Peter and John for money, what did Peter first say to him?** Peter said, "Look at us."
5. **Instead of giving the lame man money, what did Peter and John give instead?** They gave him the name of Jesus, and the power in Jesus' name healed him, giving him the ability to walk.
6. **What exactly did Peter say to the lame man?** Refer to Acts 3:6.
7. **What did Peter do after saying that?** Peter took the man by the right hand and lifted him up.
8. **What did the lame man do after he was healed and his feet and ankles received strength?** He leapt up, went into the temple with Peter and John, walking, leaping, and praising God.
9. **What did the Jewish leaders do to Peter and John after they healed the lame man?** They had them arrested.
10. **When the Jewish leaders told them to stop preaching about Jesus, what did they say?** They asked if it was better to obey God or men, and said that they could not help speaking about what they had seen and heard about Jesus.
11. **What do you need God's power to do this week?** Answers may vary. Possible answers: Preach to others, get better if they are feeling sick, read the Bible and pray every day, obey parents, etc.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Testimony: Praise God! He Healed Me!

[Read the testimony to the students. Then, hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and follow with the conclusion.]

In the name of Jesus, I bear testimony of how I received God's healing grace.

I remember there was once when I was in grade 4, on a Friday, I got really sick at school and my mum had to take me home. I had a high fever, I was vomiting everything I ate, and I had no strength in my muscles to walk around or play. The whole day passed and evening time came. My dad took my little brother to church and my mum stayed home with me because I was still feeling very sick. I remember being very sad I couldn't go to church that Friday night.

That night before bedtime, my whole family prayed for me. I still wasn't feeling any better. My muscles still felt weak like tofu, but my mum told me this is more reason why I must pray. In my prayer, I asked God if He could make me better just for tomorrow, for just ONE day, so I could go to church on Sabbath.

I woke up the next morning not really feeling any better. But I told my parents I didn't want to stay home. I wanted to go to church. My faith was simple. I believed that as long as I went to church, God would give me the strength I need. So my parents decided that we all go to church together, and if I felt really sick, then they would bring me home early.

Praise God, after I arrived at church, I experienced God's miraculous healing power! I didn't slowly get better. I got better straight away! God healed me instantly. My fever went away. I stopped vomiting. I even had enough energy to play with my church friends and join class! I was so happy to have energy to stay at church that I told my friends and RE teachers about how sick I was and how quickly God had made me well.

On the car ride home from church, I thought maybe I'll get sick again because I only asked God to heal me for one day so I could go to church. But God is so loving that He made me better completely, and I didn't feel sick at all when I got home.

Thank God for His healing grace and loving mercy. All glory be given unto His name. Amen.

From this testimony, we know that Jesus has the power to heal us, but we need to rely on Him and pray in His name.

- Can you think of a time when God healed you of a pain or sickness you had?
- Do you remember how you prayed to Him?

2. In the Name of Jesus

[Before class, do some research to find the meaning of the names of all the students in your class. Write them down on a large piece of paper, and then post the piece of paper on the board for the students to see. At the beginning of this section, hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 and go over it with the students.]

What's in a name?

Did you know that when you were a baby still inside your mother's tummy, your mother and father had already started thinking about what name to give you? Parents, such as yours, usually come up with a list of names they like and slowly decide on which one they like best. Some parents even choose names based on their meaning!

So, do you know what your name means? Write your name in the box and the meaning of your name on the line underneath it. For those who don't know the meaning, you can look at the board. Today, you can go home and check with your parents if they know the meaning of your name!

Names are useful because it's something for other people to call us by. This way, we can tell the difference between individuals. For example:

- If I said, "Can you please pass me a pencil?", would you know to whom I'm talking?
- If I said, "Ben, can you please pass me a pencil?", you would all know to whom I am talking, right?

But Jesus' name was not just a name for other people to call Him by. Long before Jesus was even born, God especially appeared to Joseph to let him know that Mary would give birth to a Son and that they must call Him "Jesus." Let's refer to Matthew 1:20-21.

But what does the name "Jesus" mean? To find out, we need to go back to Jesus' original Hebrew name.

- Yeshua (Hebrew) translated to Greek is *Iesos*.
- Iesos (Greek) translated to Latin is *Jesu*.
- Jesu became the English word "Jesus."

The original Hebrew name *Yeshua* means "The Lord saves" or "God saves."

The name "Jesus" is unique and unlike any of our names because "Jesus" is God's name.

The Third Commandment

We all know the third commandment about God's name. Please write it below.

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

God's name is not to be used lightly, jokingly, or in vain. Why is that? Think about what the Bible tells us to do in God's name—"Jesus."

In the name of Jesus, and for the name of Jesus, we:

1. Are saved (Acts 4:12)
2. Are baptized (Acts 2:38; 10:48; 19:5)
3. Pray (Jn 14:13-14)
4. Can be healed and made strong (Acts 3:16)
5. Gather together to worship God (Mt 18:20)
6. Preach and work for God (Acts 4:18-20; Rev 2:3)
7. Suffer for God (Acts 5:41; 15:26)

Because "Jesus" is the name of God, it comes with power and authority. It's a name that God has put above every other name. So, we must also treat the name of Jesus above every other name. Lastly, let's read Philippians 2:9-11.



Activity

Play: "No Silver nor Gold" Miracle

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the miracle performed in Jesus' name by acting it out or reading it out.

Instructions

1. Before class, prepare the props and set them aside for the Activity.
2. Hand each student a copy of the script.
3. Assign character roles to students.
4. If you'd like, record the play on video so that the students can take a look at what they have done.

Props

- Bowl for begging
- Coins for bystanders
- "Beautiful Gate" sign, stuck on a doorway

Cast

Adjust roles depending on the number of students by increasing the number of witnesses or by combining roles the roles of Friends and Bystanders

- Narrator
- Peter
- John
- Lame Man
- Friends of the Lame Man (actions only) – 2 to 4, adjust according to number of students
- Bystanders and witnesses of the miracle – adjust according to number of students

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Ask the students if they have followed up with these members to ask how they are doing.
2. "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:9-11)
3. "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29-30)
4. B
5. A
6. C

PETER AND JOHN HEAL THE LAME MAN

Instructions: Listen carefully and fill in the blanks as the teacher goes over the lesson.

The Hour of Prayer

“Now Peter and John went up _____ to the _____ at the _____
_____, the _____ hour.”

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room,
with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees _____
_____ that day, and _____ and gave thanks before his God, as was
_____ since early days.”

At the Beautiful Gate

“And a certain man _____ from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid
_____ at the _____ which is called _____, to
ask alms from those who entered the temple.”

Silver and Gold I Do Not Have

“And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, ‘_____.’ So he gave them
his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, ‘_____ and
_____ I do not have, but _____ I give you: In the
_____ of _____ of Nazareth, _____
_____.’”

Walking, Leaping, and Praising God!

“And he took him by the right hand and _____ him up, and _____ his
_____ and _____ bones received _____.”

“So he, leaping up, stood and _____ and _____ the temple with them—
_____, _____, and _____.”

Peter and John Arrested!

“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is _____ in the
_____ of God to listen to you _____ to God, you judge. For we
_____ but _____ the things which we have seen and heard.’”

Silver and Gold I Do Not Have, but What I Have I Give to You

What should you do when you are afraid or don't know how to tell others about Jesus?

Let's learn from what the apostles did!

1

What were Peter and John on their way to do when this story happened (Acts 3:1)? They were on their way to the temple for the hour of prayer! If they didn't think to pray, then they would have missed this opportunity to show everyone the power that is in the name of Jesus.

2

Even the apostles prayed and asked God to give them boldness so that they could speak God's word (Acts 4:29). If by, praying in Jesus' name, a lame man can jump up and walk, then by praying in Jesus' name, a scared Christian can also become strong and brave.

3

One small act of kindness by Peter and John led to the unexpected healing miracle of a man who was lame for over forty years! This then gave Peter an opportunity to preach about Jesus!

We can do what Peter did, too! Just as Peter said to the lame man,

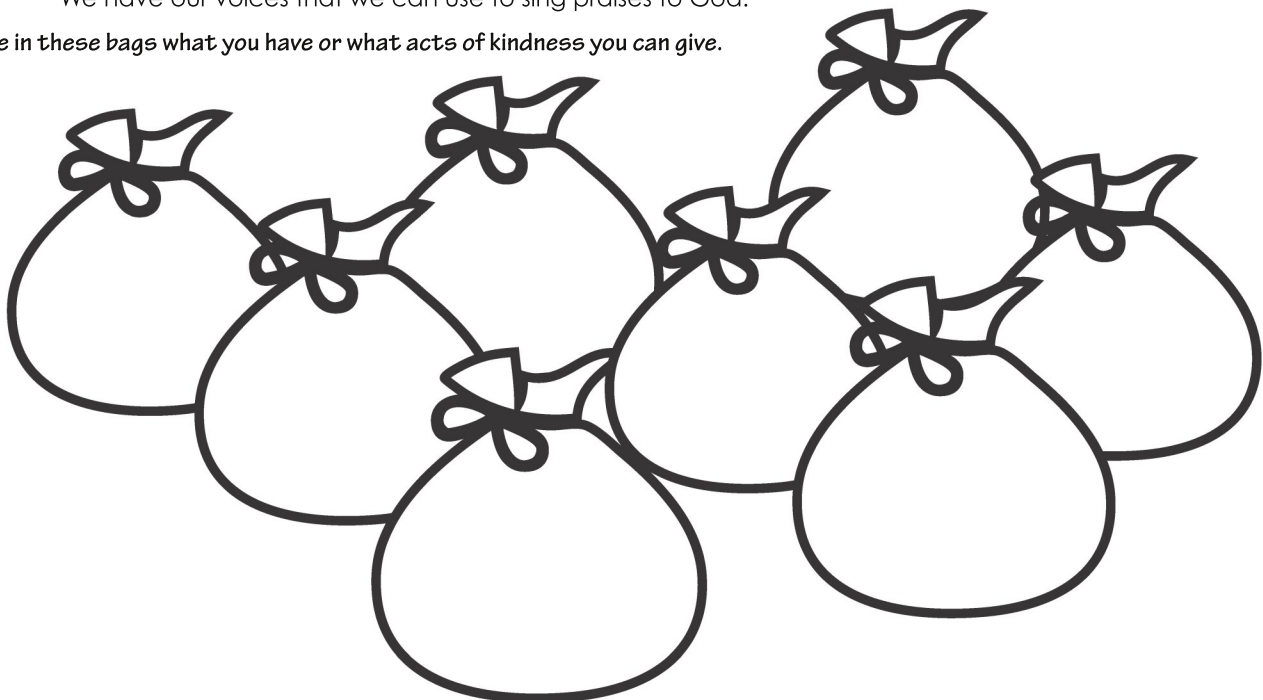
"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you."

We can say the same! We may not have silver or gold, but we can give people what we have.

We have the knowledge of Jesus. We have our faith.

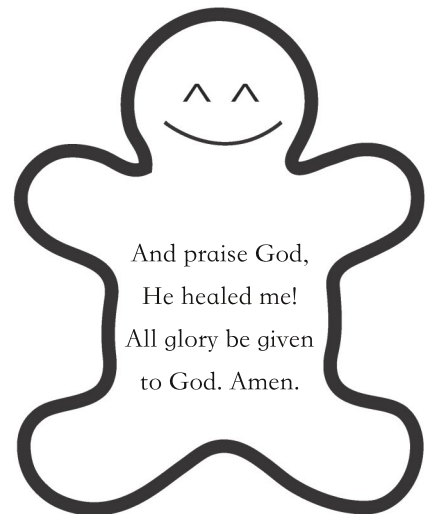
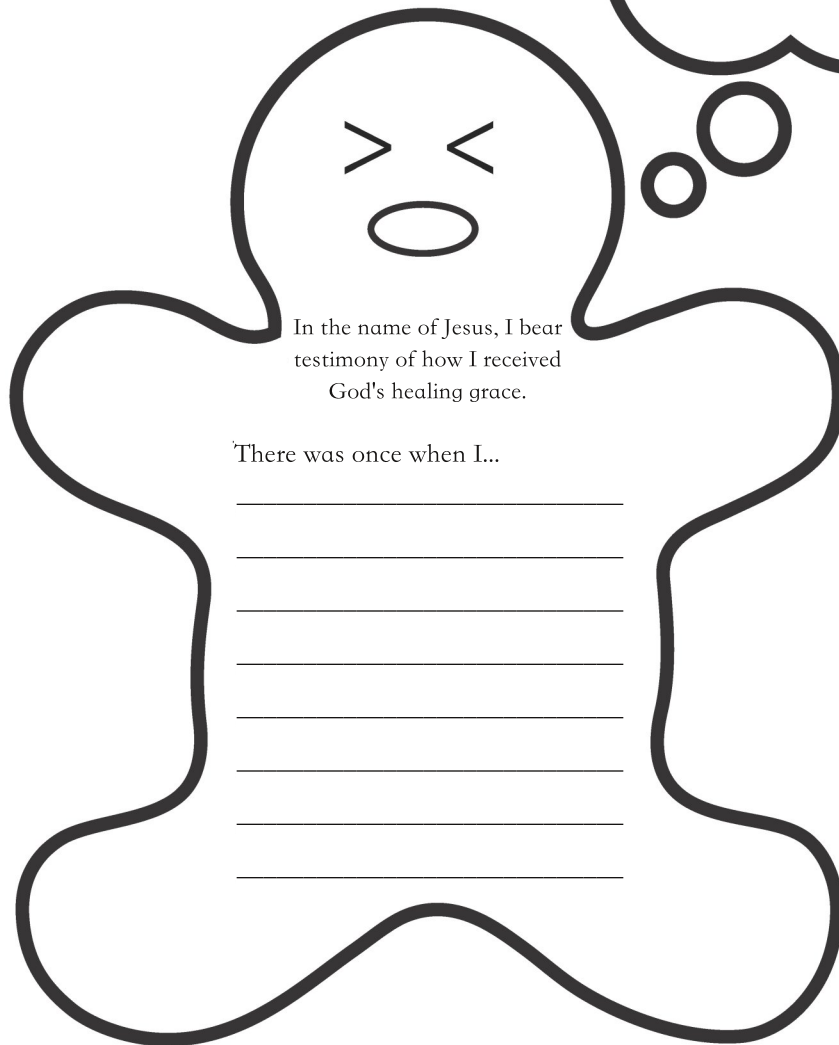
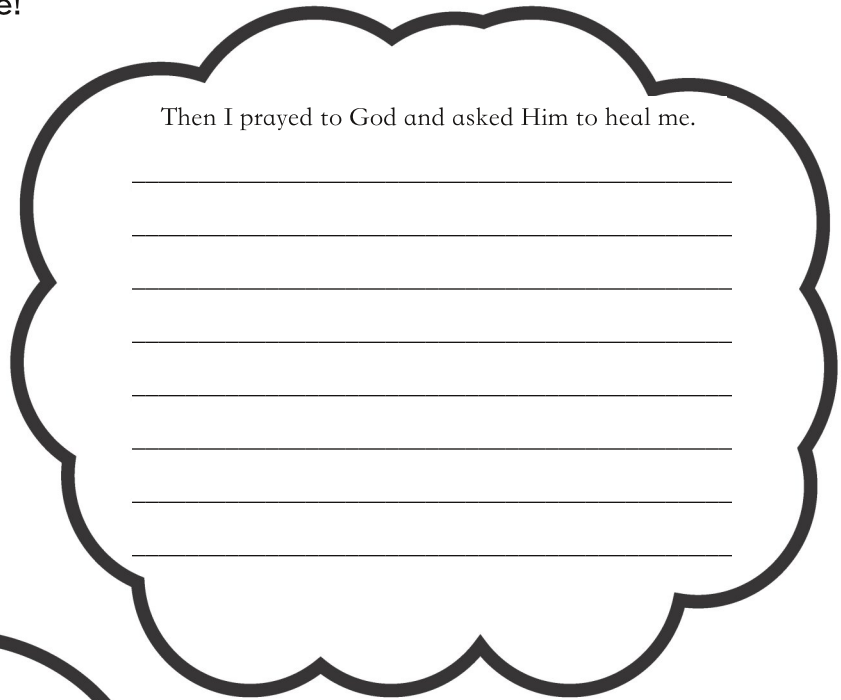
We have our voices that we can use to sing praises to God.

Write in these bags what you have or what acts of kindness you can give.



Praise God! He Healed Me!

1. Write down a time when you were in pain or felt sick.
2. Write down your prayer to God.
3. Give all glory to God.



In the Name of Jesus

What's in a name?

God's name:

Jesus

Your name:

It means: _____

It means: _____

The name "Jesus" is unique and unlike any of our names, because "Jesus" is God's name.

The Third Commandment

Think about what the Bible tells us to do in God's name—"Jesus."

In the name of Jesus, and for the name of Jesus, we...

1. _____ (Acts 4:12)
2. _____ (Acts 2:38; 10:48; 19:5)
3. _____ (Jn 14:13-14)
4. _____ (Acts 3:16)
5. _____ (Mt 18:20)
6. _____ (Acts 4:18-20; Rev 2:3)
7. _____ (Acts 5:41; 15:26)

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

"No Silver nor Gold"

- Narrator:** After the mighty work of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the apostolic church grew very quickly in number. As the believers continued to worship God together and have meals together, the Lord performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. Every day, more and more people came to believe in Jesus.
- One particular day, another miracle was about to happen. This time it was about to happen to a man who was born without the ability to walk.
- Friends:** *(Carry Lame Man in and set him down in front of "Beautiful Gate")*
- Lame Man:** *(Sigh and murmur)*
Another day, the same again.
- (Look down and call out)*
Anyone have coins to spare?
- Bystanders:** *(One walk past; one throw a coin into the bowl; etc.)*
- Lame Man:** *(Looking at the one coin in his bowl)*
Well, it's going to be a long day!
- Bystanders:** *(Walk away)*
- Narrator:** Just before 3 pm in the afternoon, a huge crowd comes towards the temple.
- Lame Man:** *(Casually)*
Oh, look at the crowd coming, must be about time for the hour of prayer! Hopefully these godly people coming to pray will be generous.
- Bystanders,
Peter, and John:** *(All enter)*
- Lame Man:** *(Looks down and calls out as the crowd passes)*
Do you have coins to spare?
- Bystanders:** *(Throw some coins in)*
- Peter and John:** Poor guy, he's always there all day, every day!
- (Stop in front of the Lame Man and keep your eyes on him)*
Look at us.
- Lame Man:** *(Look up at Peter and John, holding your bowl up)*
- Peter:** Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.
- (Grab Lame Man's right hand to help him stand up)*

- Narrator: Miraculously, the bones in the lame man's feet and ankles started to get stronger! Next thing you see, he was up on his feet.
- Lame Man: *(Look down at your feet in shock)*
Whoa! What's this feeling? I feel my ankles and feet getting stronger!
- (Take one step, then a leap, and then jump; continue leaping and jumping in excitement)*
Praise God! Jesus has healed me. Look at me, I was born lame and couldn't walk for the past forty years, but now I can walk! Thank You, Jesus! Thank You!
- Peter and John: *(Walk through the Beautiful Gate into the courtyard)*
- Lame Man: *(Follow Peter and John into the courtyard)*
- Narrator: What do you know! The lame man received something better than silver and gold!
- Bystanders: *(Turn to look at the Lame Man shouting and jumping)*
Hey! Isn't that the lame man who sits at the temple gate begging for money every day?
- How could this be possible?!
- This is just amazing!
- Peter: *(To the Bystanders)*
Why does this surprise you?
- Don't look at us; it wasn't us who healed this man. You know that only God has the power to heal a man. God sent His son Jesus into this world to save us from our sins and heal us of our sicknesses.
- (Points to the Lame Man)*
He believed that Jesus could heal him. Through his faith, Jesus healed him completely.
- Narrator: Not only did Jesus heal this poor lame man. Through the miraculous healing of this man, God also gave Peter and John the chance to preach.
- Peter and John were very courageous and continued to preach about Jesus loudly to the people. They didn't stop, even after the priests and captain of the temple arrested them, put them in jail, and threatened them!

END.

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 2—Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Acts 3:6)

Prayer List

1. Write down the name of three members at church who are feeling sick or need our prayers. Keep them in your prayers, and if you find the chance, ask them how they are!

Fill In the Blank

2. "Therefore God also has highly _____ Him and given Him the _____ which is _____ every _____, that at the _____ every knee should bow, of those in _____ and of those on _____ and of those under the _____, and that every _____ should confess that _____ is Lord, to the glory of _____." (Phil 2:9-11)
3. "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your _____ that with all _____ they may speak Your _____, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the _____ of Your holy Servant _____." (Acts 4:29-30)

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : The Beautiful Gate was _____.
 - a. A gate at the Jerusalem city wall
 - b. A gate to the temple
 - c. A gate to the palace
5. _____ : The lame man was lame because _____.
 - a. He was born lame.
 - b. He had an accident.
 - c. He had an illness when he was a child.
6. _____ : The lame man could walk and leap because _____.
 - a. Peter and John were on their way to temple and wanted to be nice.
 - b. He looked up at Peter and John when he was told to do so.
 - c. He had faith in Jesus.

LESSON 3

THE ROLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that the Holy Spirit justifies us when we are cleansed during water baptism.
2. To recognize that the Holy Spirit testifies that we are God's children and have a part with Him.
3. To know that the Holy Spirit seals us when we receive Him because He is a guarantee of our heavenly inheritance.
4. To understand that the Holy Spirit sanctifies us by purifying our hearts and gives us the power to overcome temptation and lust.

MEMORY VERSE

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

(Romans 8:16-17)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for keeping us safe in Your love through this week so that we can gather together on Your holy Sabbath day.
2. We know that You have given Your Holy Spirit to us to be our Counselor, give us wisdom, and remind us of what is right.
3. Lord, today we will learn about the roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
4. Please help us concentrate during class and guide us to understand even deeper the works of the Holy Spirit.



Overview

1. The work of the Holy Spirit in God's salvation plan for us

- a. The Holy Spirit justifies
- b. The Holy Spirit testifies
- c. The Holy Spirit seals
- d. The Holy Spirit sanctifies

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit; Salvation

3. Life Application—Testimony

4. Activity—Vocabulary Detective



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The prophet Joel declared at the time of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah that God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh, as a part of God's salvation plan for all who call upon the name of the Lord (Acts 2:16-21). Therefore, we know that the promised Holy Spirit is an essential part of God's salvation plan for us. The Holy Spirit works in our lives from moving us to believe in Jesus Christ (1 Cor 12:3), bearing witness of our sonship (Rom 8:16), being given to us as a guarantee of our heavenly inheritance (Eph 1:14), to abiding in us through our whole lives (Jn 14:16-17) to give us power to live holy lives according to God's commandments (Eze 36:27).

A good place to start studying the roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to read Romans 8 in its entirety. In this chapter, we discover that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ that dwells in us who belong to Him (v. 9). There is no condemnation (v. 1) and no fear (v. 15) for the children of God, because we are absolutely confident in His love for us (vv. 31-39), which is proven by the pouring of the promised Holy Spirit in our hearts (Rom 5:5). Moreover, we can only live holy lives, free from sin, if we walk according to the Spirit (vv. 1-2). In God's great wisdom, He knows that we are weak, so His Spirit (which is the Spirit of Christ) intercedes for us according to God's will (vv. 26-27, 34). We understand, then, that the Holy Spirit is not just our ticket into heaven, but also our lifelong Counselor, constantly reminding and helping us, on our long journey to heaven. Therefore, throughout our lives we must walk in the Spirit so that we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16-17). Those who are led by the Spirit are truly the children of God (v. 14).



Reaching Out to Your Students

Elementary 2 students usually have a simple understanding of the Holy Spirit: (1) Receiving the promised Holy Spirit means to be able to speak in tongues during prayer; (2) it is necessary to pray earnestly to ask God for the Holy Spirit; and (3) it is necessary to receive the Holy Spirit to go to heaven. Though these are all true and fundamental, we must instill in our students the roles of the Holy Spirit, which works continuously through our lives as a process of God's salvation plan. In this way, students can understand that receiving the Holy Spirit is not just a goal for which they can pray, but the start of a lifelong journey of living a holy life towards eternal life. The Holy Spirit is not just a ticket to heaven, but a Helper that works throughout our lives to help us get to heaven.

We can reach our students by using the analogy of their relationship with their parents. When we're born, our parents get a birth certificate that shows that we are their children. When we get older, our parents might leave us an inheritance in their will, and in order to receive it, we must prove that we are their children. These things are all very important, but it is the love of our parents that helps us grow up, and it is their guidance that helps us become good people. When our parents are around, they give us confidence to do the right thing. In the same way, God gives us the Holy Spirit to prove that we are His children, to guarantee our inheritance, and to guide us to overcome temptations and live a holy life.



Opener

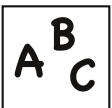
5 Minutes

Prepare the following materials before class:

- Birth certificate (official or photocopy)
- Will (can be found online)
- Picture of a parent teaching/guiding a child

At the beginning of this lesson, tape the birth certificate, the will, and the picture on the board. Boys and girls, do you know what these three things are? [Let students answer.] Explain that the birth certificate is a document that proves that this person is the child of the parents specified on the certificate, the will is a document that states what the parents leave to the children as inheritance, and the picture of the parent teaching/guiding a child is an example of how parents love their children and want them to grow up doing the right thing.

Today's lesson is about the roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We will learn that the Holy Spirit is a lot like these three things you see on the board.



Vocabulary

Before the beginning of class, tape the vocabulary clues in different places throughout your classroom. To make the vocabulary clues, type or write the vocabulary words and their provided definitions in large print, with each word and definition on one sheet of paper. After prayer and the Opener, begin with the Activity.

For this class, the students will begin with an activity that will familiarize them with the difficult vocabulary used in this lesson. Pass out the Activity worksheet to the students now. Ask the students to form pairs and go around the classroom to look for clues to help them fill in the worksheet. At the end of the activity, have the students sit in their seats and review the answers. You can assign each pair of students to write the answers for one or more vocabulary word on the board.

- justify:** To justify is to make something or someone right. When God does not count our sins but sees us as righteous in His sight, we are justified. This happens when we receive water baptism, in which the blood of Jesus Christ washes away our sins and the Holy Spirit is there to testify.
- testify:** To testify is to bear witness or to tell the true story of something you have seen with your own eyes. The Holy Spirit is there when we are baptized, so the Holy Spirit testifies that we are the children of God.
- seal:** To seal is to put a mark of ownership on something and to keep it for a special day. We know that we belong to God because He seals us with the Holy Spirit, and He promises to keep us until the day of redemption, or the day we go to heaven.
- guarantee:** A guarantee is a pledge, or something you give someone to keep when you make a promise to a person; that person gets to keep it until you fulfill the promise. God gives us the Holy Spirit as a pledge, or guarantee, until He fulfills His promise to give us the heavenly kingdom.
- inheritance:** An inheritance is something important, for example, a house, that parents give to their children because they are their children. God is our Father, so He gives us, His children, the inheritance of the heavenly kingdom.
- sanctify:** To sanctify is to make something or someone holy, pure, and sinless.
- temptation:** Temptation is something that makes you want to sin against God. Satan tempts us by using his schemes to make us think that sinning is fun or will make us happy.
- lust:** Lust is something in our bodies, or our flesh, that makes us want to sin. It is the thing that the Holy Spirit battles against inside all of us.
- flesh:** The flesh is the physical body. In the Bible, flesh often represents sinful nature.



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students. They will be filling it out by following the instructions provided below. The answers are underlined below. Keep a copy of the worksheet to reference.

Part 1

Instruct students to read Romans 8:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 6:11 to find the clues to fill in the blanks in the Certificate of Birth. The certificate should read: "The Holy Spirit testifies and declares that [Student's Name], baptized in living water in the name of Jesus Christ and in the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, is hereby justified and stands righteous before God, and shall be henceforth called the son or daughter (depending on the student's gender) of God."

Part 2

Have the students work with a partner to read Ephesians 1:13-14 and fill in the blanks.

Boys and girls, why do we need to pray for the Holy

Spirit? Yes, so that we can go to heaven! We have heard of many testimonies of brothers and sisters in the church who have seen visions of heaven, how the angels at the gates of heaven would ask for them to show their tickets or passports to get into heaven. In Ephesians 1:13-14, we learn that the Holy Spirit is not simply a ticket to heaven, but also a seal and a guarantee of God's promise: our inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

Bring the following examples of seals to class:

- A picture of a king's seal or a letter that has been sealed
- A certificate that has a seal on it (e.g, a diploma with the school's seal)
- Sealed food or drink product

When we say that the Holy Spirit seals us, it means that God puts His mark of ownership on us, signifying that we belong to Him. Since we belong to God, He will protect us throughout our lives all the way until we die and go to heaven. In the Book of Revelation, it talks about a lot of

scary things that will happen in the world before the end of the world, but it also says that everyone who has the seal of God will not be harmed (Rev 7:2-3; 9:4). That is why it is so important for us to receive the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is also a guarantee or a pledge that God gives us to prove that He will give us the inheritance of the heavenly kingdom. That is why we often hear the analogy of the Holy Spirit as being our ticket or passport to go to heaven.

From this worksheet, we learn that the Holy Spirit works in our lives from the beginning, when we are baptized, until the end, when we go to heaven.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 to the students now. The students will fill it out as you progress through this section. The answers are provided below. Keep a copy of the worksheet to reference.

Now we will learn about how the Holy Spirit works throughout our lives to sanctify us.

1. Read Romans 7:21-25 together with the class.

Q: What are the two laws inside of us?

A: *The law of sin and the law of God.*

Even if you are as familiar with the word of God and as good a holy worker of God as the apostle Paul, there are two forces inside of us that war against each other. We often know and want to do what's right, but we do just the opposite. Boys and girls, please put your heads down and close your eyes. Raise your hand if you: (1) disobeyed your parents some time this week; (2) have ever stole something that wasn't yours; (3) have told a lie to get out of trouble; (4) have said something mean to your siblings or friends; (5) have cheated on your homework or test. Thank you for being honest. Now, keep your heads down. How many of you think that when you did any of these things, you: (1) were doing something wrong; (2) were hurting others; (3) were sinning against God? You can open your eyes now. I noticed that many of you were being very brave and honest when you raised your hands. I can also tell that you all know what's right and what's wrong. In Romans 7, Paul says that we all have these two laws inside of us, and that the battle inside of us is almost unbearable. He says, "O wretched man I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

2. Read Romans 8:1-2.

Q: What is condemnation?

A: *Condemnation is judgment that someone is guilty of sin.*

The law of sin inside of us makes us sin, and the law of God inside of us condemns us, telling us that the sin we committed was wrong.

Q: In Romans 8:1-2, who is not condemned?

A: *Those who are in Jesus Christ and walk according to the Spirit!*

The Holy Spirit works in our lives to sanctify us, or make us holy!

3. Walk in the Spirit

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?

Assign students into pairs, and assign each pair one of the passages below to read and complete. After everyone is finished, ask each pair to come to the front of the class to report their answers by reading the completed passages as the rest of the students fill in the answers.

1. Read Galatians 5:16-17.

Not to carry out the lust of the flesh—the Spirit is against the flesh, and the flesh is against the Spirit, so if we do not carry out the lusts of the flesh, then we are walking with the Spirit.

2. Read Galatians 5:24-25.

Crucify the flesh with its passions and desires—when we think of Jesus Christ, of how He was crucified for our sins, we should also make a determination to crucify our wrongdoings and evil desires. That means we stop and never turn back to our wrongdoings or evil desires.

3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19.

Do not quench the Spirit. To quench is to take something really hot and put it in cold water to cool it down. The Holy Spirit often reminds us to do the right thing, but if we purposefully ignore the Spirit, or if we purposefully do the wrong thing against the warning from God, then we quench the Holy Spirit.

4. Read Ephesians 4:30.

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. To grieve the Holy Spirit means to make the Holy Spirit sad because we're doing something wrong. For example, parents are sad or grieved when their children often disobey them because, no matter how much the parents try to warn them not to disobey, they just won't stop.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Spirit and Salvation

In this lesson, we learn that the Holy Spirit is a very important part of God's salvation plan for us. The Holy Spirit testifies that we are God's children when we are baptized, seals us for redemption, and helps us live holy lives. In other words, the Holy Spirit works in us from the beginning of our faith until the end when we go to heaven!



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **The Holy Spirit only works in our lives when we pray.** False; the Holy Spirit is there to guide us at all times, but we must pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that we can recognize when He is teaching us.
2. **The Holy Spirit is given to us as a proof of God's promise to us to let us go to heaven.** True.
3. **To sanctify means to make someone righteous.** True.
4. **What does the Holy Spirit do in our lives?**
 - a. Justifies
 - b. Testifies
 - c. Seals
 - d. Sanctifies
5. **How can we walk in the Spirit?** Do not quench or grieve the Holy Spirit, but rather do things according to God's will.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Testimony

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet and read the testimony together with the students.]

One sister shared a testimony of how she did something that a child of God should not do. She received a punishment from God, and in her prayers, the Holy Spirit made her realize that she had done wrong and had grieved the Holy Spirit.

The sister had watched some movies that she knew she should not watch. After the incident, she did not feel right when praying, and within a couple of days, she developed pink eye but doctors could not help her. So she turned to God, and in her prayers, she knew she had done wrong. She repented to God and promised never to watch "bad" movies again. Her eyes were cured almost immediately.

Conclusion

For those of us who have received the Holy Spirit, when we received the Holy Spirit, did we go, "Phew, I'm done!", and think that our one big purpose for praying was fulfilled? It is quite the contrary. Whether we have received the Holy Spirit or not, the important thing to keep in mind is that receiving the Holy Spirit is not an end in itself.

As we learned today, the Holy Spirit gives us the sonship and the seal for us to gain entry to the heavenly kingdom. Receiving the Holy Spirit also helps us in so many ways to become a better Christian, for we can become more sanctified and holy. This is but the start of a lifelong journey of relying on the Holy Spirit to develop a closer relationship with God, which allows us to know Him and His will for us much better.

May God grant us all the power of His Holy Spirit so that we can know Him and glorify Him more and more each day!



Activity

Vocabulary Detective

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To familiarize the students with the vocabulary used in this lesson.

Preparations

Before the beginning of class, tape the vocabulary clues in different places throughout your classroom. To make the vocabulary clues, type or write the vocabulary words and their provided definitions in large print, with each word and definition on one sheet of paper.

Instructions

For this class, the students will begin with an activity that will familiarize them with the difficult vocabulary used in this lesson. Pass out the Activity worksheet to the students now. Ask the students to form pairs and go around the classroom to look for clues to help them fill in the worksheet. At the end of the activity, have the students sit in their seats and review the answers. You can assign each pair of students to write the answers for one or more vocabulary word on the board.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Justify—Make righteous
Testify—Bear witness
Seal—Mark of ownership
Guarantee—Pledge
Inheritance—Gift from parents
Sanctify—Make holy
Temptation—Lead to sin
Lust—Sinful nature
Flesh—Body
2. Answers may vary. Answers should touch upon how the Holy Spirit justifies, testifies, seals, and sanctifies, as well as how He is a guarantee of our inheritance in heaven.

The Work of the Holy Spirit in God's Salvation Plan for Us

Part 1

The Holy Spirit is an important part of God's salvation plan for us. Use the clues from the Bible verses found on the certificate to fill in the blanks.

Certificate of Birth

The Holy Spirit _____ and declares that

_____,
first name
last name

_____ in living water in the name of Jesus Christ

and in the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,

is hereby _____ and stands righteous before God,

and shall be henceforth called the _____ of God.

Romans 8:15-17; 1 Corinthians 6:11

Part 2

Work with a partner to read Ephesians 1:13-14 and fill in the blanks.

You were _____ with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the

_____ of our _____ until the redemption of the

purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The Holy Spirit Sanctifies Us

1. Read Romans 7:21-25 together with the class.

What are the two laws inside of us?

2. Read Romans 8:1-11.

What is condemnation?

Who is not condemned?

3. Walk in the Spirit

Read the passage assigned to you and your partner, and fill in the blanks.

1. Read Galatians 5:16-17.

Not to carry out the _____ of the _____—the Spirit is against the flesh, and the flesh is against the Spirit, so if we do not carry out the lusts of the flesh, then we are _____ with the Spirit.

2. Read Galatians 5:24-25.

_____ the flesh with its passions and _____—when we think of Jesus Christ, of how He was _____ for our sins, we should also make a determination to crucify or to change our wrongdoings and evil desires. That means we stop and never turn back to our wrongdoings or evil desires.

3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19.

Do not _____ the Spirit. To quench is to take something really hot and put it in cold water to cool it down. The Holy Spirit often reminds us to do the right thing, but if we purposefully ignore the Spirit, or if we purposefully do the wrong thing against the warning from God, then we _____ the Holy Spirit.

4. Read Ephesians 4:30.

Do not _____ the Holy Spirit. To grieve the Holy Spirit means to make the Holy Spirit sad because we're doing something wrong. For example, parents are sad or _____ when their children often disobey them because, no matter how much the parents try to warn them not to disobey, they just won't stop.

Testimony

One sister shared a testimony of how she did something that a child of God should not do. She received a punishment from God, and in her prayers, the Holy Spirit made her realize that she had done wrong and had grieved the Holy Spirit.

The sister had watched some movies that she knew she should not watch. After the incident, she did not feel right when praying, and within a couple of days, she developed pink eye but doctors could not help her. So she turned to God, and in her prayers, she knew she had done wrong. She repented to God and promised never to watch "bad" movies again. Her eyes were cured almost immediately.

Conclusion

For those of us who have received the Holy Spirit, when we received the Holy Spirit, did we go, "Phew, I'm done!", and think that our one big purpose for praying was fulfilled? It is quite the contrary. Whether we have received the Holy Spirit or not, the important thing to keep in mind is that receiving the Holy Spirit is not an end in itself.

As we learned today, the Holy Spirit gives us the sonship and the seal for us to gain entry to the heavenly kingdom. Receiving the Holy Spirit also helps us in so many ways to become a better Christian, for we can become more sanctified and holy. This is but the start of a lifelong journey of relying on the Holy Spirit to develop a closer relationship with God, which allows us to know Him and His will for us much better.

May God grant us all the power of His Holy Spirit so that we can know Him and glorify Him more and more each day!

Vocabulary Detective

Justify

To justify is to make something or someone _____. When God does not count our sins but sees us as righteous in His sight, we are justified. This happens when we receive water _____, in which the blood of Jesus Christ washes away our sins and the Holy Spirit is there to testify.

Testify

To testify is to bear witness or to tell the _____ story of something you saw with your own eyes. The Holy Spirit is there when we are baptized, so the Holy Spirit testifies that we are the _____.

Seal

To seal is to put a mark of _____ on something and to _____ it for a special day. We know that we _____ to God because He seals us with the Holy Spirit, and He promises to keep us until the day of redemption, or the day we go to heaven.

Guarantee

A guarantee is a _____, or something you give someone to keep when you make a _____ to a person; that person gets to keep it until you _____ the promise. God gives us the Holy Spirit as a pledge, or guarantee, until He fulfills His promise to give us the heavenly kingdom.

Inheritance

An inheritance is something important, for example, a house, that parents give to their _____ because they are their children. God is our Father, so He gives us, His children, the inheritance of the _____.

Sanctify

To sanctify is to make something or someone _____, pure, and _____.

