

Adventure Number 79

Acts 2:14-42

Story Line: The disciples of Jesus told other people why they should trust Jesus.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Peter told other people that the miracles of Jesus were God's way of verifying that Jesus is God.
- The crucifixion of Jesus was not an accident. It was God's plan to have Jesus die on the cross for the sins of all humans.
- Death could not keep its grip on Jesus and He conquered death. This was another sign that Jesus was the Messiah. Peter told others that death could not stop Jesus.
- The body of Jesus was not left to rot in a grave. It was resurrected and glorified. This verified the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
- The prophecy of Psalm 16:8-11 verified the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
- The presence of "David's tomb" in Acts 2:25-31 emphasizes that David was talking about someone else's resurrection, not his own.
- The witnesses (verse 32) verified the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
- The supernatural events (verse 33) of Pentecost verified the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
- The resurrection and ascension of Jesus verified that Jesus is David's greater Son (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:34-35).
- The apostles spoke of seeing the resurrected Christ five different times; (v. 32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39-41; 13:30-31).

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



2) Begin the Lesson

There are eight basic concepts that are emphasized throughout all of the Bible. We have studied these truths in previous lessons. Ask the children if they can name them and tell a little bit about each one. They are:

1. God. In the beginning, there was a very powerful God. (Lesson 1: The Eternal God; Lesson 27: The Exodus; Lesson 40: The Reign of David)
2. Man. God created many things. He created man and woman to be His special friends. (Lesson 3: Creation of the Universe; Lesson 4: Creation of People; Lesson 24: Moses Leads His People)
3. Sin. Man and woman disobeyed God. They did not do what He told them to do. (Lesson 7: Beginning of Human Sin; Lesson 33: Unbelief at Kadesh; Lesson 43: The Divided Kingdom)
4. Death. God punished man and woman for their disobedience. Death, in the Bible, refers to separation. (Lesson 8: The Origin of Death; Lesson 16: The Tower of Babel; Lesson 46: The Exiles of Israel and Judah)
5. Christ. God sent His one and only Son, His unique Son, Who lived a perfect life. (Lesson 9: Promise of a Victor Over Satan; Lesson 45: Prophecies of a Coming Messiah; Lesson 52: Birth of Jesus Christ)
6. Cross. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world. (Lesson 11: Provision of Coverings; Lesson 32: The Day of Atonement; Lesson 45: Prophecies of a Coming Messiah; Lesson 56: Announcement by John; Lesson 73: The Crucifixion of Jesus)
7. Faith. If anyone places their faith in Christ, God welcomes them. (Lesson 13: Cain and Abel; Lesson 34: The Bronze Serpent; Lesson 58: The Religious Leader; Lesson 61: Jesus Has Power Over a Stormy Sea; Lesson 74: Why Jesus Died on the Cross)
8. Life. God gives eternal life to those who put their faith in Him. (Lesson 5: Life in Paradise; Lesson 38: Bright Lights in an Era of Darkness; Lesson 56: Announcement by John the Baptist; Lesson 75: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ)

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Eight Basic Gospel Truths - One Complete Story

The teacher should emphasize these eight gospel concepts throughout Scripture. They are foundational to telling children the one story of redemption found in the Bible. We will emphasize these eight truths regularly.

Ask the children if they can think of how these eight gospel principles are emphasized in the first 78 lessons that we have studied.



3) Teach the Lesson

What would keep you from telling your friends about Jesus Christ?



Tell the Story

Jesus Christ had died ... we know that. He rose again three days later ... we know that. He ascended into heaven forty days later ... we know that. Now, ten days after Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, Peter gave a speech to an international audience in Jerusalem and as a result, there was a great number of people who became believers.

Here is how it happened. A large number of followers of Jesus were assembled in one place at 9 in the morning. Instantly, they began speaking in other languages. Nobody understood what was going on. Some thought they might be drunk. Other were just plain confused. How could Galileans be speaking all these different languages? All the languages had this in common: they were all telling about the wonders that God had done and they were praising God.

Then, Peter stood up to address the large crowd. He was backed by the other 11 apostles. The first thing Peter did was quote the Old Testament prophet, Joel. Joel had prophesied that God would pour out His Spirit on every kind of people in the end times or the last days. It was not like everything Joel said was coming true this particular day, but it was starting to come true. Peter then told them the well thought out plan of God.

The plan looked like this: Jesus was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands. These men nailed Jesus Christ to the cross where He died a very painful death. But, God took the death ropes from Jesus Christ and raised Him from the dead. Death could not contain Jesus Christ. Again, Peter quoted the Old Testament ... this time he quoted David. David said in one of the Psalms, "For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption." In a way, David was telling us that Jesus Christ would be resurrected. He would not stay in the grave or Hades.

Peter's audience did not know what to do. They were deeply sensitive to the fact that this Jesus was now resurrected and He was alive. Peter told this group of people to repent or to turn from their sin. This Jesus was both Lord and Christ and He had the power to forgive their sin if they would only repent from their sin and place their faith in Jesus Christ. Repeatedly, Peter told this group to get out of this sick culture of sinful living. Change! That day alone, about 3,000 people took Peter at his word and became believers. They committed themselves to the Christian faith.

Teacher Helps

Tell the Story Activity: Map

The teacher should tell the class that people from these countries could hear the gospel in their own language.

- Parthians - near the Persian Gulf
- Medes - south of the Caspian Sea
- Elamites - part of the Persian empire
- Mesopotamia - Syria
- Judea - Israel
- Cappadocia - Asia Minor
- Pontus - Asia Minor
- Asia
- Phrygia and Pamphilia - two provinces in Asia Minor
- Egypt - Africa
- Libya - Africa
- Crete - Mediterranean Sea
- Arabs - Middle East



Memory Verse

Acts 2:38 (ESV) - And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Give each student a small card or piece of paper. Ask this question: **“What is the best news you could possibly think of?”** Write your answer on your card. (Get them started thinking with some ideas, if needed, such as the cure for a disease, end of a war, favorite sports team won the big game, and suggestions like this.)

“Now just think if that news were really true, and you were the first to know about it! What would you want to do?” (Tell people.) Allow time for the children to share what is on their paper. How exciting to be able to share wonderful news with other people! That’s exactly how Peter felt so many years ago.

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Log

Make a page for children to take home that shows down the left column: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Across the top, put practice times and review times.

Children should work on this memory verse each day and mark on their log when they practiced this verse and when they review this verse. Bring this log to class with you next week.

This type of activity will encourage Scripture memory and obedience throughout the week, not just as part of the lesson.



4) Review the Lesson

The teacher should divide the class up into two teams.

- One team could be the “red” team and receive red cards or pieces of paper. The other team could be the “yellow” team and receive yellow cards or pieces of paper.
- Each team has the responsibility of writing out 3 to 5 questions that they want the other team to answer.
- Each question has to pertain to the lesson today.
- After questions are written out, the other team has five to seven minutes to answer the questions. The “yellow” team will answer the questions from the “red” team and the “red” team will answer questions from the “yellow” team.



5) Apply the Lesson

There is a job to do for all of us. That job is called the Great Commission and it was given to us by Jesus Christ. Ask, “What kids will be willing to tell the story of Jesus Christ?”

Let kids volunteer and then help them tell the eight basic truths.

Story Line: The disciples of Jesus told other people why they should trust Jesus.

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Two Team Review

After an appropriate time, the teacher will gather up the cards or pieces of paper and reward points to the best questions and best answers from each team.

It is highly advisable to have 2 adult teachers in every classroom for kids. If there are 2 adults, then one adult should be the leader of each team.

Apply the Lesson Activity: Eight Essential Truths

This application is the same as the last two lessons. All believers must be busy at the job has given us to do, kids included. All kids can be Kid Missionaries (KMs)!

Adventure Number 80

Acts 2:42-47; 4:1-12; 5:42

Time Line: The followers of Jesus met to pray, worship, read the Bible, fellowship, and witness.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- After Peter proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ and 3,000 became new believers, the early church sought out ways to incorporate these new believers into the church.
- While these 3,000 were new believers, they continued steadfastly. They persevered. There is no record of any of them turning their back on the faith.
- The early church devoted themselves to four basic disciplines.
 - 1) Biblical teaching. “*The doctrines of the apostles*” refers to the teaching or doctrines that the apostles proclaimed. It does not mean that the apostles had their own doctrine.
 - 2) Fellowship. The early believers shared things that they had in common. The early church shared their prayers together, they shared their struggles together, and they even shared their property.
 - 3) Breaking of bread or the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s last request before He went to the cross was, “*Do this in remembrance of Me.*” The disciples incorporated that into their fellowship. In their fellowship, they remembered His broken body and shed blood.
 - 4) Prayers. The newly converted followers were committed to a love for prayer and they persevered in it.
- The early church was also devoted to evangelism. Two distinctions marked their evangelism. First, that Jesus Christ was resurrected. God had raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Second, that Jesus Christ is the one and only way to God. There were not multiple paths to God.

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2) Begin the Lesson

Adventure Number 77: The Great Commission

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?
2. Read Matthew 28:19.
3. Jesus Christ gave His disciples a job to do.
4. Ask God to help us make disciples of all nations.

Adventure Number 78: The Ascension of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus left the earth and ascended to heaven. Who was watching?
2. Read Acts 1:6-11.
3. While the disciples were watching, Jesus ascended into the clouds.
4. Pray that we would follow the last instructions of the ascended Lord.

Adventure Number 79: Peter Proclaims the Good News

1. Why did Peter start preaching?
2. Read Acts 2:14-22.
3. The disciples of Jesus told other people why they should trust Jesus.
4. Pray that we would be faithful to share the Good News.



3) Teach the Lesson

If you were to start your own church, what are some things that you think would be vital to the success of the church?

What are the most important aspects of your children's ministry at church?

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Ask, Read, Talk, Pray

A good review strategy from 3 previous lessons will focus on four main elements.

- 1) Ask a question.
- 2) Read the Bible.
- 3) Talk about it.
- 4) Pray to God.



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

Now, the church really grew ... 3,000 people were added in one day! That is a lot of people to add to one church in one day. The apostles had their work cut out for themselves. The last job that the Lord gave them to do was to make disciples of all the nations. They had converts that needed to be guided into discipleship. Five basic functions helped these converts to live the Christian life.

The Word of God was a basic function of the early church to help these converts live the Christian life. The apostles taught and the people listened. In fact, they not only listened, they persevered in the apostles' teaching. They kept on listening and they continued to want more of this Biblical teaching.

