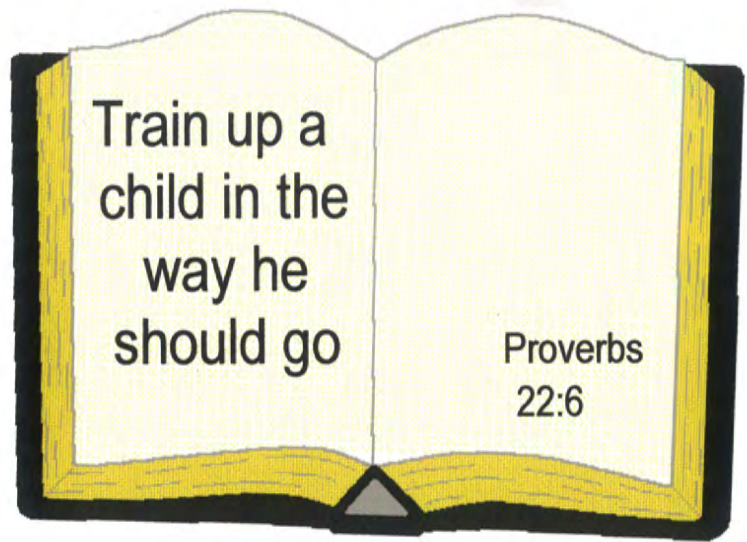


# Friends and Enemies of the Apostle Paul

**V**acation

**B**ible

**S**chool



A series of lessons for **Preschool 4 & 5 years  
Kindergarten**

# FRIENDS AND ENEMIES OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

A series of five lessons  
designed for

## Vacation Bible School

for

PRESCHOOL  
4 & 5 YEARS OLD  
KINDERGARTEN

Author: Betty Penn

**LANDMARK**  
**LAMP** MEDIA  
**PRODUCTIONS**  
INC.

*"Thy Word is a LAMP unto  
my feet . . ."*  
*Psalms 119:105*

Instructions to the Teacher:

The following lessons are a five day series on Friends and Enemies of the Apostle Paul, Bible characters not often studied for themselves. Many times we study the life of the Apostle Paul, but not much about the characters associated with him.

Lesson 1 deals with Paul when he was known as Saul of Tarsus. He was an enemy of the church and persecuted the christians in Jerusalem and elsewhere. He was converted on the way to Damascus to imprison the christians there. Ananias became his first friend in Damascus. Then he became a friend of the church rather than an enemy. The Jews at Damascus, who had been his friends, became his enemies.

In Lesson 2 Barnabas became his first friend in the church at Jerusalem when he fled Damascus to keep from being killed by the Jews at the synagogue, and returned to Jerusalem.. Barnabas convinced the apostles that he wanted to be a friend of the church rather than an enemy. The apostles became his friends and secretly took him out of Jerusalem and sent him back to Tarsus so the Jews at the temple could not kill him. They had become his enemies. Barnabas went to Antioch at Syria, brought Paul back from Tarsus, and eventually became a traveling companion on Paul's first missionary tour.

In Lesson 3 we learn about Silas, a man well thought of in the church at Jerusalem. He became a friend of Paul and traveled with him for several years. Silas placed his own live in danger to remain a friend of Paul, and even endured being beaten and placed in prison rather than forsake him.

Lydia is the first woman we read about in the Bible who became a devout follower or Paul. In Lesson 4 we learn about her life.

Lesson 5 is a closer study of Timothy, the young man who became a follower and traveling companion of Paul.

Others are mentioned in these lessons, Luke, Priscilla and Aquilla, and others who were either friends or enemies of Paul.

Class project pages are included at the end of the last lesson. Feel free to make as many copies of the worksheets for each lesson as you need for your class.

Some Vacation Bible Schools have longer class periods than others. You may have to adapt the lessons to fit your time frame. Use the material provided as a guide, and use your time wisely to teach the truths of God's Word to young minds so eager to learn.