Temptation

Temptation is something that makes you want to _____ against God. _____ tempts us by using his schemes to make us think that sinning is fun or will make us happy.

Lust

Lust is something in our _____, or our flesh, that makes us want to _____. It is the thing the Holy Spirit battles against inside all of us.

Flesh

The flesh is the physical _____. In the Bible, flesh often represents _____ nature.

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 3—The Roles of the Holy Spirit

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Romans 8:16-17**)

Matching

1. Draw a line to connect the vocabulary word to the description that best matches the meaning of the word.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Justify | Gift from parents |
| Testify | Sinful nature |
| Seal | Make righteous |
| Guarantee | Body |
| Inheritance | Pledge |
| Sanctify | Lead to sin |
| Temptation | Mark of ownership |
| Lust | Bear witness |
| Flesh | Make holy |

Short Answer

2. Write a paragraph (at least five sentences) summarizing the roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

LESSON 4

BARNABAS, STEPHEN, ANANIAS, AND SAPPHIRA

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the life and deeds of Barnabas, Stephen, Ananias, and Sapphira.
2. To be able to articulate how these people set positive and negative examples and what we can learn from them.

MEMORY VERSE

"Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."

(Romans 12:13)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us here on this blessed Sabbath so that we can worship You and learn more about Your word.
2. Today, we will study a few examples of those who worked hard for You and those who went against You.
3. Please help us learn from these examples and allow us to grow in Your name.
4. May You guide us through today's lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Barnabas

- a. Led Saul into the fellowship of the apostles
- b. Nurtured another young worker of God, John Mark

2. Stephen

- a. Witnessed to the People
- b. Witnessed to the Court
- c. God Had Other Plans

3. Ananias and Sapphira

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus Christ is our Savior

5. Life Application

- a. Growing Our Church with Love
- b. We Should Not Be Ashamed of the Gospel
- c. We Should Not Deceive the Workers of God

6. Activity—Are You a Faithful Witness for the Lord?



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Barnabas

Barnabas, one of the leading figures in the apostolic church, was well known for his love toward brothers. Barnabas simply meant "Son of Encouragement." His name is itself a testimony! He was indeed known by his good deeds. The first mention of Barnabas is recorded in Acts 4:32-37, when he sold his land and laid the money received for it at the apostles' feet.

Because of him, the church members were more willing to accept Saul. Barnabas had the discernment and reputation to identify and help Saul into the fellowship of the apostles (Acts 9:26-30). The apostles would have missed the vital ministry of Saul, if not for Barnabas. Saul eventually returned to Tarsus, and we don't hear from him again for about ten years. Then, God used Barnabas to bring him back (Acts 11:22-26). Barnabas and Saul spent a whole year at Antioch together.

In addition, Barnabas brought the calling out of John Mark, as he had done with Paul (Acts 15:36-39). Paul was impatient with Mark for his immaturity, but Barnabas gave Mark a second chance. The success of Barnabas can be seen in the outcome with Paul and Mark.

Stephen

The Sadducees, the dominant party in the council, accepted and studied only the writings of Moses. In their view, to curse Moses was a crime.

From Stephen's speech, we know that their accusations against him were false. Stephen based his review of Israel's history on Moses' writings.

When Stephen was brought before the council of religious leaders, they falsely accused Stephen of wanting to do away with Moses' laws because they knew that the Sadducees, who controlled the council, believed only in Moses' laws.

Stephen's speech stated three main points: (1) Israel's history is the history of God's acts in the world; (2) people worshipped God long before there was a temple, because God does not live in a temple; and (3) Jesus' death was just one more example of Israel's rebellion and rejection of God. In his speech, Stephen used this opportunity to summarize his teachings about Jesus.

At the end of his sermon, Stephen saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His words are similar to Jesus' words spoken before the council. The crowd would not tolerate Stephen's words, so they stoned him and killed him.

Ananias and Sapphira

When Ananias and Sapphira sold their property, they kept some of the profits back. However, they wanted to appear as if they had given all of their profits to the apostles. The couple thought that no one would know about their plan. However, because of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to discover the couple's lie. Consequently, both Ananias and Sapphira were chastised by the Holy Spirit and died in the presence of Peter.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Barnabas

From his records in the Bible, it can be inferred that Barnabas was a very mild-tempered and accepting man. Although he was the one who had introduced Paul to the church, Barnabas was humble enough to play a less prominent role in their work together. Paul, being the more literary man, was the key speaker on their missionary trips (Acts 14:12).

Since we live in a world where most people eagerly flaunt their talents in an effort to stand out from the rest, it is easy to forget that individuals possess different types of personalities and gifts. God needs workers of all different sorts for His great work of the gospel! Every one of us is unique, with our own specialized talents. The example of Barnabas should come as a very good lesson to our students that being a supporter who sees the good in others is a very important type of work, too. Most importantly, we must have good virtues of love and acceptance to allow God's work to progress.

Stephen

When Stephen was speaking, he was facing a very angry crowd. They were ready to kill him at a moment's notice. But Stephen was not afraid to talk about Jesus. For him, it was an honor to be able to suffer for the sake of the gospel.

Your students will most likely not face this kind of persecution today, but they will still face obstacles that may discourage them from talking about God. For example, their friends may use God's name in vain on a regular basis, or they might feel awkward attending church services on Saturday while the rest of their friends are hanging out. They may also be teased about saying grace before a meal. Any of these things can lead your students to hide the fact that they believe in God. As a teacher, it is important to let them know that you understand what they are going through and how they are feeling so that they don't feel so alone.

Explain to them that, sometimes, people are mean to others because they don't know how to react or are even afraid themselves, just like the crowd who crucified Jesus. Encourage your students to keep honoring God through their conduct and words. God will help them overcome any fears they may have.

Ananias and Sapphira

Even though church workers are all humans, we need to keep in mind that it is actually God who governs the church. No one is able to deceive God, whether in little or great things. From the seriousness of the punishment upon Ananias and Sapphira, we can see that it is a great sin to lie to God.



Opener

5 Minutes

For the past two weeks, we have been talking about how the first church was established after the Day of Pentecost. The church grew and many people came to believe in Jesus. Among these early believers, there were some events and characters that we will study today.

First is a man named Stephen. His life is a continual challenge to all Christians because he was the first to die for the faith. Think for a moment: Would you be willing to die for our Lord? Are you really willing to live for Him? How?

Hopefully, you will have some answers for these questions by the end of this lesson.

Secondly, we will look at a person by the name of Barnabas. He was a good example because he showed love to those who were not accepted by many. His spirituality and biblical knowledge enabled him to preach and to perform miracles, thus glorifying God's name. In addition, during the meetings regarding Gentile circumcision, he gave testimonies of how Gentiles received God's salvation, thereby helping the believers understand God's will better.

Lastly, we will be studying the story of Ananias and Sapphira. In contrast to the first two, their story serves as a warning for us, teaching us not to follow in their footsteps. This is a couple who lied to the apostles. Ananias and Sapphira's deaths tell us that God's justice will rid sinners from of the church. These sinners may be among us temporarily, but eventually they will not be able to stand before God's judgment.



Vocabulary

persecute: to harm or treat someone badly because of their beliefs, ethnicity, etc.

mentor: a person who guides and teaches another, especially one who is younger



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

I. Barnabas

The Bible record several different names for Barnabas. Acts 4:36 records the name "Joses," while Acts 15:22 records "Judas" or "Barsabas." The name "Barnabas" was given to him by the apostles. It means "Son of Encouragement." Now, let's think a little about this name. What type of person do you think Barnabas was to be given such a name? What kind of relationship do you think he had with the people around him? [Let students brainstorm and share. Answers should be along the lines of him being humble, always encouraging and helping others.]

Barnabas was no doubt a faithful believer and worker for God. In particular, he did two very important things that helped the church and pushed forward the work of the gospel.

Barnabas led Saul into the fellowship of the Apostles

We have all heard of Paul, the great apostle who was once a persecutor of Christians going by the name of Saul. Did

you know that Barnabas had a big role to play in his early years as a Christian? When he was first converted, Saul was still a name much feared by the early believers, including the other apostles. Let's read Acts 9:26-28. As you can see, Barnabas opened up the door for Saul to be accepted in the church then. He boldly kept an open mind and worked along with God's will. Let's imagine and talk about what could have happened had Barnabas not been there to receive Paul with an open mind! [Allow students to respond. The church may still have eventually come to accept him but that would have taken some time, which could have been used for better church-coordinated preaching of the gospel.]

Although, Barnabas can be seen as a kind of mentor to Paul in his early days as a Christian, Barnabas was humble enough to play a secondary role to Paul on their missionary trip together. In Acts 14:12, we read that Paul was the chief speaker. Barnabas was surely not only a kind and embracing person to accept Paul at first; he also had a big heart to play second fiddle to someone he had brought to the church.

Let's read Roman 12:8. "He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." Sometimes, the society we live in wants us to push ourselves to be what we are not. Some of us may be the outspoken type, while others are the quieter type. Some like to stand out, while others may simply enjoy being in the background. We need to recognize that, in God's kingdom, God loves everyone who loves Him and obeys His word. Each one of us is unique in our own ways, and we're all special in God's heart. In God's kingdom, there's a need for different types of workers, all with different talents and personalities. Paul and Barnabas were quite different in some ways, but with one mind for God, they worked together to further the gospel of the Lord.

Barnabas nurtured another young worker of God, John Mark

There's another very noteworthy point about Barnabas. On their missionary journey together, Paul and Barnabas actually had an assistant. He was a young man named John Mark (Acts 13:5). However, this John Mark left them halfway through the trip (Acts 13:13) for reasons unknown. Later, we can see in Acts 15:38 that Paul did not want to take Mark with him again on another missionary journey. Paul rightfully had reservations about bringing him again. What if he ran away once more? Barnabas, however, wanted to give the young lad a second chance. So, he and Paul actually parted ways and went to different places to preach (Acts 15:39-40). Here, we once again see the broad and open mind of Barnabas. Mark must have shown his repentance for running away on the last missionary journey and his desire to go on another missionary trip. Barnabas gave him a second chance. To be kind and not strike someone out over a previous failure or fault is a great virtue. Let us remember Barnabas' kindness and be like him when dealing with others.

II. Stephen

The church in Jerusalem had many Jewish Christians who had lived in the land of Israel all their lives and spoke the Aramaic language. (From the fifth through the first centuries B.C., Aramaic was the language spoken by the Jewish. Many Jews who lived in other cities spoke only Greek.)

One day, the believers who spoke Greek complained to the apostles that their widows were being neglected.

The apostles were concerned about all the widows, but they were very busy preaching and praying. So, the apostles advised the people who made up the church to

select seven men to make sure everyone was receiving a fair share to meet their needs.

The first person they selected was a Greek-speaking man named Stephen. Why did they pick Stephen? He had earned a reputation as a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

So, Stephen and the other six men who were selected took over the distribution of food to the widows, and everyone was pleased to know that all the women and children were treated fairly. He was a good person, and God was with him.

Stephen Witnessed to the People

Stephen also knew that people needed to know that Jesus is their Savior. Stephen spoke boldly in public and told other Greek-speaking Jews that they needed to trust Jesus as Savior and have their sins forgiven. The Holy Spirit even gave Stephen the power to do miracles.

However, the Greek-speaking Jews hated the Christian message, and they hated Stephen. They tried to argue with Stephen, but they were unable to refute what he was saying, which probably made them even more upset. They told lies about Stephen and about God. Finally, the people Stephen was witnessing to dragged him off to the Sanhedrin—the Jewish court.

Stephen Witnessed to the Court

Stephen was put on trial by the men of the Sanhedrin—the same court that had condemned Jesus to death. The mob that dragged Stephen to court was yelling accusations. The high priest asked Stephen, "Are their charges true?"

Now, Stephen took his chance to speak because he had a lot to say! He spoke about all the times in years gone by when God spoke to the Jewish people, and they refused to listen. This statement made the members of the court very angry. Stephen told them how their forefathers had killed the prophets who predicted that the Messiah would come. Then, when the Messiah Jesus came, they killed Him. They killed the One whom God sent to be the Savior.

All those present were furious with Stephen now. Stephen stopped talking for a minute and looked up. He cried out that he saw Jesus in heaven, standing at the right hand of God. When the men of the court heard this, they were so furious that they covered their ears because they couldn't stand to hear any more words. They rushed at Stephen, grabbed him, and dragged him outside the city. Then, they picked up heavy rocks and threw them at Stephen until he died.

God Had Other Plans

That act of murder was terrible. Stephen took the risk to tell those hostile people about Jesus, and they killed him. Nevertheless, something wonderful happened after Stephen died.

The Jewish leaders started persecuting all the Christians in the city. Many Christians left Jerusalem to find safety in some other city.

Wherever the Christians went, they told others about Jesus. Many people in other cities heard about Jesus and believed in Him. God made something good come out of Stephen's death—many more people had the opportunity to become Christians.

III. Ananias and Sapphira

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is probably one of the most vivid depictions of God's immediate punishment in the New Testament. "So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things." Acts 5:11 describes how powerful a testimony it was to the whole church. Unfortunately, it was not a testimony of a great example of faith. Instead, it is a testimony of warning that we as believers should heed.

The early church showed what it was like to be one big family in Christ. The believers lived near each other and shared many things. A lot of them even sold all that they had and brought it to the church to share with the other brethren.

Like many believers of their time, Ananias and Sapphira sold their possessions and laid the money at the apostles' feet as a contribution to the church. However, unlike many

of the believers, they kept back part of the money. What's worse, they told the apostles that it was the full amount from the sale of their possessions. That was the part where they sinned. They lied when there was no need to lie. If they had been truthful about keeping back a portion of their earnings, it would have been fine.

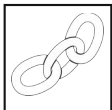
Let's read Acts 5:4. Peter said to Ananias, "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." So, Ananias was struck dead immediately.

Ananias plotted with his wife before he even brought the gift to the apostles. He first came to the apostles alone. His wife came around three hours later, not knowing that God had struck her husband Ananias dead. When asked by the apostles about the money, she claimed, just as her husband had, that they had brought all of their earnings to the apostles. Peter then asked her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?" (Acts 5:9). Like her husband, she was struck dead on the spot.

Perhaps Ananias and Sapphira wanted to receive glory or honor for giving all of the money to the church. Perhaps they just wanted to keep the money for themselves. Whatever the reason was, such greed led to a lie, which led to terrible consequences. God struck them dead, right away. They were not lying merely to the apostles, but also to God. For that, the sin was great, and they were both severely punished with immediate death.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Guide them to complete the worksheet according to the instructions. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version to reference.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of mankind, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and the only true God.

When Stephen boldly went about preaching of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the non-Christian Jews became upset at him because they thought that he was spreading lies. They did not know the truth about Jesus Christ. Nowadays, we know the truth about Jesus Christ and His role as our Savior. Like Stephen, we must boldly preach the salvation of Jesus Christ to all those around us, whether or not they will receive our words kindly.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Short Answer

- 1. What are some virtues of Barnabas from which we can learn?** Love, open-mindedness, kindness to accept others, etc.
- 2. Why are these virtues important for God's work?** We need to be loving and kind when we are preaching the gospel to others.
- 3. How do we show kindness to members who are disliked?** We can take the initiative to talk to them, understand their needs, and bring them to meet other members.
- 4. How do we know that the Lord was with Stephen?** He was able to do miracles and was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Why did the people hate him?** They hated him because he preached that the One they crucified was Jesus, the Messiah.
- 6. What did God allow Stephen to see before he died?** The glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand.
- 7. When the church in Jerusalem was persecuted, what did the believers do?** They scattered and preached God's word in other places.
- 8. Why have Christians been willing to risk their lives and safety for the sake of the gospel?** They know that this is the only way people can be saved.
- 9. What kind of attitude should we have when offering our possessions to God?** We must offer willingly and in secret. We must not show off when we are offering.

Fill In the Blank

- 1. Barnabas showed his love by meeting _____ (Saul) and receiving him into the circle of members.**
- 2. Stephen was a young man who loved _____ (Jesus). The Bible said that he was full of grace and did great _____ (wonders) and signs among the people.**
- 3. Stephen went before the council, some of these Jews came to argue with him. Stephen, with the help of the _____ (Holy Spirit), spoke with such wisdom that the Jews could not argue with him.**
- 4. Stephen said, "You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and _____ (murderers)."**
- 5. This made the people so angry that they grabbed him and took him outside the _____ (city) to stone him. Stephen looked toward heaven and said, "I see the heavens opened and the _____ (Son of Man) standing at the right hand of God!"**
- 6. That day, a severe persecution began against the _____ (church) in Jerusalem, and everyone, except the apostles, was scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.**



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Growing Our Church with Love

In Lesson 1, we talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. On that day, around 3,000 people heard the good news and were baptized into Christ. They continued to have fellowship, pray, and worship God together. This marked the beginning of the church.

Let's think for a moment. Ever since the church first started, it has surely been growing. The more people who get baptized into Christ, the more churches are being built. How did all this happen? What did the members at that time do to grow the church? [Let students answer.] Of course, we know that Jesus' disciples devoted their whole lives to preaching the word of God, fulfilling the Great Commission that Jesus gave them. But that was not enough... It took every believer's effort to help the church grow! Today, we learned about Barnabas, who became one of the very important workers during the apostolic times. Not only did he join the apostles in preaching the gospel, he also took care of the members with great love. Barnabas sold his land and gave his money to the apostles in order to aid the church's ministry. He also spent a great deal of time in encouraging other church members while preaching the word of God boldly. Why did he do all this? Why didn't he reserve the land for himself? Why did he bother to spend his time encouraging others who weren't related to him? [Pause for students to think.] Barnabas did all these things because he loved God and wanted the kingdom of God to come upon all mankind. The love of God inspired him to love others. He

loved them and cared for their souls. Thank God that it is because of people like Barnabas in the church back then, and those in our church today, that the church of God has been growing under His grace.

As you can see, growing a church requires its members to love and care for one another. Imagine what would happen to our church under these scenarios:

- **No one is willing to teach and/or preach the word of God.**
Our members will lack spiritual food; fewer people will find the truth; etc.
- **No one tithes to the church.**
Our church will have no money to use towards maintenance, events, purchasing new buildings, etc.
- **No one cares about those who haven't come to church for a while.**
Our church will have more and more lost sheep.

Today, we need to be like Barnabas, who willingly devoted himself to growing the church of God. But one Barnabas wasn't enough—there were many others, like the apostles, who were also working diligently for the Lord! With that said, God can use all of our help. We can be today's apostles to preach the gospel, and love and care for others! If each one of us here is like Barnabas, our church will continue to grow under the grace of our Lord!

2. We Should Not Be Ashamed of the Gospel

The second Bible character we learned about today was Stephen. Do you remember how he lost his life? [Let students answer.] He was stoned to death for preaching the word of Christ. Today, thank God that we can profess to be Christians openly and publicly where we live. Most likely, we will never face the kind of persecution that Stephen had to face at his time. However, the story of Stephen offers a very important teaching that we can apply to our lives—we should never be ashamed of the gospel!

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. For each scenario, ask your students what they would do. Discuss with them whether or not their decision reflects that they are not ashamed of the gospel.]

Stephen bravely preached Christ, even when facing death. Today, our lives may not be threatened, but we can still face other types of persecution when we talk about Jesus Christ our Savior. Let me share a few examples with you:

1. Your friends invited you to go swimming with them this Saturday. The last time they invited you, you declined because you had to go to church. They made fun of you and said it was strange that you go to church on Saturdays because their churches observe the Sabbath on Sundays. This time, you have to explain to them again the reason you cannot go. **What would you say?**
2. One of your classmates, Juno, is sitting at the same table as you during lunch, and you are about to start eating. Last time, when you and Juno were at the same table, he laughed at you when he saw you saying grace before you ate. You were embarrassed. **What are you going to do? Will you say grace in front of him again?**
3. Your best friend's grandmother is critically ill, and he is extremely worried. He is very frustrated because he doesn't know what he can do to help his grandmother. As a Christian, you know that the best thing your friend can do right now is to pray to God, but he doesn't know how since he's not a Christian. **What would you do? Would you teach him how to pray?**
4. You and your friends are playing basketball together. Some of your team members have a habit of saying "Oh, my God!" or "Jesus Christ!" when they are frustrated, and they often say them out loud when they are playing basketball. As a Christian, you know that they are using God's name in vain. **What would you do? Would you correct them?**

Matthew 10:32-33 says, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

Here, the Bible tells us that Jesus will not know us nor admit us into His kingdom if we deny Him before men. When we are around each other, we have no problem sharing the word of Christ because we are all God’s children. But when we are around others who do not know Christ, we become hesitant to let others know that we are Christians. Oftentimes, we even try to avoid conversations about God or church. Imagine if Stephen or the other apostles were like that back in their time, could it have been possible for the good news to be preached? Absolutely not! If they were ashamed of the gospel, they would never have converted so many people to believe in Christ. Today, we are not only the children of God, but we are also His apostles. We are all responsible to lead people to Christ and to teach them the truth. We can do this by preaching to them in words, or showing them the ways of God in actions. Both ways require that we not be ashamed of the gospel and be willing to share with others that we are the children of God.

Let me give you a challenge for this coming week. Every day, try to say or do something at least once to show someone that you are a Christian. Do you think you can do that? Let’s discuss what we can do to shine for the Lord! [Brainstorm ideas with your students about how they can complete this challenge.]

3. We Should Not Deceive the Workers of God

The last people that we learned about today were Ananias and Sapphira. Do you remember what they did? [Let students share their answers.] They sold their possessions and kept part of the money to themselves. As Peter said to Ananias, “Satan has filled [his] heart to lie to the Holy Spirit.” What does that mean? [Pause for students to think.]

As Christians, we know that lying is a sin in God’s eyes. The Holy Spirit dwells within our hearts to remind us constantly that God wants us to be honest. However, Ananias ignored the fact that the Holy Spirit in his heart didn’t want him to lie, and he attempted to deceive the apostles anyway. He allowed Satan to dominate over the Spirit of God in his heart. Ananias had complete control over what to do with the money he had, but he allowed evil to take over his heart. In this case, as Peter said, he had not lied to men but to God—he chose Satan over God!

Today, we all know that lying is against God’s commandments. Have you ever felt guilty to God when you think about lying to someone? [Let students to answer.] If you have, that means that the Spirit of God is working within you. He is constantly reminding us of the word of God and guiding us on the right path. When we feel this way, there is often a spiritual battle within our hearts—a battle between God’s Spirit and Satan. Take lying as an example: While the Spirit of God reminds us that lying is a sin in God’s eyes, Satan is working hard to convince us that lying is a much better choice.

When we experience this type of battle in our hearts, it is important for us to listen to the voice of God. What is God saying to us? What is the Spirit telling us is right in God’s eyes? Oftentimes, it is not difficult to find that voice. What is difficult, however, is for us to follow what that voice is telling us. Ananias and Sapphira probably heard that voice, too, but they didn’t listen because they chose to hear what Satan was telling them. Today, when Satan’s voice battles with God’s in our hearts, let us stand strong in our faith. Say a prayer in our hearts and ask God to strengthen us so that we can be strong enough to follow His ways. When we pray to God with a sincere heart to obey Him, God will surely give us strength to overcome Satan.



Activity

Are You a Faithful Witness for the Lord?

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To learn what characteristics a faithful witness needs and to whom they should preach.

Give students colored pencils and divide them into two teams. Have one team look at key verses in Acts 6 and mark the verses that describe the kind of person Stephen was. Have another team mark verses that describe the people he witnessed to. Have both teams give a report. Then summarize the positive outcome of Stephen's ministry.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Holy Spirit, glory, Jesus, heavens
2. heart, Holy Spirit, control, God
3. False; they were wary of him in the beginning.
4. True
5. True
6. Answers may vary.
7. Answers may vary.

Be Bold in Witnessing

Stephen was a faithful witness and he paid for it with his life. Sometimes witnessing may cause us great trouble. Stephen found that out, but he didn't let it stop him. He kept on witnessing.

Use your Bible to discover why we need to be brave even though witnessing is tough. Answer the questions in your own words.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. Paul understood how witnessing could bring him trouble. What were some of the troubles he experienced because of his preaching?

Imprisonment, beatings, stoning, lack of sleep, shipwreck, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure, danger, etc.

Most of us may not go through what Paul did, but we may have to face some frightening things if we are faithful witnesses for the Lord. How can we keep from being afraid?

Read Hebrews 13:6. What does it tell us?

We shouldn't be afraid because the Lord is with us.

Jesus warned His followers that they would have trouble in the world. Why should we be cheerful instead of discouraged by these troubles?

Because we can always turn to Jesus for help and comfort by praying to Him.

Read John 16:33. Write down what it says.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Read Hebrews 13:5-6. Write down what it says.

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Read 1 Peter 2:20. Write down what it says.

"For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God."

Today, we may not face as much physical persecution as the early believers did. However, we definitely have our own challenges. We should always be bold like the early believers and persist in our endeavors to preach God's gospel to all mankind.

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Growing Our Church with Love

Today, we learned about Barnabas, who became one of the very important workers during the apostolic times. Not only did he join the apostles in preaching the gospel, he also took care of the members with great love. Barnabas sold his land and gave his money to the apostles in order to aid the church's ministry. He also spent a great deal of time in encouraging other church members while preaching the word of God boldly.



The love of God inspired him to love others. He loved them and cared for their souls.

As you can see, growing a church requires its members to love and care for one another. Imagine what would happen to our church under these scenarios:

- No one is willing to teach and/or preach the word of God.
- No one tithes to the church.
- No one cares about those who haven't come to church for a while.



We can be today's apostles to preach the gospel, and love and care for others!

If each one of us here is like Barnabas, our church will continue to grow under the grace of our Lord!



WE SHOULD NOT be
ashamed
of the gospel

Read each of the scenarios below.

If you were in these situations, how would you answer?

1. Your friends invited you to go swimming with them this Saturday. The last time they invited you, you declined because you had to go to church. They made fun of you and said it was strange that you go to church on Saturdays because their churches observe the Sabbath on Sundays. This time, you have to explain to them again the reason you cannot go.



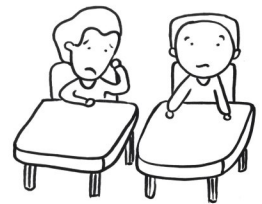
What would you say?

2. One of your classmates, Juno, is sitting at the same table as you during lunch, and you are about to start eating. Last time, when you and Juno were at the same table, he laughed at you when he saw you saying grace before you ate. You were embarrassed.



What are you going to do? Will you say grace in front of him again?

3. Your best friend's grandmother is critically ill, and he is extremely worried. He is very frustrated because he doesn't know what he can do to help his grandmother. As a Christian, you know that the best thing your friend can do right now is to pray to God, but he doesn't know how since he's not a Christian.



What would you do? Would you teach him how to pray?

4. You and your friends are playing basketball together. Some of your team members have a habit of saying "Oh, my God!" or "Jesus Christ!" when they are frustrated, and they often say them out loud when they are playing basketball. As a Christian, you know that they are using God's name in vain.



What would you do? Would you correct them?

we should not
Deceive
 the workers of God

“Satan has filled [his] heart to lie to the Holy Spirit.” As Christians, we know that lying is a sin in God’s eyes.



Ananias allowed Satan to dominate over the Spirit of God in his heart.

He chose Satan over God!

The Spirit of God is working within us, constantly reminding us of the word of God and guiding us on the right path. When we feel this way, there is often a spiritual battle within our hearts—a battle between God’s Spirit and Satan.

While the Spirit of God reminds us that lying is a sin in God’s eyes, Satan is working hard to convince us that lying is a much better choice.



When we experience this type of battle in our hearts, it is important for us to **listen to the voice of God**.

What is God saying to us?
 What is the Spirit telling us is right in God’s eyes?

Ananias and Sapphira chose to hear what Satan was telling them.

Say a prayer in our hearts and ask God to strengthen us so that we can be strong enough to follow His ways. When we pray to God with a sincere heart to obey Him, God will surely give us strength to overcome Satan.



E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 4—Barnabas, Stephen, Ananias, and Sapphira

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Romans 12:13**)

Fill In the Blank

1. But Stephen, "being full of the _____, gazed into heaven and saw the _____ of God, and _____ standing at the right hand of God, and said, 'Look! I see the _____ opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'" (Acts 7:55-56)
2. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your _____ to lie to the _____ and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own _____? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to _____." (Acts 5:3-4)

True or False

3. When Paul was converted, all the apostles and believers in the church immediately welcomed him. _____
4. Stephen was stoned to death for preaching the gospel, becoming the first Christian to die for the gospel. _____
5. Ananias and Sapphira did not have to lie about giving all their possessions to the church because there was no such requirement from the church. _____

Short Answer

6. Do you feel that you are an encouraging person like Barnabas? List 2 encouraging things you can do or say and to whom you will do or say these things.

7. Are there people in your lives to whom you should be preaching? Write down 2 obstacles that are stopping you from preaching to them. Then, write down how you can overcome these obstacles.

LESSON 5

LED BY THE SPIRIT

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn how the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of Philip, the Ethiopian eunuch, and Philip's four daughters.
2. To learn about what it means to be led by the Spirit.
3. To understand the importance of taking the gospel with us everywhere.

MEMORY VERSE

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

(Romans 8:14)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for gathering us together on this Holy Sabbath to worship and praise You.
2. We thank You for giving us your precious Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in our daily lives.
3. Open our hearts and minds to hear and obey Your Spirit.
4. May You guide us through today's lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Led by the Spirit

- a. From Jerusalem to Caesarea
- b. Preaching to the Ethiopian Eunuch
- c. Philip's Four Daughters

2. Linking to Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application—Heed the Spirit of God

4. Activity—I'm All Ears



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Persecution forced the Christians out of Jerusalem and into Judea and Samaria, thus allowing the disciples to fulfill the mission that Jesus gave them. The persecution helped spread the gospel. God brought good results from the believers' suffering.

The Philip in this lesson is not the apostle Philip (ref. Jn 1:43-44), but a Greek-speaking Jew "of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3), who was one of the seven deacons chosen to help with the food distribution program in the church (Acts 6:5).

Israel was divided into three main regions: Galilee in the north, Samaria in the center, and Judea in the south. The city of Samaria (in the region of Samaria) had been the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel in the days of the divided kingdom, before it was conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C. The Assyrian king took many captives, leaving only the poorest people in the land and resettling in it with foreigners. These foreigners intermarried with the Jews who were left, and the mixed race became known as Samaritans. The Samaritans were considered half-breeds by the "pure" Jews in the southern kingdom of Judah, and there was intense hatred between the two groups. Jesus himself went into Samaria (Jn 4), and He also commanded His followers to spread the gospel there (Acts 1:8).

Ethiopia is located in Africa, south of Egypt. We can infer that the eunuch was very dedicated to God because he had traveled such a long distance to worship in Jerusalem. The Jews had contact with Ethiopia in ancient days (Ps 68:31). This man may have been a Gentile convert to Judaism. Since he was the treasurer of Ethiopia, his conversion paved the way for the gospel to be introduced into the power structures of another government. This marked the beginning of Jesus' disciples' obedience to witness "to the end of the earth."



Reaching Out to Your Students

What kind of people will God save? Will He only save the good people? Are bad people beyond hope? Many have fallen into the trap of thinking that a person may be too evil to be saved. But Jesus loves everyone, and His salvation is opened to all. Your students are at a stage where they are beginning to develop a sense of moral values. If someone is good, they are rewarded. But when someone is bad, they are punished. It is possible that they think murderers, robbers, and generally evil people cannot be saved because God will punish them. It is important for your students to understand that there is no type of person in the world who is more or less likely to be saved. When God's grace comes upon someone, the door to salvation is opened to them. They only need to believe. Remind them that it is those very people, the ones who don't seem to be able to be saved, that need their prayers the most. Encourage your students to pray for everyone's salvation.



Opener

5 Minutes

Materials: Two identical sets of 10 LEGO pieces of different colors and shapes

Objective: For members of one team to duplicate the design of the other team without looking.

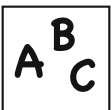
Instructions

1. Divide the students into two teams: Team A and Team B.
2. Ask the teams to sit with their backs to each other and make sure that they don't peek.
3. Give Team A about a minute to come up with a design using the LEGO pieces.
4. Then, have members of Team A take turns to tell Team B how to build their design step by step. Team B is allowed to work together.
5. When the design has been completed, have the teams turn around and compare the completed design.
6. Repeat steps 3-5, this time allowing Team B to create the design.

Discussion

- How hard was it to follow the instructions?
- What did you find you had to do in order to create the exact design? (They had to listen very carefully to instructions.)
- What happened if you didn't hear correctly or if you misplaced a LEGO piece? (The design did not match the original.)

In our lesson today, we will learn about a man called Philip who was led by the Spirit. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit? [Allow students to respond.] That's right; it means that Philip was a man who listened carefully and allowed the voice and instructions of the Holy Spirit to lead him throughout his life.



Vocabulary

prophecy: to tell of future events; to bring God's messages of warning, encouragement, and correction to the people



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Before class, prepare a large map of Israel and the surrounding countries. During the lesson, point out Jerusalem, Samaria, Ethiopia, Azotus, and Caesarea. Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students for them to fill out as you go over the lesson. Keep a copy to reference. Before you move on to each new location, allow students to fill in the worksheet with events that happened in the current location.

I. Led by the Spirit from Jerusalem to Caesarea

Before the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until the promised Holy Spirit came upon them. Jesus told them that when the Holy Spirit came, they would be given power to preach the gospel from Jerusalem to Samaria and to the end of the earth.

Jerusalem

After the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, about 3,000 people were baptized on that day. This was the beginning of the Apostolic Church. The believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other. They worshipped regularly each day, shared their meals and there was great joy and thankfulness.

As the early church increased greatly in number, a problem arose where some of the widows who spoke in Greek were neglected in the daily food distribution. The twelve apostles called a meeting of all the believers, and they appointed seven men to be responsible for making sure that everyone got food.

Let's find out what qualities these men needed to have. Read Acts 6:3. Distributing food to thousands of believers was not an easy task. Those who distributed the food had to be wise and full of the Holy Spirit, as well as have a good reputation among the people. It is here that the Bible introduces us to Philip for the first time. Among thousands of believers, Philip was among the seven chosen for this task. We can see that Philip must have been a wise, spiritually mature person who was well thought of by others.

Samaria

As the believers of the early church enjoyed God's blessings each day, they were comfortable with things in Jerusalem. But God wanted them to tell about the Lord Jesus all over the world, so He allowed a great wave of persecution to come upon the believers. The persecutors

created great trouble for the believers; they entered into private homes and dragged men and women alike into jail. To escape the persecution, the believers fled to other parts of the land, such as Judea and Samaria, and they took the good news of Jesus wherever they went. Philip was among the believers who traveled north to Samaria.

In those days, the people of Samaria and the people of Israel were not on friendly terms. The Jews of Israel loathed and despised the Samaritans because they were not pure Jews. Their ancestors were Jews who had intermarried with foreigners, so they were of "mixed blood."

However, the Lord Jesus specifically instructed His disciples to witness to the end of the earth, including the land of Samaria. And this is what Philip did. Even though the Samaritans were enemies of the Jews, Philip didn't allow these viewpoints to influence him. He was willing to share with his enemies the very best thing that he had, which was the gospel. Would we be willing to share something precious with people we disliked or despised? Perhaps at best, we might be willing to give them things that we don't want.

In the Old Testament, it records about a prophet called Jonah who, like Philip, was sent to preach to his enemies. Jonah was sent to preach to the Ninevites. Do you all remember what Jonah did instead of going to Nineveh? Yes, he refused to obey God's directions and actually tried to run away from God and his mission.

This was not the case with Philip. Philip followed the word of God and imparted the truth to the Samaritans. He found that many of them were eager to listen. God worked with Philip and gave him the power to heal the sick and cast out demons so that there was great joy in the city.

The Desert Road

When things were going successfully in Philip's ministry in Samaria, God wanted Philip to go to another place. Let's read Acts 8:26 to find out where God wanted Phillip to go.

God wanted Philip to leave the great crowds in Samaria to go to a desert road. If we were Philip, would we question God for taking us away from a prosperous ministry and sending us to the lonely desert? Maybe we would try to persuade God to allow us to finish the work in Samaria first or even to send someone else.

When Philip received instructions from the angel of the

Lord, he obeyed immediately and went south without knowing the reason. He trusted the Holy Spirit to show him what he was to do. Philip demonstrated what it means to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He gave up his own thoughts and plans and simply went wherever he was sent. He knew that obeying God was the right thing to do, even though he did not understand God's plans at the time.

II. Preaching to the Ethiopian Eunuch

Philip soon found out why he had to leave whole crowds of people who were believing and becoming Christians to come to the desert. God had given him the mission to preach to one man there, an Ethiopian eunuch. In the New Testament times, the title "eunuch" indicated a high-ranking official. The eunuch was in fact the treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia. Do you know where Ethiopia is? [Point out Ethiopia on the map.]

As Philip arrived at the desert, the Holy Spirit told him to be on the desert road. When he reached the road, he saw an Ethiopian eunuch. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was now returning in his chariot.

The Holy Spirit then said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." Philip ran over and heard the eunuch reading aloud from the Book of Isaiah.

After Philip asked if he understood what he was reading, the eunuch humbly admitted that he did not, for he did not have anyone to guide him. He then invited Philip to come up into the chariot to explain it to him. Philip then began to introduce the man to the Lord Jesus.

We can see that the Ethiopian eunuch was a man who studied God's word whenever and wherever he could. He had an earnest desire to know and seek after God. When Philip explained the word of God to him, the Holy Spirit opened his heart so that he understood and accepted what Philip said to him.

As they rode along, they came to a small body of water and the eunuch immediately seized the opportunity and asked if he could be baptized. Even though the eunuch was a man of great power and wisdom, he quickly and eagerly obeyed the commandments of God by asking to be baptized. Philip told him that he could if he believed in the Lord Jesus with all his heart, which he did. And with that, the eunuch was immediately baptized. The eunuch probably never saw Philip again but that didn't matter. He went happily on his way, carrying the good news of Jesus with him to his home country.

From here, we can see the miraculous guidance of the Holy Spirit. God had sent Philip to the right spot at the

right time. Through this opportunity, the Ethiopian eunuch was able to be saved. God saw the desire of the eunuch to know Him, so He arranged for Philip to witness to him. Furthermore, because Philip obeyed the directions of the Holy Spirit, another soul was able to be saved.

Azotus

What happened to Philip afterward he baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? Let's read Acts 8:39-40. It tells us that the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away and transported him to Azotus, about twenty miles north. In Azotus, Philip once again preached the good news to those that he met.

Caesarea

From Azotus, Philip traveled to Caesarea, preaching to every city along the way. Philip then remained in Caesarea for a long time. About twenty years later, Philip welcomed the apostle Paul and his fellow travelers to stay at his home (Acts 21:7-8). By now, Philip was called Philip the evangelist because he was so faithful in bringing the word of God to others wherever he went.

III. Philip's Four Daughters

Philip not only faithfully preached the gospel wherever he went; he also had a God-fearing family. Read Acts 21:9. The Bible tells us that he had four unmarried daughters who prophesied. What does it mean to prophesy?