The early church also continued in fellowship. That is, they shared things in common. They shared a lot of things that they had in common. They shared their prayers and their struggles. They shared their possessions and they shared their faith. They were growing in their unity. They could not have fellowship unless they were united in the things they had in common. Whatever happened to one, happened to all. It was like they were bonded together and it helped them to live the Christian life.

They continued in the breaking of bread. The last request of Jesus Christ before He went to the cross was that they would remember His broken body and shed blood. The apostles were continuing this last request of Jesus. They wanted their focus to be on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper was their way of remembering who Jesus was and what He did.

They also continued in prayers together. The Lord told them that His house should be called a house of prayer and they took that admonition seriously. They prayed about everything and prayer was a basic function that the early church enjoyed very much and it helped them to live the Christian life.

The early church focused on evangelism. They wanted everyone to know that this Jesus who was recently crucified was now resurrected. He was no longer dead. They also wanted everyone to know that there was "no other Name under heaven by which we must be saved." There were not a lot of paths to God, there was only one path to God and that was through the person of Jesus Christ. He was the only Mediator, not one among many.

Life in the early church was exciting and growing. There were many new converts who wanted to live the Christian life.

Tell the Story Activity: Living the Christian Life

The teacher should ask the class to write or tell how they will try to make these five basic functions of the Christian life part of their life. Have volunteers share and then write out their thoughts for each of the five. Then, encourage kids to be a member of the Faithful Five.

- Bible teaching
- Fellowship
- Breaking of bread
- Prayers
- Evangelism



Memory Verse

Acts 2:42 (ESV) - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

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Bible Activity

Life and Ministry in the Early Church

Building a church – ahead of time, make “pieces” of a church out of brown paper. They should look like building blocks as much as possible. On each piece, write one of the elements used in today’s “Tell the Story” section. If you have a large class and enough paper, make several of each thing, such as “Bible Teaching”, “Fellowship”, and the other three.

Ask these questions:

“How is a church built? With bricks and wood and stone? Yes, the building is made from these things, but the real church is made up of people, no matter where they meet for a church service. How was the first church in the New Testament built?” Allow children to give the 5 things found in today’s lesson. Talk about how your church fulfills each of these. As they answer, invite them to come up and place one of the building blocks on the floor. Have them “build” a church-like picture on the floor.

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Hop It

In large letters, write phrases of the verse on sheets of paper. On the floor, tape the papers in a mixed up fashion, but close enough for succeeding words to be reached in a step. Children should step on one word at a time in the proper order to quote the verse. Let each child have a turn of hopping on the verse.



4) Review the Lesson

Agree/Disagree Statements (If you disagree, why do you disagree?)

1. The new church grew by 3,000 in one year. (Disagree. They grew 3,000 in one day.)
2. The early church listened intently to the teaching of the apostles. (Agree.)
3. The young church did not think it was a good idea to share their possessions with everyone else. (Disagree. They thought this was a good idea.)
4. The new church practiced the Lord's Supper every week. (Disagree. The Bible does not tell us how often they did this.)
5. Evangelism was something that only the apostles were supposed to do. (Disagree. Many people were sharing the good news.)

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Agree and Disagree Statements

Kids will have fun disagreeing or agreeing with these statements. You may want to make up some statements of your own for them to agree or disagree with.



5) Apply the Lesson

Let's develop a Fabulous Five for Families. Pick one of the five functions. Tell someone else in the class which one you picked. Then, tell each other in the class how you plan on making one of these functions more important in your life. Have kids share with each other and then pray for them as they grow in living the Christian life.

Time Line: The followers of Jesus met to pray, worship, read the Bible, fellowship, and witness.

Adventure Number 81

Acts 8:1-39

Story Line: Philip told the gospel to a Samaritan man and an Ethiopian official.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- The Ethiopian man in Acts 8 was a Gentile black man (probably) who lived 1,500 miles from Jerusalem in a country that was polytheistic. He was a government official who was a eunuch. A eunuch had special worship restrictions under the Mosaic law.
- Stephen had just been stoned to death for his faith. Saul was right there congratulating the killers and giving his approval. That set off a terrific persecution. Many believers, with the exception of the apostles, were scattered and had to leave their homes in Jerusalem.
- Because of persecution, Philip went to Samaria, north of Jerusalem, to proclaim the gospel. However, he was led of the Lord to Gaza, southwest of Jerusalem, to tell the Ethiopian official about Christ.
- There was a close connection between Stephen (Acts 6-7) and Philip (Acts 8). Both are mentioned in Acts 6:5 because they belonged to the Seven. Even their names follow the same narrative from Acts 6:8-8:40.
- The Lord directed Philip to a specific location, the “desert road.” Then and there, Philip met a specific man who was reading Isaiah 53 but did not understand what he was reading.
- Philip seized the opportunity with the Ethiopian official. The official’s lack of understanding about Isaiah 53:7-8 allowed Philip to tell the good news from Isaiah 53. The Ethiopian official became a believer and was immediately baptized.
- Philip used the Old Testament to lead this Ethiopian official to faith in Jesus Christ.

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2) Begin the Lesson

Let's review the time periods that we have studied so far:

- In order, what are these eras or time periods? (Beginnings, Beginnings of a Nation, Possessing the Land, United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Taken from Home, Return to Home, The Early Life of Jesus Christ, and The Ministry of Jesus Christ)
- Who are some of the people that we met in each time period?
 - 1) Beginnings: Adam and Eve, Lucifer, Cain, Abel, and Noah
 - 2) Beginnings of a Nation: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Pharaoh
 - 3) Possessing the Land: Joshua, Gideon, and Samuel
 - 4) United Kingdom: Saul and David
 - 5) Divided Kingdom: Jeroboam, Elijah, and Elisha
 - 6) Taken from Home: Daniel and Ezekiel
 - 8) Return to Home: Ezra and Daniel
 - 7) The Early Life of Jesus Christ to Home: Anna, Simeon, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus
 - 8) The Ministry of Jesus Christ: Satan, John the Baptist, the disciples, Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and Jesus Christ
 - 9) Betrayal and Death of Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ, His disciples, and Judas
 - 10) Victory and Life: The Resurrected Christ, Peter, and the apostles
 - 11) The Church: Jesus Christ and Peter

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Ball Toss

Gather your class of children in a circle with a small ball. Have children take turns rolling the ball gently to each other. When a child catches the ball, have each child answer one part of the question. At this point, do not correct children if they give a wrong answer. Let each child that wants to participate and then roll the ball to another person in the class for the next question.



3) Teach the Lesson

Persecution caused many people in the early church to leave their homes. If you did not have to leave your home or if you had to leave your home, would you be willing to share some good news about Jesus Christ? Why? Why not?



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

Stephen had just been stoned to death because of his faith in Jesus Christ. Saul was applauding the killers and thought it was a good idea. Because of that, an awful persecution began. Many believers in Jerusalem had to leave their homes. Stephen's friend, Philip, left his home and went to Samaria to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Samaria was north of Jerusalem. In Samaria, Simon held everybody captive with his magic. The young and the old all were in awe of his magical abilities. While Philip was in Samaria, many people came to faith in Christ and forgot about Simon. Even, Simon came to faith in Christ and was baptized. Simon was a magician and was even known as the "great wizard."

After the "great wizard" came to faith in Christ, he wanted to buy the talents that the apostles had. He was rebuked by Peter and John. They told him that the gift of God could not be obtained with money.

Peter and John went back to Jerusalem. On their way, they proclaimed the good news to other towns and villages in Samaria. On the other hand, the Lord directed Philip to a desert road. There was an Ethiopian official there who was reading the Old Testament and he could not understand it. The part that he was reading said, "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The official invited Philip on to his chariot and asked, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

Again, Philip seized the opportunity and shared with the Ethiopian eunuch how to place his faith in Jesus Christ which is exactly what he did. Then, the eunuch stopped the chariot and Philip baptized him. It was a special miracle from God that the Ethiopian official put his faith in Christ. Then, another special miracle happened. Suddenly, the Lord took Philip away and the Ethiopian official never saw him again. But, he went on his way rejoicing about his new found faith in Christ.

So, to the north of Jerusalem, at least one entire Samaritan village came to faith in Christ. To the southwest of Jerusalem, one Ethiopian man came to faith in Christ. The gospel was going out to the fringes of Jerusalem. The believers were proclaiming the good news in unusual places and to non-Jewish people.

Tell the Story Activity: Two Proclamations - One Purpose

As the teacher tells this story, give the class a listening assignment. That assignment is this:

- What do Philip's two witnessing opportunities have in common?
- What do Philip's two witnessing opportunities not have in common?



Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:7 (ESV) - Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.



Praise and Worship

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Bible Activity

Dramatization – **“Let’s pretend we were there on that desert road so many years ago.”** Choose one child to play the part of Philip, one to be the Ethiopian official, one to be the chariot driver, Peter, John, and perhaps a few others on the chariot. Peter, John, and Philip start out by preaching and teaching together in Samaria. Scene two is on the desert road with Philip and the Ethiopian. Guide the children to “act out” the story. Help them feel the emotions of that very special and unique time in the early church. Be sure to emphasize the rejoicing that took place when someone came to faith in Christ.

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Around the Class

Have the children sit in a circle while music is playing. Pass around a phrase of the memory verse. When the music stops, whoever is holding the phrase of the memory verse should try to quote the verse. Do this until all phrases are memorized. Then, do the same thing for the whole memory verse.



4) Review the Lesson

Volunteers from the class should list on a board or big piece of paper that everyone can see, the 5 Most Important Things To Know from this lesson.

For instance:

1. An entire village in Samaria came to faith in Christ.
2. God directed Philip to share the good news about Jesus Christ.
3. It was important for Samaritans and Ethiopians to hear the good news.
4. Philip obeyed when the Lord sent him somewhere.
5. When Philip shared the good news, he used the Scriptures.



5) Apply the Lesson

Philip obeyed the Lord when the Lord showed him where to go and what to say.

Name one or two people that you think the Lord may be showing you need to hear the good news. Pray for them. Share the good news with them. You may even want to use the “eight basic truths” to help them learn about Jesus and perhaps put their faith in Jesus.

Story Line: Philip told the gospel to a Samaritan man and an Ethiopian official.

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: 5 Scribes

Have five different volunteers come to the front of the class to write one of the five most important things to know from this lesson. Ask the class why these are important.