Prayerfully submitted,

  
Betty Penn

## **Lesson 1: SAUL OF TARSUS, AN ENEMY OF THE CHURCH**

**Scripture:** Acts 9:1-31 (22:3-21)

**Aim:** Impress upon the child that a person can be active in church, enthusiastic about his service to God, and be wrong in his actions if he does not know the truth of what the Bible teaches.

**Emphasis:** Saul was sincere in his wrong-doing, but when he learned the truth his life changed.

**Memory Verse:** Acts 8:3 “As for Saul, he made havock of the church, - - ”

### **Saul's Early Life**

A man named Saul was born in the city of Tarsus. He was a Jew by his birth and a Pharisee by his religion. He came to Jerusalem when he was just a boy and went to school at the synagogue. The synagogue was where the Jews met to worship God. The Jewish boys went to school at the Synagogue and learned from the very best Jewish teachers.

Saul was very smart and well educated. He was taught the Law of Moses which God gave to the Israelite people for them to live by. He was taught and obeyed all of the Jewish customs. He grew up to be a lawyer and was on the highest Jewish court, the Sanhedrin.

### **Saul's Religion**

The Jews believed in making animal sacrifices to show that someday Jesus would come and die for their sins. When Jesus came He taught the people to repent of their sins and trust in His blood to pay the price for sin. He taught them to be baptized to show His death, burial, and resurrection. After He died on the cross there was no need to make animal sacrifices anymore. He changed the way the people worshiped. Since the Jews did not accept Him as the Son of God they did not like what He taught. They wanted to still make sacrifices.

Saul was a Pharisee. The Pharisees believed that keeping the Law made them good people, and if they were good enough God would love them and take them to heaven when they died. They did not think they had to repent of their sins and be forgiven like Jesus taught.

Since Saul was a Jew, he believed in God but he did not believe in Jesus as the Son of God. He believed that some day God's Son would come into the world to live, and when He came He would be a king. Since Jesus did not come as a king, Saul did not believe He was the Son of God. He thought He was a man who claimed to be someone that He was not.

### **The Church**

When Jesus lived on the earth He took the believers that John the Baptist baptized and started His church. They followed Him as He traveled from town to town preaching. They came back to Jerusalem with Him just before He was crucified. After Jesus was crucified and went back to heaven the church stayed in Jerusalem. More and more people listened to what

they preached and believed. More and more people were baptized and added to the church. It grew and grew. People who believed what Jesus taught were known as believers or Christians. The apostles were men whom Jesus called to follow Him and preach that He was the Son of God.

Saul did not like the church. He was an enemy of the church. He began to do everything he could to destroy it because he thought they were wrong in what they believed. He thought he was doing what was right in trying to stop them from teaching others this “wrong doctrine”.

Saul arrested and put Christians in prison. He was an enemy of Christians everywhere. He even had them killed so they could not preach about Jesus. He was on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians there when Jesus appeared to him. Jesus sent a bright light that caused Saul to fall from his horse. He was blinded by the bright light. Jesus spoke to him and asked him, “Why do you persecute me?” Saul asked him, “Who are you, Lord?” Jesus told him He was Jesus, the Son of God. Then Saul realized that he had been wrong in what he believed and what he did. He was sorry he had persecuted Jesus and the church. He asked the Lord, “What do you want me to do?” He wanted to do whatever he could now to help Jesus and the church instead of persecuting them. He was forgiven for the wrong he did and Jesus told him He wanted him to be an apostle to the Gentiles. He wanted Saul to preach to the people who were not Jews and tell them about Jesus.

### **Saul Becomes A Friend Of the Church**

Jesus told Saul to go on to Damascus and someone there would tell him what he should do. The Lord also appeared to a man named Ananias. He told Ananias to go to a certain house and he would find Saul. He said to heal his blindness and baptize him. Ananias was afraid of Saul because he knew he was coming to Damascus to arrest the Christians and put them in prison for preaching that Jesus was the Christ. The Lord told Ananias that He wanted Saul to be an apostle.

Ananias believed the Lord, and did what He said. He became a friend of Saul. Saul became his friend instead of his enemy. When Saul came to the synagogue and preached that Jesus was the Christ, the Jews became his enemies instead of his friends. They ran him off.