Prophesying is a special gift that God gives to certain people to bring God's message to His people. At times, they would tell the future, but more often, they would exhort, encourage, and strengthen God's people. The fact that Philip's four daughters prophesied showed that he had taken the time to teach his children about God and their faith. As a result, they put God and serving others as the center of their lives, just as their father had. Their hearts were sensitive to God's words, and they encouraged others with the word of God.

FOR TEACHERS

Allow students to complete Page 2 of the Bible Discovery worksheet. After the students have completed it, review their answers as a class.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is an invaluable treasure that God has promised us. Not only is the Holy Spirit the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance, but in our journey of faith, He is also our Counselor and Comforter.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What was Philip's responsibility in Jerusalem?** Daily food distribution to widows.
2. **Why did Philip leave Jerusalem?** They were facing persecution.
3. **God used persecution to send believers, such as Philip, to Samaria and other places so that they could tell others about Jesus. What happened in Samaria when Philip preached there?** God used him to bring many to the Lord.
4. **Why did God take Philip away from witnessing to large crowds?** To preach to the Ethiopian eunuch.
5. **How did God arrange for Philip and the eunuch to meet?** Philip was taken from Samaria and the eunuch was traveling home along the desert road. They met at the right place at the right time.
6. **How did the Ethiopian show that he obeyed God's words immediately?** He asked to be baptized.
7. **What happened to Philip after the baptism?** The Spirit took him to go to Azotus and then to Caesarea.
8. **Give examples of how Philip heeded to the Spirit of God in his life.** He followed God's will over his own. He obeyed immediately, preached to his enemies and wherever the Spirit of God took him, and raised his family to fear and love God.
9. **What does "prophesy" mean?** It means to tell of future events or to bring God's messages of warning, encouragement, and correction to the people.
10. **What can we learn from Philip's daughters?** They devoted themselves to God and served Him faithfully, just as their father had.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Heed the Spirit of God

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. Allow students to complete Section A on their own first, and then go over the answers as a class. Then, go over Section B while the students fill in the blanks. Lastly, for Section C, read the scenarios one at a time, and then go over the discussion questions after you finish reading.]

A. Who Am I?

From our lesson, we learned how Philip faithfully heeded to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the Bible, there are many examples of people who followed the directions of the Holy Spirit, even when it was difficult.

- a. **Paul** was willing to go to Jerusalem even though persecution and suffering awaited him there (Acts 21:10-13).
- b. When the Holy Spirit showed **Peter** that he was to go and preach to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, Peter was shocked since Jews never associated with Gentiles. Nevertheless, Peter obeyed (Acts 10:28-29).
- c. **Ezekiel** obeyed the commission that God gave him, even though he would be sent to preach to a stubborn and rebellious people, whose threats were sharp and stung like scorpions (Ezek 2:3-8).
- d. **Jesus** was led by the Spirit to go into the wilderness, where He fasted for forty days and forty nights. When He was most hungry and weak, Satan came to tempt Him (Lk 4:1-2).
- e. When **Ananias** was instructed by the Lord to go find Saul, Ananias obeyed, even though he knew that Saul was the one who had persecuted the believers aggressively and imprisoned them (Acts 9:10-18).

B. How does God speak to us?

Today, we also need to listen to the direction and guidance of God, even when it is difficult for us. But how do we heed the Holy Spirit? How does God speak to us and tell us His will? [Allow students that are willing to share to answer.] God uses different ways to communicate with His people. Here are a few methods which God uses:

- a. God uses **visions** and **dreams** to tell people His will. God showed dreams and visions to people, such as Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2:1; 4), Daniel (Dan 7:1), Joseph (Gen 37:5-11), Pharaoh (Gen 41:1-8), and Peter (Acts 10:9-16), to tell them what He would do.
- b. God may **speak** to us directly, just as He spoke to the young boy Samuel (1 Sam 3:3-4) and Abraham (Gen 12:1-4).
- c. God instructs us through His **word**. Through reading the word of God, King Josiah (2 Kgs 22:8-11; 23:3), Ezra (Neh 8:13-18), and Daniel (Dan 9:2) recognized the will of God.
- d. God moves and inspires us in our **prayers**. At Keilah, David prayed and asked God if the people of that city would protect him when King Saul came for him. God told him that they would not. As a result, David quickly departed from Keilah (1 Sam 23:5-13). When Hezekiah became sick and was to die, he prayed bitterly to God. God had mercy on him and granted him fifteen more years of life (2 Kgs 20:1-6).
- e. God will often speak to us through **others**. Often, we need only see a situation from another set of eyes in order to hear God's will. When the prophet Nathan spoke to David, he realized that he had committed a great sin (2 Sam 12:1-7).

God speaks to us in a manner of ways, but how do we respond? Do we obey immediately, or do we make excuses and delay our obedience to God? Read the scenarios below and discuss the kind of attitude we should have.

C. How should we respond when we hear God?

1. *Don't Quench the Holy Spirit*

Richard did not play well in the baseball game. In fact, he felt that he had caused his team to lose. That night, his brother Tod poked fun at Richard's poor attempt at batting. This really hurt Richard. Richard shouted at Tod and then rushed to his room. Tod decided to write a letter of apology to his brother, but Richard simply tore it up. For a week, Richard did not talk to or play with Tod. One day, as his R.E. teacher talked about forgiveness, Richard felt that God was speaking directly to him and reminding him to forgive others for their offenses against us. Even though Richard felt that it was the right thing to do, he wanted to make his brother pay for what he did. He pushed the thought of forgiveness aside.

- **From this scenario, what does "quenching the movement of the Holy Spirit" mean?** If we quench a fire, we are putting it out or extinguishing it. If we quench the Holy Spirit, it is the same as putting out a fire. This means that we choose to ignore or not listen to the Holy Spirit.
- **Share a time when you may have quenched the movement of the Holy Spirit.**
- **What might happen if we constantly quench the Spirit?** Our hearts will become harder, darker, and less sensitive to God's words. Constantly going against the Spirit of God will lead us to sin.
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Hebrews 3:15, and James 4:17.**

2. *Do It Now*

"Henry, it's nearly nine o'clock, so gather up your things and get ready for church." Henry ignores his mother and continues to play. Approximately ten minutes later, his mother speaks again. "Henry, it's getting late and we have to go soon. I want those games packed away now. What did I say about playing games on Saturday?" Henry gets up from the sofa as he continues to operate the joystick, his eyes glued to the TV. Noticing that his mother hasn't come into the room, he settles back down onto the sofa for a few more minutes of play. All of a sudden, he sees his mother standing by the door with a stern look on her face and her hands folded. "Now listen, I told you to get a move on, and I mean it." Henry turns to his mother, saying, "Five more minutes, okay? Just five more minutes."

- **Are there times when we have behaved like Henry? Talk about why you did that and how your parents reacted.**
- **How do you think God will feel if we “obey” His commandments the way Henry “obeyed” his mother?**
- **Why is it important to obey God’s words quickly?** Following God’s word quickly shows our desire to draw close to God and please Him. As a result, we will be blessed abundantly. God’s word also protects us from harm’s way and keeps our hearts from straying.
- **Read Psalm 119:60 and Luke 11:28.**

3. *Let Go of Our Own Will*

The R.E. classes in Julie’s church were organizing a picnic where the students could invite their non-believing friends to attend. There would be fun activities, as well as a short introduction to the gospel. The students made fliers to pass out to their friends and classmates. Julie was eager to pass them out to her friends at school. But there was one girl named Alice to whom she didn’t feel like giving the flier. Alice’s family didn’t have much money and lived in a different neighborhood from Julie’s. She also spoke English with a strange accent and probably wasn’t very smart. “It would be embarrassing to introduce her as my friend if she came,” Alice thought. Even though Julie knew that Jesus desires all men to be saved, Julie decided to skip her when giving out the fliers.

- **What did Julie think of Alice?** Julie didn’t like Alice because she came from a poor family, spoke English with an accent, and wasn’t very smart.
- **How did these views prevent Julie from preaching to people of all sorts?** These views prevented Julie from preaching to everyone, as she would only invite those that she liked and those that were similar to her. She would not preach to anyone she didn’t like, for whatever reason.
- **What are some of the common things we judge others on that may prevent us from being friendly to others?**
- **Read Romans 12:2, James 2:8-9, and Romans 15:7.**



Activity

I'm All Ears

10-15 Minutes

Materials

- Portraits of each student, prepared before class
- Construction paper, in halves
- Blank white paper
- Scissors
- Markers

Instructions

1. Pass out a half piece of construction paper to each student.
2. Ask students to cut out their faces from the portrait and glue them in the center of the construction paper.
3. Have students draw and cut out very large ears using the white paper. [Note: You may choose to create a template of a pair of ears for students to cut out.]
4. Color the ears, and then glue them next to the faces at the appropriate position.
5. At the top of the card write, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears...”
6. Ask students to think of at least four things they need to listen to and follow. Have them write their resolutions in the free space on their card. Examples: “I will pray before going to school each day.”; “I will be quick to listen to my parents.”
7. Post the finished cards up on the bulletin board so that the students can read each other’s resolutions.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. False; we should hear His word and obey quickly.
5. True
6. True
7. Possible answers: Paul, Peter, Jesus, Ezekiel, Ananias
8. Answers may vary. Possible answers: Through the Bible, through prayer, through others, etc.
9. He did not have his own will; he preached even to his enemies; he preached wherever the Spirit of God took him; and he raised his family to fear and love God.

Led by the Spirit From Jerusalem to Caesarea

No matter where the Holy Spirit took him, Philip faithfully followed and completed what God wanted him to do. Write down the main things that Philip did in each place.

Jerusalem

Samaria

Desert Road

Azotus

Caesarea

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

Choose the correct words from the word pool and fill in the blanks to find out how the Ethiopian eunuch was a man who loved God and listened to the Holy Spirit.

commandments	Jerusalem	baptized	word
fearing	worship	God's	obeyed God

1. He was a _____-_____ man. He traveled the long distance to _____ from Ethiopia to worship God.
2. He was a man who studied _____ whenever and wherever he could.
3. He quickly and eagerly _____ the _____ of God by asking to be _____.

How did Philip's daughters put God as the center of their lives?

PHILIP'S FOUR DAUGHTERS

Heed the Spirit of God

A. WHO am I ?

In the Bible, there are many examples of people who obeyed the Holy Spirit, even when it was difficult. Read the Bible passages to find out who these people are.

- I was willing to go to Jerusalem even though I knew that I would face persecution and suffering there. *Who am I?* _____ (Read Acts 21:10-13.)
- I was told to preach to a Roman centurion called Cornelius. As a Jew, I never mixed with Gentiles, but I obeyed. *Who am I?* _____ (Read Acts 10:28-29.)
- God told me that I had to go and preach to the Israelites, who were a stubborn and rebellious people. Their threats were sharp and stung like scorpions. *Who am I?* _____ (Read Ezekiel 2:3-8.)
- The Spirit led me into the wilderness. I went without food and water for forty days and nights. When I was most hungry and weak, Satan came to tempt Me. *Who am I?* _____ (Read Luke 4:1-2.)
- When God told me to go find Saul, I was afraid because Saul was the person who greatly persecuted the believers and had them thrown into jail. But I still went. *Who am I?* _____ (Read Acts 9:10-18.)



B. How does God Speak to us?

Fill in the blanks.

- God uses _____ and _____ to tell people His will.
- God may _____ to us directly.
- God instructs us through His _____.
- God may move and inspire us in our _____.
- God will often speak to us through _____.

C. How should we Respond when we hear God?

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2. Do It Now



"Henry, it's nearly nine o'clock, so gather up your things and get ready for church." Henry ignores his mother and continues to play. Approximately ten minutes later, his mother speaks again. "Henry, it's getting late and we have to go soon. I want those games packed away now. What did I say about playing games on Saturday?" Henry gets up from the sofa as he continues to operate the joystick, his eyes glued to the TV. Noticing that his mother hasn't come into the room, he settles back down onto the sofa for a few more minutes of play. All of a sudden, he sees his mother standing by the door with a stern look on her face and her hands folded. "Now listen, I told you to get a move on, and I mean it." Henry turns to his mother, saying, "Five more minutes, okay? Just five more minutes."

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E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 5—Led by the Spirit

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Romans 8:14)**

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : When the believers faced great persecution, they fled to Samaria and Judea. What did the believers do there?
 - a. They did not dare speak of Jesus in fear of persecution.
 - b. They refused to share the gospel to the Samaritans, whom they despised.
 - c. They took the good news of Jesus with them everywhere.
2. _____ : Just when many people were believing in the Lord, God took Philip away from Samaria because _____.
 - a. Philip was getting proud of all his success.
 - b. God wanted him to preach to the Ethiopian eunuch.
 - c. Philip didn't like the Samaritans.
3. _____ : After the eunuch heard Philip's message, how did he respond to God's words?
 - a. He responded with haste and urgency by asking to be baptized.
 - b. He wanted to wait until the next time to be baptized.
 - c. He couldn't decide what to do.

True or False

4. When God asks us to do something difficult, we should just ignore Him. _____
5. Philip's four daughters prophesied. This means that they had the special gift of telling the future, as well as of using God's words to encourage and strengthen others. _____
6. Philip's daughters teach us to be devoted to God and to serve Him faithfully. _____

Short Answer

7. Name three persons who heeded the voice of the Spirit even though what they had to do was difficult.
8. God uses different ways to speak to us. What ways has God used to speak to you?
9. Give examples of how Philip heeded to the Spirit of God in his life.

LESSON 6

JESUS TRANSFORMS SAUL'S LIFE

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn how God chose and transformed the life of Saul.
2. To learn that Christians need to be transformed into the likeness of the Lord Jesus.
3. To learn that transformation comes from knowing and doing God's word and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

(Romans 12:2)

PRAYER

1. Thank You for safely guiding us through another week so that we can come to worship You on this blessed, rested, and sanctified day.
2. Lord, Your love and mercy are great and boundless. You chose us when we were still sinners to be Your children.
3. You give us Your Holy Spirit to help us in our daily lives and to help us overcome our weaknesses so that we may be like You.
4. Lord, You also give us the opportunity to serve You.
5. How marvelous is this grace! Help us to cherish this in our hearts.



Overview

1. A Changed Man

- a. Saul Before He Knew the Lord
- b. Saul Is Called by the Lord
- c. Saul Is Filled With the Spirit of God
- d. From a Persecutor to an Apostle

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the only Savior of mankind

3. Life Application—The Old Man, The New Man

4. Activity—Crossword Puzzle



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Saul

Saul in Hebrew means "inquire" and "willing." During his first missionary trip, Saul's name is changed to the Greek name Paul, which means "little" or "humble" (Acts 13:9).

Saul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 21:39; 22:3). He was born a Roman citizen (Acts 22:27-28). Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin and a tentmaker by occupation. Saul was very religious. His training under Gamaliel was the finest available. He was a Pharisee, knew the Scriptures well, and excelled above his peers. Saul sincerely believed that the Christian movement was dangerous to Judaism. Thus, Saul hated the Christian faith and persecuted Christians without mercy. However, his encounter with the Lord Jesus on the way to Damascus was to change the course of his life completely. Instead of serving the law, Paul's devotion was channeled to the Lord Jesus and the spreading of the gospel.

Ananias

The name Ananias in Hebrew means "compassion for God." In the Bible, there are three individuals named "Ananias." One is Ananias of Damascus, the disciple of Jesus who was sent to pray for Saul (Acts 9:10-18; 22:12). Another is Ananias, the husband of Sapphira who deceived the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-6). The third individual is the high priest at Jerusalem (Acts 23:2; 24:1).

The Pharisees

The Pharisees were a strict religious group of Jews who first appeared in the 2nd century B.C. They originated from a group called Hasidim (God's loyal ones) and by 135 B.C., they were known as Pharisees. The Pharisees advocated minute obedience to the Jewish law and traditions and were influential in the synagogues and highly respected in the communities.

To Kick Against the Goads

In Acts 9:5, the Lord Jesus said to Saul, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

In the days when oxen were used to plough the soil, farmers would use tools called goads to gently prod, guide, or steer the ox in the desired direction. The goad was usually a long wooden stick with a pointed end use to prick. When a stubborn ox refused to move forward and instead kicked back against the goad, the ox would get jabbed and pricked by the goad. Eventually the only thing the ox could do was to go forward as directed by the farmer. Jesus was reminding Saul that it was pointless and useless to rebel against God's will, and any attempt to do so would ultimately cause pain and grief to himself.

**Reaching Out to Your Students**

If we draw our students' attention to the natural world, they will discover that things are constantly changing and transforming. God also desires His children to grow and change to be more like Him. In the same way that creation relies on God's power, our spiritual transformation also requires God's words and power.

Our students should also be reminded that it is not enough simply to memorize Bible verses to change; they need to change and renew their thinking so that it is biblical. We need to instill in our students a passion for soaking up the Scriptures and letting His word dictate the way they think, act, and speak.

**Opener***5 Minutes*

Today's lesson is about a person who went through a transformation. What does it mean to be transformed? Are there things around us that transform?

When something is transformed, it may change in appearance, structure, character, or nature.

What are some things around us that transform? [Allow students to respond.]

Coal into diamonds

Bring a piece of coal, or a charcoal briquette, and a diamond (a cubic zirconium will also work) to class. Show the students the two items and explain to them how the coal is changed into a diamond by a transformational process of pressing and crushing.

Sand into pearls

Bring an empty oyster shell and a simulated pearl. Pass each item around and let the students hold them. Explain to them that the pearl begins life as a tiny grain of sand but eventually becomes a precious pearl.

Ice into water

Prepare a glass of water and a bowl of ice. Explain to the students that when water gets colder than 32 degrees Fahrenheit, it freezes into ice. As the water temperature decreases, the molecules in the water hook and lock on to each other, creating a structure that is hard and stiff, typical of ice.

Today, our story is about a person who underwent a great transformation. He went from being a great enemy of the Lord Jesus and His followers to being a devoted apostle and servant of God.



Vocabulary

Pharisee: a member of the Jewish group who strictly followed the religious laws and traditions

synagogue: a building where Jews meet for religious worship and teaching

transformation: a complete change in something or somebody

righteousness: everything that is good and right in the sight of God



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Saul Before He Knew the Lord

The Acts of the Apostles records a disciple of the Lord Jesus called Stephen. Stephen was a brave and bold evangelist. He was filled with faith, wisdom, power, and the Spirit of God. However, when Stephen preached, the Jews were furious because they thought that Stephen spoke against their beliefs. On this particular occasion, after Stephen preached, the Jews were so furious that they rushed at him and dragged him out of the city. They began to throw stones at Stephen until he died eventually. He became the first disciple to give his life for the gospel.

Among the multitudes that day was a young man who stood watching Stephen being stoned to death. This young man was called Saul. Saul watched and was glad that Stephen had been killed.

Who was Saul? Why did he approve the death of Stephen?

Let's look into the Bible to find out who Saul was. Read Acts 22:3 and Philipians 3:3-6.

From these passages, we learn that Saul worshipped the true God from a young age. He studied the laws of God from great Jewish teachers such as Gamaliel. Saul was so devoted in keeping the laws of God that he became a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a group of people who knew and strictly obeyed the laws of God and taught them.

Because Saul loved God and His laws fervently, he was angered by the group of people who left the Jewish religion to follow Jesus. He was also displeased that the followers proclaimed that Jesus, a human, was the Son of God, God's promised Messiah. The disciple Stephen even accused the religious leaders of being the ones who killed the Lord Jesus. So, when the multitude rushed at Stephen and stoned him to death, Saul looked on happily. He would do whatever was needed to protect his Jewish faith and beliefs and to stop the followers of Jesus from getting bigger and spreading more lies.

Let's read Acts 8:3 and 9:1-2 to find out what Saul was doing to stop the Christians from expanding.

Saul went into every house and arrested men and women and had them thrown into prison. Saul was even going to go to Damascus to get letters from the high priest that would authorize him to arrest believers in Damascus and bring them to Jerusalem, where they would be punished.

Saul Is Called by the Lord

While Saul thought that he was fighting zealously for God, he was actually fighting against God. As Saul made his way to Damascus to carry out his plans to persecute the believers, God had other plans for him.

Read Acts 9:1-9. [Have one student read the narration and assign other students to read and act out the parts of Saul, the men who accompanied him, and the Lord Jesus.]

What happened to Saul during his journey to Damascus? Yes, a light from heaven shone around him. The light shone so brightly that Saul fell to the ground.

Saul then heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting Me?"

Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?"

The Lord replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

If you were Saul, what would you have been feeling or thinking at that time? [Allow students to explore.]

This must have been a terrifying and shocking experience for Saul. Before this, Saul thought that everything he had done was right and pleasing to God. He believed that Jesus was a fraud who had been rightfully put to death on a cross. He thought that what the disciples preached—Jesus being the Son of God—were all lies! But now the voice he heard was that of the Lord Jesus. Could it be that what His disciples preached and believed in was all true? Could it be that Jesus was truly the Son of God and that He was alive?

Jesus told Saul that by persecuting His believers, he was really hurting Jesus Himself. The disciples were the children of God; they were also the church, the body of Christ. When the body of Christ is hurt, Jesus is hurt, and He knows and feels our pain, too.

The Lord Jesus then instructed Saul to “arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” As Saul rose from the ground, he discovered that he had become blind. With the help of his travel companions, Saul was led into Damascus where he did not eat or drink anything for three days. The heavenly light had not only shone on Saul, but also shone into his heart so that he could clearly see the truth.

Saul Is Filled with the Spirit of God

Meanwhile in Damascus, there was a believer named Ananias. God spoke to him in a vision. Let’s read Acts 9:10-12. The people we read about in the Bible have emotions and reactions just like you and I do today. If you were sitting in Ananias’ home and God told you to go to visit Saul, how would you feel? [Have students respond.]

Let’s read Acts 9:13-14 to see how Ananias felt. Ananias had heard all about the terrible things that Saul had done to the believers in Jerusalem and now he had come to Damascus to arrest the believers there. Ananias had every reason to fear Saul because he was the enemy of Jesus’ disciples.

But God told Ananias how He was to transform and use Saul. Let’s read Acts 9:15-16. God had called Saul and had chosen him to carry out a mission. What was Saul’s mission? Saul was to evangelize the gospel. He was to tell about the Lord Jesus to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the people of Israel. If you were Ananias, what would you have thought? Ananias must have thought that God’s ways were too marvelous and difficult to understand. He must have wondered how great God’s love and power was to be able to forgive and change someone like Saul.

Upon hearing this, Ananias trusted and obeyed the Lord. Despite his fears, he went to Saul and placed his hands on him and prayed for him. Immediately, the blindness left Saul’s eyes, and he could see once again. With that, Saul was immediately baptized into the Lord Jesus.

From a Persecutor to an Apostle

Saul started his journey as a persecutor of Jesus’ disciples. But now, God had transformed his life completely! The same Saul who tried to obstruct people from believing in Jesus was now a believer and a preacher of the gospel. Immediately following his conversion, Saul eagerly preached to the Jews in the synagogues that Jesus was the

Son of God, the promised Savior.

What do you think were the people’s reactions when they saw Saul preach?

The believers in Damascus (Acts 9:20-21)

When the people heard Saul boldly preaching about Jesus, they were amazed. They questioned, “Was this not the man who destroyed those who called on Jesus’ name in Jerusalem? Did he not come to Damascus for the purpose of arresting such people?”

The believers in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-27)

When Saul went to Jerusalem, he wanted to visit the other believers there, but the believers were too afraid of him. Here was the very man who once tried to destroy the church and throw believers in jail, and now he was a believer? The disciples did not believe in him. But a man called Barnabas became Paul’s friend and took him to the apostles and shared with them Saul’s testimony about how he was transformed. And so the believers accepted Saul.

The Jews (Acts 9:23-25)

When the Jews saw that Saul was now a disciple of Jesus, fervently persuading people that Jesus was the Messiah, they turned against Saul. They watched the gates day and night waiting to kill him. But God protected Saul with the help of the disciples.

From the Bible, we learn that Saul worked zealously for God for his entire life. During one of his missionary journeys, his name was changed to Paul, which means “little” in Greek. He traveled to many countries preaching the good news to the Jews and Gentiles. Out of all of the books in the New Testament, the apostle Paul wrote the greatest number.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Go over the worksheet with students, providing guidance where necessary. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version to reference.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Lord Jesus is the only Savior of mankind. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved. The Lord Jesus appeared to Saul and allowed him to understand that it is not by the works of the law that we are saved, but by faith and the grace of God.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

1. **Saul was born in Tarsus.** True.
2. **Saul was very zealous for the law of God and he became a Pharisee.** True.
3. **Ananias refused to go and see Saul because he was afraid that Saul would harm him.** False; Ananias obeyed God and went to find Saul.
4. **After Saul believed in the Lord Jesus, he began to preach boldly for the Lord Jesus.** True.
5. **Saul's life was forever transformed because he now recognized that the Lord Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah.** True.

Short Answer

1. **Why was Saul going to Damascus?** To get letters from the high priest authorizing him to arrest the Christians.
2. **Why was Saul so passionate about persecuting the Christians?** Saul grew up believing in the law of God. When the Christians began to preach that Jesus was the promised Messiah who had come to save people from their sins, he believed that these were all lies, and he wanted to put a stop to them.
3. **Ananias knew that Saul had entered into every house, dragging men and women out and putting them into prison. Despite his fears for his own safety, Ananias went and prayed for Saul. What lessons can you learn from Ananias?** Despite his fears and feelings about Saul, Ananias trusted and obeyed God. He also learned to pray for his enemy and accept him.
4. **What was God's will for Saul?** Saul was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, kings, and the people of Israel.
5. **God chose Saul even though he greatly persecuted and hurt the disciples of Jesus. What does this tell you about God?** God understood that Saul persecuted the disciples of Jesus out of ignorance. God's love is great and unfathomable. God was willing to forgive Saul for his sins and make him into a mighty worker.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. The Old Man, the New Man

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet and ask students to complete it as you go over this section.]

From our story, we learned about the amazing transformation of Saul. Why was Saul able to change from being a persecutor of the Lord Jesus to someone who was willing to serve and lay down his own life for the Lord? It came through his personal encounter with the Lord Jesus. Before he came to know the Lord, Saul had every reason to boast. He belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, the same tribe as King Saul, the first king of Israel. He was a well-respected Pharisee. He studied under the best teachers. He had power and prestige in society. He believed that obeying the law would make him righteous. But after he met the Lord Jesus, he was willing to give all of that up. Compared to knowing the Lord, all these things were like rubbish. He realized that the Lord Jesus was his God and his greatest treasure and that he could be saved only through the grace of the Lord Jesus. His goal now was to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to do everything that the Lord wanted him to do.

We may never have Saul's experience of seeing a bright light and being struck with blindness. However, we can experience the transformation that Saul underwent.

Let's read Ephesians 4:22-24. The Bible passage tells us the steps that we need to take to be transformed into the likeness of God.

1. Put Off

We need to put off the things that belong to the old man. Paul likens the removing of the old man to that of removing an old garment. The old man is our old sinful nature, which cannot inherit the kingdom of God (Rom 6:6; 1 Cor 6:9-10). To enter heaven, we need to put off and remove the sinful nature that is within us.

[Draw two stick figures on the board, each wearing a garment. Label the first one "Old Man" and the other, "New Man."]

What characteristics belong to the old man? [Have students respond.] Evil thoughts, hatred, jealousy, anger, pride, laziness, disobedience, rebelliousness, and lies are all part of the old nature. [Have students come up to the board and write down the characteristics of the "Old Man."]

What things are particularly hard for you to put off at this time? [Have students fill in their own weaknesses on the Life Application worksheet.] We need to look into our hearts constantly to see if there are any of these attitudes in our hearts. If so, we need to work hard to put off this old nature.

2. Put On

It is not enough simply to remove our old nature. Ephesians 4:23-24 tells us that we have to "put on the new man." What is the new man? We become "new" when we change our attitudes and thoughts to resemble that of God. The moment we are baptized or believe in Christ, we don't automatically have good thoughts and attitudes. Have you recently gotten angry with someone; have you disobeyed or yelled at your parents; or have you told a lie to avoid getting into trouble? All these behaviors reveal the old nature that is still within us. Verses 23 and 24 tell us that our attitudes and thoughts must be constantly renewing and changing to be like God, holy and good.

[Have students come up and write down the characteristics of the "New Man." Ask them to write down which qualities they need to put on.]

How can we make our thoughts and actions to be like God's? In order to be like God, we need to know which things would please or disappoint Him. The only way to find out is through reading the word of God and relying on the Holy Spirit to change us.

Let's read Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Here God tells His children, the Israelites, how they can keep His commandments in their hearts. What different ways are mentioned here?

a. Learn about them

God instructs parents to teach their children the word of God. As children, we can learn the word of God from our parents or family members, and from our pastors and R.E. teachers in church.

b. Talk about them

We can talk about God's word in our daily lives. We can speak about God at home, when we are outside, when we are lying down, and when we rise in the morning.

c. Store them in our hearts

We can use different ways to remember the word of God. God wanted His children to place the word of God where they could see them so as not to forget them. Looking at verses 8-9, where was God's word to be placed? Yes, they were to tie God's word on their hands, wear them on their foreheads, and write them on the house doorposts.

Today, we need to write down and display God's words where we can always see them, commit them to memory, and store them up in our hearts.

What are some ways that we can store up God's words? [Have students come up with their own ideas.] Just as the Israelites had, we can use visual aids to remind us. We should place the word of God where we can see and read it: on small white boards, bracelets, sticky notes, bookmarks, the desktop wallpaper, etc.

Colossians 3:16 gives us yet another excellent method of learning the word of God, which is to store God's words through hymns and spiritual songs. [Ask students to fill in the heart with the ways they will store God's word in their hearts.]

2. A Transformed Life

Before class, follow the provided directions to make the origami "chatterbox" for the scenario section.

After constructing the chatterbox, write or color in the four standard colors—blue, red, green, and yellow—on the outside flap. On the inside flaps, write the numbers 1 through 8 as shown.

Then underneath the inside flaps, write down the following eight scenarios.

Have students take turns to select a color and a number and share what they would do if they encountered such a situation.

Blue - School

1. You see a few friends at school call someone names that you don't like. What do you choose to do?
2. The homework that you forgot to do is due today. The homework is important and will go towards your grade. Your friend is willing to share the answers with you. What do you choose to do?

Red – Entertainment

3. All of your friends at school have seen this latest movie, and they are all talking about it. It has some of the best actors and an interesting plot. But it also has plenty of violence and some swear words. What do you choose to do?
4. It is Friday night. Your mom and dad said that everyone should go to sleep early and get ready for Sabbath next morning. You suddenly remember that you still have a game that you didn't get to finish earlier. What do you choose to do?

Green - Family

5. Your sister/brother took something that you like very much without asking and accidentally broke it. You are very upset now. What do you choose to do?
6. Your parent has asked you three times already to clean up your room. You are right in the middle of watching/reading your favorite TV show/video game/book. What do you choose to do?

Yellow - Church

7. The church has made your all-time favorite lunch. After your first plate of food, you're still hungry, and you rush to get more. You notice that there is a line of people who have not yet eaten. What do you choose to do?
8. Sabbath service is over, and you help clean up your E2 classroom. You then go to the main chapel where you see Bibles and hymnbooks still lying around. What do you choose to do?



Activity

Crossword Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To review the details of Saul's conversion.

Complete the crossword using the clues provided below.

Across

1. Saul threw many men and women into _____.
2. Saul was born in _____.
5. Saul was heading to _____ before his conversion.
6. Saul was blind for _____ days.
7. _____ was Saul's teacher.
8. Saul's name meant _____ in Greek.
10. God sent _____ to pray and lay hands on Saul.

Down

1. Before his conversion, Saul would _____ the Lord Jesus.
2. A _____ is a complete change.
3. A _____ was a strict follower of the law.
4. Saul became an _____ after he believed in the Lord.
9. _____ helped the disciples in Jerusalem accept Saul.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

1. prison
2. Tarsus
5. Damascus
6. three
7. Gamaliel
8. little
10. Ananias

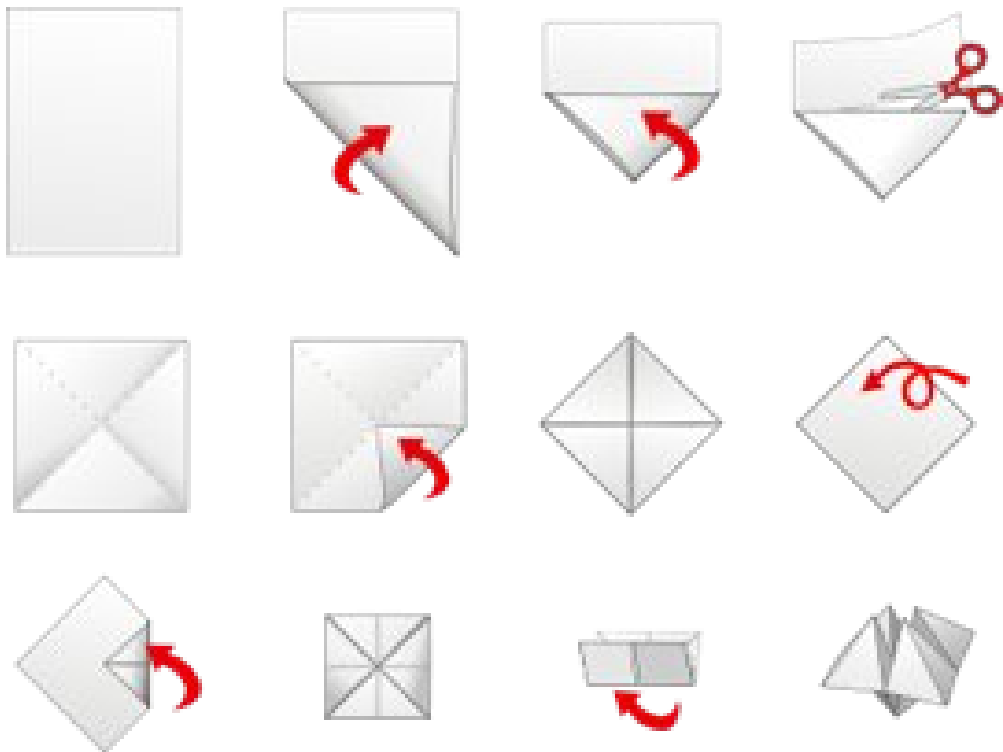
Down

1. persecute
2. transformation
3. Pharisee
4. apostle
9. Barnabas

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; God knew that Saul persecuted out of ignorance and still gave Saul the chance to preach for Him.
2. False; Ananias trusted and obeyed God and went to find Saul.
3. True
4. Tarsus
5. capture
6. Ananias
7. an apostle
8. three
9. God understood that Saul persecuted the disciples of Jesus out of ignorance. God's love is great and unfathomable. God was willing to forgive Saul for his sins and make him into a mighty worker.
10. Answers may vary.

Origami Chatterbox Instructions



Jesus Transforms Saul's Life

A. A Changed Man

Fill in the blanks to find out what Saul was like before and after he came to know the Lord. Some words may be used more than once.

law	Saul	Lord Jesus	apostle	Paul	preaching the gospel
Pharisee	Tarsus	prison	Gentiles	kings	Jews
persecuted	loss	Gamaliel			

BEFORE	AFTER
My Hebrew name is <u>Saul</u> .	My name in Greek is <u>Paul</u> .
I was born in the city of <u>Tarsus</u> .	
I studied under this great teacher called <u>Gamaliel</u> .	
I believed and followed the <u>law</u> .	I believe in the <u>Lord Jesus</u> .
I followed the law very strictly and became a <u>Pharisee</u> .	After I believed in the Lord, I became an <u>apostle</u> .
I bound the disciples of the Lord and threw them into <u>prison</u> .	After I came to know the Lord, I was persecuted for <u>preaching the gospel</u> .
As a Jew, I stayed away from <u>Gentiles</u> .	I later traveled many lands, preaching to <u>Gentiles, kings, and Jews</u> .
I <u>persecuted</u> the Lord Jesus.	I counted all things as <u>loss</u> after knowing the Lord.

B. The Reactions

How did the people react to Saul's conversion? Look up the Bible verses to find the missing words.

The believers in Damascus

Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" (Acts 9:20-21)

The believers in Jerusalem

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. [...] So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out (Acts 9:26-28).

The Jews

When the Jews saw that Saul was now a disciple of Jesus and persuaded people that Jesus was the Messiah, they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. But God protected Saul with the help of the disciples (Acts 9:23-25).

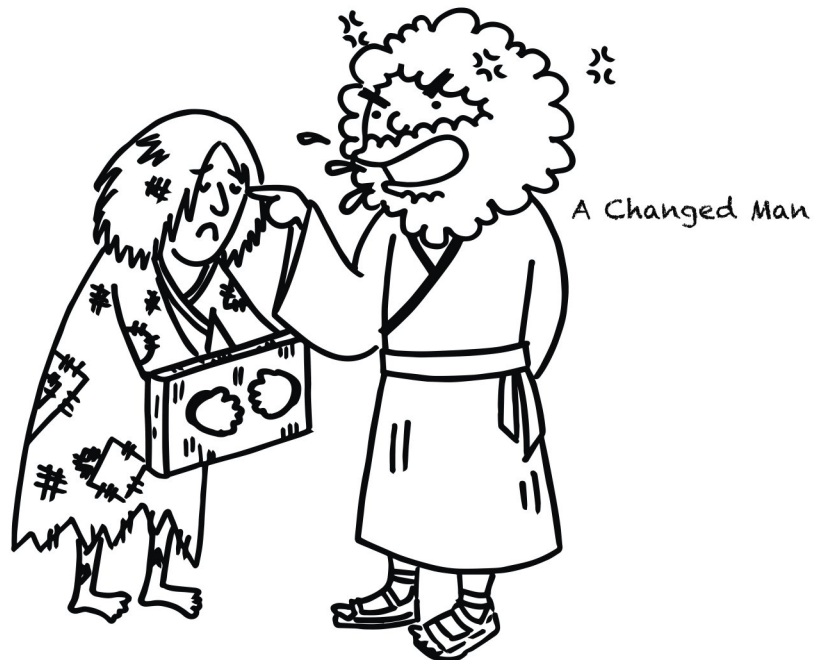
Jesus Transforms Saul's Life

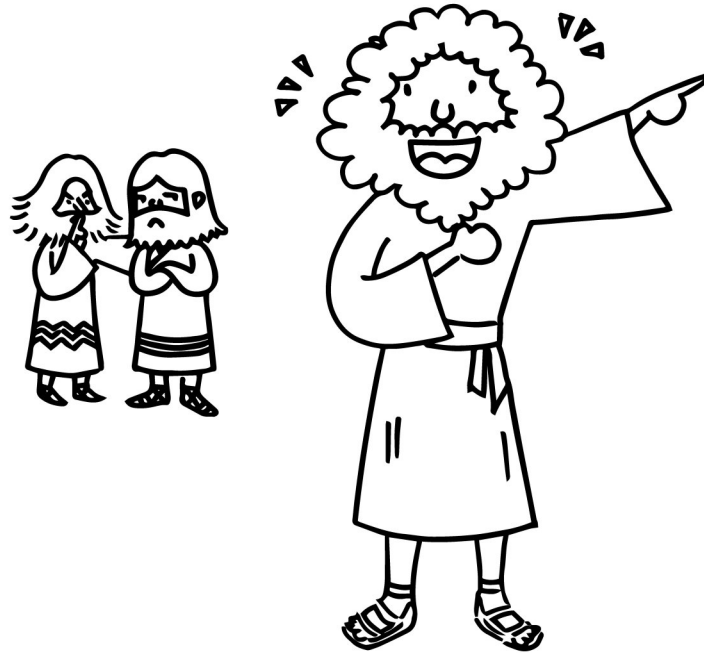
A. A Changed Man

Fill in the blanks to find out what Saul was like before and after he came to know the Lord. Some words may be used more than once.