Adventure Number 82

Acts 9:1-19

Story Line: God radically changed the life of Saul.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Luke recorded Saul's conversion three times; Acts 9, 22, and 26.
- Saul was from Jerusalem but traveled as far away as Damascus to persecute Christians. Stephen's challenge (Acts 7) may have caused a renewed effort on the behalf of Saul to eliminate Christians. If Stephen's message was accurate, the Law would be obsolete, the very thing Saul was clinging to because of his Jewish beliefs.
- Saul was confronted by the resurrected Christ. When this happened, Saul asked two questions: "Who are you?" and "What do you want me to do?" Saul's conversion was radical and dramatic. Many conversions are quiet and not as dramatic.
- The men travelling with Saul heard the sound but did not understand the voice. Saul heard and understood the voice. He also saw a dazzling bright light.
- Saul's "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) was probably poor eyesight. This scene may have been the beginning of his loss of sight.
- By means of a vision, Ananias was told to find Saul on Straight Street which was one of two parallel streets that connected the eastern wall and the western wall in Damascus. The house of Judas was on Straight Street.
- The believers were first called "saints" in the book of Acts (1:13). *Hagios*, or "set apart ones" is also used in Romans 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; and Philippians 1:1.

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2) Begin the Lesson

Tell your class that you are learning the one story of the Bible. While there are many stories in the Bible, they are linked to one major theme or story in the Bible. It is a story of hope. So, to help your class know that story and be able to put all the lessons together, we are going to review the lessons from the past. Ask, **“What are the main events that we have studied in the Bible?”**

- God always existed and He is very powerful. He created the earth and everything in it.
- Lucifer, or Satan, deceived Adam and Eve. They sinned.
- God spared Noah and his family because Noah was a righteous man.
- God made special promises to Abraham.
- Jacob wrestled with the angel of God and got a new name, Israel.
- God established a moral code called the Ten Commandments.
- God chose David to be king. He will one day appoint someone to be King forever.
- Israel and Judah were exiled to Assyria and Babylon.
- The Jews returned from exile to build the temple and the walls.
- Between the Old and New Testaments, a lot changed.
- Jesus was born.
- Early events in the life of Jesus marked Him as a special Person.
- Jesus chose 12 men to become His committed followers.
- Jesus showed His great power over a storm and demons.
- Jesus entered Jerusalem with shouts of praise from the crowds.
- Judas betrayed Jesus.
- Jesus died, was buried, and rose again.
- Jesus appeared to many people.
- Jesus ascended to heaven.



3) Teach the Lesson

Conversion begins with the change of mind that results in a faith response. Our heart changes to reflect life that is different.

Can you think of anyone who has had a radical change of life because they converted to Christianity?

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: The Main Events

Review is a significant part of learning. Nineteen events are listed here. Write each event on a slip of paper or poster board and have children put them in chronological order. Let them work together in small teams 2 or 3. Time how long it takes each team to put these events in the right order. Winner gets a prize.



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

In the history of the church, other than Jesus Christ, probably no one affected Christianity more than Saul. Saul was breathing down the throats of the believers with hatred. He went near and far to persecute them, even have them put to death. Saul was a religious man. He studied under one of the most important Jewish teachers in Jerusalem. He was devoted to the Old Testament law. He was also a Pharisee, which meant that not only was he religious, he was very religious. But, when it came to Christians, Saul had no tolerance. They were the opposition and they needed to be persecuted, even killed. Such was what happened to Stephen. They stoned him to death and Saul was right there.

One day, just outside of Damascus, Saul was intent on finding and hurting more Christians when he saw a dazzling light and heard a voice. He understood the voice but his travelling companions did not understand the voice. They did see the light, though. The voice from heaven asked Saul, "*Saul, why are you out to get me?*" Apparently, Saul recognized that the voice was from God and he responded, "*Who are you, Lord?*" The voice from heaven responded, "I am Jesus, the One you are hunting down."

Then, Saul asked his second question, "*What do you want me to do?*" The voice from heaven told him where to go. Since Saul was temporarily blinded, his travelling companions took him to Damascus where he stayed at the house of Judas on Straight Street. In a dream, God instructed a believer in Damascus to find and help Saul. This believer's name was Ananias and he was really afraid. He knew what Saul had done to Christians. Everyone knew that. But, he obeyed the voice of the Lord, went to Straight Street, found the house of Judas, and talked to Saul. As soon as he started talking to Saul, Saul regained his sight. Immediately, Saul rose to his feet, was baptized, and then ate a hearty meal.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a brief time then he got right to work. Saul began preaching that Jesus was the Christ. None of the believers knew what to do. They were greatly surprised! They knew Saul had been trying to destroy the church; now he was openly acknowledging that Jesus was the Christ. It was a radical transformation to say the least.

After Saul had preached the gospel for a long time, the Jews wanted to kill him. They looked at him like a traitor who had turned his back on them. Once he was hurting Christians, now he was honoring their Lord.

Tell the Story Activity: Two Important Questions for Everyone to Answer

As the teacher tells this story, have children listen for those two important questions. Have them also discuss how they would answer those two important questions if God asked them.

- Who are you, Lord?
- What do you want me to do?



Memory Verse

Acts 9:15 (ESV) - But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Divide the children into two groups and have the first group identify what they learn about Saul before He encounters Jesus on the road. The second group should identify what indicates the differences found in Saul after his encounter with Jesus.

Immediately following the reading of Acts 9:1-19, have a volunteer retell the story to the best of their recollection. Ask someone from the first group to describe Saul before He meets Jesus, and then ask for volunteer from second group to describe Saul after meeting Jesus.

Teacher Helps

Bible Memory Activity: Relay Race

Form two teams. Put the memory verse in large letters about ten yards away from the teams. Have children run to the memory verse and read the next word of the verse out loud so that everyone can hear. When each child has read his one word, go back to the teach, touch the next person in line, and repeat the process until all words of the verse have been read.

Repeat this until everyone has memorized the verse.



4) Review the Lesson

Divide the class into two teams. Give the teams one minute to write down as many statements as they can about the conversion of Saul. Here are a few ideas:

- Saul went from Jerusalem to Damascus to persecute Christians.
- Saul's travelling companions saw the light and heard a voice, but they could not understand the voice.
- Saul saw a bright light and heard the voice. He could understand what the voice from heaven was saying.
- Saul asked the Lord two important questions: Who are you, Lord? and What do you want me to do?
- Ananias was afraid to help Saul because he knew what Saul had done to other Christians.



5) Apply the Lesson

Those who have been converted to faith in Christ want to show that in their daily lives.

Name one way that believers can reflect in their daily lives how they have been converted to faith in Christ.

Teacher Helps

Review the Lesson Activity: One Minute List

The teacher should give two teams one minute each to list as many facts as they can about the lesson.

After the one minute has passed, compare lists and see who has more facts. Be sure that children remember that you are looking for facts.

Story Line: God radically changed the life of Saul.

Adventure Number 83

Acts 10:1-48

Story Line: No person should be called common or unclean.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- This Caesarea was located on the Mediterranean Sea coast. It was 32 miles from Joppa, the largest and most important port city on the Mediterranean in Israel. Caesarea served as a capital of the Roman province of Judea. This city was the first city to have Gentile Christians and a non-Jewish church.
- The Roman officer was a centurion. He had the command of 100 soldiers. Cornelius was stationed in Caesarea but would probably return to Rome soon. Therefore, his conversion was a major hurdle to taking the gospel to Rome.
- Cornelius had a dream in the middle of the afternoon that a messenger from God would come to him. The next day, Peter was hungry and fell into a trance. In that trance, God showed Peter that he should not call any person common or unclean. That happened three times.
- While Peter was pondering the meaning of this trance, the sovereign God arranged for three visitors from Cornelius to show up at the place where Peter was staying. The next day, they began the two day trip. Peter took some believers from Joppa with him.
- Cornelius was religious and sincere. However, he was spiritually separated from God. Peter made it clear that the ministry of Christ results in judgment or salvation. The key element of salvation was faith in Jesus Christ.
- Cornelius and his family put their faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and were later baptized. God shows no partiality but honors faith from any person in all nations.

Teacher Helps

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



2) Begin the Lesson

Lay out a game board for review that looks something like this:

Time Line	Story Line	Songs	Memory Verses
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points

Go back for each of the last 10 lessons and let the children name the time line for each lesson (100 points), the story line for each lesson (200 points), the song for each lesson (300 points), and the memory verse for each lesson (400 points).

A prize should be given to the winning team. Usually, competition is a fun thing for the children. So, keep them all involved. Depending on the size of your class, you may want to limit each child to only 1 or 2 answers. The reason for this is that a few children will answer all the questions, if you let them.

There will be a total of 10,000 points, 1000 points for each lesson (100 for the time line, 200 for the story line, 300 for the song, and 400 for the memory verse).



3) Teach the Lesson

The teacher should ask, "What do you have to do to go to heaven?"

- Is being sincere enough?
- Is being religious enough?
- Is being God-fearing enough?

Today's lesson will look at someone who was all of these but, from God's perspective, it was not enough.

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Bible Jeopardy

Divide the class evenly into two teams. The teams could be:

- 1) whoever has the most brothers and sisters
- 2) whoever has the fewest brothers and sisters

This game will be continued with the review at end of the lesson.



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

It all happened about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Cornelius was a man who worshipped God, helped people, and prayed a lot. He was an Italian officer in charge of 100 soldiers in Caesarea, the Roman capital of Judea. Most Roman soldiers were not good like this man was. Anyway, Cornelius had a vision and this vision was from God. In the vision, God told Cornelius to send men to Joppa to find Peter who was staying with Simon who was a tanner in Joppa.

So, Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier on a mission. He told them everything about the vision that he just had. The three messengers left Caesarea and headed for Joppa, a journey of two days. Once they got to Joppa, they found Simon's house.

What made this really interesting was that Peter had just had a vision from God. In Peter's vision, he saw a huge blanket being lowered from heaven by four ropes. On the blanket were all kinds of animals, birds, and reptiles. Peter was told to kill them and eat them. Normally, a Jew like Peter would not do that. These foods were not kosher foods. On top of that, this happened three times and then the blanket was taken up to heaven. Peter was curious ... he did not understand what all this meant until the three visitors from Caesarea knocked on the door. God told Peter to go with these visitors to Caesarea.

The next day, the three visitors, Peter, and some believers from Joppa went to Joppa to see Cornelius. When Peter met Cornelius, Cornelius explained the vision that he had from God. That is when it all made sense to Peter. He told them clearly that God does not have favorites. It does not make a difference who you are or where you are from. You see, Peter was an uneducated Jewish fisherman and Cornelius was a highly educated Roman soldier. Normally, these men would never be friends. But because God powerfully ruled in these circumstances, the men became friends and Peter shared the good news of Jesus Christ.

Peter told Cornelius and his family that Jesus was nailed to a tree and died. But, three days later, God raised Him from the dead. Many witnesses saw this and were commissioned by Jesus to tell the good news of His death, burial, and resurrection. And these eyewitnesses not the only witnesses; the prophets from the Old Testament also told of the forgiveness that this Messiah would offer. Cornelius believed the good news of forgiveness through Jesus Christ and was later baptized. Even though Cornelius was a worshipper of God, he needed the forgiveness that only Jesus could give him.