### **Saul's Escape**

The city of Damascus had a high wall built around it for protection. The people had to go in and out of the city by a gate. The Jews watched the gate hoping to catch Saul and kill him so he could not preach that Jesus was the Christ. The church had become Saul's friends. They protected Saul from the Jews. During the night while it was dark and they would not be seen, they put him in a large basket and pushed him out of a window that was built in the city wall. They let him down to the ground by ropes tied on the basket. When Saul was safely out of the city he ran away in the darkness. He went back to Jerusalem where he became a friend of the church there and not their enemy.

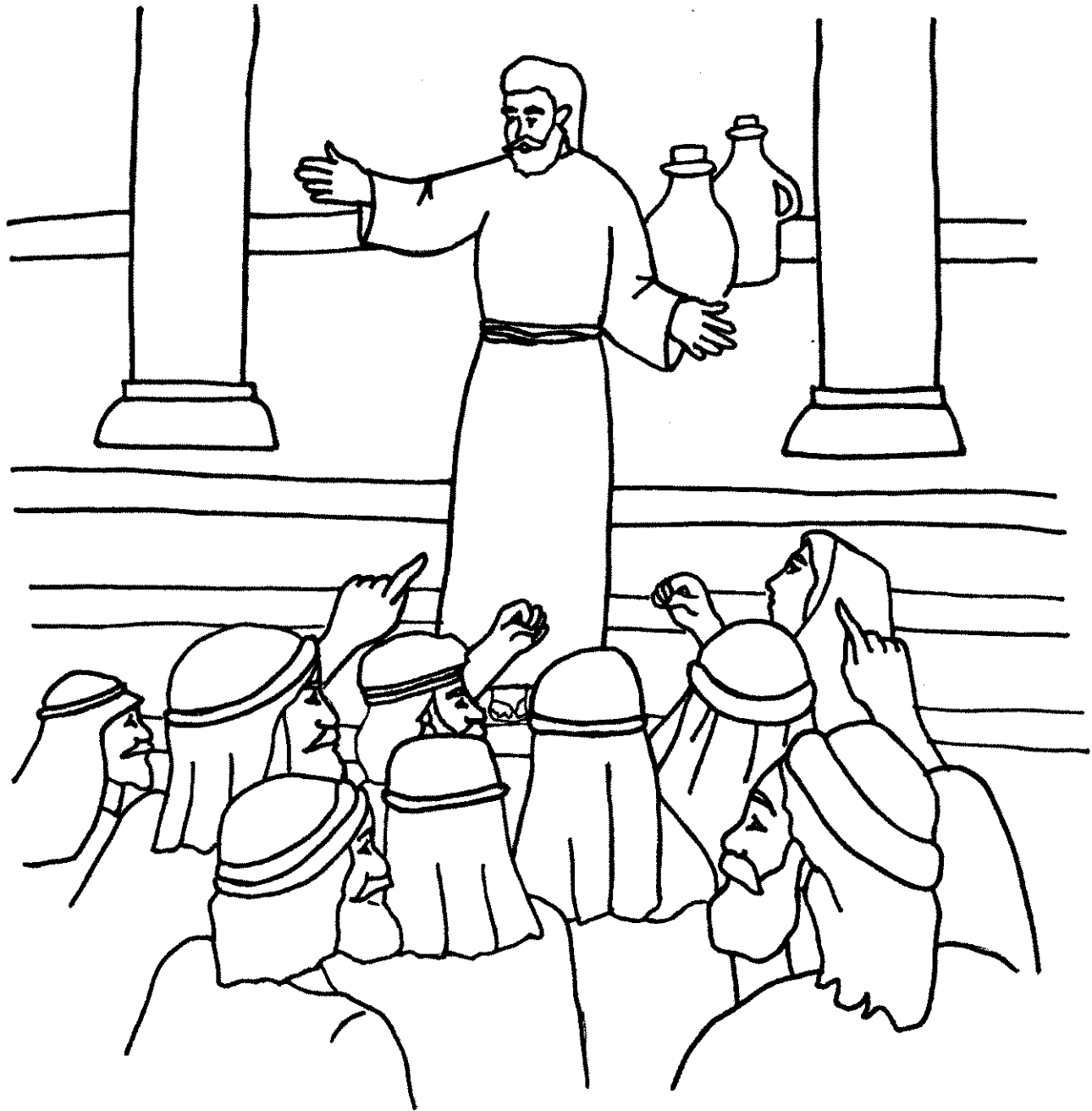
After Saul began to preach he was known as Paul instead of Saul. We learn about him as the Apostle Paul.