Gentiles Saul Lord Jesus loss Paul preaching the gospel
 Pharisee Tarsus prison law Gamaliel Jews
 persecuted apostle kings

BEFORE	AFTER
My Hebrew name is _____.	My name in Greek is _____.
I was born in the city of _____.	
I studied under this great teacher called _____.	
I believed and followed the _____.	I believe in the _____.
I followed the law very strictly and became a _____.	After I believed in the Lord, I became an _____.
I bound the disciples of the Lord and threw them into _____.	After I came to know the Lord, I was persecuted for _____.
As a Jew, I stayed away from _____.	I later traveled many lands, preaching to _____, _____ and _____.
I _____ the Lord Jesus.	I counted all things as _____ after knowing the Lord.





B. The Reactions

How did the people react to Saul's conversion? Look up the Bible verses to find the missing words.

The believers in Damascus

Then all who heard were _____, and said, "Is this not he who _____ those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them _____ to the chief priests?" (Acts 9:20-21)

The believers in Jerusalem

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to _____ the disciples; but they were all _____ of him, and did not believe that he was a _____. But _____ took him and brought him to the apostles. [...] So he was with them at _____, coming in and going out (Acts 9:26-28).

The Jews

When the _____ saw that Saul was now a disciple of Jesus and persuaded people that Jesus was the _____, they watched the gates day and night, to _____ him. But God _____ Saul with the help of the disciples (Acts 9:23-25).

The Old Man, the New Man



The Old Man

(Draw the Old Man below.)

Write down the qualities you need to "put off."

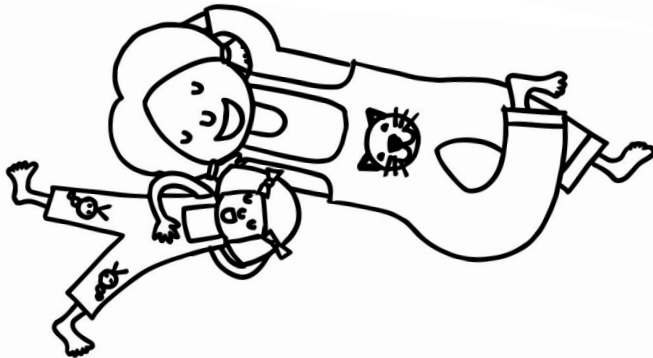
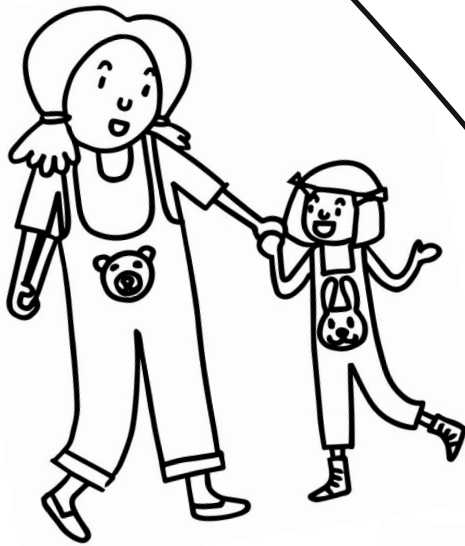
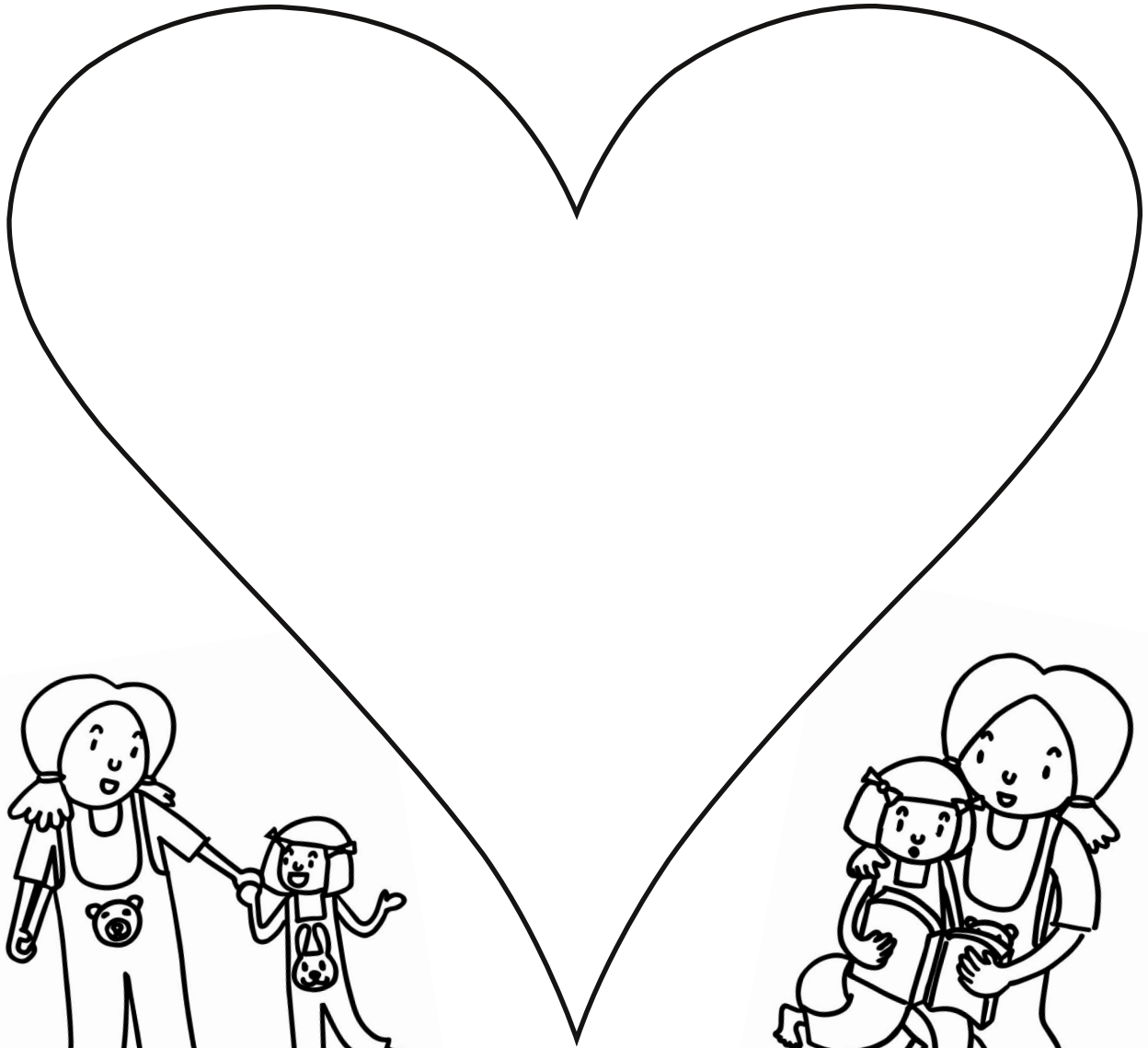
The New Man

(Draw the New Man below.)

Write down the qualities you need to "put on."

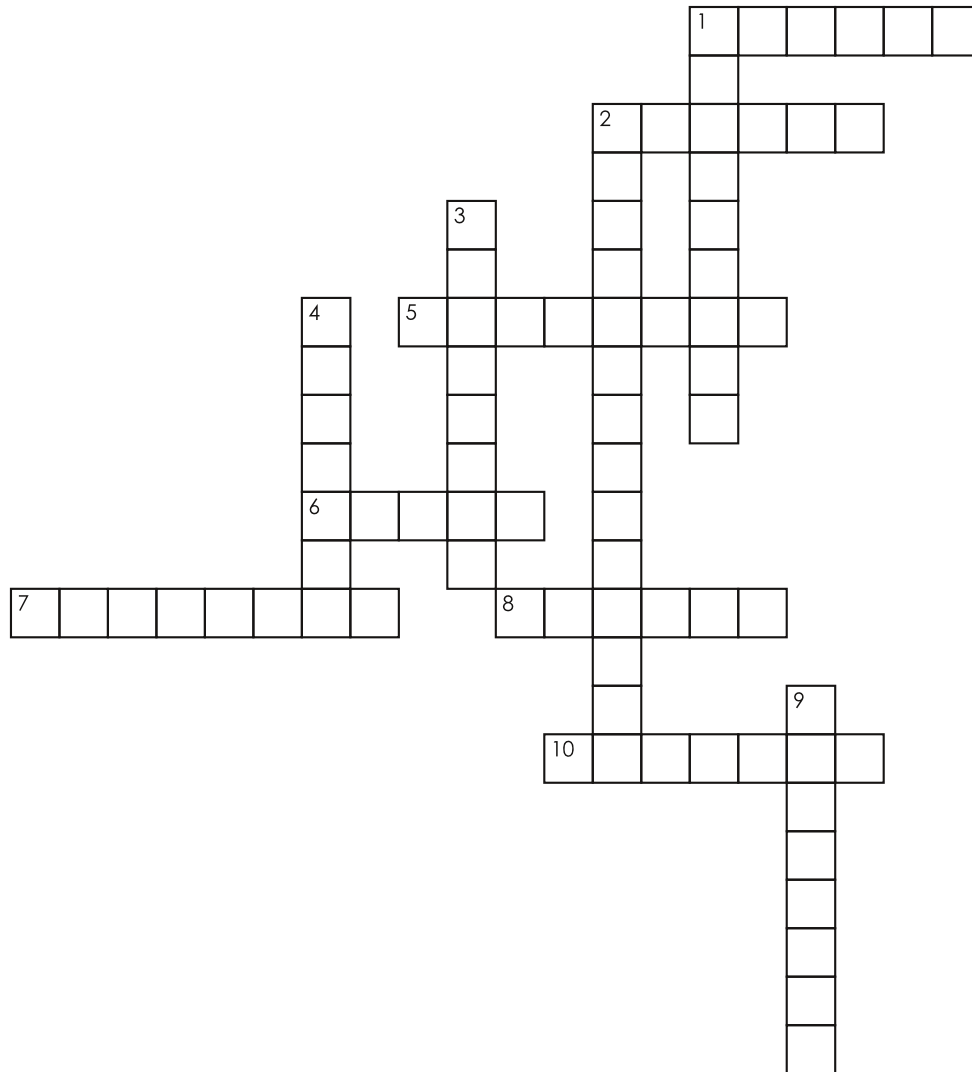
Store God's Words in My Heart

In the heart below, write down how you will store God's words in your heart.



Jesus Transforms Saul's Life

Complete the crossword using the clues provided below.



Across

1. Saul threw many men and women into _____.
2. Saul was born in _____.
5. Saul was heading to _____ before his conversion.
6. Saul was blind for _____ days.
7. _____ was Saul's teacher.
8. Saul's name meant _____ in Greek.
10. God sent _____ to pray and lay hands on Saul.

Down

1. Before his conversion, Saul would _____ the Lord Jesus.
2. A _____ is a complete change.
3. A _____ was a strict follower of the law.
4. Saul became an _____ after he believed in the Lord.
9. _____ helped the disciples in Jerusalem accept Saul.

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 6—Jesus Transforms Saul's Life

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Romans 12:2)**

True or False

1. God would never choose such a wicked person as Saul for the way he persecuted and hurt His followers. _____
2. Ananias refused to go and see Saul because he was afraid that Saul would harm him. _____
3. On his way to Damascus, Saul heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" _____

Circle the Correct Answer

4. Saul was from the city of (Nineveh, Jerusalem, Tarsus).
5. Saul went to Damascus to get letters from the high priest that authorized him to (free, hide, capture) the followers of Jesus.
6. God chose Saul to become (an apostle, a rabbi, a Pharisee) to carry His name before the Gentiles, kings, and the people of Israel.
7. After he saw the bright light, Saul did not eat nor drink and was unable to see for (two, three, five) days.

Short Answer

8. What does God's choosing of Saul teach us about God's love?

9. Name three things in your life that you need to "put off" and to ask God to help you change.

LESSON 7

CORNELIUS

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that we must believe in Jesus as our only Savior and submit to Him in order to be saved.
2. To understand that Cornelius and his family received the baptism of the Holy Spirit by speaking in tongues first before they were baptized.
3. To learn to share the gospel just as Cornelius did when he "had called together his relatives and close friends."

MEMORY VERSE

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

PRAYER

1. Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for gathering us together to worship You.
2. You surrendered Your life and suffered on the cross so that You could take our sins away.
3. Please help us share Your love and the joy of Your salvation to everyone around us.
4. May You guide us through this lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Who was Cornelius?

2. Main Story

- a. Day 1: Cornelius' Vision
- b. Day 2: Peter's Vision
- c. Day 3: The Journey to Caesarea
- d. Day 4: Salvation Comes to Cornelius' Household

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

- a. Jesus Christ is the one true God
- b. Salvation is given by grace through faith
- c. Holy Spirit: Speaking in tongues is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit

4. Life Application—Salvation and the Holy Spirit; What Would You Say?

5. Activity—Which Brush?; Find Our Way Back to Church; Crossword Puzzle



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Peter and the other apostles recognized that salvation was given by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not earned by our own good works. However, up until the time of Cornelius, they still held the concept that a person must become a Jew, in the sense of obeying the Jewish laws, for them to be saved. The thought of a Gentile getting saved without first converting to Judaism was unheard of to them.

In those days, the attitude of the Jewish people toward the Gentiles was far from a merely condescending mentality. The Israelites were God's specially chosen people (Deut 10:15). The Old Testament clearly shows God's favor for the Jewish people, whom He held above all other nations from the time of Abraham to Christ. So, it's not difficult to see how the deep rift between Jews and Gentiles was formed, and how difficult it was for any Jew to change their views. We can clearly see this in Peter's response when he met Cornelius: "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation" (Acts 10:28).

However, this deep rift was one that the gospel would bridge. In the Acts of the Apostles, and in many of the epistles in the New Testament, many in the church held the belief that Christianity must be subordinate to Judaism. These people required that those who became Christians also become Jews, by the rite of circumcision and by the keeping of the law. This conflict over circumcision was first officially raised in Acts 15.

The conversion of Cornelius revealed how controversial it was in the church at the time. Peter's experience, recorded in Acts 10-11, and the lessons that he learned are the first comments he reported at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:6-8). The remarks of Paul and Barnabas, and then of James, simply confirmed what Peter said (Acts 15:12-21). God used Cornelius, the Roman centurion, and his family to break down the barrier to the Gentile world.



Reaching Out to Your Students

It is a common belief in the Christian world, and in society in general, that good people will be saved. This belief maintains that as long as we show love to mankind and be charitable, then we can go to heaven. That is why it is so important to ensure that our students understand the doctrine of salvation.

Your students may have difficulty understanding why good, nice, and even godly people cannot be saved unless they believe in Jesus and submit to God's words. They may find it difficult to accept that these good people cannot go to heaven, and will end up with the same ending as sinners.

Remind your students that although Cornelius was a good man, his goodness had not saved him. The angel of God appeared to Cornelius not to save him, but to instruct him to invite Peter to his house: "He will tell you what you must do" (Acts 10:1-6). Peter came to explain the way of salvation to Cornelius because he still needed to hear the gospel of salvation to be saved (11:14). He still needed to receive forgiveness for his sins (10:43).

Keep in mind that theological words (e.g., "salvation," "grace," "faith," etc.), though commonly used, will need to be broken down into terms your students can understand. These may not necessarily be big words, but they carry profound meaning and need to be understood correctly.



Opener

5 Minutes

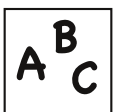
Begin the class with the "J and G" group activity. "J" stands for Jewish people, while "G" represents Gentiles.

Before class, prepare small pieces of paper, one per student. Write the letter "J" on a few of the pieces and the letter "G" on the rest. Tape the pieces of paper underneath each chair in your classroom. Tell the class you have something wonderful to tell them. It's the BEST news in the world! Ask them to look under their chairs.

"Everyone with the letter 'J' can come up and hear the good news!" [Whisper in their ear, "Jesus loves you!"]

"How does it feel when you only get to hear the good news if you have the letter 'J'? In the days when this story took place, the Jewish people thought that only Jews should hear the good news about Jesus. That meant that they would have had to be born into a Jewish family or have converted from a different religion to the Jewish religion Judaism. If you weren't born into a Jewish family, then you were a Gentile. The only way you could hear about Jesus was to study about God in the Jewish way first, and then promise to follow the Jewish religion. Let's see what God had to say!"

Tell the students with "J" to whisper the good news, "Jesus loves you!", to the students with "G."



Vocabulary

tanner: a person who processes animal skin into finished leather; the tanning process produced a foul smell, so tanneries were usually outside the city, by the sea, where they also used seawater to help in tanning

centurion: a highly-ranked officer in the ancient Roman army that commanded a group of soldiers

regiment: a unit within an army

alms: money or goods given to the poor and needy

trance: a state of being half-conscious, such as between sleeping and waking



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

The Bible story we are studying today is one with a great start and an even better ending! It all started with a god-fearing Gentile named Cornelius.

Who was Cornelius? Let's read Acts 10:1-2.

Where did he live? He lived in Caesarea, which was thirty miles north of Joppa, where Peter was staying. Normal walking pace is three miles per hour. So thirty miles would be a 10-hour journey by foot at normal walking pace.

What did he do? He was a centurion of the Italian Regiment.

What was different, what stood out about Cornelius? He:

- Was a devout man
- Feared God with all his household
- Gave alms generously to people
- Prayed to God always

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. The students must fill in the verses corresponding to each section on the worksheet, and then briefly list the events of each passage. Keep a copy of the worksheet to reference.

The story begins with...

Day One: Cornelius' Vision

Let's read Acts 10:3-8.

The ninth hour is about three o'clock in the afternoon. Three o'clock was one of the set times for Jewish people to pray, one of their hours of prayer (Acts 3:1).

Cornelius was fasting and praying (Acts 10:30) when he saw a vision:

- An angel of God came and said to him, "Cornelius!"
- He was afraid, but responded, "What is it, lord?"
- The angel of God replied, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God."
- The angel of God instructed him to send men to Joppa to send for Simon whose surname was Peter.

Cornelius took action. He:

- Called two of his servants and a devout soldier
- Explained all these things and sent them to Joppa

Day Two: Peter's Vision

Let's read Acts 10:9-16.

The scene switches to Peter, who was staying at Joppa with Simon the tanner:

- He went up on the housetop to pray at midday.
- He became very hungry and wanted to eat.
- While the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened.
- An object like a great sheet bound at the four corners came down to him.
- In the sheet were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.
- A voice told Peter, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."
- But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."
- A voice spoke to him again, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."
- This happened three times! Then the object was taken up into heaven again.

Peter was puzzled about the meaning of this vision. What a strange mixture of living animals and what a perplexing command. Let's continue by reading Acts 10:17-23. He was still thinking about the meaning of the vision he had just seen, when:

- The three men that Cornelius had sent were downstairs at the gate, asking for Simon's house and if Simon Peter was living there. Why were they keeping their distance and asking at the gate? The men Cornelius sent were aware that Jewish people did not closely associate with Gentiles, so it would be rude for them to go to the door of a Jewish house and expect to be allowed inside.
- So the Spirit said to Peter, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." The Holy Spirit had to instruct Peter explicitly to go with them and not to doubt because Peter was hesitant about going with Gentiles.
- Peter went down to the men and said, "I am Simon Peter. Why have you come?"
- The men replied, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear words from you."
- Upon hearing these words, Peter invited them to stay

for the night.

Day Three: The Journey to Caesarea

Let's read Acts 10:23-24a.

The next day, Peter set out to Caesarea.

- Peter went with Cornelius' men, and six brethren from Joppa accompanied him (Acts 11:12). God had wonderfully planned for six brethren to go with Peter. Cornelius' conversion was such an important turning point for Jewish Christians to accept Gentiles; these six brethren became important witnesses to what was about to happen in Cornelius' house.
- They traveled the whole day (about 30 miles).

The entire period, starting from when the angel of the Lord appeared to Cornelius to when Peter arrived to preach, was four days (Acts 10:30), but Cornelius put these four days to great use. How? Let's keep reading.

Day Four: Salvation Comes to Cornelius' Household

Let's read Acts 10:24b-33.

Peter and the brethren arrived in Caesarea and, against all Jewish laws and standards, entered the house of a Gentile.

- Cornelius was waiting for them, along with many of his relatives and close friends. For the past four days, Cornelius was busy gathering as many of his family members and friends as possible while waiting for Peter to arrive!
- Cornelius met Peter, fell at his feet and worshipped him. Cornelius probably reacted this way because an angel had told him to find Peter. Of course, Peter lifted him up and corrected him, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."
- Peter talked with Cornelius as he went into the house, finding that many people had gathered to listen to him talk.
- Once Peter was inside the house, he explained why he, a Jew, was in the house of a Gentile. Let's examine verses 28-29 closely. Peter had come because of the vision God had given him! But now he wanted to know why Cornelius had sent for him.
- Cornelius explained the vision and how the angel of the Lord had told him to send for a man called Simon Peter. So, Cornelius, and all those gathered at his house, were all present before God, ready to listen to what Peter was commanded by God to say.

By now, Peter understood what God was trying to teach him. He began by pointing out that God shows "no partiality" when it comes to receiving the salvation.

Peter then continued teaching them about the gospel of salvation and about Jesus.

While Peter was still speaking, something extraordinary happened! Let's read Acts 10:44-48.

- Everyone listening to Peter's message received the Holy Spirit! We know that God looks at the heart. This shows that everyone had been listening attentively and that they believed Peter's message. They had faith and accepted that they needed Jesus as their Savior.
- How did Peter and the six brethren know that the Holy Spirit had poured down upon the Gentiles? Because "they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God" (10:46). The brethren who came with Peter from Joppa were astonished that Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit. Regardless, it was impossible for Peter and the six Jewish brethren to mistake this moment. God had given Cornelius and this group of Gentiles the Holy Spirit, the same as "He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ" (11:17).
- Peter said, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of Lord Jesus. It is important to note here that Cornelius did not ask to be baptized. Neither did Peter ask him if he was interested in receiving water baptism. God had planned to give salvation to Cornelius all along. The only thing Cornelius had to do to receive it was obey God's word, believe in the gospel, and follow it.
- After they were all baptized, they asked Peter to stay a few days, and this is the last we see of Cornelius in the Bible.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

When we first read about Cornelius, we can see that he was a great person! He prayed fervently and gave alms generously. But even so, he could not be saved with only a god-fearing and generous heart. He needed to hear and believe in the gospel of salvation, about **Jesus Christ!** Jesus came to the world, died on the cross, resurrected on the third day and ascended to heaven. He is the only Savior and the only true God. Besides Him there is no other salvation.

We believe **salvation** is given by the grace of God through faith. After we have received salvation freely, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to live a life of holiness, to honor God, and to love others.

God made it extra clear that salvation had come to the Gentile household of Cornelius by giving them the Holy Spirit while they were still listening to Peter preaching. This was a "clear" message from God, because the Jewish brethren could hear them speaking in tongues just as they had. So, speaking in tongues is evidence that someone has received the **Holy Spirit**.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Cornelius was a devout man who feared God. His occupation was:** Centurion.
2. **What was the name of Cornelius' army in Acts 10?** The Italian Regiment.
3. **What did the angel of God tell Cornelius to do?** He told Cornelius to send men to Joppa to send for Simon Peter.
4. **Who was Peter staying with in Joppa?** Simon the tanner.
5. **What time of the day did Peter pray and see a vision?** The sixth hour, noon.
6. **What was the first thing the voice in the vision said to Peter?** "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."
7. **What else did the voice say to Peter?** "What God has cleansed you must not call common."
8. **How many times did this happen?** Three.
9. **Who told Peter to go with the men sent by Cornelius?** The Holy Spirit.
10. **What did Cornelius do when Peter entered his house?** Cornelius met Peter, fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.
11. **What did Peter find in Cornelius' house?** He found that many people had come together.
12. **What astonished the Jewish brethren in Cornelius' house?** The Holy Spirit poured out on the Gentiles, and they began speaking in tongues.
13. **What did Peter command Cornelius and his household to do?** Be baptized in the name of the Lord.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Salvation and the Holy Spirit

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 to the students. Go over the worksheet and allow the students time to fill in the blanks as they come to them. Keep a copy of the worksheet to reference. The answers are underlined in this section.]

1. **Salvation** is given by the grace of God through faith.

In the following section, match the verses with the correct statements. Some verses may be used more than once.

What is **grace**? When you do something wrong, you can receive justice, mercy, or grace.

Justice – "I get what I deserve"

Mercy – "I do not get what I deserve"

Grace – "I get the opposite of what I deserve"

Salvation is given by **grace**.

- Our Lord Jesus Christ brought grace (John 1:17)
- Our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed His life so that we can be saved (1 John 2:2)
- Besides Him there is no other salvation (Acts 4:12)

What does it mean to have **faith in Jesus**?

It's more than just believing that Jesus is our Savior; it also means to put your life into His hands.

Here is a story that illustrates the meaning of faith.

There was once a famous man named Charles Blondin. He became famous in September 1860 because he was the first person to cross a tightrope, which stretched 11,000 feet, across the great Niagara Falls! People from far away came to see him perform this gutsy stunt!

He didn't just cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope once, but over and over again, each time with a different daring stunt. Once, he crossed on a bike, another time in the dark, and even one time blindfolded!

So, he decided to try to cross the tightrope again, this time, pushing a wheelbarrow holding a sack of potatoes! A large crowd gathered and excitement was buzzing along the sides of Niagara Falls. The crowds cried out in awe as they watched Charles Blondin walk carefully on the tightrope, one dangerous step after another. Finally, he reached the other side safely and the crowd applauded so loud that they covered the roar of the falls!

Then, he stopped suddenly and asked his audience, "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?"

The crowd enthusiastically yelled, "Yes! You are the greatest tightrope walker; we believe you can!"

"Okay then," said Charles Blondin, "Who wants to get into the wheelbarrow?"

The crowd went silent.

This is sometimes what our faith is like. We are like those in the crowd who watched the daring stunt excitedly and enthusiastically, those who said they believed. But their actions proved that they did not truly believe and trust. It is the same for us. It is one thing for us to say that we believe in Jesus. However, true faith requires that we place our life into His hands and do what He tells us to do.

Through **faith**:

- We cannot be saved through our actions alone (Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5)
- We cannot be saved by following the law (Romans 3:20)
- Salvation is given to everyone who has faith (Romans 1:16)
- Those who believe and are baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16; Titus 3:5)

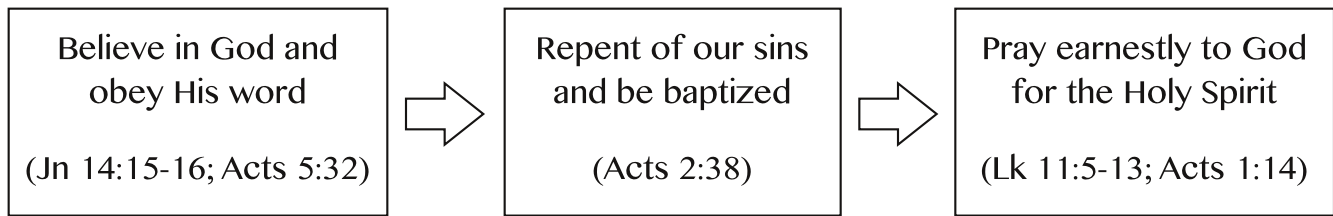
2. Receiving the **Holy Spirit** is the guarantee of our inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, and speaking in tongues is the only proof of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Why is the Holy Spirit so important?

1. To enter the kingdom of heaven we must be reborn through the Holy Spirit (John 3:5; Acts 2:38)
2. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance in the kingdom of heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14)

What is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit?

- Speaking in tongues is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 33; 10:44-46; 19:6)
- Believing in God and receiving the Holy Spirit are two separate things (Acts 19:1-6)
- Receiving baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit are also two different things (Acts 8:14-17)

How can we receive the Holy Spirit?**2. What Would You Say?**

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 to the students. Allow students to fill in the first half of the worksheet by writing what they would say to those people. Then, ask for volunteers to share their answers. Afterward, continue with the second half and allow the students to read the provided verses and fill in the blanks. The answers are underlined in this section.]

What would you say to these people about salvation?

- I am easy to get along with; my neighbors and friends all love me! Every month, I give money to charity and volunteer to help with anything I can at the homeless shelter. I keep the law and have never been in trouble with the police.
- I believe in God, and I worship God. I also believe in and worship Zeus, Mary, the pope, all the saints, and Jesus! When people tell me that they worship the god of the mountain, then I start worshipping it, too. I want to make sure that I don't miss out on any god in the world.

What can you tell these people about the Holy Spirit?

- I serve God fervently, so I must have the Holy Spirit (Mt 19:27; Acts 1:4-5)

The apostles had left all and followed Jesus. The apostles were already fervently working for Jesus. But, Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the Promise of the Father, because they were going to be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

- The moment I am baptized, I will automatically receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17)

Peter and John went to visit the believers in Jerusalem who had received the word of God. Even though they had all believed and been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, they did not receive the Holy Spirit until the apostles prayed and laid hands on them.

- As soon as I decided to believe in Jesus, I received the Holy Spirit (Act 19:1-7)

When Paul arrived in Ephesus, he asked the believers there, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Even though they were disciples, they had not received the Holy Spirit. When Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came up on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.



Activity

1. Which Brush? / 2. Find Our Way Back to Church / 3. Crossword Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

1. Which Brush?

Objective: To understand that we need specific things in order to enter the kingdom of God.

Materials

- Toothbrush
- Hairbrush
- Toilet brush

Show the students the three different brushes. Each one does a particular job.

Go over the following with the students and pause at the blanks to allow them to answer.

1. Would you use a toilet bowl brush to brush your teeth? Of course not! Yuck! Rather, we would use a _____ to brush our teeth!
2. Would you use a toothbrush to brush your hair? No, that's silly! When we want to brush our hair, we use a _____.
3. What is the last brush used for, then? [Allow students to answer.] That's right, a toilet brush is used to clean the toilet when it's dirty!

We need to pick the right tools for the right tasks! There is no way that we would ever use the toilet brush to brush our teeth!

Now instead of asking the question, "What do you need if you want to brush your teeth or brush your hair," we will now ask, "If we want to go to heaven, what do we need?"

God has said that there is no way to Him except through Jesus. Read:

- Acts 4:12 – "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- John 14:6 – "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

If we don't know what the right way is, we can find out through the Bible, because God has clearly told us His way—the only way.

1. Have students split into groups and write down a list of what they think are "must do's" to go to heaven.
2. Remind them that today we studied two doctrines that should both be on the list.
3. Re-group after 5-6 minutes and go through the list.

2. Find Our Way Back to Church

Objective: To see if the students are any closer to the church at the end of ten rolls.

Materials

- A map of the area around the church, with the church circled in the middle of the map
- A die
- Small markers to indicate location, one per student

Rules

1. Pick a starting point a fair distance away from the church. Place the location markers on the starting point. The students will each begin from this starting point, but the roll of the die will determine their path to church.
2. At each intersection, each student takes a turn to roll the die.
 - o On an odd number, turn left.
 - o On an even number, turn right.

3. Have the students move the marker to the next intersection after moving.
4. The goal is to make it back to the church.

Note: To avoid allowing students to get stuck at a dead end or caught in a loop, you may choose to highlight the different routes that the students can follow, and leave out the small streets that do not lead anywhere.

Students, as we can see here, it is difficult to find our way back to church if we let the die determine where we should go. We can't leave eternal life and salvation to chance! We must follow exactly what the Bible tells us in order to be saved. More importantly, we need to tell our friends and family, who may think that simply doing good works is enough, exactly what they need to do in order to receive salvation.

* * * * *

3. Crossword Puzzle

[Refer to the provided Activity worksheet. Answers are underlined below.]

Across

3. In Cornelius' house, Peter spoke about Jesus.
7. Peter knew that Cornelius had received the Holy Spirit because he heard Cornelius speak in tongues.
9. Cornelius was a centurion in the Italian Regiment.
11. Peter stayed in Joppa with Simon the tanner.
12. The Jewish brethren were shocked when Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit because they were Gentiles.

Down

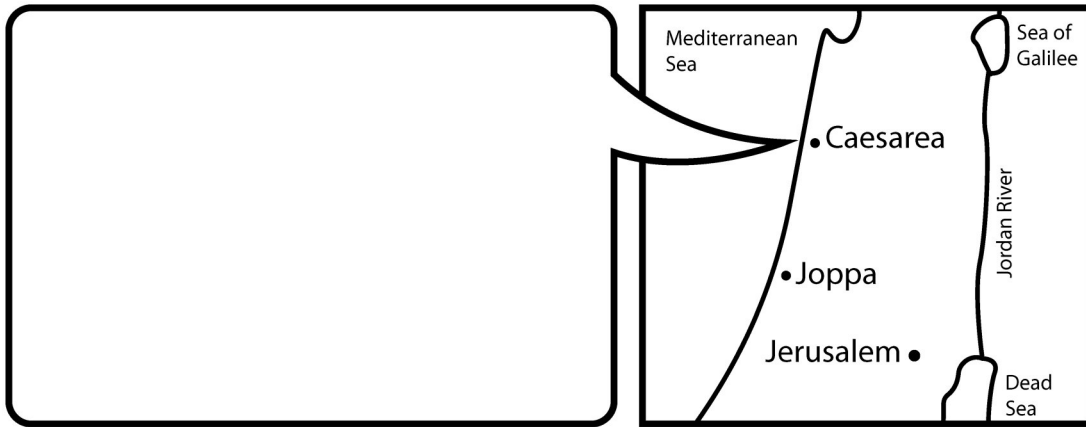
1. Salvation is given by grace through faith.
2. After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter commanded Cornelius and his household to receive baptism.
4. In Peter's vision, he saw all kinds of animals in a sheet.
5. In Peter's vision, he refused to eat the animals because they were unclean.
6. Cornelius was a devout, god-fearing man.
8. Cornelius lived in Caesarea.
10. An angel of God appeared to Cornelius in a vision.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

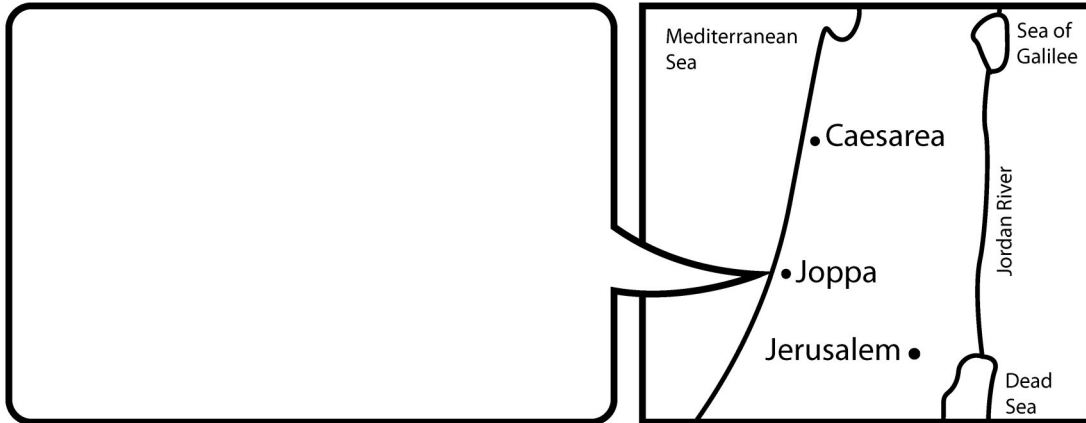
1. devout, feared, household
2. memorial
3. two, soldier
4. hungry, trance, opened, sheet, corners, down
5. kill and eat
6. cleansed
7. three
8. Jewish, call

Cornelius

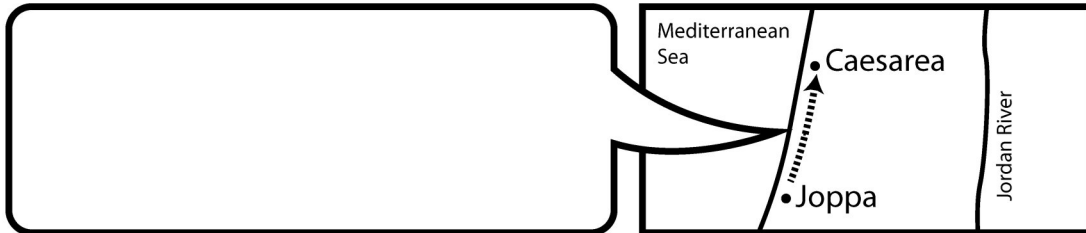
Day 1: Cornelius' Vision (3 PM) // Acts 10: _____



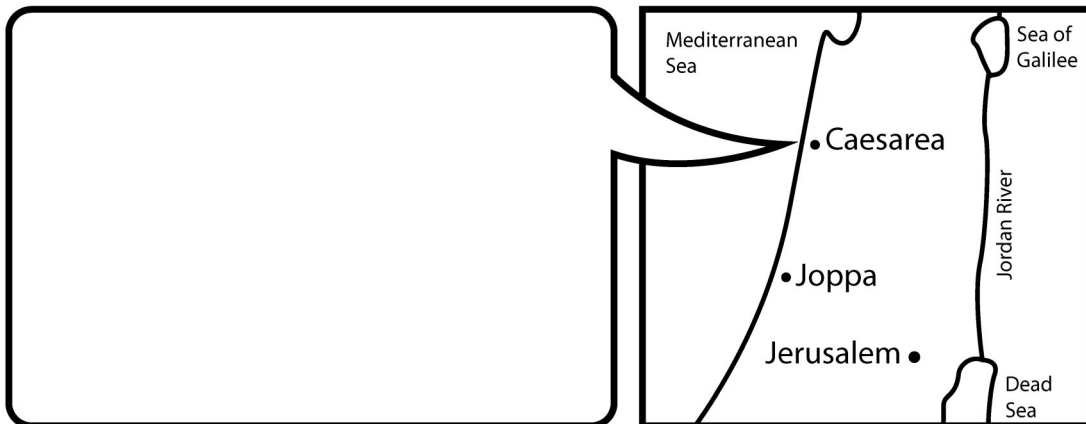
Day 2: Peter's Vision (12 PM) // Acts 10: _____



Day 3: The Journey to Caesarea // Acts 10: _____



Day 4: Salvation Comes to Cornelius' Household // Acts 10: _____



Salvation and the Holy Spirit

1. **Salvation** is given by the _____ of God through _____.

Match the verses with the correct statements. Some verses may be used more than once.

Acts 4:12	Titus 3:5	Romans 3:20	Ephesians 2:9
Mark 16:16	Romans 1:16	1 John 2:2	John 1:17

What is **grace**? When you do something wrong, you can receive justice, mercy, or grace.

Justice – “I get what I deserve”

Mercy – “I do not get what I deserve”

Grace – “I get the opposite of what I deserve”

Salvation is given by **grace**.

