

LESSON 9

PAUL PREACHES IN JESUS' POWER

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The First Missionary Journey

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

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

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

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

Paul's Name

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

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

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

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

BIBLE TEXT

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

BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON OBJECTIVES

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

(Hebrews 4:12a)

PRAYER

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

VOCABULARY

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

synagogue: a place of gathering and worship for Jews

REVIEW

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

BEFORE YOU TEACH

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

BIBLE STORY

Set Aside Paul and Barnabas

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

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

Paul and Barnabas' Adventure Begins

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

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

wanted to hear the word of God.

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

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

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

Antioch of Pisidia

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

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

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

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

Iconium

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

Lystra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Derbe

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

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

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

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

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

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

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

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

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITY

In Season and Out of Season

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

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

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

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Hebrews 4:12a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

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

Multiple Choice

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

Short Answer

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

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

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

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