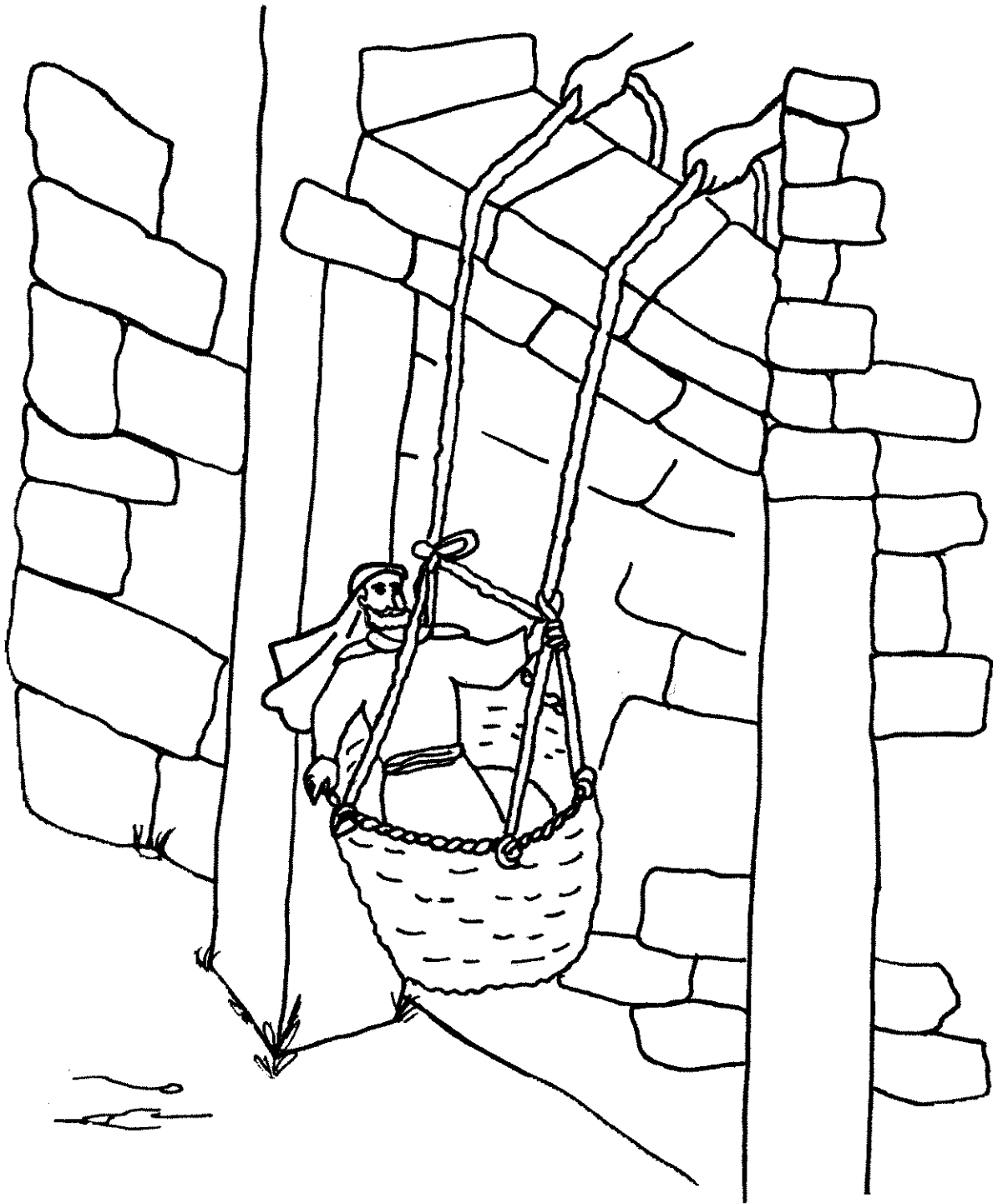
Saul of Tarsus was an enemy of the church. He was changed on his way to Damascus. He was blinded by a bright light. The Lord told him to send for Ananias and he would tell him what to do.