- Our Lord Jesus Christ brought grace (_____)
- Our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed His life so that we can be saved (_____)
- Besides Him there is no other salvation (_____)

What does it mean to have **faith in Jesus**?

- It's more than just believing that Jesus is our Savior.
- It also means to put your life into His hands.

Through faith:

- We cannot be saved through our actions alone (_____ ; _____)
- We cannot be saved by following the law (_____)
- Salvation is given to everyone who has faith (_____)
- Those who believe and are baptized will be saved (_____ ; _____)

2. Receiving the **Holy Spirit** is the _____ of our inheritance in the kingdom of _____, and _____ is the only _____ of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Put the verses where they should go. Some verses may be used more than once.

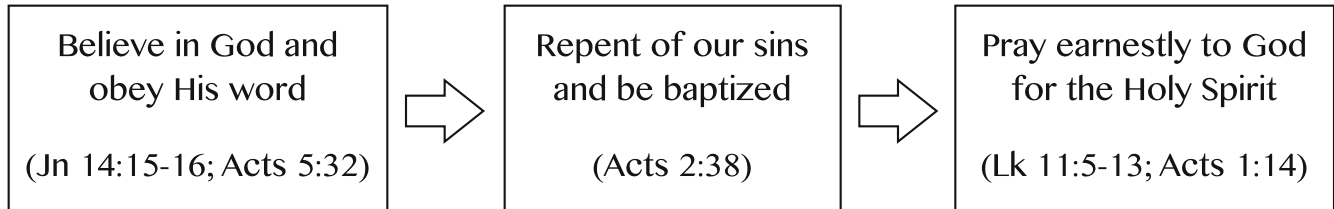
Acts 8:14-17	John 3:5	Acts 2:38	Acts 2:4, 33
Ephesians 1:13-14	Acts 10:44-46	Acts 19:1-6	Acts 19:6

Why is the Holy Spirit so important?

1. To enter the kingdom of heaven we must be reborn through the Holy Spirit (_____ ; _____)
2. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance in the kingdom of heaven (_____)

What is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit?


- Speaking in tongues is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit (_____; _____; _____)
- Believing in God and receiving the Holy Spirit are two separate things (_____)
- Receiving baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit are also two different things (_____)

How can we receive the Holy Spirit?


What Would You Say?

Write down in the blank boxes what you would say to these people about salvation.

I am easy to get along with; my neighbors and friends all love me! Every month, I give money to charity and volunteer to help with anything I can at the homeless shelter. I keep the law and have never been in trouble with the police.




I believe in God and I worship God. I also believe in and worship Zeus, Mary, the pope, all the saints, and Jesus! When people tell me that they worship the god of the mountain, then I start worshipping it, too. I want to make sure that I don't miss out on any god in the world.



What can you tell these people about the Holy Spirit? Read the passages and fill in the blanks.


I serve God fervently, so I must have the Holy Spirit!




The apostles had left _____ and _____ Jesus. The apostles were already fervently working for Jesus. But, Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the _____ of the Father, because they were going to be baptized with the _____ not many days from now. (Mt 19:27; Acts 1:4-5)

Peter and John went to visit the believers in _____ who had received the word of God. Even though they had all believed and been _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, they did not received the Holy Spirit until the apostles prayed and laid hands on them. (Acts 8:14-17)

The moment I am baptized, I will automatically receive the Holy Spirit.



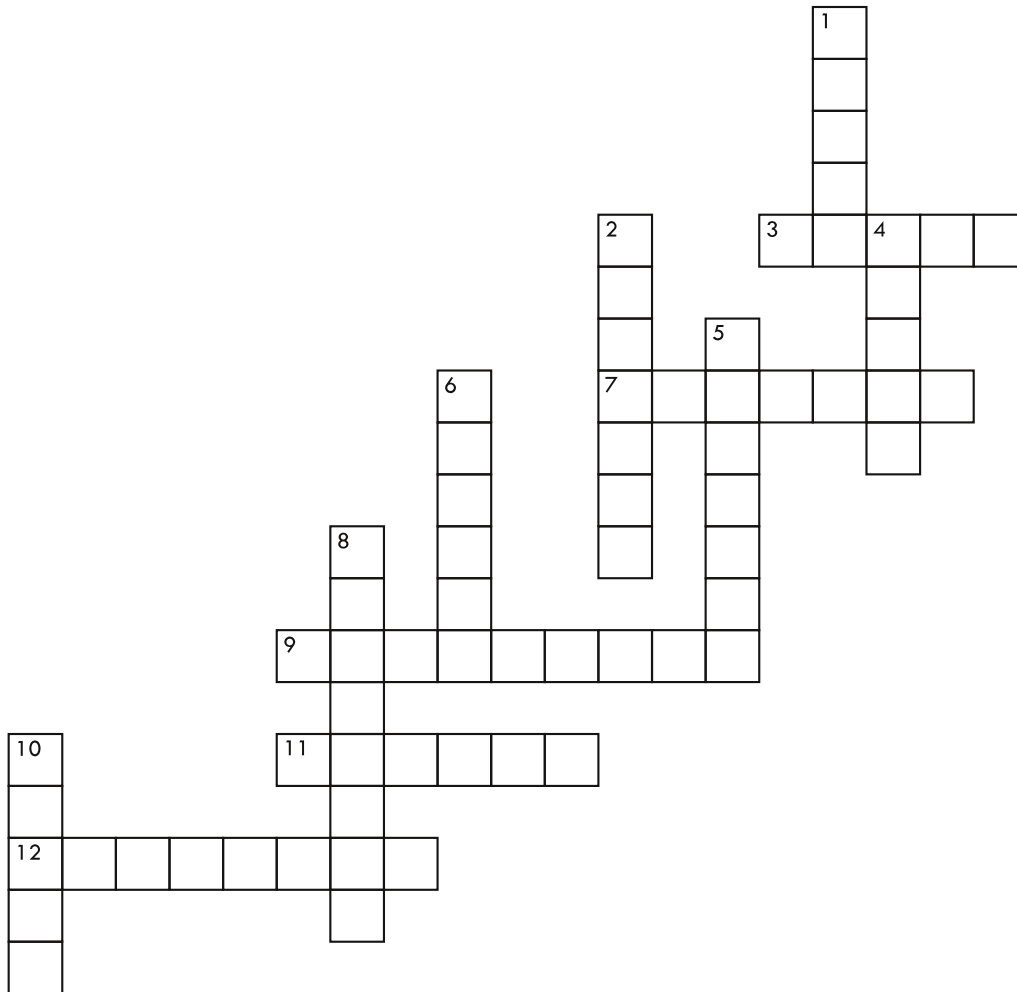
As soon as I decided to believe in Jesus, I received the Holy Spirit.



When Paul arrived in Ephesus, he asked the believers there, "Did you _____ the Holy Spirit when you _____?" Even though they were disciples, they had not received the Holy Spirit. When Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came up on them and they _____ and prophesied. (Acts 19:1-7)

Crossword Puzzle: Cornelius Receives the Holy Spirit

Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues provided below.



Across

- 3. In Cornelius' house, Peter spoke about _____.
- 7. Peter knew that Cornelius had received the Holy Spirit because he heard Cornelius speak in _____.
- 9. Cornelius was a _____ in the Italian Regiment.
- 11. Peter stayed in Joppa with Simon the _____.
- 12. The Jewish brethren were shocked when Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit because they were _____.

Down

- 1. Salvation is given by _____ through faith.
- 2. After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter commanded Cornelius and his household to receive _____.
- 4. In Peter's vision, he saw all kinds of animals in a _____.
- 5. In Peter's vision, he refused to eat the animals because they were _____.
- 6. Cornelius was a _____, god-fearing man.
- 8. Cornelius lived in _____.
- 10. An _____ of God appeared to Cornelius in a vision.

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 7—Cornelius Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Review Acts, chapter 10, and then fill in the blanks.

1. Cornelius was a _____ man who _____ God with all his _____.
2. The angel of the Lord said to Cornelius, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a _____ before God."
3. Cornelius sent _____ household servants and a devout _____ to Joppa to send for Peter.
4. The next day, Peter "became very _____ and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a _____ and saw heaven _____ and an object like a great _____ bound at the four _____, descending to him and let _____ to the earth."
5. A voice came to Peter, "Rise, Peter; _____."
6. And a voice spoke to him again, "What God has _____ you must not call common."
7. Peter saw the vision _____ times.
8. When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house, he said, "You know how unlawful it is for a _____ man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not _____ any man common or unclean."

LESSON 8

PETER'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God is all-powerful and that He can help you through any difficulty.
2. To encourage the students to trust God by praying unceasingly for their problems.

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

(1 Peter 5:6-7)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us safely through another week.
2. We encounter many problems though the week: arguments with our friends and family, tests that worry us, and homework that we don't understand. Regardless of our problems, we thank You for listening to our prayers.
3. Your mercy and wisdom guide us and help us resolve our vexing situations.
4. We are so fortunate to have a wise and loving Father. Please continue to help us. Please continue to draw closer to us, and help us draw closer to You.



Overview

1. **Peter's Miraculous Escape**
 - a. King Herod Oppresses the Church
 - b. God Sends an Angel to Free Peter
2. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—One true God
3. **Life Application**—Trusting God in All Circumstances; God Is Our Refuge
4. **Activity**—Break the Code; A Picture Worth a Thousand Words



Background Knowledge for Teachers

A Profile of Peter

Name: Peter

Birth name: Simon [Jesus changed his name to Cephas, "A stone" (Jn 1:42). The English and German name "Peter" is derived from the Latin "Petrus" which means "rock."]

Occupation: Fisherman

Major events in Peter's life:

1. Jesus called him to be His disciple and become a "fisher of men" (Mt 4:19).
2. He walked on water with Jesus (Mt 14:28-31).
3. Witnessed Jesus' transformation on the mount (Mt 17:1-9).
4. Refused to have Jesus wash his feet (Jn 13:6-9).
5. Denied knowing Jesus three times (Lk 22:54-62).
6. Delivered a powerful sermon after receiving the Holy Spirit during the Pentecost (Acts 2:14-39).
7. Preached the gospel to Cornelius (Acts 10:34-48).



Reaching Out to Your Students

At this age, your students are further developing their self-image. As pre-adolescents, they will feel extremely self-conscious. They may appear cocky and self-assured, while experiencing low self-confidence.

Confidence is a wonderful thing to have. It is the certainty in your ability and circumstance. It gives you courage. It gives you the energy and boldness to face your problems. It may lead to happiness and satisfaction because you know that what you have done is right. It is very rare to hear someone complain that they have too much confidence.

As R.E. teachers, you should help your students develop in accordance with the word of God, the Bible. Jesus once told a parable of a wise man that built his house on the rocks and a foolish man that built his house on the sand. When the storm came, the rain, wind, and floods destroyed the foolish man's house. Jesus tells us that the wise man is one that hears the word of God and does it, while the foolish man is one that hears the word of God but does not do it. By building on the rock, the wise man has confidence that his house will endure through any rain, wind, or wave. This is the confidence that the students must develop: a confidence that gives them boldness to face any problem because they follow God's words. They can withstand any challenge because God cares for them and is with them.



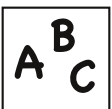
Opener

5 Minutes

[Before class, bring a jar with the lid closed tightly enough for you, but not the students, to open. During class, have the students take turns trying to open the jar. The students should not be able to open the jar. Ask the students what they should do. The students should suggest having the teacher open the jar or the teacher may suggest having an adult open the jar.]

Everyone has problems. Babies are often hungry and have dirty diapers that need to be changed. Children are bullied and have a lot of homework to complete. Adults have managers to please and families to manage. Some of these challenges may be so big that they do not appear to be solvable. When a person encounters a situation such as this, the person might get frustrated, angry, or depressed, because the problem is overwhelming.

Though our problems seem overwhelming, God can solve our problems. He is the Almighty, the Creator, the Alpha and Omega. Since He created the universe, He has the power to solve our problems. He is willing to solve our problems because He cares for us.



Vocabulary

humility: the quality or state of not thinking that you are better than other people: the quality or state of being humble

trust: assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something

confidence: a feeling or consciousness of one's power or reliance on one's circumstance

care: to feel interest or concern



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

King Herod Oppresses the Church

The Jews saw the believers as a threat to their culture and their power. The Jews were the majority of the population. Beginning with the appearance of Jesus, the Jewish leaders saw this new movement as a threat to their power. Jesus

and the believers preached a doctrine that would put an end to the Mosaic Laws, which were central to the Jewish belief and culture. As a result, the Jewish leaders influenced the regional government to crucify Jesus. And now, they exerted their influence to have the regional

government arrest and execute the believers.

At the time, the Romans controlled Judea and placed Herod as king. To maintain control of the region, he allied himself with the Jews. Therefore, he opposed the church and allowed its harassment by the Jews. He had James, the brother of John, executed (Acts 12:2). After that, what else did he do?

Let's read Acts 12:3-4. When Herod saw that the Jews were happy when he killed James, he also arrested Peter. Herod threw Peter in prison and put four squads of soldiers to watch over him with the intention of bringing him before the Jews after Passover. Peter was shackled with two chains with two soldiers watching in his cell and some more guards keeping watch at the door (Acts 12:6).

God Sends an Angel to Save Peter

Let's continue to read verse 7. That night, while Peter slept in his cell, guarded by the soldiers, an angel of the Lord appeared in his prison cell with a light that shined in the prison. The angel struck Peter's side and said, "Arise quickly!" Immediately, the two chains fell off Peter's wrists. Peter followed the angel's instructions to put on his sandals and garments. The angel then led him out of the prison. Do you think that Peter knew what was going on? Let's see in verse 9. Peter thought that he was seeing a vision! He did not know that the angel was real and that he was being led out of prison. The angel then led him out of the prison and to the gate that led to the city, which opened to them on its own. After leading Peter down a street, the angel disappeared. It was at this moment that Peter realized what had happened. Let's read what he said in verse 11. He said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

The entire time that Peter was in prison, the church had been praying for him unceasingly. Let's read verses 5 and 12. After escaping, Peter made his way to Mary's house where the church had been praying for him. Peter approached the door and knocked. A girl named Rhoda went to the door to answer it. When she heard Peter's voice, she became elated. In her joy, she forgot to open the door, and instead ran to the house to tell everyone that Peter was at the door. How did the people react? Let's find out in verses 15! That's right. No one believed her. The members believed that Herod had executed Peter, so they thought it was his angel that had come to the door. Being left at the door, Peter continued to knock. The members were shocked when they opened the door and saw Peter (Acts 12:16). Peter motioned them to keep quiet and told them of how the Lord had brought him out of prison. Peter instructed them to tell the other members of his miraculous escape then left for another place (Acts 12:17).

The next day, Herod was very angry. The soldiers could not explain how Peter had escaped. Herod sent soldiers to search for Peter, but could not find him. He questioned the guards, but they could not provide any answers. To punish them, he ordered their execution (Acts 12:19).

Everyone encounters problems. Many times, they are minor. Usually, we are able to solve the problems on our own. If we cannot, then we ask our friends for help or advice. But sometimes, the problems are much bigger. Even the collective intellect and wisdom of our friends and families cannot solve the problem. We get frustrated, angry, depressed, and succumb to our problems.

God is the solution to our problems. God is the Almighty, the Creator, the Alpha and Omega. He has the wisdom and power to solve all of our problems. He is willing to help us because He cares for us (1 Pet 5:6-7). If He was willing to sacrifice His life and die on the cross for our sins, He is more than willing to help us with our problems. We simply need to humble ourselves, pray, and ask for help (1 Pet 5:6; Phil 4:6-7).

In this lesson, Peter encountered an insurmountable problem. He was captured by King Herod and imprisoned. To ensure that he could not escape, the guards placed two heavy chains on his wrists, placed him between two guards, and stationed more guards outside his cell. Thus, to escape, he would somehow have had to remove the chains without the guards noticing and then subdue all of the guards. This was an impossible feat for a man.

"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). While Peter was in prison, the members prayed continuously for him (Acts 12:5, 12). God heard the prayers of the members, and He sent an angel to rescue Peter. We need to believe in the power of prayer! The prayers of the members were answered, even as they prayed!

From this lesson, we should learn to entrust God with all of our problems. He turns the impossible into something possible. He is willing to help us because He cares for us.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out both of the Bible Discovery Worksheets to the students now and go over both of them with the class. The answers are below.

Worksheet #1

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. enemies | 2. wicked | 3. famine | 4. death |
| 5. evil | 6. Satan | Conclusion: true, eternal | |

Worksheet #2

1. Wisdom and power
2. Strength and knowledge of God's love
3. Discernment
4. Spiritual understanding and knowledge of God's will



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation is the ultimate goal of every Christian. Unfortunately, salvation is impossible to obtain if left to our own means. We are all sinners and cannot achieve the level of perfection in holiness and love needed to obtain salvation. Thus, Jesus told His disciples, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). The standards for salvation are too high for man to achieve alone. Therefore, Jesus died on the cross to cleanse us from sin, and He gave us His Holy Spirit to help us maintain our purity and love. Through **Jesus Christ**, the impossibility of salvation becomes a possibility.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Why did King Herod execute James and imprison Peter?** He wanted to harass those from the church. He first killed James, and when he saw that James' execution "pleased the Jews," he arrested Peter.
- 2. What measures were taken to keep Peter from escaping?** The guards placed two heavy chains on his wrists, placed him between two guards, and stationed more guards outside his cell (Acts 12:6).
- 3. Whom did God send to free Peter?** An angel (Acts 12:7).
- 4. What was Peter doing in prison when the angel found him?** He was sleeping (Acts 12:6).
- 5. While Peter was in prison, what was the church doing?** They were praying unceasingly (Acts 12:5, 12).
- 6. When the angel struck Peter on the side and gave him instructions, how did Peter react?** He followed the angel's instructions completely, but thought that he was seeing a vision.
- 7. When they came to the iron gate that led to the city, the angel departed from Peter. At that time, what did Peter realize?** He knew for sure that the Lord had sent His angel to deliver him from the hand of Herod.
- 8. Which house did Peter go to and knock? What is the name of the girl who came to answer?** He went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark; a girl named Rhoda came to answer.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Trusting God in All Circumstances—He is all-powerful and can help us through any difficulties!

Let's take a minute and think about what it is like to be in prison—a dark, dirty, cold, and confined dungeon—and unsure of what is going to happen next! How would you feel? Would you be scared? [Give students time to think, and then ask them to share their answers.] Interestingly, instead of frantically thinking about what was going to happen, Peter was sound asleep when the angel appeared to him in prison! How could he fall asleep when his life was in serious danger? [Pause for students to think.] What do you think? [Let students share their answers.] In fact, Peter didn't know that the angel was going to come nor did he know that God would help him escape. But one thing he knew, and was very confident about, was that no matter what the circumstance may be, God had everything taken care of! Whether it was to escape or be prison-bound, Peter knew that God had everything planned well for him.

In our lives, we also encounter problems and difficulties. It may be a difficult decision to make, or a situation that we don't know how to deal with. Oftentimes, we may not even see a solution to our problems. When Peter was in prison, he probably couldn't think of any way to escape. Would the authorities let him go? Probably not. Yet, Peter wasn't worried. He knew that if God had planned for him to do more, he would be able to get out in one way or another.

Today, when we feel stuck or trapped in a situation where we do not know how to move forward, rest assured that everything is in God's hands. Not only can His hands move mountains, they can also work miracles! No matter how big a problem may seem, it is never too big for God, who oversees the entire world! We need to place our trust in God—not that He will make things work the way we want, but that He will give us the best solutions according to His knowledge.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1. Read the story together with the students, and then go over the reflection questions and conclusion.]

Reflection Questions

1. **What did the brother pray about when he was in the traffic on the way back to the airport?** The brother prayed that God's will be done even though he didn't understand what it was. Ideally, he would like to be able to catch his flight, but he was ready to submit to God's will if he didn't.
2. **What happened to the plane that the brother missed?** It crashed.
3. **In the end, the brother was able to understand why God's plan was not for him to catch his flight. Do you know why?** Because God wanted to protect the brother's life. If the brother hadn't missed his flight, he would be traveling on the plane that eventually crashed. God saved his life!

Lastly, let's turn to a verse in the Bible [ask students to read aloud together]: Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Students, God has a wonderful plan for each one of us. No matter what happens in our lives, we can rest assured that God is walking hand-in-hand with us and that He will not lead us on the wrong path. As long as we always submit ourselves to the word of God, we will know that we are in safe hands because God has promised to guide us every step of the way!

2. God Is Our Refuge

Here is another testimony of God's protection and abidance!

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2. Read the testimony with the students and then go over the reflection questions.]

Reflection Questions

1. **What kinds of dangers faced the preachers on this missionary trip?** They received death threats and faced the possibility of being robbed.
2. **What important preparation work did believers around the world do to help the holy work in Africa?** They prayed constantly for the preachers and advised them to wait for the timing of God.
3. **What do you think the believers prayed about to God?** They probably prayed for His will to be done and for protection for the preachers on their missionary trip.
4. **How do we know that God listened to all these prayers?** All the plots to harm the preachers failed and the preachers successfully held a Spiritual Convocation, where many wonders and miracles occurred.



Activity

1. Break the Code / 2. A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

10-15 Minutes

1. Break the Code

Objectives

1. To familiarize the students with verses of encouragement.
2. To remind the students to pray for others.

[Hand out the Activity worksheet to the students.]

Instructions: Using the provided Morse code alphabet, decode the following messages about trusting in God.

Answers

1. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31)
2. "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Pet 5:7)
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Pr 3:5)
3. "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Ps 118:6)
4. "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (Jas 1:12)

2. A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

Objective: To emphasize the trustworthiness of God.

Materials

- Blank white paper
- Cardboard box
- Markers
- Scissors
- Small container
- 2 cardboard paper towel rolls
- Colored Pencils
- Tape
- Slips of paper

Preparations

1. Cut two parallel slits in the cardboard box tall and wide enough for a roll of paper to be threaded smoothly through them.
2. Draw a "window" in the center, between the slits, and decorate the box using construction paper.
3. Cover the entire box, except the slits and the "window," and make the front of the box look like a television set. If desired, add foil antennae to the top of the box.
4. On slips of papers, choose and write passages describing situations that show the trustworthiness of God.
5. Fold and place the slips of paper in a small container.

Instructions

1. Distribute one blank sheet of paper to each student.
2. Have each student pick out a slip of paper from the container. Tell them not to show it to anyone.
3. They must read the passage and then draw one picture that sums up the story or that shows their favorite part.
4. When the students have finished their pictures, tape the sheets of paper into a continuous roll, with a blank sheet at each end.
5. Slip the paper through the slits in the cardboard box.
6. Tape each end of the roll of paper to one paper towel roll each, and then roll the paper up.
7. Ask for a volunteer to scroll the paper through the "window."
8. Follow with the activity below.

Have the students gather around the "television." Tell them that there is a special program playing on the "Bible Box" called "A Picture Worth a Thousand Words."

As the pictures "appear" on the "screen," the students will guess which story from the Bible is depicted, and then the student who drew it must explain why he or she decided to pick that scene to draw.

When all the pictures have been shown, ask the students what they think is the common theme of all the pictures. Try to steer them to recognize that they are all about the trustworthiness of God—how He saves His people, comes through for them, protects them, etc.

Tell the students that God wants us to know how He helped His people in the past, so we can trust in Him to help us today. No matter how small or big the situation, God wants His children to trust in Him to help them. Conclude with a prayer of thanks to God for His trustworthiness.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. James
5. He was sleeping.
6. "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people." (Acts 12:11)
7. They gathered together at Mary's house.
8. He left for another place.
9. He executed them.

Understanding God's Deliverance

The word "deliverance" in the Bible refers to God's acts of rescuing His people from evil or dangerous situations.

Let's think! What does God rescue us from? Let's look up the following passages and find out.

1. He rescues His people from their _____ (2 Kgs 20:6)

Famine

Wicked

2. He rescues us from the hand of the _____ (Ps 7:1-2).

3. He rescues us from _____ (Ps 33:19).

Enemies 

Death

4. He rescues us from _____ (Ps 22:19-21).

5. He rescues us from this present _____ age (Gal 1:4).

Satan

6. He rescues us from the power of _____ (Col 1:13).

Conclusion: He is the _____ God and _____ life (1 Jn 5:19-20).

Only God can deliver us and rescue us from eternal punishment.

**He is truly the only
Savior of mankind.**

The Power of Praying for others

WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

Intercession is a prayer that pleads with God for the needs of others. Do you know that you are being called upon to pray for other people—even people in the world whom you have never met? We all need to expand our circle of prayers to include those other than our selves, our family, and our friends.

1 Timothy 2:1-5 says, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." We are exhorted to pray for others—including our country's leaders, our authorities at work and elsewhere, our church leaders, our co-workers, our friends, and our family.

Prayer is direct communication with God. Nothing is too trivial... or too big to pray for. Sometimes, we get overwhelmed by a situation, such as a sickness or a difficult problem, and feel as if there is nothing we can do to help. But there is! We can pray! Prayer can move mountains if we have the faith to do it!

In Acts 12, we see the prayers of a group of believers answered, even as they prayed! We should be people of faith who believe that God answers the prayers of those who seek His will.

Let's take a look at prayers in the Bible. Read the passages and match what the prayer is for from the words below.

Discernment

Wisdom

Knowledge of God's will

Spiritual understanding

Strength

Power

Knowledge of God's love

1. Ephesians 1:18-20 (NIV) says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength."

2. Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV) says, "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

3. Philippians 1:9-11 says, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." _____
4. Colossians 1:9 says, "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." _____

Be a Prayer warrior!

**God is calling Christians to join in intercessory prayer.
He is not looking for perfect prayer warriors, just willing hearts that want
to see His will come to pass on the earth.
All you have to do is turn to God and pray for others!**



Trusting God in All Circumstances—He is all-powerful and can help us through any difficulties!

A few months ago, a brother had to go to Singapore for a very important conference. He was his company's only representative that would attend this meeting. On the day the brother was leaving home to go to Singapore, he got to the airport and realized at the last minute that he had forgotten his passport at home! Frantically, he ran back to his car and drove home quickly for his passport. On the way home, the brother kept praying to God that he would not miss his flight because if he did, he would miss the conference and potentially be laid off by his company because of this big mistake.



After the brother got his passport from home, he drove back to the airport. On his way there, the brother got caught in bad traffic because of an accident that had happened ahead of him on the road.



When he found out what had happened, he knew that it was impossible for him to get on the flight and that he was going to miss the conference. During the time he sat in traffic, the brother prayed to God again, saying, "Dear heavenly Father, I know that everything happens for a reason according to Your divine plan. Even though I don't know why this is happening to me right now, I know that everything is in Your hands. Lord, I trust that You will guide me in everything ahead no matter what happens to my job."

After he prayed, the brother left a voice message with his boss, explaining what had happened and that he had missed his flight. But the brother didn't hear back from his boss all day. He thought to himself, "Is my boss mad at me? Or is he just busy today...?"



The next morning, the brother finally received a callback from his boss. He was very nervous when he picked up the phone. Surprisingly, the first thing that his boss said to him was, "How are you? Are you okay?!" The brother was confused. He asked him, "What do you mean? I'm home... I missed my flight yesterday." His boss answered, "Is that right? That's great. I'm glad you're safe." In the end, the brother found out that the flight that he had missed the day before had crashed. It was all over the news, but the brother did not find out until his boss called. Even though the brother was not able to make it to his company's meeting in Singapore, he didn't lose his job. Instead, his boss was amazed to find out from the brother that it was not a coincidence that he was not on the plane that crashed—it was God's protection that prevented him from going on that flight!

God Is Our Refuge

Two preachers were sent by the International Assembly as missionaries to Nigeria from January 19 to March 4, 1984.

Three months before the trip, they continually prayed for God's guidance. Many brothers and sisters in England, America, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia were also deeply concerned about the evangelical work in Africa, and they prayed for the preachers every day. Therefore, the Holy Spirit guided their footsteps and protected them in peace, and the grace of God poured down abundantly their entire journey. This is an account of God's merciful protection as the preachers worked for the Lord.

Five months before the trip, one of the preachers received a threatening letter. It was from a former leader of the church in Nigeria who had fallen because of his greed for money. The letter stated that he would kill the preacher if the preacher ever came to Nigeria again.

Originally, the preachers had intended to make the missionary trip in September 1983, but their families and the brothers and sisters in the church cautioned them to wait for the timing of God. Therefore, they decided to wait upon God in prayer until His will was fulfilled in January 1984.

When the preachers arrived in Nigeria, their hearts were troubled and fearful. They knew the dangers they might encounter, so they prayed even more earnestly for God's guidance.

Praise the Lord, because they witnessed the mighty power of God and His abundant grace, the downpouring of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of various miracles and visions during the first two weeks, the preachers' courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel greatly increased.

The words spoken by the Lord to apostle Paul continued to ring in their ears:

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

To avoid danger, the preachers decided not to work in the district where that former church leader lived. However, members and ministers in that district urged them to go, encouraging them not to be afraid, for the Lord would protect them. Finally, two days of Spiritual Convocation were held there.

The Spirit of God moved the village chief in that place to receive the preachers. At the same time, they had great cooperation from the local police, who caught the fallen leader and commanded him to return all the property that he had stolen from the church. Moreover, a policeman was sent to protect them throughout the Spiritual Convocation so that the holy work could progress peacefully.

Under the mighty hand of God, during the two-day Spiritual Convocation, twenty received baptism, twenty-four received the Holy Spirit, forty-three experienced visions, and eleven were healed from their diseases. Hallelujah! Praise God!

In the middle of February, the preachers faced danger again but the Lord delivered them. Another leader, who had also fallen away because of greed, found out that the preachers would be in a certain village on February 23. He bribed a policeman to rob them but the Lord moved the preachers to change their visit to February 24—a day later. As a result, the wicked plan of the fallen leader failed.

From these experiences, the preachers deeply felt that as long as the Lord was with them, even in the most dangerous situations, they would find peace and security. On the contrary, if the Lord was not with them, no matter how safe a place was, harm or evilness could still come. The preachers also realized that whenever the work of God is active, the opposition of Satan would also be strong there. However, they learned that they should not be discouraged nor retreat; instead, realizing that God has greater work ahead, they should bravely go forward to fight a good fight for the Lord (2 Tim 1:7-8; Jas 4:7).

(Adapted from Living Water, Fall 1984)

Break the Code

Morse Code Alphabet

A . -	B - . . .	C - . - .	D - . .	E .	F . . - .
G - - .	H	I . . .	J . - - -	K - . -	L . - . .
M - - -	N - .	O - - -	P . - - .	Q - - . -	R . - .
S . . .	T -	U . . -	V . . . -	W . - -	X - . . -
Y - . - -	Z - - . .				

These people need our encouragement and prayers. Decode the encouragements and write down what you will say in your prayers to God for them.

1. A preacher on a missionary assignment says, "There are members of another church who are trying to stop us from evangelizing."

"If (- - . - - - - . .) is (. . . . - - - . . .) us, who can be (. - - - . - -) us?" (Rom 8:31)

2. A parent who has lost his/her job says, "If I lose this job, how are we going to pay the rent?"

"Casting all your (- . - . . - . - . .) upon Him, for He (- . - . . - . - . . .) for you." (1 Pet 5:7)

"Trust in the (. - . . - - - . - . - . .) with (. - . - . . . - . - . .) your heart, and lean not on your own (. . - . - . - - . - . - . -) ." (Pr 3:5)

3. A friend who is getting pressured to do bad things says, "They keep pressuring me every day at school."

"The Lord is on (- - - . - - -) side; I will not (. - . - . - . .). What can (- - . - . - .) do to me?" (Ps 118:6)

4. Brothers and sisters in the Lord who are being persecuted say, "The situation is getting more dangerous day by day."

"Blessed is the man who (. - . - - . -) temptation; for when he has been (. - . - . . . - . - . - - . . . - . -), he will receive the (- . - . . . - . - . - - . -) of life which the Lord has (. - - . - . - - . -) to those who love Him." (Jas 1:12)

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 8—Peter's Miraculous Escape

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Multiple Choice

1. _____: King Herod arrested Peter and threw him into prison because _____.
 - a. He wanted to find out more about Jesus.
 - b. He wanted to bring him before the Jews to be judged after the Passover.
 - c. He thought that Peter disobeyed the law.
2. _____: When Peter arrived at the gate that led to the city, _____.
 - a. The gate was locked, so he couldn't leave.
 - b. The angel opened the gate so that Peter could leave.
 - c. The gate opened by itself.
3. _____: When Rhoda went to the door and heard Peter's voice, she _____.
 - a. Went back to tell everyone that Peter was there before opening the door
 - b. Immediately opened the door and let Peter in
 - c. Became afraid because she couldn't believe that Peter was out of the prison

Short Answer

4. Name another apostle who was executed by King Herod.
5. What was Peter doing when the angel of the Lord appeared in his prison cell?
6. What did Peter say when he realized what had happened?
7. Where was the church praying for Peter when he was in prison?
8. What did Peter do after he told other members of his miraculous escape?
9. How did King Herod punish the soldiers who guarded Peter's cell in prison?

LESSON 9

AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand how Aquila and Priscilla were faithful workers of God.
2. To know that God's will is for us to serve Him together, as one body.
3. To learn to use what God had given us in life to do good works for Him and build up the church.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

(1 Timothy 4:12)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, God, for guiding and protecting us through another week so that we can come together to worship You.
2. Lord, we thank You for the friends that You have put in our lives, and especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ, together with whom we can worship and serve You.
3. Please help us learn the many ways we can serve You every day.
4. May You guide us through this lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Aquila and Priscilla's background (Acts 18:1-3)

2. How Aquila and Priscilla served God

- With Paul (Acts 18:3, 11, 18-21)
- With Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)
- In Ephesus (1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19)
- In Rome (Rom 16:3-4)

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true Church

4. Life Application

- How Can We Be Faithful Workers?
- Snapshots of Our Service
- The Joys of Serving Together

5. Activity—Working as One



Background Knowledge for Teachers

In 52 A.D., the Roman emperor Claudius expelled the Jewish community from Rome. As a result, all Jews were uprooted from their homes and banished from Rome. At that time, a Jew named Aquila, who had previously migrated to Rome from the province of Pontus on the Black Sea, packed up his things and left for the city of Corinth. By his side was his faithful wife Priscilla. The Bible does not tell us whether she was Jewish or Roman, nor whether or not they were both Christians at the time. But there is one thing of which we can be certain: they were together. They were always together. One name never occurred without the other.

Every Jewish boy in New Testament times was taught some kind of trade. Aquila's parents let him learn the tentmaking trade to earn his livelihood. Their tents were made of rough goat's hair fabric, which took great skill to cut and sew properly. The word "tentmaker" in Greek could also be used to describe a leather worker. The tents they produced made practical shelter for travelers and housing for soldiers.

So, when they arrived in Corinth, they searched the marketplace for a small shop to rent, and proceeded to set up their tentmaking business. By the beautiful timing of God, not long after they had gotten settled, another Jewish tentmaker arrived in town from Athens—apostle Paul!

Often when he entered a new city, Paul would stroll through the marketplace looking for opportunities to talk about Jesus, and also for work to sustain him as he ministered for God. It was inevitable that he

would find Aquila and Priscilla. This was the start of a beautiful friendship and comradeship in serving God together. Even at the end, when Paul knew that his life was coming to an end, he remembered and sent greetings to Aquila and Priscilla through Timothy.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Although your students are still at a young age, it is never too early to encourage them to participate in church work and emphasize the importance of working together. They have probably been involved in assisting the teacher by cleaning up or leading prayers in class. They may not realize that being part of such responsibilities is church work. It is important to stress that no matter what they are doing for God, God remembers each and every one of them. They should never think that what they can do is insignificant compared to a preacher or even someone slightly older who is leading hymns in front of the congregation. Every bit of their work counts. Everyone has a part to play in building up the church, even those at their age. Refer them to the memory verse in 1 Timothy 4:12. They can set examples for the other believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity, just as Aquila and Priscilla had. It does not matter what age they are or what work they do. If they begin to serve God now and understand the attitudes they should have, they will grow up to be responsible and faithful Christians in the future.



Opener

5 Minutes

Prepare a piece of popcorn, as well as a small corn kernel. Alternately, bring in two pictures, one of each.

Show students the piece of popcorn. Ask them if they know how it came to be “popcorn.” Emphasize the fact that each piece of popcorn starts off as a small corn kernel. [Put the popcorn and the kernel side-by-side to show a size comparison.] A mere handful of corn kernels can become a whole bucket of popcorn!

Even though we may be the younger and smaller members in church, if we have the correct attitude and heart, little ones like us can still do work for God. In fact, God wants us to work for Him no matter what age we are. Samuel served in the temple when he was a little boy (1 Sam 3:1). Prophetess Anna, in Jesus’ time, still served in the temple when she was eighty-four years old (Lk 2:36-37). We can be the little handful of corn kernels that become a whole bucket of popcorn.

What are some things or jobs that we can do for God? [Allow the students to answer, but try to lead them to think of what we can do for the following.]

- Members of the church (Jn 21:15)—love and help one another;
- The church building (Jn 2:16)—keep it clean and orderly;
- The truth of salvation (Jn 20:21; Mt 28:19)—keep it pure, and spread the word far and wide;
- And Jesus’ teachings (Mt 28:19-20)—remember them, practice them, and teach others to obey.

Tell the students that God provides different gifts, backgrounds, and possessions for each of us so that every day, we can do something for His body, the church. Each one of us has a different role to play, but we must all learn to work together to build up the church, the body of Christ.

In today’s lesson, we will learn about a married couple that were good stewards. Aquila and Priscilla used their gifts, abilities, and possessions to serve God and gain more for Him. What did they do? Why did they do it? What were the results of their work? Let’s find out!



Vocabulary

tentmakers: people that cut and sew the woven cloth of goat's hair into tents

tentmaking: making tents was a mobile profession; a tentmaker could carry his work wherever he traveled

possessions: material things you own; things that belong to you (e.g., toys, books, money, etc)

hospitable: being friendly and welcoming to visitors or guests



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Paul traveled to many places to preach and teach about Jesus. He went wherever the Holy Spirit sent him. The Lord led Paul from Athens to a place called Corinth, and told Paul, "I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:1, 9-10).

Today, we will learn about two special friends that Paul made in Corinth: Aquila and Priscilla.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students. Read the passage together as a class, and then guide the students to fill out the profiles. The answers are underlined below.

Aquila and Priscilla's Profile

Let's read Acts 18:1-3 together and complete a quick profile for these two characters.

Aquila

- Wife: Priscilla
- Nationality: Jewish
- Place of birth: Pontus (a region south of the Black Sea)
- Previous address: Rome, Italy (Emperor Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome)
- Current address: Corinth, Achaia
- Occupation: Tentmaker

Priscilla, also known as Prisca (2 Tim 4:19):

- Husband: Aquila
- Nationality: Uncertain
- Place of birth: Uncertain
- Previous address: Rome, Italy (left with husband)
- Current address: Corinth, Achaia
- Occupation: Tentmaker

FOR TEACHERS

After the students have completed the profiles, review the information with them, and then hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. Ask students to fill in the blanks as they read the passages. The answers are underlined in this section.

Aquila and Priscilla's Travels and Service

Let's follow the Bible and the map to understand just how Aquila and Priscilla served God with what God had given to them.