Tell the Story Activity: Blanket with Various Foods

The teacher should bring a blanket with all kinds of food that the class would not eat, if this is possible.

Tell the class that Peter looked at these foods that he would never eat. The lesson was not about food, it was about people.

Ask the class, **"Are there people you do not like or think that they are inferior to you?"**

God does not want us to look down on anyone.



Memory Verse

Acts 10:43 (ESV) - To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Activity: What matters to God, and what does not matter to God.

Divide your class into several groups (the number and size of the groups will vary depending on the size of your class).

Each group will have 3 minutes to think of as many things as they can to answer this question: “What things do not matter to God, that sometimes matter too much to us?” Possible answers – where a person lives, where they are from, what kind of clothes they wear, how much money they have, how smart they are, the color of their skin, hair, etc.

After 3 minutes have passed, go around the room and let each group tell one of the things they came up with. Continue to have each group tell another thing until they are out of ideas. Wrap it up by reminding the children that “*Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.*”

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: The Telephone Game

Memorize this verse using The Telephone Game. Have your class form one line, then whisper into the first person in line a phrase of this verse, have that person repeat the phrase to the next person. Do this until all have quoted the first phrase. Then do the same thing with the second phrase, the third phrase, and so on until you have memorized the verse.



4) Review the Lesson

Continue your review game for points that you began at the start of the lesson.

- For 100 points, where did Cornelius live at this time? (Caesarea)
- For 200 points, who was Peter visiting? (Simon the Tanner)
- For 300 points, how many times did Cornelius have his vision (once) and how many times did Peter have his vision? (three times)
- For 400 points, how many people did Cornelius send to Joppa? (three; two servants and one soldier)
- Bonus question worth 500 points: What is the theme of this lesson? (No person should be called common or unclean.)

Review the Lesson Activity: Bible Jeopardy

This review activity is a continuation of the review game at the beginning of the lesson.



5) Apply the Lesson

Some people say that all that matters is if you believe and are a good person. Cornelius believed in God, prayed, and did good deeds. However, all this was not enough for his salvation.

The eight words that we have learned that summarize the one story of God are: God, man, sin, death, Christ, cross, faith, and life. This story shows us that faith in who Jesus Christ is and what He did is essential.

Doing good is not good enough or else Cornelius did not need God's forgiveness.

Story Line: No person should be called common or unclean.

Adventure Number 84

Acts 11:19-30

Story Line: A new church got started in Antioch of Syria.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- At Antioch, Syria, for the first time in the history of the church, believers actually evangelized Gentiles. The Samaritans of Acts 8 were partly Jewish. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8) was actually on his own reading Isaiah 53. And even Cornelius (Acts 10) actually took the initiative in getting the gospel from Peter.
- Because of the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 8:1-2), the gospel spread to many places. The death of Stephen helped the gospel to move out to Samaria, Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch.
- The gospel went from Jerusalem to Antioch, a major cosmopolitan city in the Roman Empire, and a blended Jewish-Gentile church was founded that sent out missionaries.
- Antioch of Syria was the third largest city in the Roman empire. Only Rome and Alexandria were larger in population. It was a major commercial hub and very multicultural.
- Some Christ-followers from Judea went there and preached the gospel to the Greek-speaking Gentiles and many people believed in Christ.
- The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to visit the church in Antioch. When he saw the mix of people, including many Gentiles, he brought Saul there to help teach them.
- The Antioch church became a model for other churches by commissioning Saul and Barnabas to be missionaries.
- The blessing to all the nations began with Abraham (Genesis 12) and continued through the rest of the Scriptures.

Teacher Helps

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



2) Begin the Lesson

The teacher should gather all the songs that have been used in the Adventures in the Bible's Big Story and play several of them.

The class should be able to sing along with the teacher the songs that they have previously learned in this curriculum.

After the teacher has played several songs and the class and sung them, play the game, "Name That Tune." "Name That Tune" is a game in which the students will attempt to match the song with the Bible adventure that best matches the song. The teacher should use extreme graciousness to encourage the class when an answer is given.

The purpose of this activity is for kids to associate music they have learned with events in the Bible. The teacher should stay focused on this primary purpose.

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Name That Tune

The teacher should play songs that the class has learned for the previous Bible adventures. Children should guess which adventures in the Bible's big story best match the song that is being played or sung.

If time permits, the teacher could also ask if there are phrases or words in any of the songs that the children do not understand.



3) Teach the Lesson

If you were going to start a church, who would you tell first? Who would you invite to be the leader or leaders of your new church? Today's story is going to give us a good idea of how to start a new church and something about its leadership.



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

Stephen's death started it all. A great persecution arose against the believers at that time. It was like it became acceptable to punish Christians for no good reason at all. So, lots of believers left Jerusalem. They went to far away places like Phoenicia and Antioch. Some travelled to a far away place in Africa called Cyrene. They even went to an island in the Mediterranean Sea. The believers were probably hoping to keep their faith and not lose their lives. It was a strategic move that helped the growth of the church.

We do not even know their names, but some believers went to Antioch in Syria. They started telling non-Jews, or Gentiles, about Jesus Christ and many of them placed their faith in Jesus. That was the beginning of a new church in the third largest city in the Roman empire. So many people turned to faith in Christ that the Jerusalem church found out about it. As a precaution, they sent Barnabas to check out this new group of believers. Barnabas was a good man who led a life that followed God completely. More and more people came to faith in Christ.

Barnabas needed help. So, he went looking for Saul who was living in Tarsus, in what is now called Turkey. The two of them led the body of believers in Antioch for a whole year. The message of the Master was their main concern. They chose to get the message out of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many of the people who saw the resurrected Christ were still alive and perhaps some of them were in the area. They knew that Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross, was buried, and that He rose again from the dead. That is what they put their faith in ... faith in Who Jesus was (God), and faith in what He had done (paid the price for their sin on the cross). Their faith was so strong in this message that believers were first called "Christians" in Antioch of Syria.

Eventually, Saul and Barnabas got even more help from three other leaders. Together, the five of them led the growing congregation in Antioch. The church leadership team now consisted of a Jew from Cyprus (Barnabas), a black man from Africa (Simeon), a Roman from northern Africa, a Jewish man who was probably from Galilee (Manaen), and a highly educated Jew from Turkey (Saul). God had put His stamp of approval on the new church. It was pretty amazing!

One day, these five elders in the church were praying and fasting. The Holy Spirit told them to set apart two of them, Paul and Barnabas, for a very special work. They would become missionaries sent out by the Antioch church.

Tell the Story

Activity: Names of the First Church Planters

The teacher should tell the story and ask the class to tell who the names of the first church planters are.

Answer: we do not know their names. They were just a group of believers who spread the message of Jesus Christ. The early believers were active in sharing their faith. The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas, an established leader. However, the names of the first church planters are not known to this day. God can use people who are not well-known.



Memory Verse

Acts 11:24 (ESV) - For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

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Bible Activity

Ahead of time, find out names of 5-10 people that were famous 50-75 years ago that your students have probably not heard of. You should choose a variety of types of fame: political, sports, and national heroes. The goal is to help children realize that earthly fame is fleeting, but people that do things for God will have a reward in eternity.

Ask the children: **“Who do you know that is very famous?”** Have them tell why each person is famous. Write the names that they give on a paper, or on a board at the front of the classroom, if possible. Make a list on one side of the board, leaving room on the other side. After you have at least 5 names that the children have given, begin to write the names you chose of the people that were famous 50-75 years ago. Ask the class if anyone has ever heard of..(read the names one by one). After you have finished your list, briefly tell what each person was known for.

Objective: **“The 5 elders in our story today were named in the Bible. Even people that are very famous today will someday be forgotten. God will never forget those that love Him and serve Him.”**

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Graffiti

Graffiti can also be used to help children memorize this verse. Write each word of this verse on a separate piece of paper. Then have children put the words in order in groups of 2 or 3. When each group can put the verse together in order, they will probably have this verse memorized.



4) Review the Lesson

Review the lesson in small groups. What are seven main facts or ideas that come out of this lesson? One adult leader should join each small group of kids. Let the children do most of the discovering. Help them when necessary.

- Stephen's death started a large persecution of the church.
- Believers fled from Jerusalem and went as far away as Africa and Cyprus.
- Antioch was the third largest city in the Roman empire. Only Rome and Alexandria were larger.
- The names of the first church planters are not known.
- The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to verify what was going on in Antioch.
- Barnabas went and found Saul to help him lead this church.
- Barnabas and Saul found three other qualified men to help lead this church.



5) Apply the Lesson

Spreading the message of Jesus Christ was the way the early church grew.

Go to one or two people that you can tell this same message. Use the eight essential truths to help you explain this simple but life changing message.

Story Line: A new church got started in Antioch of Syria.

Teacher Helps

Review the Lesson Activity: Seven Main Facts

The teacher should have the class break up into groups of 2 or 3. Have them tell each other about the 7 main ideas in the lesson which are listed to your left. For younger children, or non-readers, the teacher should help them.

Adventure Number 85

Acts 13:4 - 14:27

Story Line: The church in Antioch sent out the first missionaries.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Paul and Barnabas accepted the new assignment from God. They chose to bring an assistant with them, John Mark. John Mark was a cousin of Barnabas. The assignment was to take the message of the gospel to other countries.
- Their first destination was Cyprus, the home country of Barnabas. Cyprus was where Saul was first called Paul. Salamis, on the eastern coast of Cyprus, was the first stop. Evidently, there was a large Jewish population in Salamis. From Salamis, they went to Paphos, a trip of about 100 miles or 160 kilometers.
- At Paphos, they encountered Bar-Jesus, a fraudulent wizard. Paul confronted this sorcerer and the governor immediately placed his faith in Jesus Christ as a result. At this point, Paul seems to take the lead over Barnabas, except when they were in Jerusalem.
- From Cyprus, they went to Perga in Pamphilia (southern Turkey). It was here that John Mark left the team and went back to Jerusalem. Paul thought John Mark lacked courage and commitment but later came to respect him and acknowledge that he needed John Mark for the work (2 Timothy 4:11).
- From Perga, they headed north to Pisidian Antioch. When invited to speak at the synagogue, Paul read two portions of Scripture from the Old Testament. First, from Moses and then from the prophets. The result was explosive.
- On their way home, Paul and Barnabas retraced their journey to encourage new believers along the way.