Ananias was afraid of Saul because he knew that he was coming to Damascus to arrest the Christians. Ananias believed the Lord when He told him that He had chosen Saul to be an apostle to the Gentiles.

Ananias became Saul's friend. He healed his blindness and baptized him. The church at Damascus became his friends. The Jews at Damascus became his enemies.

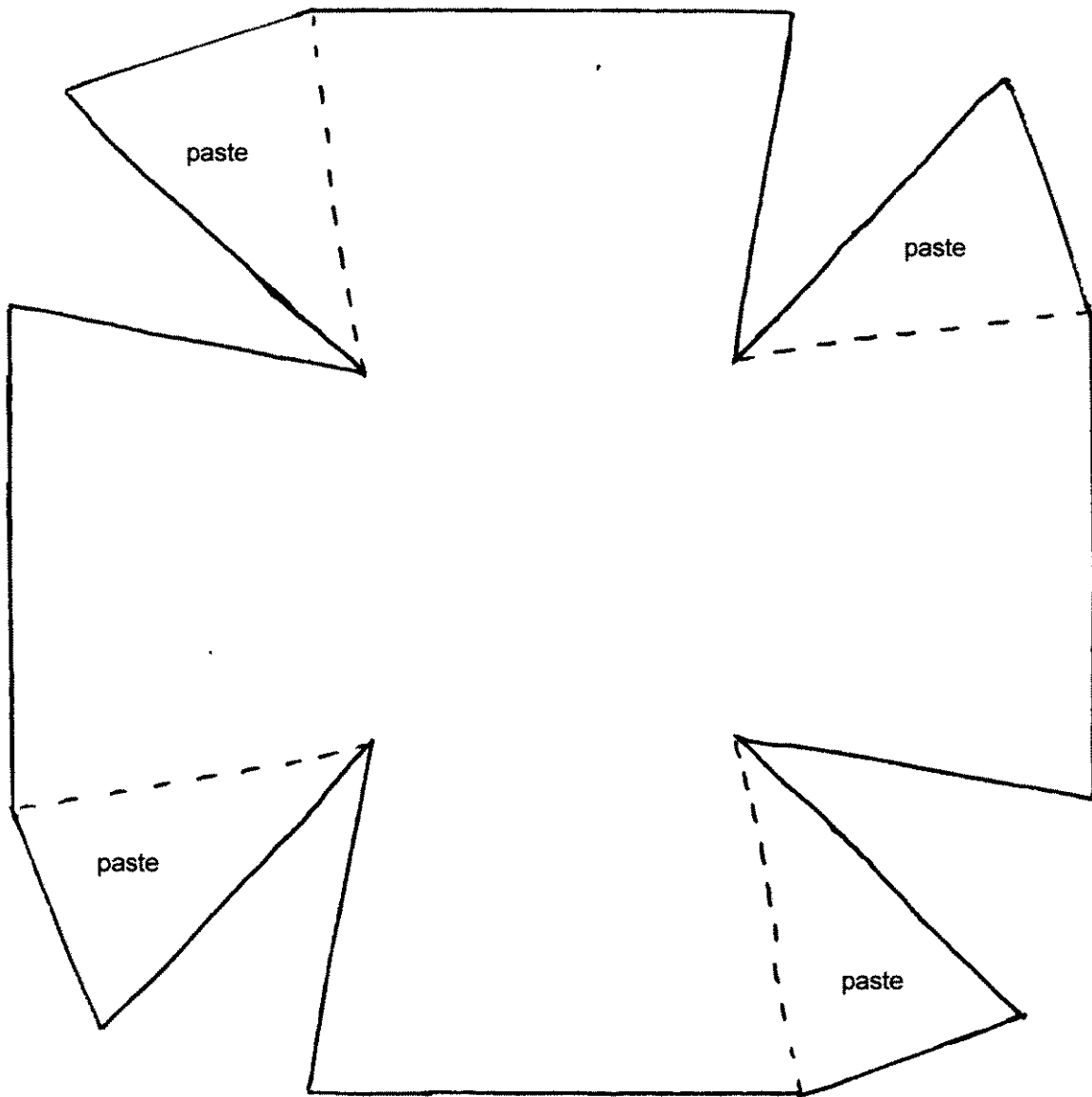