1. From Rome to Corinth (Acts 18:1-2)

Read Acts 18:1-2. Through the arrangement of God, Aquila and Priscilla were forced to leave Rome because Emperor Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave the city. They decided to move to Corinth, and by the wonderful grace of God, not long after they had settled in Corinth, Paul arrived.

2. In Corinth (Acts 18:3, 11)

Read Acts 18:3. Whenever Paul arrived at a new city, he would often go to the marketplace (Acts 17:17). Paul found Aquila and Priscilla in the Corinthian marketplace because they were of the same trade: tentmakers. The kind couple let Paul stay with them, and together, they made tents and talked about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read Acts 18:11. Very quickly they became good friends and Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla for one year and six months in Corinth. Imagine having Paul staying with them for a year and a half! They surely would have been discussing the word of God during every spare moment, day and night. Aquila and Priscilla must have grown greatly in their faith and in the word of God!

From Corinth to Ephesus (Acts 18:18-21)

Read Acts 18:18-21. When Paul left Corinth to sail for the region of Syria (i.e., Jerusalem), Aquila and Priscilla decided to go with Paul. So Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla sailed together. On the way, they stopped at Ephesus and the three friends parted ways. Paul set sail from Ephesus to Jerusalem, while Aquila and Priscilla stayed behind at Ephesus to help the people there follow Jesus.

3. In Ephesus (Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor 16:19)

Aquila and Priscilla met another Jew named Apollos who believed and spoke boldly of Jesus. Let's see how Aquila and Priscilla helped him by reading Acts 18:24-28.

Apollos was fervent and zealous for the Lord and preached boldly. Not only did he know the Scriptures very well, he also spoke well. The only problem was that Apollos didn't know the complete truth of salvation. He only knew the baptism of John. So Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and explained to him the way of God more clearly. Later on, Apollos went on to help other believers in their faith greatly!

What else did Aquila and Priscilla do while they were in Ephesus (Asia)? Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:19. By the time Paul came back to Ephesus on his third missionary journey, they had also opened their home for members to meet and worship God!

4. Back to Rome (Rom 16:3-5)

We can learn more about Aquila and Priscilla from some of the letters Paul wrote.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, we can see that Aquila and Priscilla had returned to Rome. Let's read Romans 16:3-5. In Paul's closing greetings to his friends in Rome he mentions that Aquila and Priscilla:

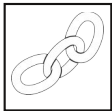
- Were his fellow workers in Christ Jesus
- Risked their lives for his life
- Were helpful to all the churches of the Gentiles
- Had again opened their home as a place of worship for the church

From Paul's short greeting in these three verses, we can tell that Aquila and Priscilla's deeds touched and helped change the lives of many people in many places. Many believers warmly remembered them.

5. Return to Ephesus (2 Tim 4:19)

In the final stage of Paul's life, while imprisoned and waiting for execution, he wrote his last letter: his second letter to Timothy. At the time, Timothy was pastoring the church in Ephesus.

Remembering his old friends Aquila and Priscilla, Paul asked Timothy to pass on his greeting to them. Let's read 2 Timothy 4:19. At this time, Aquila and Priscilla were likely to have returned to Ephesus. During Paul's ministry, many people deserted him and left him. From his greetings to Aquila and Priscilla, we can see that this couple's love, faithfulness, and servitude remained consistent throughout all these years!



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

We must be resolved to build up our church, True Jesus Church, established by our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the restored true church of the apostolic times. Just like Aquila and Priscilla worked faithfully to build up the church everywhere they went, we as members of True Jesus Church must have the same resolve to build up our church. We must also believe that **True Jesus Church, established by our Lord Jesus Christ, is the restored true church of the apostolic times**. We know that the church is the body of Christ and that we are all members of this body. We all have a part to play in building up our church together.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Why were Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth?** They were forced to leave Rome.
2. **Where did Paul stay while he was in Corinth?** In the home of Aquila and Priscilla.
3. **When Aquila and Priscilla worked with Paul in Corinth, what kind of work did they do?** Tentmaking.
4. **How long did Paul stay in Corinth with Aquila and Priscilla?** One year and six months.
5. **Aquila and Priscilla traveled with Paul as far as Ephesus and then parted ways. What did Aquila and Priscilla do when Paul left Ephesus?** They stayed in Ephesus to help the people follow Jesus.
6. **Who did Aquila and Priscilla meet in Ephesus?** Apollos.
7. **What did they do after they heard Apollos speak about Jesus?** They took him aside to help him understand God's ways more clearly.

8. What opportunities did God give Aquila and Priscilla to serve Him?

- In Corinth
Helped Paul, made tents with Paul, provided him a place to stay, traveled with him
- In Ephesus
Helped Apollos by teaching him more clearly about God's word
- Towards the church
In Ephesus and Rome, they opened their home for worship

They also shone for the Lord with their God-centered marriage. They always worked together and supported each other, not only in their tentmaking work, but also in serving God and in teaching others about the word of God.

9. God knew that Paul needed friends who believed in Jesus that would help him. Paul must have been thankful to have friends like Aquila and Priscilla. If you were Paul's friend, how would you have helped him to be brave in telling others about Jesus? Answers may vary.**Life Application***10 Minutes***1. How Can We Be Faithful Workers?**

The scriptural snapshots of Aquila and Priscilla show us that they were faithful in serving God in any way they could. Although scriptural recordings of them were brief, we learn that they went wherever God needed them to go, and that no matter where they went, they remained faithful workers for God. They were like the arms and legs that supported the hands and feet, Paul and Timothy.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and ask students to follow along as you go over this section.]

1. They were hospitable. (Acts 18:3)

Aquila and Priscilla welcomed Paul, who was a stranger to them at the time. They invited Paul into their house in Corinth not just for a few days or weeks, but for an extended period of one and a half years! From the hospitality they showed to Paul, we can see the depth of their love for God.

1 Pet 4:9 – “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

Heb 13:2 – “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

- Why should we be hospitable?
- Can you think of a few people to whom you can show hospitality?

2. They were able to teach others. (Acts 18:24-26)

The Bible tells us that Apollos was “mighty” in the Scriptures and instructed in the way of the Lord. He even spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, but his understanding was limited because he only knew the baptism of John.

After Aquila and Priscilla heard him speak, they were able to explain to him more accurately the truth of salvation. This shows how thoroughly Aquila and Priscilla had learned the word of God. They may not have been accomplished public speakers, but they were diligent students of the word of God. They lovingly and willingly put in the time and effort to take care of Apollos' spiritual needs. As a result of his encounter with Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos became an even more effective servant of God.

2 Tim 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- How can we become diligent students of the word of God?

3. Their home was the **church**. (1 Cor 16:19; Rom 16:5)

Churches in New Testament times could not afford to own land and construct buildings. It would not have been very wise to do so because of the constant pressure and persecution they faced. So, believers met in homes.

Whether it was in Ephesus, or later when they moved to Rome, Aquila and Priscilla continued to open their home for believers to meet and worship God. Paul refers to "the church that is in their house" in two separate letters he wrote. The believers needed a place to meet to worship God, so Aquila and Priscilla put their hands up for this and didn't grow tired of letting the members meet in their home.

Mt 18:20 – "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

- Draw a picture of a family whose home is the church (e.g., family praying, reading Bible, singing hymns together, etc.).

4. They had **harmony and unity** in their relationship. What a great husband-and-wife team!

Whenever Aquila and Priscilla were mentioned in the Bible, their names were always mentioned together. One name was never mentioned without the other.

Aquila and Priscilla lived together, worked together, traveled together, suffered exile together, and came to know and love Jesus together. Sharing the word of God with each other strengthened their love for each other and their spirit of unity. They were one in Christ, and His love made a good marriage even better. What a great husband-and-wife team they were!

Rom 15:6 – "That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- What is your understanding of "unity"? Make an acrostic poem using the word "unity."

5. They were **great helpers** and **fellow workers** to Paul. (Rom 16:3)

Aquila and Priscilla did not simply know Paul, and they did not simply spend lots of time with Paul. Paul describes them as his fellow workers. Paul did the Lord's work, and they joined him in doing it. It is a blessing to have brothers and sisters who have "a mind to work" for the Lord and are so dependable like Aquila and Priscilla.

Paul also described Aquila and Priscilla as a couple for which all the churches of the Gentiles gave thanks. This tells us that even though Aquila and Priscilla were Jewish Christians, the Gentile Christians appreciated them for what they had done for the Gentiles.

Romans, chapter 16 lists over thirty names of people that Paul knew. The church is made up of a wide variety of people that know the Lord, grow in Him, serve Him, and love one another.

Heb 10:24 – "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."

- How would Paul have described you if you were in this list of fellow workers he had known?
- What work can you help with in the church?

6. They were not afraid to **lay down their own necks** in order to save Paul. (Rom 16:4)

In the Book of Romans, Paul mentions one short greeting about Aquila and Priscilla, "who risked their own necks for [his] life."

We do not know what Paul was referring to, nor when it happened, but somewhere, somehow, Aquila and Priscilla put their lives in danger to save Paul's. Paul's two friends were willing to give everything in their service to God, even their lives.

Col 3:23-24 – “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

- Have you ever had to sacrifice anything for brothers and sisters in Christ?

7. Their **love**, **faithfulness**, and **servitude** were always consistent. (2 Tim 4:19)

In the last letter Paul wrote before he died, he asked Timothy to send his greetings to Priscilla and Aquila. In Paul's final hours, he still remembered his friends Aquila and Priscilla. This final farewell greeting comes more than ten years after Paul first met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth. Paul had continued to serve God in his ministry, and we can see that Aquila and Priscilla had, too.

Paul comforted and encouraged Timothy and his friends with his own life example. He had held fast to his faith, finished the race, and fought the good fight for Christ, and he hoped that his friends would do the same, too.

2 Tim 4:7-8 – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

2. Snapshots of Our Service

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2. First read the testimony together with the students, and then conclude with the snapshot activity.]

Draw or write some snapshots of work that God would have recorded already.

- What do you have now that you can use to serve God today?
- What possessions do you have right now, and how can you use them to serve God?
- What are you learning in school, at home, and in church that you can use to serve God today?

More importantly, how do we want to serve God as we grow up? What could some “future” snapshots look like? Draw or write them in!

- What skills do we want to develop so that we can serve God better?
- What possessions do we want to have in the future to serve God with?
- What are some things you can slowly do or learn to help you serve God in the future?

3. The Joys of Serving Together

It's important to serve God.

1. Why is it good to serve God with our friends? [Answers may vary. Possible answers: we can do more, help one another, encourage one another, etc.]

2. How can you and your friends work together to serve God? [Discuss projects or opportunities for students to serve in church. One such project is detailed below.]

Class Prayer Bookmark

Materials

- Large, blank bookmark (one per student)
- Colored pencils
- Markers

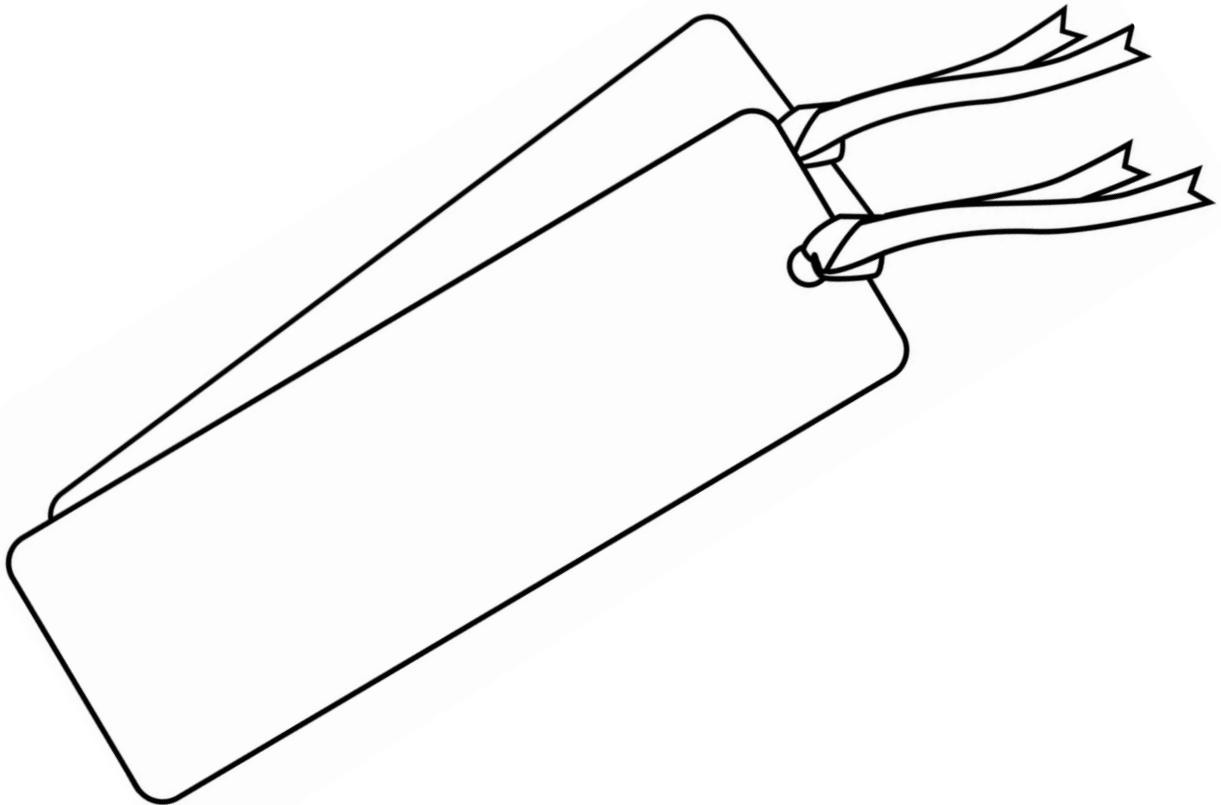
Do you have a friend or family member with whom you are close who doesn't know God yet? [Allow students to give names and write those names on the board.]

Once all the students have given at least one name, have everyone copy down ALL the names on their bookmark.

What can you tell them about God, or how can you help them learn more about God? [Allow students to respond. Possible responses: Share your favorite Bible story, teach them memory verse, teach them a hymn, tell them that Jesus loves them, etc.]

We have thought about with whom we each would like to share God's word, what we can share, and how we can share with them. Now, we can work together by keeping this list of names in our daily prayers. In our daily prayers, let us remember to pray for these friends and family of our class who have yet to come to know God. Let us pray for each other that we can have good opportunities to share the word of God. Lastly, we must also ask God to open the hearts of our friends and family.

We are not alone in sharing God's word with our friends and family, because we are all praying for one another.





Activity

Working as One

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To work together to achieve a common goal.

Materials (Per Team)

- 1 large hair tie
- String, cut into lengths of 8-12"
- 3 small, empty cans or boxes (e.g., tiny juice cans or juice boxes)

Preparations

Cut the string in lengths of 8-12", making sure that each string is the same length. Cut one piece for each student. Then, tie 4-6 strings to each hair tie, spacing them out evenly around the hair tie.

Instructions

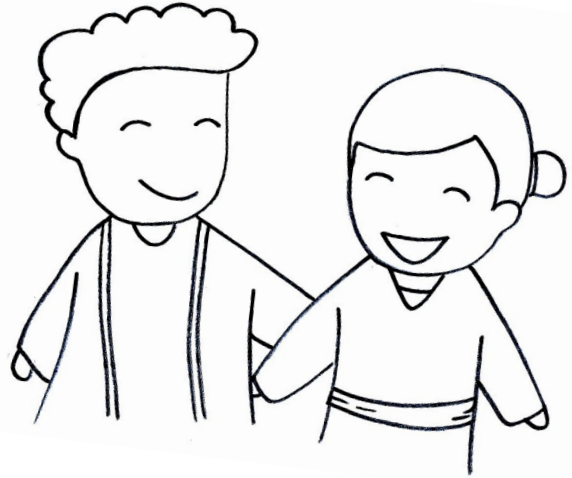
1. If the class is large, split the students into teams of 4-6, otherwise all the students can work as one team.
2. Ask each team of students to sit in a circle, with each student holding their string taut and keeping the hair tie in the middle of the circle.
3. Place three cans or boxes somewhere in the circle.
4. Only touching their own string, the students must work together to stretch the hair tie over the box/can, lift it, and stack it on top of another.
5. When all teams have finished stacking, or if time runs out, ask the students what they have learned from the activity.

Some Teachings

- Even though each student only had one small string attached to the object, each student played an important role. Likewise, in the church, no matter how small we think our service is, it is important in the sight of God for building up the church. If nothing else, we can always pray for the church. Prayer cannot be neglected.
- Everyone needed to work together to stretch the hair tie and stack the boxes/cans. Likewise, in the church, working together is key. Each of us is a different part of the body. The hands must coordinate with the brain and eyes, etc.
- Working together was hardest at the start, therefore communication and understanding each person's strengths and knowing our differences is important. Similarly, Paul knew Aquila and Priscilla's strengths, and knew that it would be good for them to stay in Ephesus and not go with him to Jerusalem.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Live in Rome (Italy)
2. Move to Corinth (Achaia)
3. Meet Paul
4. Sail with Paul to Ephesus
5. Say good-bye to Paul
6. Meet Apollos
7. Teach Apollos more about God
8. Have church in Rome meet at their house
9. Help Timothy in Ephesus



Aquila

- **Wife:**
- **Nationality:**
- **Place of birth:**
- **Previous address:**
- **Current address:**
- **Occupation:**

Priscilla, also known as Prisca (2 Tim 4:19):

- **Husband:**
- **Nationality:**
- **Place of birth:**
- **Previous address:**
- **Current address:**
- **Occupation:**



1. Why did Aquila and Priscilla leave Rome for Corinth? _____

2. How long did Paul stay with Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth? _____

3. When Aquila and Priscilla were in Ephesus, who did they meet? _____

4. When Paul wrote about Aquila and Priscilla to the Romans, what did he say about them?

5. When did Paul last mention Aquila and Priscilla? _____

What does it mean to be faithful workers just like Aquila and Priscilla?

1. They were _____. (Acts 18:3)

1 Pet 4:9 – “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

Heb 13:2 – “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

- Why should we be hospitable?
- Can you think of a few people to whom you can show hospitality?

2. They were able to _____. (Acts 18:24-26)

2 Tim 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- How can we become diligent students of the word of God?

3. Their home was the _____. (1 Cor 16:19; Rom 16:5)

Mt 18:20 – “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

- Draw a picture of a family whose home is the church (e.g., family praying, reading Bible, singing hymns together, etc.).

4. They had _____ in their relationship. What a great husband-and-wife team!

Rom 15:6 – “That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- What is your understanding of “unity”? Make an acrostic poem using the word “unity.”

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Y**

5. They were _____ and _____ to Paul. (Rom 16:3)

Heb 10:24 – “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

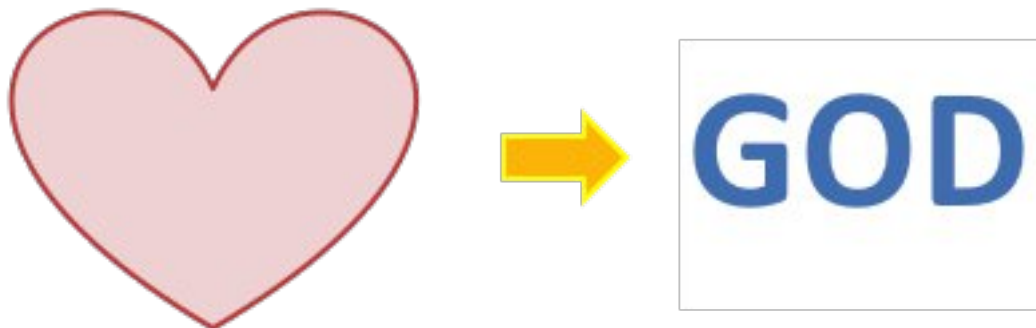
- How would Paul have described you if you were in this list of fellow workers he had known?

- What work can you help with in the church?

6. They were not afraid to _____ in order to save Paul. (Rom 16:4)

Col 3:23-24 – “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

- Have you ever had to sacrifice anything for brothers and sisters in Christ?



7. Their _____, _____, and _____ were always consistent. (2 Tim 4:19)

2 Tim 4:7-8

“I have _____ the _____,

I have _____ the _____,

I have _____ the _____.

Finally, there is _____ for me the _____ of _____,

which the Lord, the _____ Judge, will give to me on that Day,

and not to me _____ but also to all who have _____ His appearing.”

Snapshots of Our Service

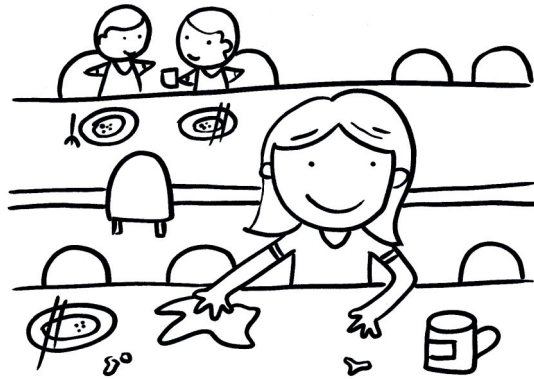
How have we served God? Let's read the following testimony.

One time, a couple came to Australia to live for a year. This couple was very fervent, and always made it to service even though they had to drive forty minutes to attend service on Fridays, and even longer on Saturdays.

Though they seemed like a quiet couple, they were observant about the church's needs. Even though it was just the two of them, they decided to buy a bigger car just so they could help transport brothers and sisters to church. They asked the church GA and Transport Group to let them know of any brothers and sisters who lived in the city that needed transportation to and from church. They would contact them and arrange to pick them up. Eventually, it didn't matter where these brothers and sisters lived, they would still pick them up "on their way" to church, even if the location wasn't near them. After service, they would also often take these brothers and sisters out for dinner together before sending them home.



Not only that, they also made friends quickly, and when the church had evangelistic services, they would invite them and pick them up, too. During the days the church had evangelistic services, they would arrive at church for morning prayer at 10 am as usual, and then go back to the city to pick up the truth-seekers to make it back in time for the afternoon evangelistic service. This sometimes meant that they had to miss lunch or have a really quick lunch because a direct trip from the city to the church on Sabbath day was around a fifty-minute drive.



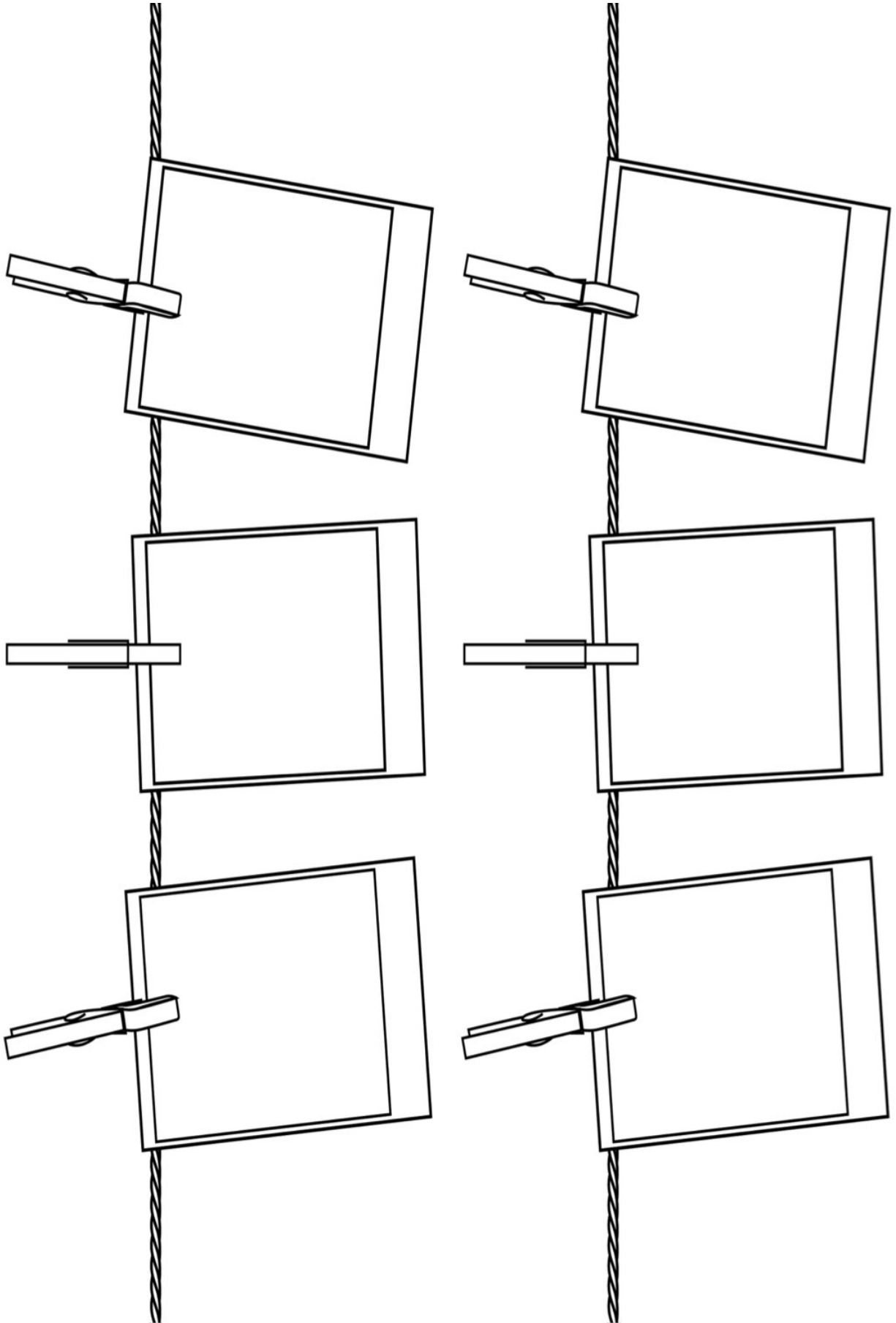
Being new to Melbourne church, they were not scheduled for any dishwashing or cleaning duties. But every lunch without fail, they would pick up a cloth and a bowl and go around to wipe all the tables as they saw fit. Once they were on the schedule, they didn't just do it when they were scheduled; they still helped every week with what they could.

Lastly, after one year was up and they returned home, they donated their car for church use, which meant a great deal to the church. Previously, church would hire a van every Sabbath day and make four-to-five trips to the nearest train station to pick up members who caught the train to church. Now, the church no longer needs to hire a van.

Truly, this couple has been greatly missed by many members here, especially the overseas students who live in the city area. Their genuine love for brethren and friends, their concern for the needs of the church, and their sacrificial attitude truly embodies that of Aquila and Priscilla.

Snapshots of Our Service

Draw or write some snapshots of your work that God would have recorded already.



E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 9—Aquila and Priscilla

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Timothy 4:12)

Complete Aquila and Priscilla's story by filling in the empty boxes with the provided clues.

CLUES

Say good-bye to Paul

Sail with Paul to Ephesus

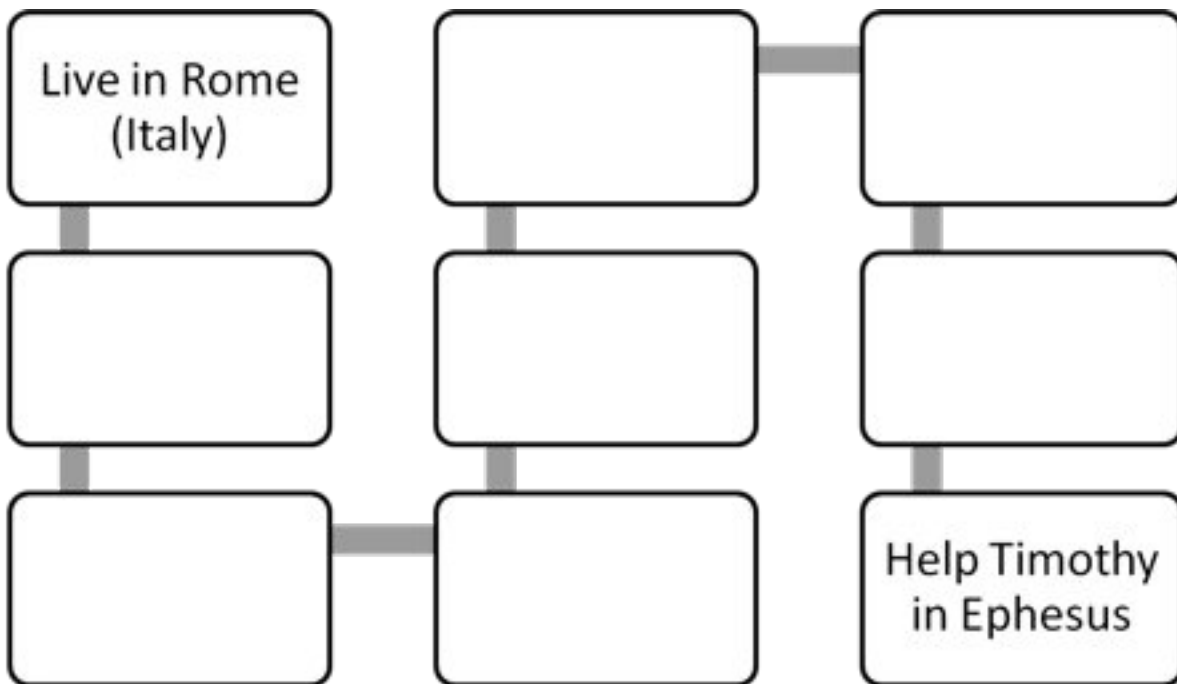
Meet Apollos

Teach Apollos more about God

Move to Corinth (Achaia)

Meet Paul

Have church in Rome meet at their house



LESSON 10

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

OBJECTIVES

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

(Romans 10:15)

PRAYER

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



Overview

1. To the End of the Earth

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

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Salvation

3. Life Application

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

4. Activity—Gospel Shoes Magnet



Background Knowledge for Teachers

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

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

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

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



Reaching Out to Your Students

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

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



Opener

5 Minutes

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

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



Vocabulary

missionary: a person who is sent to preach the gospel

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

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

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

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



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

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

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

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

1. Antioch in Syria

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

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

2. Paphos

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

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

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

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

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

3. Antioch in Pisidia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Iconium

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

5. Lystra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Going Home

After this, Barnabas and Paul returned to the places that



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation is given by grace through faith.

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



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

First Missionary Journey Review

Preparations

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

Instructions

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

Answers

Antioch in Syria

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

Paphos

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

Lystra

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

Antioch in Pisidia

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

Iconium

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



Life Application

10 Minutes

A. The Battle between God and Satan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Our Tools and Weapons

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

a. Filled with the Holy Spirit

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

b. Never Discouraged

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

c. Remained Humble

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

d. Filled with Love

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

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

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

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

Scenario 1 (Filled with the Holy Spirit)

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

Scenario 2 (Remain Humble)

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

Scenario 3 (Filled with Love)

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

Scenario 4 (Never Discouraged)

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



Activity

Gospel Shoes Magnet

10-15 Minutes

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

Materials

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

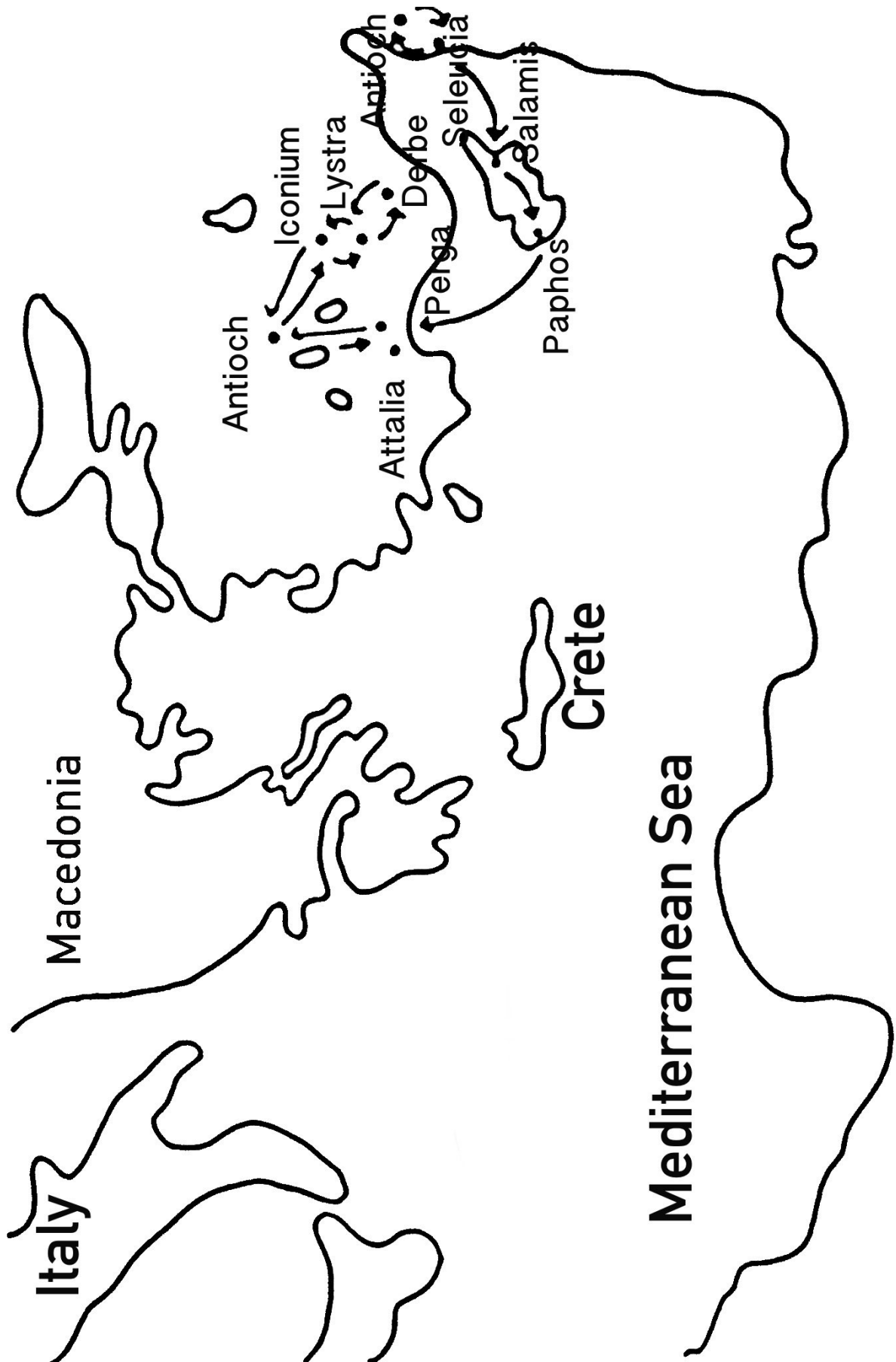
Instructions

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

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

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

Paul's First Missionary Journey



Paul's First Missionary Journey



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

Paul's First Missionary Trip

A. The Battle between God and Satan

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

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

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

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

B. Our Tools and Weapons

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

a. Filled with the Holy Spirit

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

correct wisdom boldly power courage strength

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

He was able to _____ those who opposed him.

He was given _____ to perform great miracles.

He had the _____ to endure hardships.

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

b. Never Discouraged

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

He fought with the spirit of a _____.

c. Remained Humble

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

d. Filled with Love

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

Match the scenarios below with the right tools and weapons.

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

Scenario 1

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

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

**Scenario 2**

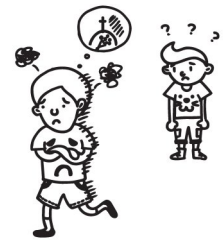
Austin, your friend from school, and his mom have been coming to church each Sabbath. Austin likes church and enjoys attending the R.E. classes. During an R.E. prayer session, Austin receives the Holy Spirit and the following Spiritual Convocation, he and his mother get baptized. Everyone is very joyful,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

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

**Scenario 3**

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

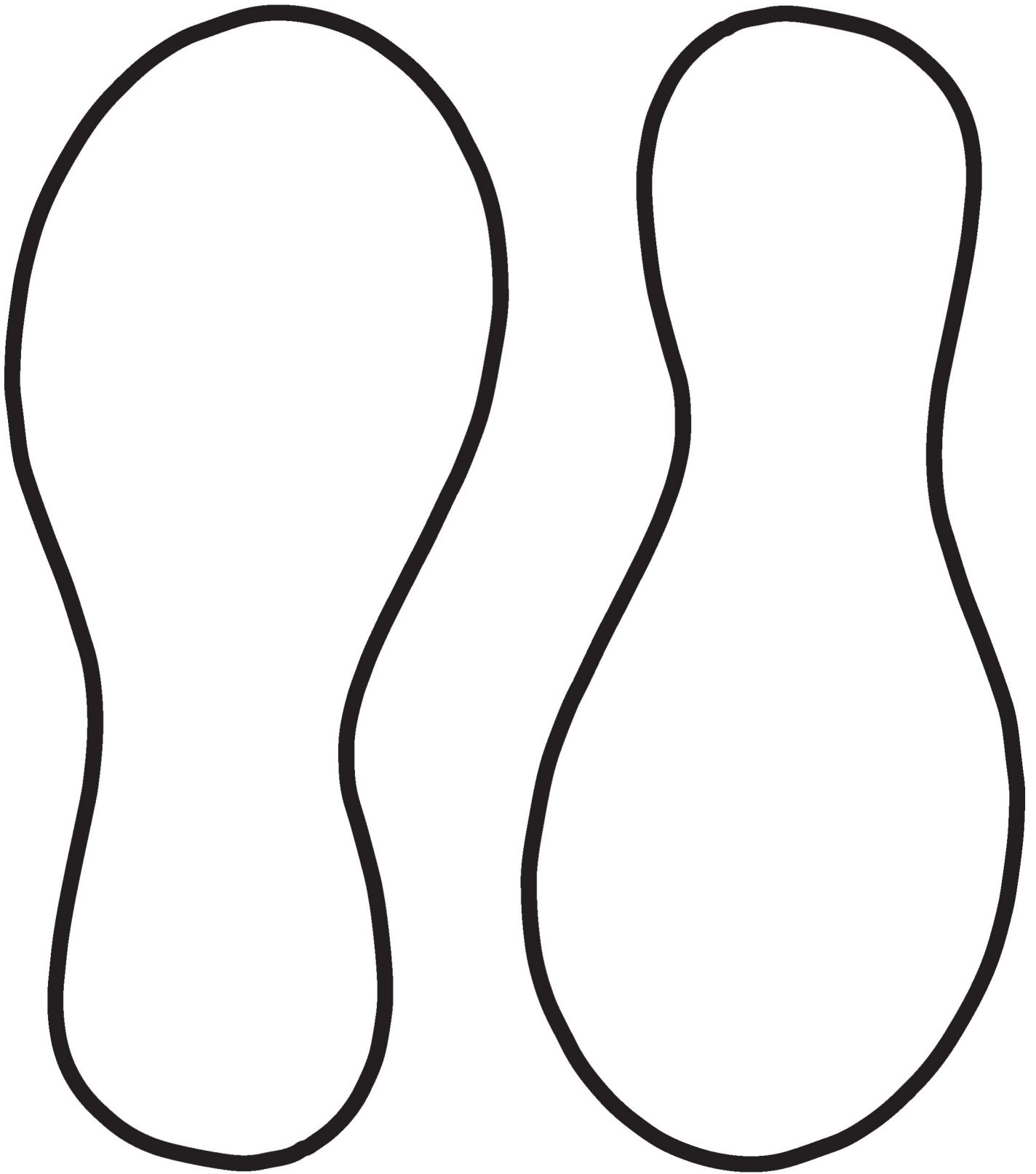
- What are your thoughts and feelings at this time?
- Which tool would you need? Why?
- What would you say or do to comfort Brent?