Teacher Helps

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2) Begin the Lesson

Ask children to help you with previous memory verses. Maybe say something like, “**Who remembers what (verse) says?**”

- Adventure Number 71: Matthew 26:56
- Adventure Number 72: 1 Corinthians 5:7
- Adventure Number 73: 1 Peter 3:18
- Adventure Number 74: Luke 23:42
- Adventure Number 75: Luke 24:6
- Adventure Number 76: Luke 24:27
- Adventure Number 77: Matthew 28:19
- Adventure Number 78: Acts 1:8
- Adventure Number 79: Acts 2:38
- Adventure Number 80: Acts 2:42
- Adventure Number 81: Isaiah 53:7
- Adventure Number 82: Acts 9:15
- Adventure Number 83: Acts 10:43
- Adventure Number 84: Acts 11:24



3) Teach the Lesson

If you were going to start a missionary emphasis, who would you invite to come to your missionary emphasis? Who would you invite to be the leader or leaders of your new mission? What kind of qualities would you be looking for in this man or woman?

Today’s story is going to give us a good idea of how to start a missions emphasis and something about its leadership.

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Memory Verse Review

The last 14 memory verses are given here. Divide the children up into two teams and see which team can tell you the most memory verses. Bonus points should be given if they each team can recite more than the last 14 memory verses.

Give the teams five minutes and they must work together.

The teacher can provide a few helps.



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

Tell the Story Activity: Map

It would be good for the teacher to locate a map to show the class the general direction that Paul and Barnabas took on the first missionary journey.

The church in Antioch of Syria was the first ... no other church had ever sent out missionaries before, not even the church in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit directed them to select two of their leaders to become missionaries. Paul and Barnabas would be the first missionaries while Simon, Lucius, Manaen, and perhaps others stayed back in Antioch to oversee the church.

Here is how the first missionary journey got started. Paul and Barnabas left Antioch and went to the nearest port city. From there, they sailed to the island of Cyprus. While Barnabas had been living in Jerusalem before he came to the church in Antioch, he was originally from Cyprus. So, he knew just the right places to go. Once they landed in Cyprus, they went to the synagogue at Salamis and proclaimed the Word of God. John Mark also went along as an assistant to Paul and Barnabas. It was at Cyprus, that Saul's name was changed to Paul.

From Salamis, they went to Paphos where the governor of the island wanted to hear the Word of God. One magician wanted to stop this from happening but Paul rebuked the magician. After that, the governor became a believer in Jesus Christ. Not only did he become a believer, he was full of enthusiasm over the message of hope in Jesus Christ. Then, the missionary team headed north to Perga which is the very southern part of modern day Turkey. When they got to Perga, John Mark quit and went home to Jerusalem. Paul thought he lacked courage and commitment.

From Perga, they went further north to Pisidian Antioch in the mountains. At Pisidian Antioch, Paul read from the Law and the Prophets. He wanted them to understand the Old Testament message about Jesus Christ. That message was that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Paul quoted from Psalms 2 and 16 as well as something that Isaiah wrote. He wanted the people to know that the Old Testament told all about Jesus. A great number of people converted to faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas went several other places and then headed for home. They retraced their trip so that they could encourage new disciples to stay faithful to the Lord. By the grace of God, they launched out and made it home safely. Once they got back to their home church in Antioch of Syria, they reported to the believers all the good things that God was doing in the nations of the world. They told in detail how the door of faith was wide open to the peoples of the world. After their report, they stayed in Antioch for quite a while.



Memory Verse

Acts 13:47 (ESV) - I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Story segments – Ahead of time, make up papers with these verses written out:

- Acts 13:1-5
- Acts 13:6-8
- Acts 13:9-12
- Acts 13:13-19
- Acts 13:20-25
- Acts 13:26-29
- Acts 13:30-37
- Acts 13:38-41
- Acts 13:48-52

Divide your class into 9 groups. Depending on the size of your class, you might have several children in each group, or if you have a small class, each child may have more than one passage to work on.

Teachers or assistants may also choose to be involved, depending on the age of your students. Their job is to re-read the story and then draw a picture showing what happened in those verses. It should be very simple, no great artwork required!

Teacher Helps

Bible Memory Activity

Review the verse a few times then divide the children into two or more teams. Have the teams form lines across from a chalk or white board or piece of paper on a chair. Place something to write with at the board in front of each team. Have the first child of each team run to the board and write the first word of the verse, then run back to the line. The next child of the team will write the next word and it will continue until the verse is completed. Allow all teams to finish before playing again.

Bible Activity

Allow the groups about 10 minutes to prepare their drawings, then 1 minute each to describe the scene to the class. Post the artwork around the room and let early arrivers to the next class try to tell the story to you by looking at the pictures.



4) Review the Lesson

Have children simplify the lesson into 10 words or less using their own words. What are their answers? When children simplify the story of the lesson into ten words or less, they will probably say something like these possibilities:

- Paul and Barnabas were the first missionaries.
- The first missionaries went to Cyprus then Turkey.
- The first missionaries proclaimed Jesus.
- Many non-Jewish people became believers in Christ.
- John Mark quit.
- Paul and Barnabas retraced their path when headed for home.
- The church in Antioch sent out the first missionaries.
- Saul became Paul in Cyprus.



5) Apply the Lesson

The teacher should have the class line up in two lines about 30 feet apart. The first team member sits cross-legged and rests hands on the ground. The second team member wraps his or her legs around the waist of the first team member. The third and the fourth members do the same. Together, they have a message that they must deliver at the finish line. That message is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ but they must work together.

First team across the finish line wins. Work together to get the message to the finish line.

Story Line: The church in Antioch sent out the first missionaries.

Teacher Helps

Review the Lesson Activity: Simplify

Simplify can be a useful game for the children. The teacher can give each team of 2 or 3 kids about 1-2 minutes to come up with the most significant 10 words of this lesson.

Adventure Number 86

Acts 15:1-35

Story Line: False teachers were trying to add requirements to the Gospel.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Some people believed that they needed to obey the law of Moses as a requirement for salvation. They insisted that circumcision was necessary for justification. Paul and Barnabas strongly disagreed.
- Paul and Barnabas travelled from Antioch to Jerusalem. Their travels took them through Phoenicia and Samaria. In these regions, Paul and Barnabas shared in detail what God was doing among the Gentiles. All the believers rejoiced greatly.
- When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem, a “Jerusalem Council” convened to settle the issue of salvation by faith alone. After hearing Peter’s view and the ministry report of Paul and Barnabas, James concluded that the Gentile Christians did not need to obey the law of Moses in order to be justified. That decision was relayed back to the church in Antioch where the false teachers came from.
- Peter argued that the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-46) just like He was to the Jews (Acts 2:4; 11:15).
- After Peter spoke, Paul and Barnabas told of the miraculous things God had done among the Gentiles.
- James, evidently the lead pastor at the Jerusalem church, issued a summary statement. The Jerusalem Council probably wanted more than the experiences of Paul, Barnabas, and Peter. So, James gave the witness of Scripture as he quoted from Amos 9:11-12.
- The leaders of the Jerusalem church and the whole church confirmed that Gentiles who turned to God should not have any more requirements to add to their faith for their salvation.

Teacher Helps

The teacher’s guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



2) Begin the Lesson

Let's think back over the all of our lessons that we have studied and see if we can put the lessons in order. Here are the story lines for some of the lessons:

- 1) God is very strong.
- 5) Life in the garden was full of pleasure.
- 10) Sin affected God's creation in many negative ways.
- 15) The people were evil. God sent a flood. Noah trusted and obeyed God.
- 20) God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. God provided a ram instead.
- 25) God sent plagues in Egypt to set free the Israelites.
- 30) God told the Israelites to build a tent where they could meet Him and offer sacrifices.
- 35) People who followed God were to be completely loyal and obedient to Him.
- 40) God chose David to be a king.

God will one day appoint a Man to be King forever.

- 45) Prophets told about Jesus 700 years before He came to earth.
- 50) The Jews returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.
- 55) Satan tempted Jesus. Jesus did not sin.
- 60) Many people began to follow Jesus because of His teaching and miracles.
- 65) God forgave a wayward son, a selfish brother, and a humble tax collector.
- 70) Jesus gave His disciples valuable instructions and comforting promises.
- 75) Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus has power over death.
- 80) The followers of Jesus met to pray, worship, read the Bible, and fellowship.
- 85) False teachers were trying to add requirements to the Gospel.

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Story Line Review

The teacher should write these statements on pieces of paper and then mix them up. Do not put the number of the lesson on the piece of paper. Divide the children into 2 or 3 teams, depending on the size of the class. Time how long it takes each team to put the statements in the correct order. Do not number the slips of paper.



3) Teach the Lesson

Many people think that it is important to have faith and do something good to go to heaven. Why would somebody believe that being a good person or obeying the Bible would be important to go to heaven?



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

It was not long before false teachers came into the church at Antioch. They taught that to be a believer, you had to obey certain parts of the law of Moses. It was very important to them because they were Jewish. However, Paul and Barnabas strongly disagreed.

The argument got so strong that the church decided to send Barnabas, Paul, and a few others to Jerusalem to see what the apostles and elders of the church thought. On their way from Antioch to Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul shared what God was doing among the non-Jewish people. Everyone was so happy.

When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem, they were warmly received by the apostles and elders. Then, a council convened. Peter started first. He began by telling everyone what God was doing among the Gentiles. Peter told the Jerusalem Council that the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles just like the Holy Spirit had been given to the Jews. His views were very significant since he was very close to the Lord and was one of the apostles himself.

Some of the false teachers spoke up. The debate got very heated. It went back and forth for quite a while. Paul and Barnabas shared what God was doing among the non-Jewish people in the countries where they had preached and proclaimed. It got so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The room was totally quiet.

Finally, to break the silence, James got up to speak. Apparently, he was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. James said that God had made it very clear that racial outsiders, or non-Jews, should be included and that Jews should not make it more difficult for the Gentiles to become believers. The words of James were piercing and seemed to solve the debate. Peter, Barnabas, Paul, and James all agreed that salvation was by faith alone, not faith and obeying some parts of the Law of Moses.

The apostles and elders all agreed and it seemed good to the whole church. The first major doctrinal problem had been solved. To make sure everyone knew about their decision, the church at Jerusalem sent Paul and Barnabas back to the Antioch church with a written letter informing the church of their decision. Several believers also went with Paul and Barnabas. When the church in Antioch heard the news, they were greatly relieved and pleased.

Tell the Story Activity: Council Time

The teacher should form a council with two teams. Team A should discuss why they think it is important to believe God and do good works for salvation. Team B should discuss why this is not what the Bible teaches.