Saul preached to the Jews at Damascus.  
They became his enemies.



**The church became Saul's friends.  
They let him down over the wall in a basket.**





Cut basket and handle from brown or tan construction paper.

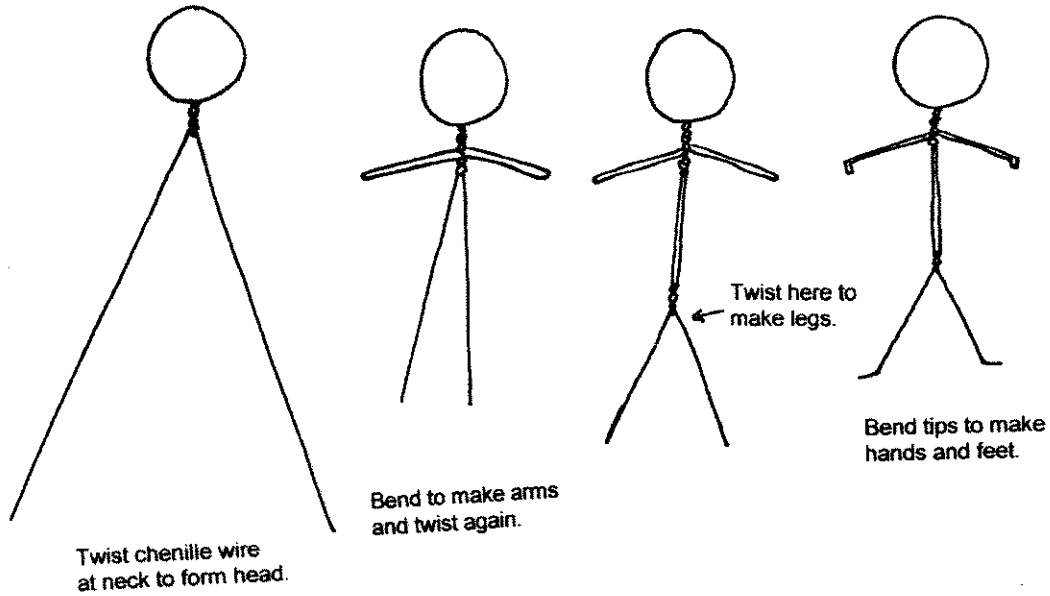
Fold sides up. Bring solid line to dotted line and paste.

Paste ends of handle to sides of basket. Place chenille wire man in basket.