**Scenario 4**

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

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





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

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

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

Circle the Correct Words

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

True or False

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

Short Answer

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

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

LESSON 11

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the places and events of Paul's second missionary trip.
2. To learn about the importance of sharing the gospel wherever they go.
3. To learn that God will bring His sheep to the fold in different ways and under different circumstances.

MEMORY VERSE

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

(2 Timothy 4:2a)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us Your precious word that leads us to eternal life.
2. Help us to cherish Your words daily and to tell others about these words of life.
3. May You give us the courage and love of Apostle Paul to carry the gospel to many different parts of the world and to preach at any given opportunity, even when it is most difficult.
4. Please guide us through this lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. The Second Missionary Trip

- a. Lystra
- b. Troas
- c. Philippi—the New Believers
 - Lydia, the Seller of Purple
 - The Jailer and His Family
- d. Thessalonica and Berea
- e. Athens
- f. Corinth

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Bible

3. Life Application

- Take the Name of Jesus with You
- Testimonies

4. Activity—Graffiti Wall



Background Knowledge for Teachers

In Philippi, there was no synagogue, which forced Paul and his companions to search for the Jews elsewhere. According to custom, it required ten Jewish males to establish a synagogue. Jews typically gathered by rivers, seas, or out in the open sky for prayer when a local synagogue was not available.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Children at this age are sensitive and very impressionable. They are open to the gospel and like to learn about stories and events from the Bible. This is why our students can be encouraged to share their faith with their friends and invite them to come to church and attend RE classes.

As is often observed, when non-believing children come to church and attend R.E. classes, they can be easily incorporated into church life. They enjoy the classes and make friends, and, as a result, it is easier for them to persuade their parents to join the services or continue to stay in the church.

When occasions like this arise, it is important to educate our students about how we should treat our friends who come to church. Demonstrate some of the things that they can do when friends and truth-seekers come to church and join the RE class. Teach students how to involve others, and show care and concern to them.

Another way to involve our students in evangelism and help them gain valuable experience is to have them help pass out fliers or invitation cards for upcoming evangelical events. Students can learn to share about Jesus through joining the adults in passing out fliers or going out as a class. Of course, it is important to follow church protocol and obtain parental permission for such activities.

Before passing out fliers, provide guidelines to students beforehand on how to pass out fliers. Our students should also be mindful of the fact that they may meet with different responses; some passersby may gladly receive the fliers while others will just ignore them. Our students may feel discouraged by this, but enable them to realize that if it happened in Paul's time, it will happen today. We only need to do our duty in spreading the gospel, and God will bless us for our efforts.



Opener

5 Minutes

Have you ever planned to go on a trip, but things did not turn out the way you had expected? Perhaps, due to bad weather, the plane could not take off and your trip was canceled, or you couldn't go on the school field trip because you fell sick. How did you feel? What did you do?

Today, we will learn about the second missionary trip that Paul made and how he obeyed the Holy Spirit's guidance, even when things did not go as he had planned.



Vocabulary

fortuneteller: a person who predicts someone's future

Aeropagus: a court where the judges meet; it was situated on a hill called Mar's Hill in Athens. It was also a place where people gathered to hear new ideas. Paul was not there to appear before the judges, but to tell about the gospel, which the people had never heard of.



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

- Post up a large map of Paul's second missionary journey on the wall
- Pass out small individual maps to the students
- Prepare a minibook with at least eight pages for the students to use as a travel journal
- For each location, have the students use a fresh page in the journal and have them document the main events

After some time had passed since the first missionary journey, Paul wanted to return to the cities that Barnabas and he had visited on their first trip to see how the believers were doing. This time around, Paul chose Silas to accompany him, and they embarked on Paul's second missionary journey. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they would carry the seed of the gospel to people in distant lands.

1. Lystra

After visiting some of the other churches in the region, Paul and Silas came to a place called Lystra.

Let's turn to Acts 16:1-3.

Here in Lystra, Paul met a young man. What was the name of this young man? [Allow students to answer.] What nationality were Timothy's mother and father? Timothy's mother was a Jewish woman who had already accepted the gospel. However, Timothy's father was Greek. He was a non-believer.

The believers in Lystra spoke well of Timothy. So, Paul wanted Timothy to come along with him. He asked Timothy to join them on their journey. Why do you think Paul decided to bring Timothy with him? It may have been that Paul saw that Timothy had good qualities and virtues, and that he would be a good helper in the work of preaching the gospel. Paul must have wanted to train Timothy to be a Christian soldier.

FOR TEACHERS

Direct students to write "Paul's Second Missionary Journey" on the front page of their journal. Then, on the first page, ask them to write down the name of the first stop that Paul came to. Under that, have them draw a stick figure of Timothy and write three facts about Timothy.

2. Troas

After this, Paul wanted to go to Asia Minor [show on map], but because the Holy Spirit told them not to go there, he traveled through Phrygia and Galatia instead.

When the missionaries got to the borders of Mysia, Paul

wanted to head towards Bithynia but again the Holy Spirit did not permit them. The Holy Spirit had stopped Paul's way twice, so Paul must have wondered where God wanted him to go to spread the gospel. Even though God stopped them from going to certain places, they didn't just sit around waiting; they went to other locations. Paul and his companions went towards the city of Troas instead [have students locate Troas on their maps].

Finally at Troas, God spoke. That night, Paul had a vision. Let's read Acts 16:9-10. What was Paul's vision? In the vision, Paul saw a man from Macedonia standing and pleading with him, saying, "Come over here and help us."

What do you think God's plan was for Paul? The vision showed Paul where he should go: Macedonia. God had people that He had chosen there, and He wanted the missionaries to preach the good news to them.

FOR TEACHERS

On the next page of their journal, ask students to write down the name "Troas." Then, have them write or draw about the vision that Paul had in Troas.

3. Philippi—the New Believers

a. Lydia, the Seller of Purple

Paul and those with him sailed to Macedonia, which is Greece today. They came to the city of Philippi.

Let's read Acts 16:13. Where did Paul go on the Sabbath? Who had gathered there to worship? Since the city of Philippi had no synagogue, the Jews there gathered together for prayer by the river. Paul taught the Scriptures to the small group of women who had gathered.

What does the Bible tell us about Lydia? Lydia was a woman who sold purple cloth as a business. Purple cloth was an expensive material worn by royal or noble people, which meant that Lydia must have been a wealthy woman.

What was Lydia's attitude to Paul's message and what was the result? Lydia worshipped God, and she listened carefully to what Paul was saying. God opened her heart to accept all that Paul was saying and she was then baptized, along with her household. Lydia was the first believer in Macedonia. She warmly welcomed Paul and those with him to stay at her home.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to write down "Philippi" on the next page. Below it, have the students draw a picture of Lydia by the river, and then list down three good points about Lydia.

b. The Jailer and His Family

One day, as Paul and his companions were going to the place of prayer by the river, they met a demon-possessed slave girl who was a fortuneteller. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling the fortunes of others.

What did this slave girl do day after day? Let's read Acts 16:17. How would you feel if someone followed you and shouted after you, day after day?

What did Paul do? Although the slave girl spoke the truth, for Paul and his companions were indeed servants of God, Paul recognized that it was the devil who was trying to disrupt the work of God. So, in the name of the Jesus Christ, he commanded the devil to come out of the slave girl.

But this did not please the slave girl's masters. Why did they get very upset with Paul? Read Acts 16:19. The slave girl was able to tell fortunes through the power of Satan and not from her own ability. Therefore, as soon as the devil was cast out, she could no longer tell fortunes. This upset her masters very much because they saw that their hope of making money was gone.

So, they grabbed the missionaries and dragged them before the judges. "These men are troubling our city," they said. "They are teaching the people to do things against the Roman laws."

The judges then ordered that Paul and Silas be stripped, beaten with rods, and thrown into prison. To make sure that the two prisoners did not escape, the jailer put them into the inner prison and clamped their feet into the stocks.

If you were Paul and Silas, what would you be thinking at this time? Perhaps you might be wondering why all this is happening to you if it were God's will. You may even be wondering if God was still with you.

When it seemed hopeless, God used the situation to allow Paul and Silas to save more souls. Let's Read Acts 16:25-34. What were Paul and Silas doing in prison? They were praying and singing hymns! Then, as they prayed and sang, there was a great earthquake. After a few more events, the jailer and his entire household came to believe in the Lord that night.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to write "The Jailer and His Family" in their journals at the top of the next page. Then, have them write or draw about how Paul and Silas preached to the jailer.

4. Thessalonica and Berea

After Paul and Silas were released from prison, they continued on their travels to a city called Thessalonica. For three Sabbaths, Paul went to the Jewish synagogue there, preaching to them that Jesus was the Messiah. Who came to believe? Read Acts 17:4. Jews, Greek men, and even some important women in the city joined Paul.

However, the Jews who did not believe grew jealous, and they began to start a riot so that the entire city was stirred up against the missionaries.

So, Paul and Silas were sent away by night to Berea. In Berea, Paul went to the synagogue to preach as usual. How were the people in Berea different from those in Thessalonica? Acts 17:11. The Bereans didn't just simply reject the word like the unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica. Rather, they searched the Scriptures to find out if what Paul was preaching was true. Who came to believe? Read Acts 17:12. Many of the people there believed: Jews, Gentiles, and even prominent men and women.

But what happened when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching in Berea? Read Acts 17:13. [Allow students to answer.] Right! They traveled to Berea and began to stir up trouble there and hinder Paul from preaching the gospel further. Again, the believers had to send Paul away immediately to a city called Athens.

FOR TEACHERS

On the next page, ask students to write in the cities "Thessalonica and Berea." Then, have them draw a line down the middle of the page and name one side Thessalonica and the other Berea. They must write or draw how the people of each city responded to the gospel.

5. Athens

Arriving at Athens, Paul discovered that it was a city that worshipped many idols. Paul was troubled to see all the different statues of the gods that the people worshipped. The people of Athens did not know the true God, and this was definitely a place that Paul needed to tell about God. Let's read Acts 17:17 to find out where Paul preached. Paul not only preached in the synagogues, but, day after day, he also went to marketplace to share the gospel.

One of the things the people of Athens loved was knowledge and finding out about new ideas and things. Paul was preaching something very new and strange to them, so they wanted to find out more. Let's read Acts

17:19-21. Where did they take Paul? What did the people like to do there? [Allow students to respond.] The Areopagus was a place where the people gathered to hear new ideas. Paul was brought there, and he began to introduce to them about the one true God. He told them that God is the Creator of all things and that their lives are in God's hands. When the crowds heard Paul's message, they had different responses. Let's turn to Acts 17:32-34 to find out what these responses were. (Some mocked him, some wanted to hear him speak about this again, and a few became believers.)

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to write "Athens" at the top of the next page in their journals. Below, have them write or draw about what Paul saw in Athens that grieved him. Then, ask them, "Who do you know who has not yet believed in the True God that saddens you? What would you do about it?"

6. Corinth

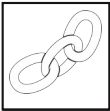
After this, Paul left Athens and came to Corinth. Each Sabbath, Paul went to the synagogue to preach to the

Jews and Gentiles. But when the Jews opposed Paul and the message, what did Paul decide to do? Read Acts 18:6. Paul decided to preach to the Jews no longer but to the Gentiles. He went to stay in a house that belonged to a man named Justus who believed in God. Turn to Acts 18:7-8. What was next to Justus' house? Who eventually came to believe in the Lord? [Allow students to respond.] Next door to his house was a synagogue, and Crispus, the Jewish ruler of the synagogue, together with his entire household and many of the people of the city, came to believe and be baptized.

After spending about one and a half years in Corinth, Paul made his way back to Antioch, which ended his second missionary journey.

FOR TEACHERS

On a fresh page, ask students to write "Corinth" at the top. At Corinth, Paul said that he would no longer preach to the Jews but to the Gentiles. But later, Crispus, the Jewish synagogue ruler, and his family came to believe. What does this tell us about Paul?

**Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs***2-5 Minutes*

The **Bible** is the word of God that can make us wise for salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus. It is the living word that will lead us to eternal life.

**Check for Understanding***5 Minutes*

- 1. How did Paul know that God wanted him to go to Macedonia?** He had a vision of a man from Macedonia begging him to come and help them.
- 2. How did the people of Berea respond to Paul's message?** They accepted the gospel and searched the word of God daily to find out if it was true.
- 3. Who joined Paul and Silas on this missionary journey?** Timothy.
- 4. Who was the first person to believe in Philippi?** Lydia.
- 5. How did the slave girl get the ability to tell fortunes?** From the demon within her.
- 6. What caused Paul to grieve in Athens?** Paul saw how the people worshipped many kinds of idols and did not know the one true God.
- 7. What did Paul and Silas do in the jail?** They prayed and sang hymns to God. They also took the opportunity to preach to the jailer.
- 8. What are some of the responses of people who hear the gospel?** Some believe, some reject, some mock, and some oppose the truth.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Take the Name of Jesus with You

During the time of the early church, everyone preached. The apostles preached, the deacons preached, and the believers preached wherever they went. They preached to the multitudes; to their family members; and to their friends; in fact, they preached to just about anyone who was willing to listen.

This was certainly the case with the apostle Paul. Wherever the Holy Spirit led him, Paul obeyed, and he took every opportunity to preach. It didn't matter whether the listener was male or female, young or old, Jew or Gentile, important or lowly. It didn't matter whether people believed or not, Paul took the name of Jesus with him wherever he went because he loved the souls of men.

What is most admirable about Paul and his companions was that they preached even when things were going against them. They preached in good times as well as bad times. When things seemed hopeless, God still worked with Paul to save souls.

Turn to the Bible verses to find out where Paul preached and who believed.

Bible Passage	Which city did Paul go to?	Where did Paul preach?	Who believed?
Acts 16:13-15	Philippi	Riverside	Lydia and her family
Acts 16:27-33	Philippi	Jail	Jailer and his family
Acts 17:1-4	Thessalonica	Jewish synagogue	Jews, Greeks, important women
Acts 17:10-12	Berea	Jewish synagogue	Jews, Greek women and men
Acts 17:17, 22, 34	Athens	Marketplace, synagogue, and the Aeropagus	Some men, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others
Acts 18:3, 7-8	Corinth	Jewish synagogue	Crispus, all his household, and many others from Corinth

2. Testimonies

Read the following testimonies below to find out how the gospel was preached and how people came to believe in the Lord. [Read at least two testimonies, if possible. If time permits, allow students to read all of the testimonies.]

Discussion Questions

- **What ways did God use to bring the gospel to the people?** Fliers and invitation cards, illnesses, people, the Bible, etc.
- **What kind of problems, if any, did those in the testimonies encounter?**
- **What blessings or change came upon the people when they received the gospel?**
- **Who are some of the people with whom we can share the gospel (cf. Mk 5:19)?** The people we can preach to first are family members, friends, and people we know. Then, we can go and preach to strangers.
- **Name something that Jesus has done for you that you can share with others.**

God is all-powerful in bringing the lost sheep to the church. But He also commanded us to preach the gospel to the unsaved. What a great honor to serve Him. In our daily prayers, let us remember those around us who are in need of the gospel. May we ask God to open our mouths to reach out to them and to open their hearts to receive the word.



Activity

Graffiti Wall

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To review Paul's second missionary journey.

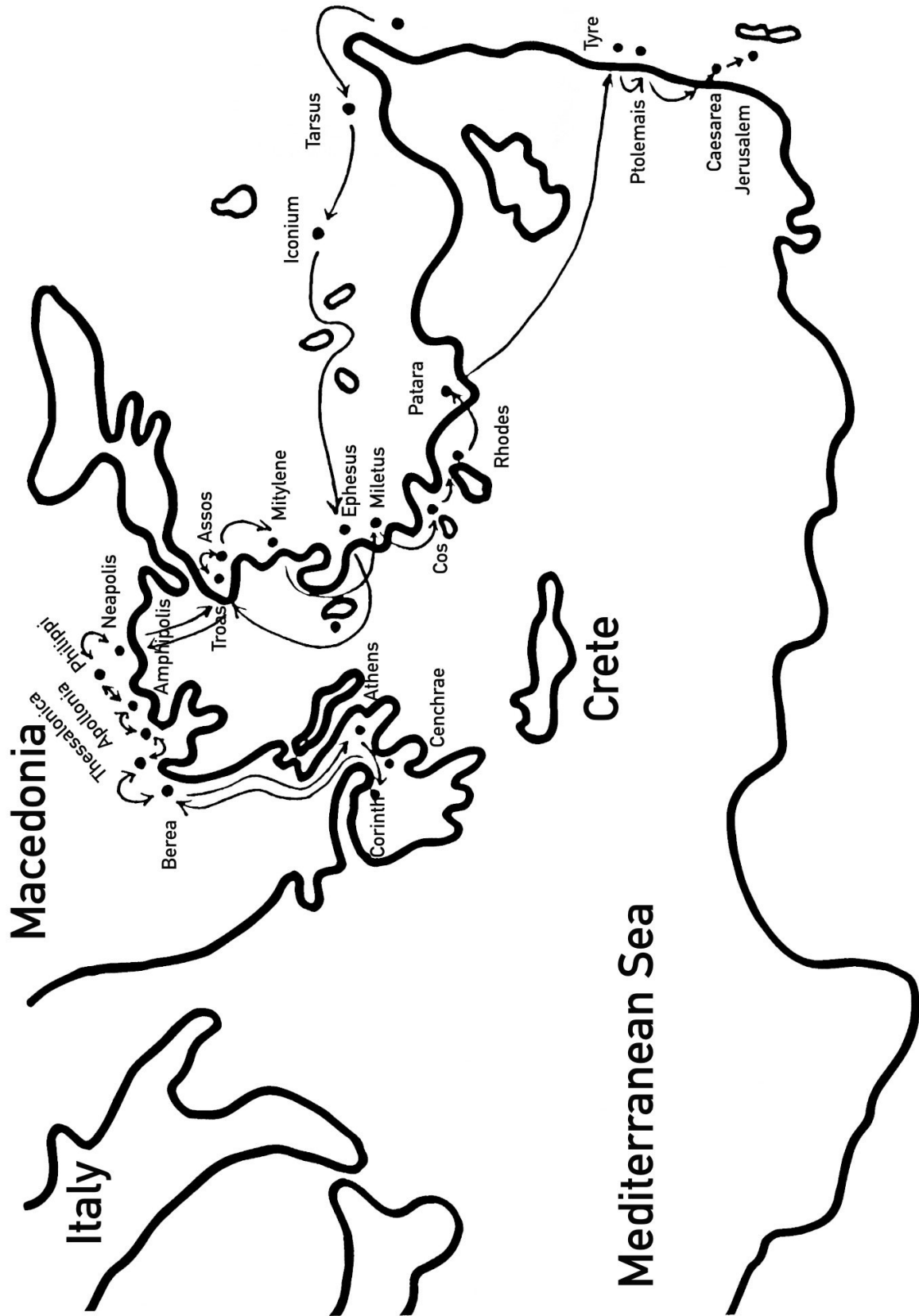
As a review of Paul's second missionary journey, have students think of ANY word associated with today's lesson and life application. It can be the name of a place, an event, the name of a person, the testimonies, etc. (e.g., "riot," "dream," "fliers"). Have students come up to the whiteboard two at a time. They can choose a marker and write at least two to three words on the board. They can write it any way they like: forwards, backwards, diagonally, and so on. In order to get a variety of words, students cannot repeat any word that has already been written, which means they would need to pay attention to what is on the board.

After everyone has written on the board, pair up the students and tell them that everyone has to choose a word from the board and share as much as they can about that word with their partner. After about thirty seconds, the other partner has to choose another word to tell their partner about. [If time permits, have them repeat the exercise until all the words have been used, or have them find new partners and share some more.]

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. True
6. False; they preached to him, and he and his family believed.
7. True
8. Some believed, some mocked Paul, and some rejected and opposed the message.
9. Answers may vary.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Second Missionary Journey



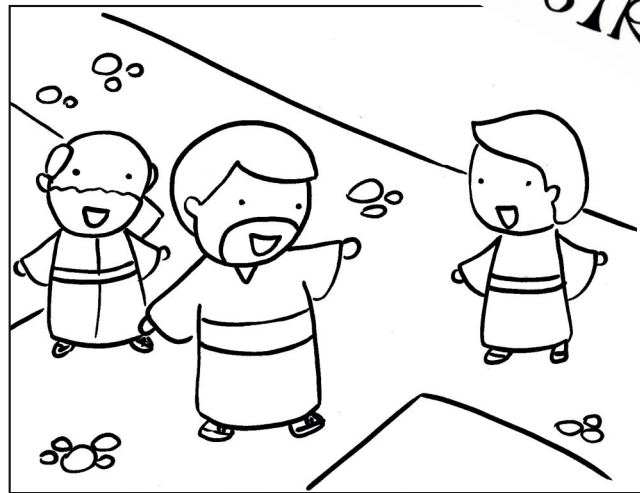
TAKE THE NAME OF Jesus WITH YOU

Turn to the Bible verses and read them. For each location, write down:

- A short description of **what** is happening in the picture
- **Where** did Paul preach in that city, if he preached there
- **Who** believed in that city, if people came to believe there

Acts 16:1-3

LYSTRA



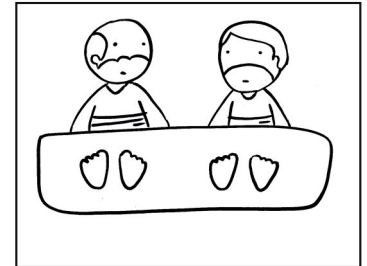
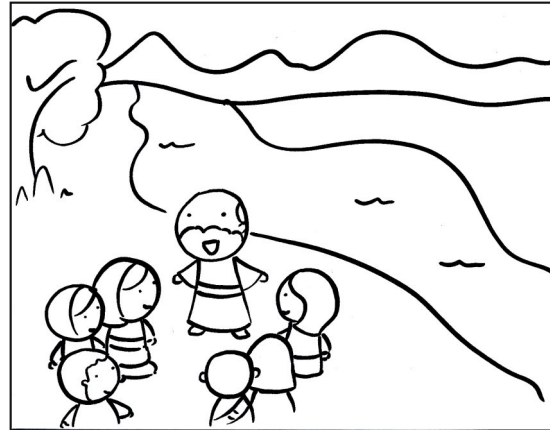
TROAS

Acts 16:6-10



PHILIPPI

Acts 16:11-34



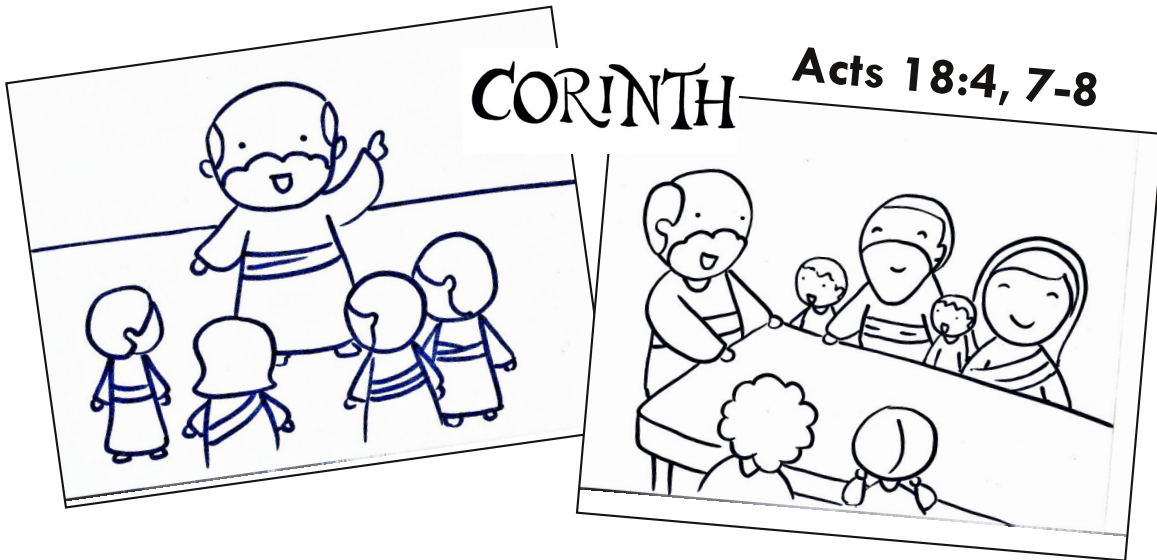
**THESSALONICA
&
BEREA Acts 17:1-12**





ATHENS

Acts 17:16-34



CORINTH

Acts 18:4, 7-8

Read the following testimonies below to find out how the gospel was preached and how people came to believe in the Lord.

Testimony #1

In 1981, four pastors from the True Jesus Church were sent on a missionary trip to Nigeria in Africa. When they arrived there, they were harassed and robbed by the local police and were prevented from preaching the gospel. Their trip ended abruptly, and they had to return home. Their return flight required an overnight stop in another city called Monrovia in Liberia, another African country. Since they had brought a box of gospel fliers and booklets with them on their mission, the four pastors decided to distribute these materials to the people in the surrounding area. Miraculously, a few of these pamphlets were later passed on to a local church minister. After he read the contents, the minister was convinced of the truth of salvation, and he later forwarded these pamphlets to one of his relatives, who was also a leader of four local churches. When his relative read the pamphlets, he was deeply touched and immediately accepted what was written in them.



One night, he dreamt of a great mountain with glorious light covering the mountaintop. In the dream, he saw himself leading an entire congregation up that mountain. In Isaiah 2:2, it tells us that the true church will be the highest mountain where people will go to worship. So, when he awoke, he understood that the True Jesus Church was the true church established by God. Later on, many people were baptized and the church in Liberia was established.

Testimony #2

Bart Morris is a brother in his late eighties from Sydney, Australia. Before he found the True Jesus Church, he grew up in a family that believed in Jesus but attended service in another church every Sunday. Even though Bart grew up as a Christian, he was never told to read or study the Bible. One day, when he asked his church vicar a Bible question, his vicar told him to stop wasting time and just to believe what he was told. This startled Bart, but it only made him decide to study the Bible and find out for himself.

Bart decided that the best way to study the Bible was to read the entire Bible from beginning to end. He decided to read three pages each day, every day. If he did that, he would be able to read the entire Bible in a year. By reading the Bible, which he had never done, Bart began to realize that the Bible is a great book. It is a book that told him about the world, it is a book that told him right and wrong, and most importantly, he discovered that it is a book that can lead him to God.



Even though Bart had gone to church on Sundays for sixty years, he found that he had not yet found God. But he knew that God could be found through the Bible. After reading the Bible three times, which meant he had been reading for three years, Bart seriously searched for God and for a church that practiced everything the Bible teaches.

God indeed saw how eagerly Bart was searching for Him, and He guided Bart in a mysterious way. One day, Bart was driving along a street when he came to a traffic jam. In order to avoid the blockage, he decided to turn into a side street. As he was driving, he suddenly noticed a sign outside a building that read "TRUE JESUS CHURCH." He had never heard of this church. To find out more, he began to attend church

services each week. Bart soon discovered that the True Jesus Church had all the answers he had been looking for in his search for God. Thank God that Bart very soon received water baptism in the true church.

(Adapted from "Searching for God" by Bart Morris, Manna, Issue 67)

Testimony #3

Judyanna was the black sheep and troublemaker in her family. From young, she was different from her other siblings. She was not obedient like them, she did not like to study or help out around the house, and she would often argue with and yell at her mom. During her teenage years, Judyanna loved to hang out with her friends. For fun, they would steal cars and go on joy rides. She also partied and drank, stole anything she could, and did all kinds of bad things. Her wild ways caused her parents so much heartache that they no longer owned her as their daughter. Her mom said, "I will feed you and you may live here, but you are no longer my daughter."

One day, Judyanna met a person named Calvin who belonged to a group who did worse things than her group of friends. They became friends and they chatted often on the phone. But after a few months, Judyanna discovered that it was getting harder and harder trying to reach Calvin. Later, Calvin told her that he had been spending a lot of his time attending church services at the True Jesus Church. Judyanna was curious, so she decided to pay Calvin a visit.

When she saw him, she was startled to see how different he looked. He used to wear trendy clothes and have a fashionable hairstyle, but now he looked normal. His sudden change made Judyanna very curious to know how he could change so suddenly, so she joined him for services at the True Jesus Church. When she got there, she felt that the brothers and sisters in the church were really nice. She could feel God's love through them, and she was touched by the sermons.

Judyanna decided to start reading the Bible. Through God's words and the help of the Holy Spirit, she began to change the way she treated her family and friends. She would even apologize to her mom when they got into arguments. Later, Judyanna received water baptism because she was touched by God's love. When she was at her worst, God still accepted her and loved her.

(Adapted from "Finding New Life Through God" by Judyanna Chen, Manna, Issue 60)

**Testimony #4**

There was once a man who was riding through a field on a windy day. As he was riding, he noticed a piece of paper flying about in the wind. Curiosity got the best of him, so he got off his bicycle and picked it up. It was an invitation for an evangelical service at a True Jesus Church in Taiwan. The man was intrigued by the flier, so he went to attend the service. Later on, he believed in the gospel and received baptism. Not a single person was needed to preach the gospel, as God Himself brought the flier to the man. Because the man responded to the flier, three generations of his family came to believe and were saved.

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 11—Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (2 Timothy 4:2a)

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : The Jews were jealous of Paul and began to stir up trouble in _____.
 - a. Athens
 - b. Thessalonica
 - c. Lystra
2. _____ : How did the people in Berea respond to Paul's message?
 - a. They covered their ears and refused to listen to what he had to say.
 - b. They thought that Paul was speaking nonsense.
 - c. They listened carefully and studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul taught was true.
3. _____ : Who did Paul meet by the river in Philippi?
 - a. Lydia
 - b. Slave girl
 - c. Timothy
4. _____ : The slave girl's masters were very upset with Paul because _____.
 - a. He told her to find a new job.
 - b. He was preaching to the slave girl about Jesus.
 - c. He cast out the demon from the slave girl.

True or False

5. Paul felt troubled in Athens because he saw how the people worshipped many kinds of idols. _____
6. Paul and Silas refused to preach to the jailer because he had them fastened in stocks and locked them up in prison.

7. Timothy joined Paul and Silas in the missionary journey. _____

Short Answer

8. What are some of the ways that the people responded to Paul's message?
9. Name at least three things that you have learned from Paul's second missionary journey.

LESSON 12

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the main events of Paul's third missionary journey.
2. To learn about the methods God uses to advance the word of God.

MEMORY VERSE

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak new tongues; [...] they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

(Mark 16:17-18b)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for gathering us on this Holy Sabbath day to worship You.
2. We are blessed to be Your people and to know Your precious word.
3. Lord, it is Your desire that the whole earth know about You. You want us to carry Your name to those who are lost and who do not yet know You.
4. Please give us the courage and spirit of the apostle Paul, who devoted his entire life to save souls.
5. May You guide us through today's lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. In Ephesus

- God Works Signs and Miracles through Paul
- Copycats
- Out with the Old
- Paul and the Diana Worshipers
- The Man Who Fell Asleep

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Doctrines—the Holy Bible

3. Life Application—The Word of God Is Spread Afar

4. Activity—Paul's Third Missionary Trip Crossword Puzzle



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Third Missionary Journey

Paul's third missionary journey was different from the first two. On the first two journeys, Paul reached into new areas where he preached the gospel and planted churches. On the third journey, Paul visited no new areas, but went to strengthen believers in cities that he had previously visited.

On the second missionary journey, the Holy Spirit directed Paul away from Asia (Ac 16:6) because God wanted him to spend most of his time in Europe (Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Athens, etc.). On the third missionary journey, most of Paul's time was spent in Asia, in the city of Ephesus.

Diana of Ephesus

Diana, also known as Artemis, was the goddess of the hunt, the moon, and fertility. A large statue of Diana was in the great temple at Ephesus. That temple was one of the wonders of the ancient world. Supported by 127 pillars, each six stories tall, the edifice was about four times larger than the Parthenon in Athens. The religious and commercial life of Ephesus reflected the city's worship of this pagan deity.



Reaching Out to Your Students

The apostle Paul understood that God had chosen him from the beginning to accomplish His good will. Galatians 1:15-16a reads, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles."

Such a concept should be instilled in our students from an early age. They need to understand how they were chosen to be God's special people and given God's laws for a special purpose, just as Paul was. This honorable status is not only to allow them to experience a good education, good circumstances and experiences, but it is so that they can equip themselves to devote their lives to being lights of the world and preaching the gospel. Our students should be reminded of this constantly because, as believers, we are God's ambassadors to deliver the message of the gospel to transform the spiritual destinies of the people of the world. Therefore, it is never too early to start.



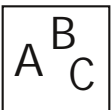
Opener

5 Minutes

Bring an empty oyster shell and a simulated pearl to class. Pass each item around and let the class hold them. Explain to them that the pearl begins life as a tiny grain of sand caught in the oyster shell but eventually becomes a pearl.

In the same way, the word of God has the power to change us from our old sinful selves (the grain of sand) to someone who has the glory and image of Jesus Christ (the pearl).

Today, we will learn about how the gospel brought by Paul during his third missionary journey was able to transform a city that was filled with idol-worshippers, magicians, and sorcerers to a city filled with followers of Christ.



Vocabulary

superstitious: a belief that certain things or events will bring good or bad luck

resurrect: to bring the dead back to life

transformation: a complete change in someone or something



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

After Paul spent some time in Antioch, he embarked on his third missionary journey. In this journey, Paul was to travel about 2700 miles. This is about the same as traveling from Los Angeles, California on the West Coast to Washington, D.C. on the East Coast. This journey was different from the first two. On the first two journeys, Paul went to new areas to spread the gospel. On this journey, Paul did not visit any new areas. Instead, he returned to the cities he had previously visited to encourage and strengthen the believers. In this journey, most of Paul's time was spent in Asia, in the city of Ephesus.

In Ephesus

Paul came to Ephesus to find that the people in this city were very superstitious. They believed in magic and

witchcraft, and they worshipped idols and false gods. Paul came to this city with the message of the true and living God. During his three years stay here, several interesting things happened.

1. God Works Signs and Miracles through Paul

For three months, Paul went to the synagogue each Sabbath and told them about the Lord Jesus. Some remained hard-hearted, and they rejected Paul's message and spoke against the Lord. So, Paul and those who believed in the message decided to hold separate meetings in the school of Tyrannus instead. Tyrannus may have been a philosopher or the owner of the building. Many people came to hear Paul preach there. This continued for the next two years so that all who lived in Asia heard

about the gospel.

Jesus once said, "These signs will follow those who believe," (Mk 16:17) and true enough, God worked many amazing signs and miracles through Paul in Ephesus. What happened to the sick that had diseases? Read Acts 19:12.

These miracles were performed in an unusual way. Handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched Paul's body were brought to those who were sick or demon-possessed, and the diseases and evil spirits departed. This does not mean that the handkerchiefs or towels were magical or that Paul gave magical powers to the things that touched his body. It just meant that God can choose to heal people in different ways. But the most important thing was that God used these miracles to show that the message that Paul preached was from God. It also showed that the God that Paul preached was a loving and almighty God who could save them.

2. Copycats of Paul

When some of the Jews learned of how Paul cast out demons, they wanted to do the same. They traveled from town to town, making money by casting out demons. One such group was the seven sons of a chief priest called Sceva. Sceva's sons had learned that Paul cast out demons in the "name of Jesus," and they thought they could use this same formula. They thought that if they used Paul's "magic" formula, then the demons would come right out of people.

These "copycats" came to a man who was demon-possessed. How did they cast out the evil spirit? Read Acts 19:13-14. How did the evil spirit respond to the Jewish men? Read Acts 19:15-16. The evil spirit answered them saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

If Jesus had told this demon to come out, do you think it would have obeyed (ref. Mk 1:23-26)? [Allow the students to respond.] If Paul had told this demon to come out, do you think it would have obeyed (Acts 16:16-18)? Did the evil spirit obey these "copycats"? Why not? The reason why Paul could cast out demons was not because he used a "magic formula." Paul knew, loved, and served God, and God abided with him by giving him the power to cast out demons. Did these seven sons of Sceva love and serve the living God? No, they did not have a real, personal relationship with God. They were merely using the name of Jesus to cast out demons to make money.

What happened to these seven men as a result? Read Acts 19:16. They wanted to conquer the evil spirit, but instead the evil spirit conquered them! The man who was

possessed by this evil spirit leapt on them with a furious rage. He stripped them of their clothing, wounded them, and all seven of them ran out of the house in fear.

What happened as a result of this incident? What can we learn from this?

Read Acts 19:17. After this incident, the report of the sons of Sceva spread quickly throughout the area. The non-believers began to fear God and realized that the name of Jesus was the most powerful name and not one to be taken lightly or misused.

3. Out with the Old

Ephesus was a city where many people practiced magic. They possessed certain books, which were part of their old, superstitious life. But when they saw what happened to the sons of Sceva, they realized that God was indeed more powerful than Satan, and they began to confess their sinful practices.

What did they do with all these books (Acts 19:19)? They brought all their books together and burned them in the sight of all. Then they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

When a person comes to know the Lord, he may have certain possessions that he needs to get rid of. These things were part of his old life, but they are no longer part of his new life. These books were worth a great deal of money, but these believers wanted to destroy them and turn to worship the one true God.

To be a true Christian, we need to get rid of things that are not pleasing to God. Are there any of our possessions that we need to destroy? Bad music? A book or magazine that is not good? Or do we have a certain weakness in our character, such as pride, anger, or laziness, that we need to get rid of?

4. Paul and the Diana Worshipers

All these events caused the word of God to spread widely, and many people came to believe. But when the gospel prospers, Satan will use ways to oppose and hinder the work.

The people in Ephesus worshipped a goddess called Diana (also called Artemis). They built a great temple for Diana that was famous throughout the ancient world. Inside the temple was a statue or idol of Diana. The superstitious people of Ephesus thought that this image had fallen down from heaven (Acts 19:35).

Because the people of Ephesus were so religious and

superstitious, they loved to buy small statues and replicas of Diana made of silver. These were called "silver shrines" and were made by silversmiths. These little idols were copies of that great statue, which was found in the temple. As you can imagine, the silversmiths had a booming business selling these "silver shrines" (Acts 19:24). One of the silversmiths was called Demetrius. Demetrius earned a good living making and selling these shrines. So when Paul came into the city preaching the good news of the salvation, it caused great concern to the greedy silversmiths.

Many people believed his message and were being saved. Should a believer continue to buy these silver shrines? Were these idols a part of their old life or their new life? Should Christian people worship something that has been made by human hands (Acts 19:26)?