The teacher should be the moderator. This council time should not make fun of people or put them down. It should focus on the issue of salvation by grace or not by grace.



Memory Verse

Acts 15:7 (ESV) - Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.”



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

“Prayer of Faith” Activity

Ask the children this question:

“What (or Who) are you trusting with your soul? What are you trusting to take you safely to heaven someday? How do we talk to God?”

Today we will write a letter to God, expressing our faith in Him alone for our salvation. Of course we won’t put the letter in the mail, but if you were writing a letter to God, what would it say? Take a few minutes to talk about the importance of expressing our thoughts to God in prayer. Writing your thoughts down is a good way to think about what you

really believe. It is just another way to communicate.

Give the children some suggestions about how they might start. Emphasize that writing a letter to God is just like praying, it is simply talking to God. Don’t feel like you have to use fancy words, just tell God what is in your heart. If they would like to share with the class, allow a few children to read their letters.

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Bean Bag Toss

With masking tape, mark off a large square on the floor, about 36 inches. Connect the opposite corners inside the square with tape to form an “X.” If you have space and many students, make a second square. Give each section a number value (1,2,3,4). A bit of a distance away, put a line of tape to mark where the student will throw from. Divide into two teams. Each student takes a turn throwing a bean bag into one of the sections. (You may make a bean bag by putting beans in a sock and closing it tight with a rubber band. Take the long part of the sock and fold it over the bean section.) If they can say the verse correctly, their team scores the amount of the section where the bean bag was thrown.



4) Review the Lesson

The teacher should have the class think of the main ideas of the lesson that they want to take home. Then they should number off 1 through 5. Number 1 should say tell the main thing that he or she learned from the lesson. All five groups should get an opportunity to share the main thing they learned from this lesson.

Ideas might include:

- God wants Jews and non-Jews to have faith in Jesus Christ.
- Salvation is not a “faith + obedience” issue. It is a faith alone issue.
- Although there were false teachers, the church leaders and apostles solved their first doctrinal problem with unity among the leadership.
- Paul and Barnabas were used by God to spread the Gospel and bring right doctrine to the church.
- Peter, James, Paul, and Barnabas led the early church.



5) Apply the Lesson

To become a believer in Christ, one must admit that salvation is by faith alone and not because of works. The teacher should apply the lesson with the words of Galatians 2:16 which was written by Paul shortly after the Jerusalem Council. *“We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”*

Story Line: False teachers were trying to add requirements to the Gospel.

Teacher Helps

Review the Lesson Activity: Repetition

The teacher should allow about 5 minutes for children to share the main thing that they learned. If more than 5 children are in the class, allow for each of the groups to share with each other.

Adventure Number 87

Acts 16:1- 18:22

Story Line: Paul and his companions went to Syria, Turkey, and Greece.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Paul and Barnabas had a strong disagreement about who should be on the second missionary team. Barnabas wanted to include John Mark who had deserted them on the first missionary journey and Paul felt just the opposite. Eventually, both made missionary journeys. Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus. Paul took Silas and went to Syria, modern day Turkey, and Greece. Later, Paul spoke well of Barnabas so the disagreement did not stop their friendship (1 Cor. 9:6; Col. 4:10).
- Neither Peter, Barnabas, or John Mark are seen again in the book of Acts. Silas was one of the representatives from the Jerusalem church that took the decision of the council to the church in Antioch. He was also a Roman citizen, a prophet, and he probably knew the Greek language. Together, Paul and Silas strengthened the church on the second missionary journey.
- Early in the second missionary journey, Paul was introduced to Timothy, a second generation convert. The mother and grandmother of Timothy had become believers. Apparently, his father was a Greek but not a believer. Timothy became one of Paul's most trusted associates.
- After travelling through modern day Turkey, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, "*Come to Macedonia and help us.*" So, Paul and his companions left for Macedonia (northern Greece) where they went to Philippi and Berea.
- After their time in Macedonia, Paul went to Athens where he debated the Athenian philosophers. He also went to Corinth where he stayed for over a year and a half. After that, he went to Jerusalem and then Antioch.

Teacher Helps

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



2) Begin the Lesson

Eight essential truths have emerged from the Bible's big story of hope. Challenge children to know the eight truths, know them in order, and be able to give a brief description of each.

1. God. In the beginning, there was a very powerful God.
2. Man. God created people to be His special friends.
3. Sin. Man and woman disobeyed God.
4. Death. God punished man and woman for their disobedience. Death, in the Bible, refers to separation.
5. Christ. God sent His one and only Son who lived a perfect life.
6. Cross. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world.
7. Faith. If anyone places their faith in Christ, God welcomes them.
8. Life. God gives eternal life to those who put their faith in Him.



3) Teach the Lesson

In Paul's second missionary journey, the class will learn about certain people that Paul and his companions cared for and became good friends with. People such as Silas, Timothy, Lydia and others are introduced to us in the second missionary journey. Paul's friends lived in different countries.

What are some characteristics of friendships that you think Paul looked for while he was travelling?

- Reliable witnesses?
- Good travellers?
- Godly attitudes?

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Eight Essential Truths

Write the eight essential truths on pieces of paper on place them face down. Do the same with the brief descriptions. Now, create 2 or 3 teams and have them put the truths and descriptions in the correct order. Time them and give a reward to the winning team.

Remind the class where these truths can be found in Scripture.



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

Tell the Story Activity: Map

It would be good for the teacher to locate a map to show the class the general direction that Paul and Silas took on the second missionary journey.

Shortly after the letter from the Jerusalem Council was read to the church in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas discussed the idea of going back to the churches of the first missionary journey and see how they were doing. It seemed like a good idea to both of them. One big difference though: Barnabas wanted to take his cousin, John Mark, who had deserted them on the first missionary journey and Paul would have nothing to do with him. So, they each went their own way. Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus. Paul and his new travelling companion, Silas, went to modern day Turkey.

Early in the journey of Paul and Silas, they met a young man named Timothy. He was a believer who had a believing mother and grandmother. Timothy became a travelling companion of Paul and became one of his most trusted friends and ministry partners. When this missionary team got to western Turkey, the Lord appeared to Paul in a vision. Paul saw a man from Macedonia, northern Greece, and that man said, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now, that was different than what Paul thought would happen on this second missionary journey. He had only planned to go to strengthen the churches of the first journey. But, God opened a much bigger door for their ministry which led them to Greece and eventually Europe.

They sailed across the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece and looked for a place of prayer. They found a place of prayer and they also found a lady who sold expensive clothes. Her name was Lydia. She became a believer in the town of Philippi. But, as usual, some troublemakers came into town and stirred up the people against Paul and Silas. It got them thrown into jail but they still praised God. One night, there was an earthquake and all the prisoners chains were released. The jailer was afraid but Paul told him that all the prisoners were still in the jail. That got the jailer's attention and he asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul told him, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*" Eventually, the whole family of the jailer came to put their faith in Jesus Christ.

After this, Paul went to Athens where he was greatly disturbed at all the pagan gods. He even held a debate with their philosophers. Then, he went to Corinth and evidently thought it was really important that he stay there for awhile. So, he stayed in Corinth for over a year-and-a-half. He was strengthening the church and many people were coming to faith in Jesus. It was time for the second missionary journey to be over so Paul travelled back to Caesarea first and then to his home in Antioch.



Memory Verse

Acts 16:31 (ESV) - Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Divide the children into 5 groups:

1. The No- Eyes (Cover eyes with hands)
2. The No-Ears (Plug ears with fingers)
3. The No-Voice (Cover mouths with hands)
4. The No-Hands (Hold hands behind backs)
5. The No-Feet (Sit on the floor cross-legged)

Say: Let's sing our praise song again and see if we can praise God in different ways. If you are a member of the No-Eyes group, you'll have to praise God with your eyes closed. If you are in the No-Voice group, you may clap or move around, but you cannot use your voice, etc. Sing the song once again. Be sure the children “obey” the rules. After the song is done, ask:

*Was it difficult or easy to praise God with the limitations?

*Did you find a way to praise God anyway?

Say: **“Sometimes we feel like Paul and Silas felt, tied up in difficult circumstances. Just as Paul and Silas found a way to praise God, we can find ways and reasons to praise God no matter what we are going through, and no matter where we are.”** If there is time, sing the praise song again.

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Card Battle

Divide your class up into groups of 2 or 3. Give each group a set of cards. On each card is one word from the memory verse. Groups should try to put the words of the memory verse in the right order.

Bible Activity

Invite the children to sing a familiar praise song with you. It could be “Jesus Loves Me,” or any other simple song that the children know well. Encourage the children to clap and move to the music.



4) Review the Lesson

“Who” Questions:

1. Who did Paul meet on this journey that became his close friend?

2. Who did Paul travel with?

“What” Questions:

1. What did Paul do in the Philippian jail?

2. What did Paul do in Athens?

“When” Questions:

1. When did Paul decide to go to Greece or Macedonia?

2. When did Paul leave for this second missionary journey?

“Where” Questions:

1. Where is Macedonia?

2. Where are Athens and Corinth?

“Why” Questions:

1. Why did Paul stay in the Philippian jail?

2. Why did Paul debate the Greek philosophers in Athens?

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: The Investigative Cube

Divide the class up into two teams. Make a cube with these labels on each side of the cube: who, what, when, where, why. When the cube is rolled to one team, they will answer the type of question that is face up on the cube. For instance, if the “why” is face up on the cube, then that team will answer a “why” question. Teachers can make up their own questions from the lesson, only they must pertain to this lesson.

Apply the Lesson Activity: Gospel Teamwork

The teacher should have the class line up in two lines about 30 feet apart. The first team member sits cross-legged and rests hands on the ground. The second team member wraps his or her legs around the waist of the first team member. The third and the fourth members do the same.



5) Apply the Lesson

Together, they have a message that they must deliver at the finish line. That message is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ but they must work together. First team across the finish line wins. Work together to get the message to the finish line.

Story Line: Paul and his companions went to Syria, Turkey, and Greece.

Adventure Number 88

Acts 18:23-19:41

Story Line: Paul spent a great amount of time in the pagan city of Ephesus.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Once Paul arrived in Antioch, it appears that he spent very little time there and left on his third missionary journey. Immediately, he headed toward Ephesus where he spent 2 to 3 years of this four year missionary journey. This third missionary journey probably lasted from 53 to 57 A.D.
- Ephesus, one of the largest cities in the Roman empire, was the center for the Artemis or Diana cult and magical arts. The second missionary journey began with Paul meeting Timothy, a lifelong friend. The third missionary journey began with Paul meeting Apollos in Ephesus. Apollos was an outstanding Bible teacher.
- The Temple of Artemis was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The temple was four times as big as the Parthenon in Athens.
- In Ephesus, the fear of God fell on many people and the believers burned their magical arts books. Demetrius, a silversmith in Ephesus, started a riot in protest of Paul's influence against the Artemis cult.
- Miracles through Paul were similar to those through Peter. Both men had God's hand of blessing on them.
- The result was great fear and a high esteem for the name of Jesus. Many Christians had been openly involved in sorcery and spiritism. But now, they openly confessed their wickedness. Many people publicly burned their sorcery books. The value of these sorcery books was about 50,000 pieces of silver, a very large sum of money.
- The strategy of Demetrius was to stir up love of money and greed. He did not quarrel with the doctrine that Paul preached.

Teacher Helps

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2) Begin the Lesson

<u>Time Line</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Event</u>
Beginnings	God	God made all things.
Beginnings	Adam and Eve	Sin
Beginnings	Noah	Worldwide flood
Beginnings	wicked people	Confused languages
Beginnings of a Nation	Abraham	Special promises by God
Beginnings of a Nation	Moses	Plagues
Possessing the Land	Joshua	Enter Promised Land
Possessing the Land	Gideon	Cycles of sin
United Kingdom	David	A special King forever
Divided Kingdom	Elijah and Elisha	Special prophets in Israel
Taken from Home	Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel	Israel sent to Assyria
Return to Home	Nehemiah and Ezra	Israel returned to land
Return to Home	Daniel	400 years of change
Early Life of Jesus	Mary and Joseph	The birth of Jesus
Ministry of Jesus Christ	12 disciples	Jesus called 12 apostles
Ministry of Jesus Christ	Jesus	Miracles of Jesus
Opposition	Blind man	Healing power of Jesus
Betrayal and Death	Jesus Christ	Entry into Jerusalem
Victory and Life	Resurrected Christ	Empty tomb
The Church	Jesus and the apostles	The Jerusalem church

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Match Time Line, People, and Events

The teacher should form three stacks of paper. One stack should be the “time line” stack. 18 different time lines should be underneath this “time line” piece of paper. Do the same thing for “people” and “event.” Then mix them up and have the children arrange them so that they have the correct time line with the correct people with the correct event. For instance, when matched correctly, beginnings, God, and God made all things should all be in the same group.



3) Teach the Lesson

When Paul preached in Ephesus, he got in trouble with people who made silver idols. The sellers of these silver idols also sold magic books. They got very mad at Paul.

What would make the makers of these silver idols so upset?



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

Tell the Story Activity: Map

It would be good for the teacher to locate a map to show the class the general direction that Paul took on the third missionary journey.

Paul had just returned from the second missionary journey and he was ready to go again. After a brief time in Antioch, he left for Phrygia and Galatia in central modern-day Turkey. But, his goal was Ephesus. Ephesus was a major trade center and it was the center of pagan idolatry. In fact, many of the believers had adopted the pagan practices in Ephesus as their own life choices. Things like practicing magic and worshipping silver idols of the goddess Artemis were important, even to some of the Christians.

The temple for Artemis was huge. It measured 239 feet (73 meters) by 418 feet (127 meters). It was four times bigger than the Acropolis in Athens. The temple was a magnet for money. Lots of people were buying and selling stuff related to Artemis. It was how they stayed financially secure. And because Ephesus was such a major city with over 200,000 people, the money that Artemis worship brought to the city was very significant.

When Paul got to Ephesus, he preached and many became believers. Paul became so famous that people took their handkerchiefs and scarves with the hopes that if this clothing touched Paul, then they would be healed of some illness. In fact, the magic sorcerers in Ephesus tried to copy this and say they were of Paul. The seven sons of a certain man in Ephesus tried this and an evil spirit spoke back to them. The evil spirit said, "I know Jesus and I've heard of Paul, but who are you?" The evil spirit beat up the magicians and even ripped their clothes off.

Some Ephesian citizens thought their city was falling apart. If Rome heard about these riots, then soldiers would come and put a stop to their business. They were afraid that their very profitable business would come to an end. People ran into the street shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." Worried about the riots, the town clerk settled everybody down. After that, Paul left for Greece. He had challenged the worldview of the Ephesians. Many of the believers repented and gave up their magic books and idols. They even burned a lot of them.

The preaching of Paul had convicted believers not to accept the worship of Artemis or the money that people made from selling Artemis idols. The believers now had a different lifestyle or worldview. They no longer tolerated false idols and many of the believers completely turned to the Lord and worshipped only the Master, Jesus. In the end, the cleansed church became more powerful and growing.



Memory Verse

Acts 19:19 (ESV) - And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all.



Praise and Worship

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Bible Activity

Bring a dictionary to class, or a device that has internet access. Help the students look up the words “sorcery,” “witchcraft,” and “magic”. The people in Ephesus had a big problem with sorcery and magic.

- Why would these things be wrong for Christians? Make a list on the board of the answers they give. Many superstitions are based on sorcery, witchcraft, or magic. These beliefs are based on fear and lies, not God’s word.
- What are some superstitions that people believe today? Write answers on the board.

If possible, give a scripture verse that deals with false beliefs that are given. Remind the students to always compare statements or actions with what is taught in God’s word.

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Scrambler

Write the words to a verse on the top of a paper. Then number the paper, one number for each word in the verse. Beside the numbers, write a scrambled word to the verse. Challenge your children to unscramble each word to the verse in its correct order.

Example:

1 rbneum	number
2 oesht	those
3 gciam	magic
4 kobos	books



4) Review the Lesson

Based on the lives of those who followed Jesus, rate yourself on this grid:

• Following Jesus' example	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Understanding God's Word	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Willing to be a missionary	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Ready to share my faith	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Choices I make	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Told others 8 essential truths	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Willing to forsake evil deeds	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Overall commitment to God	1	2	3	4	5	6



5) Apply the Lesson

Together, they have a message that they must deliver at the finish line. That message is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ but they must work together. First team across the finish line wins. Work together to get the message to the finish line.

Story Line: Paul spent a great amount of time in the pagan city of Ephesus.

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Grid for Growth

The teacher should instruct the class of children that the example of Jesus should help us evaluate our own lives.

Children should fill out this chart (1= low; 6 = high).

Apply the Lesson Activity: Gospel Teamwork

The teacher should have the class line up in two lines about 30 feet apart. The first team member sits cross-legged and rests hands on the ground. The second team member wraps his or her legs around the waist of the first team member. The third and the fourth members do the same.

Adventure Number 89

Acts 26:1-31

Teacher Helps

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.

Story Line: Paul was arrested for his faith and appeared before several Roman judges.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Herod Agrippa II's great uncle was Herod Antipas who actually met Jesus Christ during his trial but failed to come to faith in Christ. Agrippa II heard the gospel from Paul but considered it mild entertainment. Agrippa II was the last ruler of the Herod dynasty which lasted from 40 B.C. to 100 A.D. He mediated between Rome and Palestine.
- Paul had already presented his reasons for placing his faith in Jesus Christ before Festus (Acts 25:6-12). He was now ready to address Agrippa. His presentation can be easily broken down into three key segments.
 - First, Paul told Agrippa about his life before coming to Christ (Acts 26:1-11). Paul was a member of the Pharisees, a very strict religious group of Jews. Paul was so convinced that the Pharisees were right and the Christian beliefs were wrong that he went to great lengths to persecute Christians, even casting his vote to put them to death.
 - Second, Paul told Agrippa about his faith story, how he came to faith in Christ (Acts 26:12-17). Paul's life changed on the Damascus Road when he heard a voice and saw a light. When Paul's life changed, five things happened that Agrippa needed to hear: 1) eyes were opened, 2) turned from darkness to light, 3) turned from the power of Satan to power of God, 4) received forgiveness, and 5) received a place with those who were set apart for God.
 - Third, Paul told Agrippa about his faith story after he trusted Christ. Paul was obedient to the heavenly vision and now he was going to tell both small and great about his newfound faith in Christ.



2) Begin the Lesson

There are eight basic concepts that are emphasized throughout all of the Bible. We have studied these truths in previous lessons. Ask the children if they can name them and tell a little bit about each one. They are:

1. God. In the beginning, there was a very powerful God. 1-The Eternal God; 27-The Exodus; 40-The Reign of David; Lesson 83-The Conversion of Saul.
2. Man. God created many things. He created man and woman to be His special friends. 3-Creation of the Universe; 4-Creation of People; 24-Moses Leads His People; 83-Conversion of Cornelius.
3. Sin. Man and woman disobeyed God. They did not do what He told them to do. 7-Beginning of Human Sin; 33-Unbelief at Kadesh; 43-The Divided Kingdom; 88-Paul's Third Missionary Journey.
4. Death. God punished man and woman for their disobedience. Death, in the Bible, refers to separation. 8-The Origin of Death; 16-The Tower of Babel; 46:-The Exiles of Israel and Judah.
5. Christ. God sent His one and only Son, His unique Son, who lived a perfect life. 9-Promise of a Victor Over Satan; 45-Prophecies of a Coming Messiah; 52-Birth of Jesus Christ; 75- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ; 78-The Ascension of Jesus Christ.
6. Cross. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world. 11-Provision of Coverings; 32-The Day of Atonement; 45-Prophecies of a Coming Messiah; 56-Announcement by John; 73-The Crucifixion of Jesus.
7. Faith. If anyone places their faith in Christ, God welcomes them. 13-Cain and Abel; 34-The Bronze Serpent; 58-The Religious Leader; 61-Jesus Has Power Over a Stormy Sea; 74-Why Jesus Died on the Cross; 86-The Jerusalem Council.
8. Life. God gives eternal life to those who put their faith in Him. 5-Life in Paradise; 38-Bright Lights in an Era of Darkness; 56-Announcement by John the Baptist; 75-The Resurrection of Jesus Christ; Lesson 83-The Conversion of Saul.

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Eight Basic Gospel Truths - One Complete Story

The teacher should emphasize these eight gospel concepts throughout Scripture. They are foundational to telling children the one story of redemption found in the Bible. We will emphasize these eight truths regularly.

Ask the children if they can think of how these eight gospel principles are emphasized in the first 88 lessons that we have studied.



3) Teach the Lesson

What is your faith story? Can you tell it to us?



Tell the Story

Teacher Helps

It was in the coastal city of Caesarea that Paul had to go in front of Festus, a newly appointed governor of the area. The Jews were upset that Paul kept talking about Jesus and His resurrection so they took Paul to court where Festus presided. Festus admitted that he did not understand Paul's belief in the resurrection.