Do you think the silversmiths were thankful that Paul was telling the people about the true God of heaven? The more Paul preached, the fewer silver shrines were sold, and the silversmiths were furious. Let's read Acts 19:24-29 to find out what Demetrius did. He and the other silversmiths stirred up the people of the city, and a big crowd rushed into the great outside theater. This theater was similar to a football stadium, and it could hold 25,000 people! For about two hours, this large crowd was shouting something. What were the people shouting (Acts 19:34)? Finally, a city clerk was able to calm the crowd down and the uproar ceased. At this time, Paul decided it was best to leave the city.

Almost everywhere Paul went, people either got saved or they got angry! This is what happened at Ephesus. Some became believers while others greatly opposed the truth.

5. *The Man Who Fell Asleep*

After this, Paul stopped in the city of Troas, where he stayed for seven days. The night before Paul was to depart, the believers had come together to eat. Paul took the opportunity to encourage them with God's words. We

are not told when Paul started his sermon, but we are told that Paul preached for a very long time. Acts 20:7 tells us that he continued to speak until midnight.

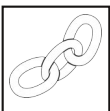
Among the believers who were listening to Paul preach was a young man called Eutychus. Where was Eutychus sitting during the sermon? What might be the reasons for his choice of seat? The room where Paul was preaching in was not only crowded, but also probably very warm because of the lamps that were burning. So, it's possible that Eutychus sat by the window to get some fresh air. Another reason why Eutychus chose to sit by the window could have been because he was not paying full attention to what Paul was saying. As a result, what happened to him? Eutychus fell asleep, fell down from the third story, and was found dead.

What did Paul do for this man? Read Acts 20:10, 12. Paul went downstairs, lay on him, and resurrected the dead young man. Paul then continued to eat and encourage them until daybreak, when he departed from Troas. When the believers found that the young man had been brought in alive, they were greatly comforted.

What lessons can we learn from Eutychus? [Allow students to respond.] Eutychus did not stay alert and awake. Instead of concentrating on what Paul was saying, he fell asleep and fell to his death. Eutychus was in physical danger because he chose an unsafe place to sit and did not listen attentively to the preacher. We may not put ourselves in physical danger, such as choosing to sit on a windowsill, but sometimes we can put ourselves in spiritual danger, just as Eutychus did. What are some spiritual dangers we might face? [Allow students to respond.] Like Eutychus, we may face great spiritual danger or fall if we do not listen attentively to God's words.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Give them time to fill in the blanks, and then go over the answers as a class.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The **Bible** is the word of God that can make us wise for salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus. It is the living word that will lead us to eternal life. Therefore, we must remember to read the Bible daily to keep the word of God in our hearts.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Why did the sorcerers and magicians in Ephesus burn all their books on magic?** They realized that God is the one true God and that He is more powerful than Satan.
2. **What was the name of the man whom Paul raised from the dead?** Eutychus.
3. **On the third missionary trip, Paul spent two years in this city.** Troas.
4. **Why were the sons of Sceva unable to cast out the demon even though they used the name of Jesus?** They did not have a personal relationship with God. They only used the name of Jesus to make money.
5. **What signs and miracles did God perform through Paul?** Handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched Paul's body were brought to those who were sick or demon-possessed and the diseases and evil spirits departed.
6. **What was the name of the goddess worshipped by the people of Ephesus?** Diana/Artemis.
7. **Why did God perform these signs and miracles?** To prove that the gospel was true and that He is the one true living God.
8. **What was the name of the silversmith who started a riot in Ephesus?** Demetrius.



Life Application

10 Minutes

The Word of God Is Spread Afar

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet. Allow time for the students to fill in the blanks. Then, read each of the scenarios and review the discussion questions. Only the discussion questions are included in this section.]

God desires that all men be saved and come to know the truth (1 Tim 2:4). Without Jesus, everyone is lost. Our families, friends, and neighbors are lost. That is why Jesus wants us to preach the word of God throughout the whole earth. In the New Testament, we see that God used various ways to cause the seed of the gospel to spread afar.

1. Through the Preaching of the Word

- a. Jesus walked through the cities of Israel preaching the word of God (Lk 4:14-15, 43).
- b. Paul spoke the word of God in the synagogues and in the school of Tyrannus and many came to believe (Acts 19:9-10).
- c. The twelve disciples were sent out to preach the kingdom of God (Lk 9:2).
- d. Philip went about preaching about the kingdom of God (Acts 8:5-6).

2. Through Signs and Miracles

- a. When Sergius Paulus saw how Elymas the sorcerer was struck with blindness, he believed (Acts 13:8-12).
- b. When the people heard how Satan overpowered the sons of Sceva, many feared and came to know the Lord (Acts 19:14-17).
- c. Many people believed in the Lord Jesus after He raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:43-45).
- d. The blind man believed after he was healed (Jn 9:1, 6-7, 35-38).

3. Through Persecution

- a. When the believers of the early church were persecuted, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word (Ac 8:4).
- b. Though Paul and Silas were in prison, the word of God reached the jailer and his family (Acts 16:22-24, 27-33).
- c. During his missionary trips, whenever Paul was persecuted in one city, he would go to another city and preach the gospel there (Acts 17:10, 17).

4. Through Transformed Lives

- a. In the apostolic church, the believers loved each other, worshipped God daily, and ate together. When people saw this, they wanted to be part of the church and be saved (Acts 2:44-47).
- b. When the people of Ephesus believed and got rid of all their books on magic, the word of God grew mightily and many came to believe (Acts 19:18-20).

Scenario 1

1. **Why did Jemma's mom tell others about Jesus?** She felt the deep love of Jesus and wanted to repay the Lord in this way. She also understood the suffering that people who don't know Jesus face.
2. **Why was Jemma's mom not discouraged even when people didn't listen to her?** Jemma's mom knows that no matter what response she gets from the people she preaches to, she will continue to preach because she is doing God's will and pleasing God.
3. **What were the reasons why Jemma did not preach at first? Have you ever shared your faith with others? If not, what is stopping you?** Jemma was too nervous and felt that she would not know what to say.
4. **Describe Jemma's attempts to preach to Millie. What lessons can we learn from her?** Jemma found it very difficult, but she kept trying all day. When we have the heart to preach, God will give us the courage to do so.

Scenario 2

1. **What was Jack's life like before he came to know God?** Jack felt that his world was dark, lonely, and without love.
2. **What was the sign that God gave Jack?** God gave the Holy Spirit as a sign that He exists.
3. **After this experience, how did Jack's view of God change?** He believed that God is his heavenly Father who would take care of him.

Scenario 3

1. **How is the persecution the young sister faced the same as that faced by Paul and other characters in the Bible?** Satan uses the people and events around us to scare us from spreading the gospel. He may have people rebuke, hurt, or mock us.
2. **What can we learn from the way the young sister preached the gospel?** She was fearless even in times of persecution. She told her friends about God in the way she knew best, which was through Bible stories.
3. **What enabled the young sister to keep preaching despite persecution?** She had a desire to please God rather than men. She continued to share the gospel, even if it meant getting hurt, because it was God's will.

Scenario 4

1. **What things did Bro. Chen do that was not Christ-like?** He shifted the boundary line of his house, and he did not greet his neighbor.
2. **What did Bro. Chen do to cause his neighbor to change his mind about him?** He began to treat his neighbor nicely.
3. **Would our non-believing friends be able to tell that we are Christians from our behavior?** Allow students to answer.
4. **How should we behave before those who have yet to know Christ?** We should treat them with kindness, shine as lights before them, and put on the image of Christ.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. A
3. B
4. True
5. False; the demon-possessed man overtook them, stripped them of their clothing, and wounded them.
6. True
7. True
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.



Activity

Paul's Third Missionary Trip Crossword Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To review Paul's third missionary trip.

Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues provided below.

Across

3. The goddess that the Ephesians worshipped (Acts 19:28).
4. The man who fell from the window (Acts 20:9).
6. This chief priest had seven sons that tried to cast out demons in Jesus' name for money (Acts 19:14).
7. The man who made silver shrines (Acts 19:24).
9. The people of Ephesus practiced this (Acts 19:19).
11. Paul caused Eutychus to do this (Acts 20:12).
13. It was here that Paul spoke a sermon until daybreak (Acts 20:6-7, 11).
14. Paul stayed in this city for two years (Acts 19:10).

Down

1. Paul performed many of these acts (Acts 19:11).
2. This kind of man made images of a goddess for a living (Acts 19:24).
5. A piece of cloth that was placed on the sick (Acts 19:12).
8. This was placed on the sick and the demon-possessed (Acts 19:12).
10. The term for a female god (Acts 19:27).
12. Eutychus did this and fell to his death (Acts 20:9).

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key

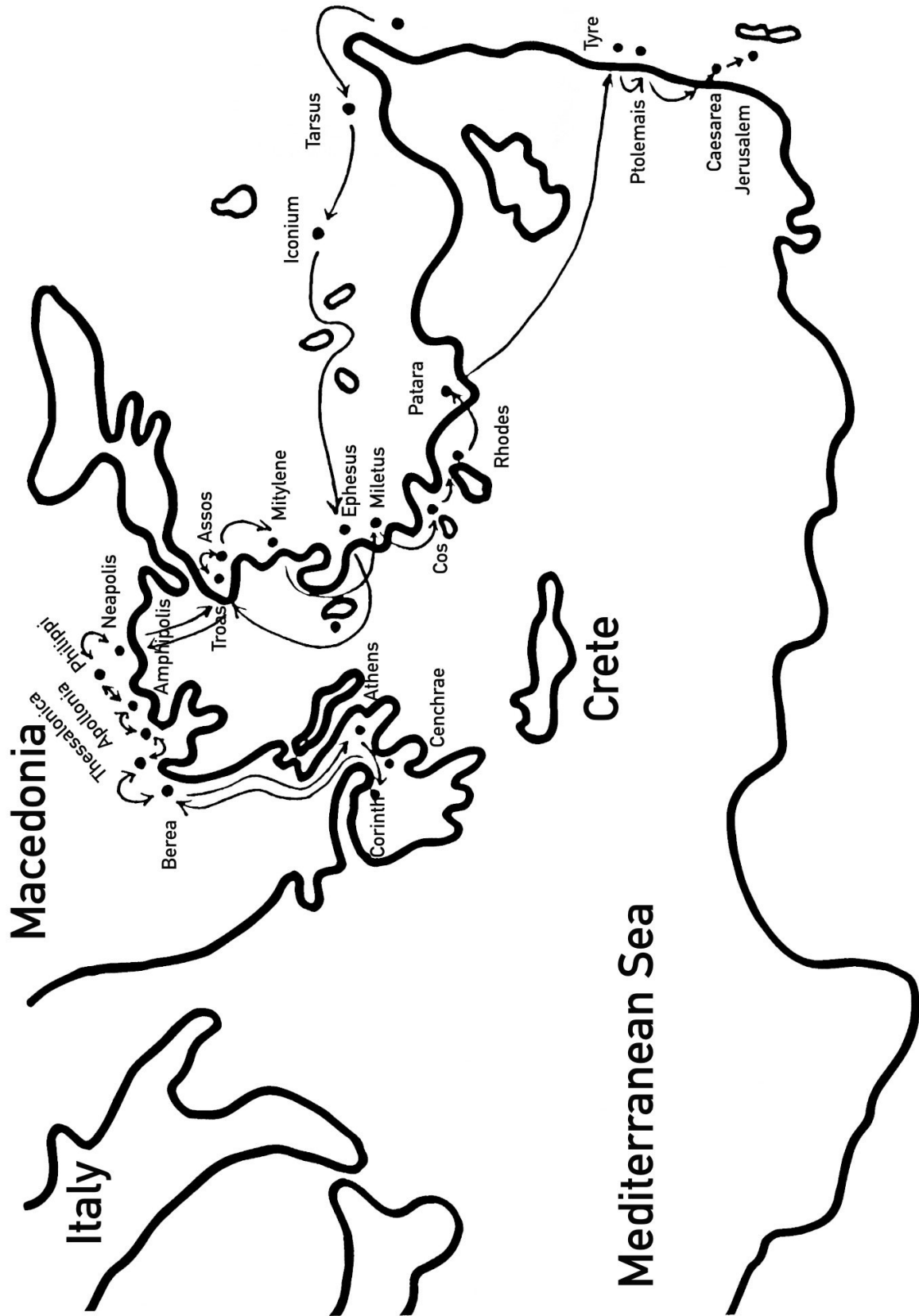
Across

3. Diana
4. Eutychus
6. Sceva
7. Demetrius
9. magic
11. resurrect
13. Troas
14. Ephesus

Down

1. miracle
2. silversmith
5. handkerchief
8. apron
10. goddess
12. slept

Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Paul's Third Missionary Journey

1. God Works Signs and Miracles through Paul

a. How were the sick healed and demons cast out? Read Acts 19:11-12.

"God worked unusual _____ by the hands of Paul so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the _____ left them and the _____ went out of them."



2. Copycats of Paul

The seven sons of Sceva wanted to cast out demons like Paul.

a. How did the "copycats" cast out the evil spirit? Read Acts 19:13-14.

"We exorcise you by the _____ whom Paul preaches."

b. How did the evil spirit respond to the Jewish men? Read Acts 19:15.

"The evil spirit answered and said, ' _____ I know, and Paul I know; but _____ _____ ?'"



c. What happened to these seven men as a result? Read Acts 19:16-17.

"Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they _____ out of that house naked and _____."

3. Out with the Old

When the people of Ephesus saw what happened to the sons of Sceva, they realized that God was indeed more powerful than Satan.

a. What did they end up doing? Read Acts 19:18-19.

"And many who had believed came _____ and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced _____ brought their books together and _____ them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver."



4. Paul and the Diana Worshippers

The people in Ephesus worshipped a goddess called Diana (also called Artemis). They built a great temple with a statue of Diana.

- a. What did the silversmiths of Ephesus, such as Demetrius, do for a living? Read Acts 19:24.

“For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who _____ silver shrines of _____, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.”

- b. When the people of Ephesus began to turn to God and believe in Paul’s message, what did Demetrius do? Read Acts 19:29.

He caused a riot so that “the whole city was filled with _____, and rushed into the theater with one accord.”

- c. What did the people of the city cry out? Read Acts 19:28.

“Great is _____ of the Ephesians!”



5. The Man Who Fell Asleep

Paul stopped in the city of Troas, where he stayed for seven days. The night before Paul was to depart, the believers had come together to eat. Paul took the opportunity to encourage them with God’s words until midnight.

- a. What happened to Eutychus? Read Acts 20:9.

“In a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a _____. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up _____.”

- b. What did Paul do for this man? Read Acts 20:10, 12.

“Paul went down, _____ on him, and _____ him. [...] And they brought the young man in _____.”



The Word of God Is Spread Afar

God desires that all men be saved and come to know the truth (1 Tim 2:4). God uses various ways to cause the seed of the gospel to spread afar.

Fill in the blanks using the words from the word bank.

1. Through the Preaching of the Word

disciples, Paul, twelve, Jesus, cities, Philip, synagogues, kingdom, Tyrannus, word

- _____ walked through the _____ of Israel preaching the _____ of God (Lk 4:14-15, 43).
- _____ spoke the word of God in the _____ and in the school of _____ and many came to believe (Acts 19:9-10).
- The _____ were sent out to preach the kingdom of God (Lk 9:2).
- _____ went about preaching about the _____ of God (Acts 8:5-6).

2. Through Signs and Miracles

blind, Satan, Elymas, Lazarus, overpowered, Sergius Paulus, Sceva, dead, feared

- When _____ saw how _____ the sorcerer was struck with blindness, he believed (Acts 13:8-12).
- When the people heard how _____ the sons of _____, many _____ and came to know the Lord (Acts 19:14-17).
- Many people believed in the Lord Jesus after He raised _____ from the _____ (Jn 11:43-45).
- The _____ man believed after he was healed (Jn 9:1, 6-7, 35-38).

3. Through Persecution

Paul, jailer, another, persecuted, city, prison, scattered, Silas

- When the believers of the early church were _____, those who were _____ went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4).
- Although _____ and _____ were in _____, the word of God reached the _____ and his family (Acts 16:22-24, 27-33).
- During his missionary trips, whenever Paul was persecuted in one _____, he would go to _____ city and preach the gospel there (Acts 17:10, 17).

4. Through Transformed Lives

mightily, loved, books, worshipped, ate, rid, magic

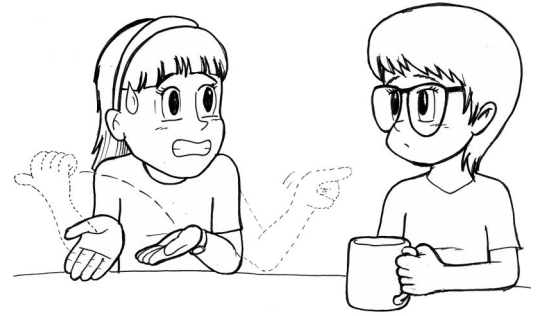
- In the apostolic church, the believers _____ each other, _____ God daily, and _____ together. When people saw this, they wanted to be part of the church and be saved (Acts 2:44-47).
- When the people of Ephesus believed and got _____ of all their _____ on _____, the word of God grew _____ and many came to believe (Acts 19:18-20).

Scenario 1

Jemma's mom loved to tell others about Jesus. She wanted to tell others about how wonderful a Savior He was and how He died on the cross to save her. At the same time, when she thought about how those who did not have Jesus would suffer eternally in future, she was deeply saddened. So, no matter who she met, she would try to preach to them. She spoke to her neighbors, her family members, and even strangers at the supermarket. Sometimes, the people she spoke to listened and came to church, but even if they didn't, that did not discourage her. She just kept on preaching. Jemma's mom encouraged Jemma to do the same. But Jemma was too nervous and didn't know what to say. Eventually her mother told Jemma that she could first try to preach to at least one person a week. Maybe she wouldn't be able to say much, but at least she could tell them that there is a God who He loves us. Jemma decided to start with her best friend Millie. That morning before she left for school, Jemma prayed to ask God to help her. When she saw Millie at school, Jemma opened her mouth to speak but found her tongue tied in knots, unsure of what to say. Throughout the day, Jemma struggled to say something. At the end of the day, Jemma knew that it was her last chance. She looked at Millie and eventually blurted out, "Do you want to come to church with me on Saturday?"

Millie paused and then said, "OK, what do you do there?"

Jemma smiled.



Scenario 2

Jack came from a single-parent family. His mom and dad divorced when he was young. He lived mainly with his mom, but she spent many hours working, and most days, he came home to an empty house. Vacations didn't get better because that was when he would be shipped to his dad's. He felt like an outcast there because his dad had his new family. Jack felt that his world was dark and lonely. He felt that if he disappeared from the face of the earth, no one would notice and no one would care. The times when his dad could not take him, Jack would be sent to stay with his grandmother. Each Saturday, Jack's grandmother made him go to church with her. She wouldn't hear of it when he told her that he didn't believe in God or in demons. At church, he learned that there was a God, a great and loving God who was his heavenly Father, and that he could talk to Him through prayer. Though Jack felt as if all this had been made up, he was curious. One day, after discovering that he had to stay another month at his grandmother's, Jack went to church with a heart filled with anger and hurt. At church, he went to the front of the chapel to pray with the others. "I don't know if there is a God, but if You are listening, I need help," Jack said silently. Not long after, as he continued to pray, Jack felt warmth come upon his head and travel down his body. His tongue began to move uncontrollably and a feeling of joy and peace came over him, taking away his anger and sadness. Jack then knew that the Holy Spirit was the sign that God had given him to let him know that He did exist and that he was not alone. Even though his parents could not be with him, he had a Father in heaven who is everywhere and who would take care of him.



Scenario 3

There was young sister who attended kindergarten class in church. She learned from her R.E. teacher that it was important to tell our friends the good news of the gospel. The young sister began to testify to her friends at school. She shared about the Bible stories that she learned in R.E. class. One day, when a stranger heard her talk about the Bible stories to her friends, he started to rebuke her and push her to the ground. The young sister was slightly injured, but she did not cry. That evening, her mother noticed her injuries and asked her how she got them. After the young sister explained what had happened, her mother told her that she should no longer preach the gospel. The young sister began to cry. She did not cry because of her injuries. She cried knowing that if she stopped preaching, it would not please God. The young sister continued to tell her friends about God.



Scenario 4

At church, Bro. Chen gave everyone the impression that he was a good Christian who attended services regularly. In fact, he was liked and praised by everyone. At home, however, he was a different person. One day, the pastor and a group of members went to visit Bro. Chen at his home. Bro. Chen was not at home, but as they were about to leave, they noticed Bro. Chen's neighbor and asked if he knew where he was. The neighbor did not know but when he learned that they were from the same church as Bro. Chen, he asked them, "Do you know what your Bro. Chen did? He shifted the boundary of his house. According to the rules, the boundary line is supposed to be here, which means that this longan tree should belong in my land. But your Bro. Chen has shifted the boundary line so that the longan tree has now become his." The neighbor continued to complain of other wrongs that Bro. Chen did.

That night after evening service, the pastor told Bro. Chen to stay behind. The pastor told him that they had met his neighbor. Bro. Chen immediately sat up and said, "What did he say?" The pastor told him what his neighbor had said, and Bro. Chen answered, "That's right. I did shift the boundary. So what?" The pastor explained that it was biblically wrong, and that as believers, we need to have good conduct before unbelievers.

"Your neighbor has also said that you have not greeted him for five years. As believers, we should take the initiative to greet others first."

After much persuasion, Bro. Chen reluctantly said that he would try to start greeting his neighbor.

The next morning, as both Bro. Chen and his neighbor were cleaning their yard, Bro. Chen courageously said, "Good morning." The neighbor, however, replied, "What's wrong? Did you take the wrong medication?"

After service that evening, Bro. Chen was very angry when he told the pastor what happened. The pastor encouraged him not to give up.

One time as Bro. Chen returned from the market, he smiled and waved to his neighbor. So, gradually Bro. Chen and his neighbor began to greet each other. One day, his neighbor went over to Bro. Chen's house. "I'm sorry that we've not greeted each other in the past. It was entirely my fault."

Bro. Chen disagreed and said, "Oh, no, it was my fault."

"So are you going to church tonight?" asked his neighbor.

Bro. Chen replied, "Yes, at 7:30 pm."

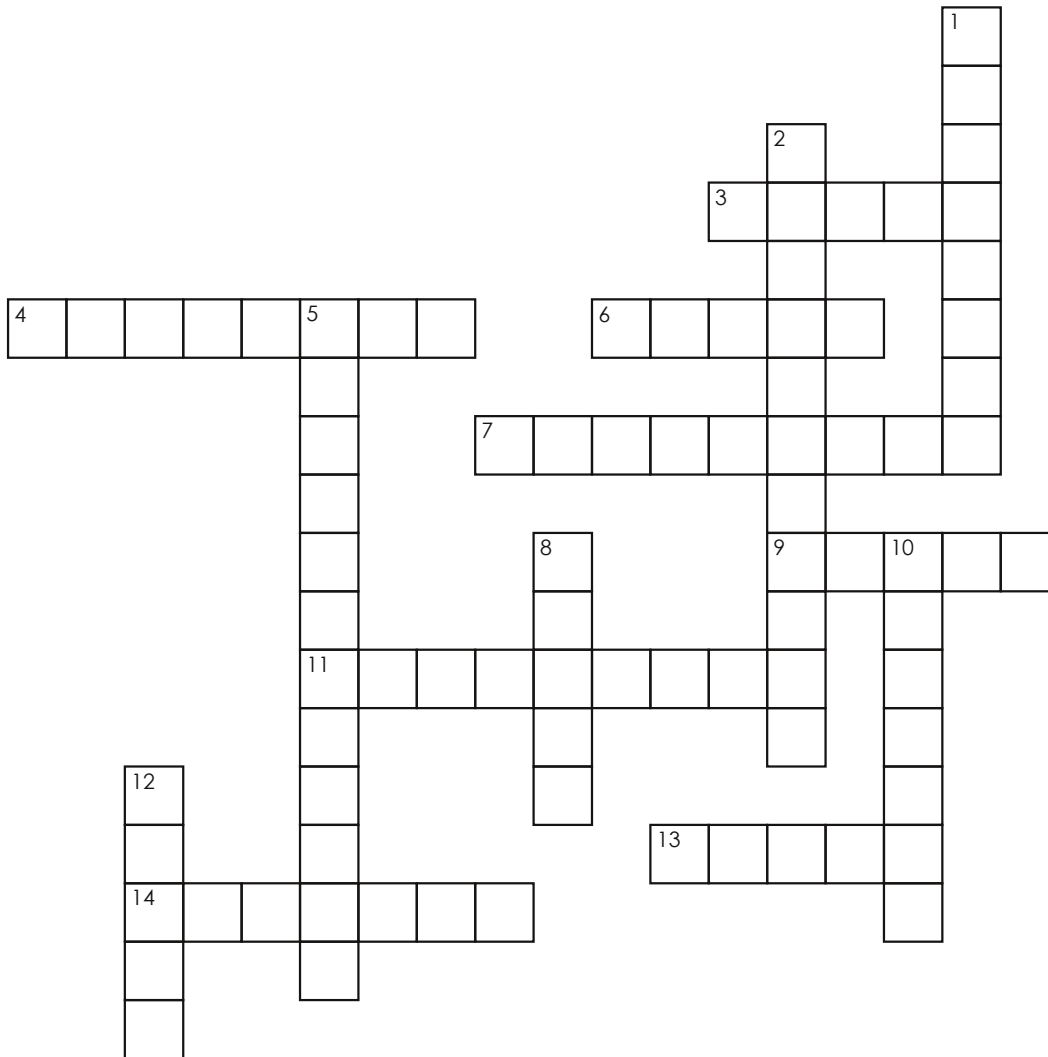
"Then can I come, too?" his neighbor asked.

During the service that night, both Bro. Chen and his neighbor sat together. Later, Bro. Chen's neighbor and his entire family got baptized.



Paul's Third Missionary Trip

Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues provided below.



Across

- 3. The goddess that the Ephesians worshipped (Acts 19:28).
- 4. The man who fell from the window (Acts 20:9).
- 6. This chief priest had seven sons that tried to cast out demons in Jesus' name for money (Acts 19:14).
- 7. The man who made silver shrines (Acts 19:24).
- 9. The people of Ephesus practiced this (Acts 19:19).
- 11. Paul caused Eutychus to do this (Acts 20:12).
- 13. It was here that Paul spoke a sermon until daybreak (Acts 20:6-7, 11).
- 14. Paul stayed in this city for two years (Acts 19:10).

Down

- 1. Paul performed many of these acts (Acts 19:11).
- 2. This kind of man made images of a goddess for a living (Acts 19:24).
- 5. A piece of cloth that was placed on the sick (Acts 19:12).
- 8. This was placed on the sick and the demon-possessed (Acts 19:12).
- 10. The term for a female god (Acts 19:27).
- 12. Eutychus did this and fell to his death (Acts 20:9).

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 12—Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Mark 16:17-18b)

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : After the sorcerers and magicians in Ephesus came to know the true God, what did they do with their expensive magic books?
 - a. They burned them.
 - b. They sold them for a large sum of money.
 - c. They kept them and continued reading them.
2. _____ : What was the name of the man whom Paul raised from the dead?
 - a. Eutychus
 - b. Sergius
 - c. Lazarus
3. _____ : On the third missionary trip, Paul spent two years in _____.
 - a. Troas
 - b. Ephesus
 - c. Philippi

True or False

4. It is wrong to trust in sorcery, magic, witchcraft, and things like that because only God has real power, and He wants us to trust in Him. _____
5. The sons of Sceva were able to cast out the demon because they used the name of Jesus. _____
 God performed many signs and miracles through Paul to prove that the gospel was true and that He is the one true living God. _____
7. Demetrius and the other silversmiths who made idols were losing money because the Christians who believed in the one true God no longer bought their idols. _____

Short Answer

8. After knowing God, the people in Ephesus got rid of their books on magic. Write down at least two things in your life that you need to get rid of.
9. Name some of the ways that God uses to spread the word afar.

REVIEW

Teachers can reference this lesson to give them some ideas about questions to ask during a review lesson. The review can be in any format: a standard written quiz, a Jeopardy-style game, a board game, etc. The important thing is to give the students a chance to review all the things they have learned in the past quarter. You can draw your review questions from the **Check for Understanding** sections in each lesson, as well as the **homework assignments**. Remember to include some **life application questions** to allow the students to apply what they have learned to their lives.

ANSWER KEY

I. Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

1. power, witnesses
2. gold, Jesus Christ
3. Spirit, heirs
4. saints, hospitality
5. led, sons
6. conformed, transformed
7. grace, gift
8. humble, casting
9. youth, example
10. beautiful, gospel
11. Preach, ready
12. signs, name

II. The Holy Spirit: Crossword Puzzle

Across

2. tongues
4. inheritance
8. Pentecost
9. justify
10. seals
11. grace
12. sanctify

Down

1. angel
3. Gentiles
5. testifies
6. baptism
7. Jesus

III. Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys

The First Missionary Journey

4, 8, 1, 6, 10, 7, 3, 9, 5, 2

The Second Missionary Journey

7, 1, 3, 10, 8, 6, 5, 2, 9, 4

IV. Short Answer and Life Application

1. The Holy Spirit plays many different roles in our lives. He can help us fully understand the words of God. He can guide and strengthen us to walk in God's ways. He can correct us when we have done something wrong in God's eyes. He is always there to help us

when we need to make difficult decisions, guiding us on the path to the kingdom of heaven.

2. Stephen boldly preached the word of God wherever he went, even when he was surrounded by people who did not like what he was saying. Even after he had been brought in front of the council, he did not stop. He continued to preach about Jesus boldly, to the point of death. We can be bold in witnessing by preaching to our friends and relatives, even though they might reject us.
3. Aquila and Priscilla were hospitable to strangers and welcomed Paul into their house for an extended period of one and a half years. They taught others, such as Apollos, about the word of God faithfully. They were fellow workers in God and worked alongside Paul in important ministry work. We can be faithful servants of God by working together as one body with other members in church. We can also be welcoming and share the gospel with others.
4. Before his transformation, Saul would persecute Christians wherever he went. He would drag them from their houses and throw them in prison. After his transformation, he saw that he had been wrong the entire time and started preaching the truth about Jesus Christ and the gospel. We need to "put off" all our bad habits that are keeping us from having a close relationship with God. We need to "put on" the fruit of the Holy Spirit and qualities that help us be like the image of Christ.
5. The Spirit guided Philip to the desert road so that he could preach the word to a Ethiopian eunuch. This eunuch was eager to learn the word of God. Philip explained the Scriptures to him, he believed and was baptized. If Philip had not heeded the Spirit's guidance, then he would have missed the opportunity to bring another person into Christ. So, today, we must listen to the Spirit and allow Him to guide us, because He will always show us the right way to go. He may even be leading us to someone who needs Him, just as He led Philip to the eunuch.

I. Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

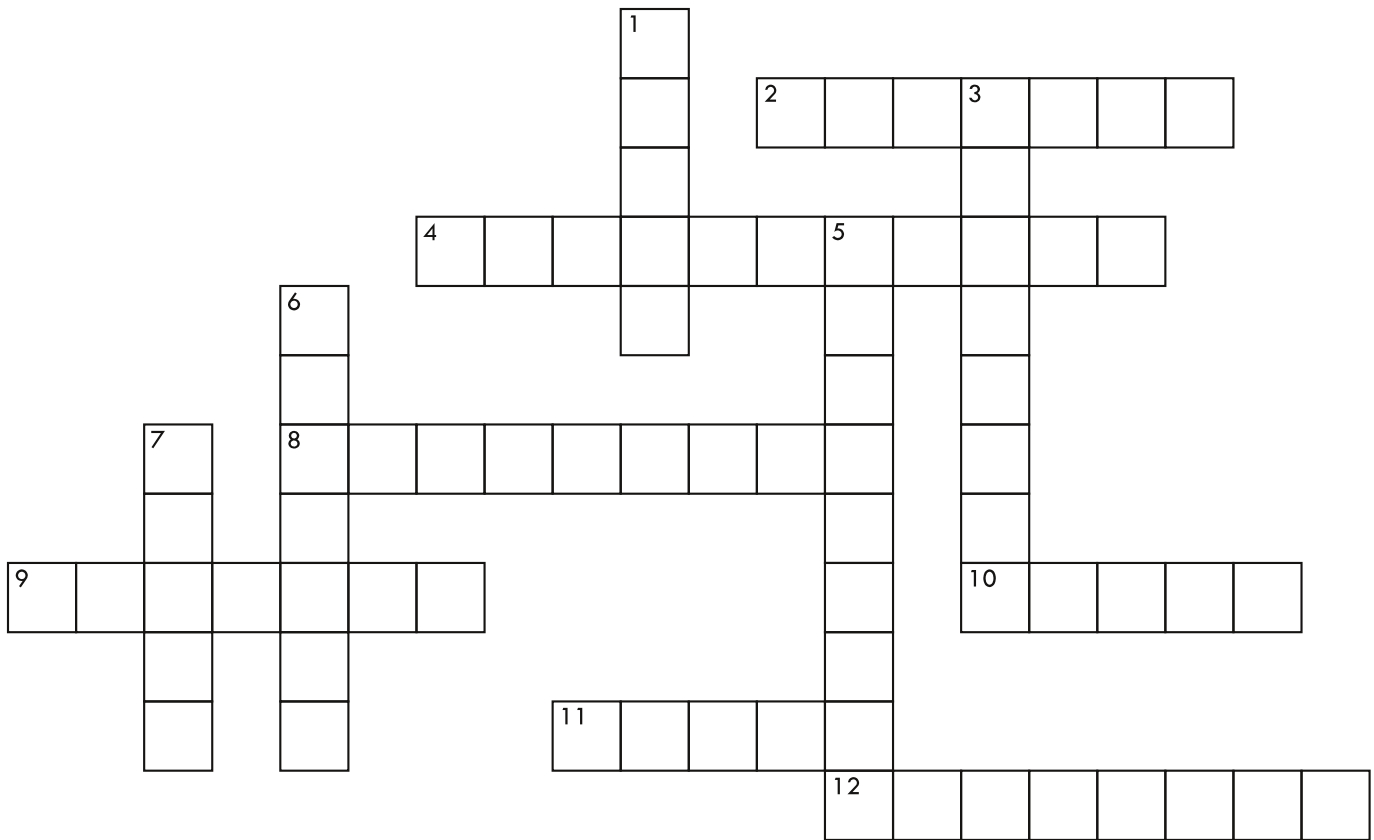
Instructions: Complete the memory verses by filling the blanks in with the missing words.

example	casting	Jesus Christ	heirs	saints	signs
preach	gift	conformed	ready	power	transformed
witnesses	led	gold	beautiful	grace	sons
humble	name	hospitality	youth	Spirit	gospel

1. "But you shall receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be _____ to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
(Acts 1:8)
2. "Silver and _____ I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of _____ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6)
3. "The _____ Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then _____—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." (Romans 8:16-17)
4. "Distributing to the needs of the _____, given to _____." (Romans 12:13)
5. "For as many as are _____ by the Spirit of God, these are _____ of God."
(Romans 8:14)
6. "And do not be _____ to this world, but be _____ by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)
7. "For by _____ you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the _____ of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)
8. "Therefore _____ yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, _____ all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7)
9. "Let no one despise your _____, but be an _____ to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)
10. "How _____ are the feet of those who preach the _____ of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)
11. "_____ the word! Be _____ in season and out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2a)
12. "And these _____ will follow those who believe: In My _____ they will cast out demons; they will speak new tongues; [...] they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
(Mark 16:17-18b)

II. The Holy Spirit

Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues provided below.



Across

2. Peter knew that Cornelius had received the Holy Spirit because he heard Cornelius speak in _____.
4. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a guarantee of our heavenly _____ as children of God.
8. On the Day of _____, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles.
9. To make something or someone right is to _____.
10. The Holy Spirit _____ us for the day of redemption, the day when we go to heaven.
11. Salvation is given by _____ through faith.
12. To make something or someone holy, pure, and sinless, is to _____.

Down

1. An _____ of God appeared to Cornelius in a vision.
3. The Jewish brethren were shocked when Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit because they were _____.
5. When we are baptized, the Holy Spirit _____ that we are the children of God.
6. After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter commanded Cornelius and his household to receive _____.
7. In Cornelius' house, Peter spoke about _____.

III. Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys

After God called Paul to work for Him, Paul zealously traveled to many places to preach the word of God. Put Paul's journeys in the correct order by numbering them from 1-10.

The First Missionary Journey

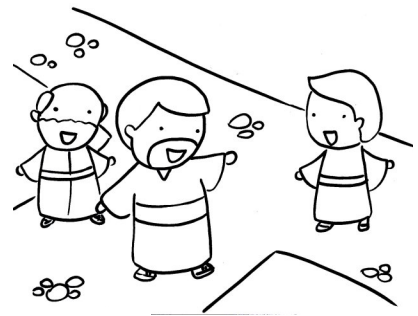
- _____ Paul preaches in the synagogues of Antioch in Pisidia.
- _____ Paul meets a lame man and heals him.
- _____ Paul and Barnabas are separated for a special work.
- _____ Paul stays in Iconium to preach, even as the Jews say negative things about him.
- _____ Paul is stoned and dragged out of the city, but he recovers and returns to the city.
- _____ Paul and Barnabas flee after learning of a plot to stone them.
- _____ In Paphos, the proconsul Sergius Paulus comes to believe in God after witnessing His power.
- _____ The crowds in Lystra try to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas, but they stop them.
- _____ Paul states that the gospel will be offered to the Gentiles because the Jews rejected it.
- _____ Paul rebukes the sorcerer Elymas, who is struck with blindness.

LYSTRA

ATHENS

The Second Missionary Journey

- _____ The jailer and his household come to believe and are baptized.
- _____ Paul and Silas meet Timothy in Lystra and invite him to join them.
- _____ In Troas, Paul has a vision of a man in Macedonia asking him to come help.
- _____ Paul stays for a while to preach in Corinth, bringing the Jewish synagogue ruler Cripus and his household to believe.
- _____ Paul is sent away from Thessalonica to Berea, where many come to believe.
- _____ Paul and Silas sing hymns and pray in prison.
- _____ Paul casts out a demon from a slave girl who works as a fortuneteller.
- _____ The Holy Spirit prevents Paul from going to Asia and Bithynia.
- _____ Paul finds that Athens is full of idols and preaches in the Areopagus.
- _____ In Philippi, Paul baptizes Lydia, along with her household.



IV. Short Answer and Life Application

Instructions: Answer the questions.

The Helper

1. The Holy Spirit is also called Helper and Counselor. In what ways does He help us and guide us? In what ways has He helped you and guided you?

Be Bold and Witness

2. Stephen was not afraid of preaching the gospel. How was he bold in witnessing? How can you be bold in witnessing?

Working Together for the Lord

3. Aquila and Priscilla were a loving husband-and-wife couple who were faithful servants of God. Name some ways in which they were faithful servants of God and some ways in which you can be a faithful servant of God.

A Changed Man

4. Saul went through a great transformation after he "put on" the new man. How did he change? What bad habits or weaknesses do you need to "put off," and what good qualities do you need to "put on"?

Led by the Spirit

5. As Philip was successfully preaching to the people in Samaria, the angel of the Lord told him to go to the desert. Why was Philip called to go there? Why is it important to allow His Spirit to guide us?

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



*The Holy Spirit
and the Early Church*

Elementary 2

Year 3 Book 1

General Assembly of True Jesus Church

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