King Agrippa, great grandson of Herod the Great, and his wife, Bernice, were in Caesarea to greet Festus. Because there were 5,000 Roman soldiers stationed in Caesarea, there were lots of high ranking officers and very important people. To hear Paul would be an opportunity for Herod and Bernice to show off their position. So, a few days later, Festus told Agrippa that he had a man on his hands who was left here as a prisoner by the previous governor, Felix. Festus admitted that he did not know what to do with him so Agrippa agreed to hear Paul personally.

The next day, Agrippa and Bernice went to the Great Hall in Caesarea to hear Paul. They made a grand entrance with all the top military people at their side. Once everyone was seated in the Great Hall, Agrippa had Paul tell him his story.

Paul told Agrippa what his life was like before he came to faith in Christ. He was a very religious man, a devout Pharisee. A Pharisee kept every part of the Old Testament law. Not only did he keep every part of the Old Testament law, he persecuted those who did not. He even considered some to be worthy of death.

Then, Paul told Agrippa that he was travelling on the Damascus Road when suddenly a very bright light shone down from heaven and a voice from heaven spoke to him. Paul responded with two questions, "Who are you, Lord?" and "What do you want me to do?" Paul instantly became a believer in Christ and the people he used to persecute he now welcomed.

After Paul became a true believer, he acknowledged what the Old Testament prophets and Moses said would happen; these Scriptures said the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead. Paul was only telling people what was prophesied hundreds of years earlier. That was why he was in prison. The Jews did not like it that Paul was telling them about Christ. Agrippa thought about it and told Paul that he almost persuaded him to become a Christian also. Agrippa rose from his judge's chair and told everyone that Paul had done nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.

Tell the Story **Activity: Developing** **Your Own Faith Story**

As the teacher tells the faith story of Paul, have the children write down what Paul was like before he became a Christian, how he became a Christian, and what his life was like after he became a Christian.

Have them make three columns on a sheet of paper.

- Column 1 - Before Paul Became a Christian
- Column 2 - How Paul Became a Christian
- Column 3 - What Paul's Life Was Like After He Became a Christian

Now, encourage kids to do the same for themselves. Write out their own faith story, if they have a faith story.



Memory Verse

Acts 26:18 (ESV) - (I am sending you) to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Telling My Faith Story

During this activity, the students will continue to develop their own faith story for retelling to others. They should make 3 columns on their faith story paper, just like they did on the paper they made to write down Paul's faith story. Have them practice by telling their faith story to a friend right there in class. The teacher might begin this session by telling their own faith story to the class. If there are students that are brave enough, let them tell their story to the class. Remind the students that we are “blessed to be a blessing.” We have received the good news of the gospel, we need to share it!

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Log

Make a page for children to take home that shows down the left column: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Across the top, put practice times and review times.

Children should work on this memory verse each day and mark on their log when they practiced this verse and when they reviewed this verse. Bring this log to class with you next week.

This type of activity will encourage Scripture memory and obedience throughout the week, not just as part of the lesson.



4) Review the Lesson

The teacher should divide the class up into two teams.

- One team could be the “red” team and receive red cards or pieces of paper. The other team could be the “yellow” team and receive yellow cards or pieces of paper.
- Each team has the responsibility of writing out 3 to 5 questions that they want the other team to answer.
- Each question has to pertain to the lesson today.
- After questions are written out, the other team has five to seven minutes to answer the questions. The “yellow” team will answer the questions from the “red” team and the “red” team will answer questions from the “yellow” team.



5) Apply the Lesson

Help children in the class develop their own faith story. Realize that they may not have a story of faith to tell. Some may not want to tell.

Have the class write out or tell: 1) what they have done that was not pleasing to God, 2) how they came to faith in Jesus Christ, and 3) how wonderful it is to be a true Christian.

Teacher Helps

Review Activity: Two Team Review

After an appropriate time, the teacher will gather up the cards or pieces of paper and reward points to the best questions and best answers from each team.

It is highly advisable to have 2 adult teachers in every classroom for kids. If there are 2 adults, then one adult should be the leader of each team.

Apply the Lesson Activity: Faith Story

The teacher may want to assign this part of the lesson and discuss it next week.

Story Line: Paul was arrested for his faith and appeared before several Roman judges.

Adventure Number 90

Jude 3-20 and Colossians 1:15-22

Story Line: The faith was really important to the early believers.



1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Persecution and martyrdom in the last half of the first century.
 - A.D. 64 - The Roman emperor Nero burned Rome and blamed Christians.
 - A.D. 66-68 - Apostles Peter and Paul were executed by Nero.
 - A.D. 70 - Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.
 - A.D. 80 - Rabbi Gamaliel II drove Christians from synagogues.
 - A.D. 81-96 - Roman Emperor Domitian was a persecutor of Christians.
 - A.D. 90 (about) - Domitian exiled the apostle John to the island of Patmos.
 - A.D. 96 - Last Bible book (Revelation) written by John on Patmos.
- Every apostle, except John, was executed.
 - James - beheaded by Herod Agrippa I
 - Peter - crucified upside down
 - Paul - beheaded by Nero in Rome
 - Andrew - crucified by a Roman governor
 - Philip - stoned to death
 - Nathanael - burned at the stake or beheaded
 - Thomas - speared to death in India
 - Matthew - burned at the stake or beheaded
 - James the Less - stoned to death
 - Simon the Zealot - sawn into pieces
 - Judas Thaddeus - crucified, axed, or stoned to death
 - John - exiled on Patmos where he lived in a cave

Teacher Helps

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



2) Begin the Lesson

Adventure Number 87: Paul's Second Missionary Journey

1. What did Paul tell the Philippian jailer to do?
2. Read Acts 16:31.
3. Believe on the Lord Jesus is the only way to heaven.
4. Thank Jesus that He is the way, the truth, and the life.

Adventure Number 88: Paul's Third Missionary Journey

1. What was so unique about the city of Ephesus?
2. Read Acts 19:19.
3. God does not want believers involved in idol worship.
4. Pray that believers would worship only the Lord Jesus Christ.

Adventure Number 89: Paul Before Roman Judges

1. What did Paul tell Agrippa?
2. Read Acts 26:18.
3. Paul became a believer by faith.
4. Pray that we could give our testimony to anyone.



3) Teach the Lesson

Toward the end of the apostles' lives, many were seriously concerned that false teachers were already teaching in the church.

Why would false teachers want to come into the church and change the doctrine or teachings of the church?

Teacher Helps

Begin the Lesson Activity: Ask, Read, Talk, Pray

A good review strategy from 3 previous lessons will focus on four main elements.

- 1) Ask a question.
- 2) Read the Bible.
- 3) Talk about it.
- 4) Pray to God.



Tell the Story

“The faith” was critical to the early teaching of the church. “The faith” represented the **essential teachings of Jesus and the apostles, centered around who Jesus is and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection**. Many of the apostles were greatly concerned that false teachers were creeping into the church with their false doctrines. The church had grown so fast and so many new things were happening around the Christian world that it was easy for false teachers to become prominent in the church.

Jude was a half-brother of Jesus. He wrote about these false teachers when he said believers should “contend” or agonize for the faith that was once delivered for all the believers. Jude was concerned about “the faith.” The faith was **essential teachings of Jesus and the apostles, centered around who Jesus is and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection**. Jude told believers to work hard or agonize about these truths. He was concerned that some false teachers would come in and believers would just accept this false teaching and not do anything about it.

One group of false teachers said that God was remote and distant from mankind. That was certainly wrong. God was not remote or distant from us humans. He wants to have a personal relationship with everyone.

One group came in and said that the material world was bad and the spiritual world was good. That group was also wrong. There was nothing evil about the material world.

Another group came in and said that the body of Jesus was not a real or physical body. That group was really wrong. Remember, they pierced His body and it bled. He ate food. It had to be a real body.

There were other groups that claimed to have a corner on the truth. The apostles were very concerned about this. That is why it is important to stick exclusively to “the faith.” The faith ... the real faith ... **essential teachings of Jesus and the apostles, centered around who Jesus is and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection**.

The apostle John said it like this, *“Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.”* The apostle Paul said it like this, *“He (Jesus) is before all things and in Him all things hold together.”* The apostle Peter said it like this, *“He himself (Jesus) bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.”*

Teacher Helps

Tell the Story Activity: The Faith

As the teacher should have the class tell what “the faith” represents. They can use their own words. Have the kids write down or tell each other what “the faith” is.

“The faith” is highlighted with bold letters three times in this story. Can children tell the teacher and each other what the apostles believed about “the faith?”

- 1 John 4:2
- Colossians 1:17
- 1 Peter 3:24



Memory Verse

Colossians 1:19 (ESV) - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.



Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at www.itunes.com. However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Jesus, Thank You” by Sovereign Grace Music is recommended for this lesson.



Bible Activity

Real or Fake?

Find a picture of counterfeit money and print several copies of it to bring in to class. Also print a picture of a genuine piece of money, but don't show it at first. Ask the students: **“Is this a picture of a real piece of money, or is it fake?”** Allow children to answer.

If they think it is fake, have them tell why. After a few minutes, bring out the picture of the genuine money and have them compare the real thing with the counterfeit. See if they can tell the difference. Ask: **“What makes it easier to tell which is the real thing?”** Answer: **“Comparing it with the real thing.”**

Parallel teaching: how can we tell what is true teaching or false teaching? (By comparing it with God's Word, or original truth.)

Teacher Helps

Memory Verse Activity: Hop It

In large letters, write phrases of the verse on sheets of paper. On the floor, tape the papers in a mixed up fashion, but close enough for succeeding words to be reached in a step. Children should step on one word at a time in the proper order to quote the verse. Let each child have a turn of hopping on the verse.



4) Review the Lesson

Agree/Disagree Statements (If you disagree, why do you disagree?)

1. The early church always knew who the false teachers were. (Disagree. False teachers kept trying to spread false doctrine.)
2. Jude was not a half brother of Jesus. (Disagree. He was a half brother of Jesus.)
3. Several apostles wrote about “the faith.” (Agree.)
4. “The faith” is believing who Jesus is and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection. (Agree.)
5. Early believers were so concerned about “the faith” that they were willing to give their lives for “the faith.” (Agree.)



5) Apply the Lesson

Name the two main truths about “the faith” and repeat them to a friend.

1. Jesus is the Son of God who lived in the flesh on the earth.
2. Jesus Christ died for the sins of all men. Through His death and resurrection, anyone can have eternal life.

Teacher Helps

Review

Activity: Agree and Disagree Statements

Kids will have fun disagreeing or agreeing with these statements. The teacher may want to make up some statements for them to agree or disagree with.

Apply the Lesson Activity: Repeat the Faith Story

Send kids home with the assignment of telling someone what “the faith” is all about.

Story Line: The faith was really important to the early believers.