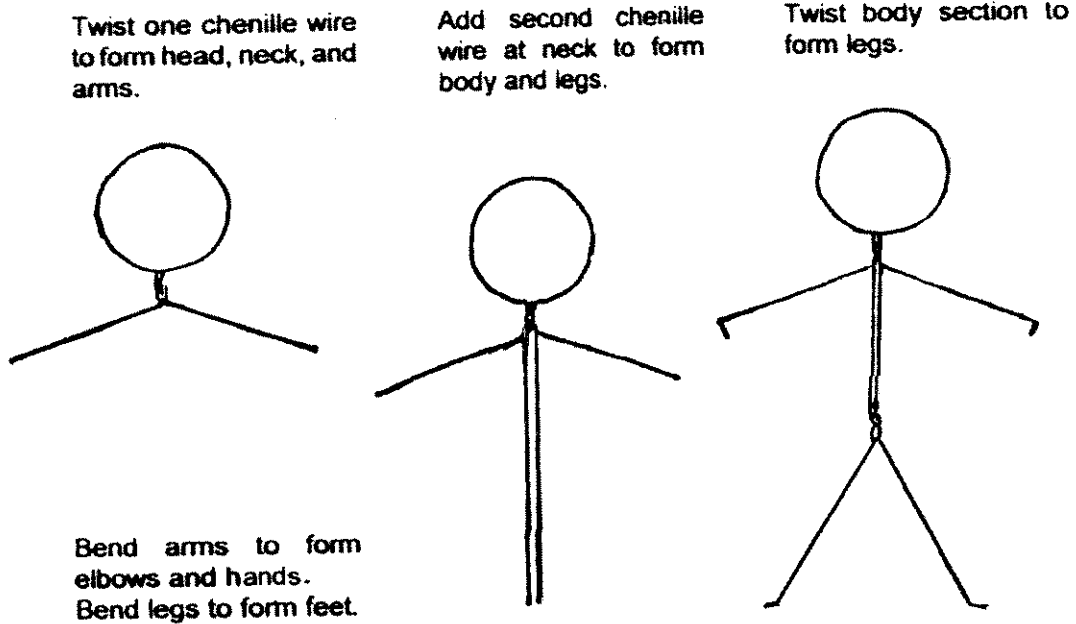


(handle)

For long chenille wire:



For short chenille wire use 2:



Fit these words into the puzzle.

One letter is given to get you started.

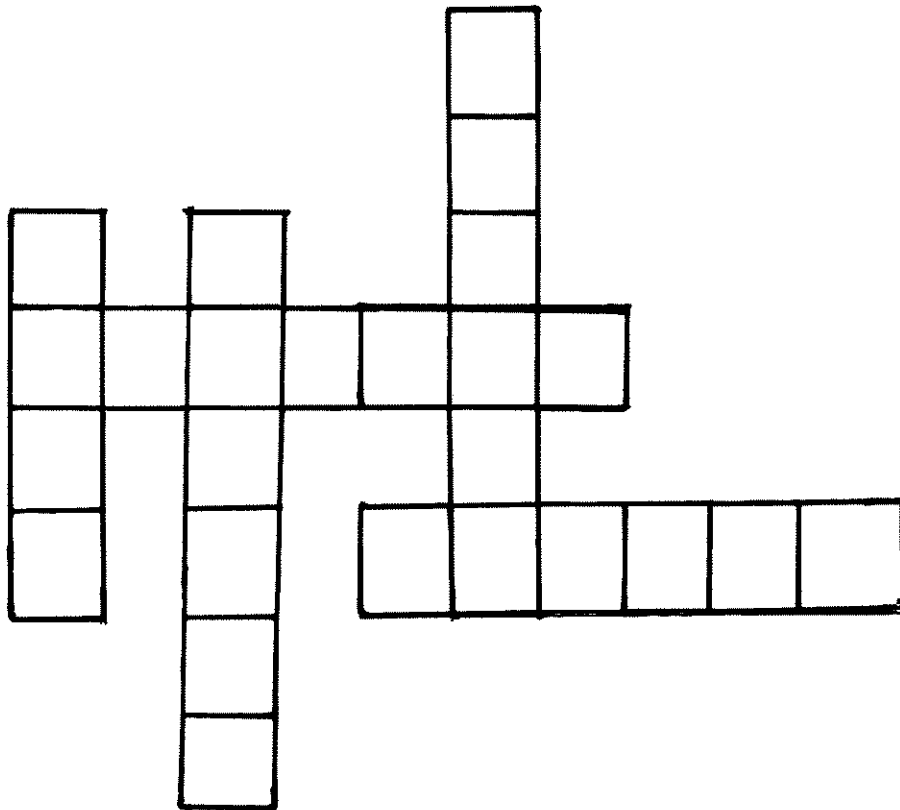
ANANIAS

PAUL

CHURCH

BASKET

PREACH



# SAUL OF TARSUS, AN ENEMY OF THE CHURCH

Kindergarten Worksheet 1  
Answer page

Fit these words into the puzzle.

One letter is given to get you started.

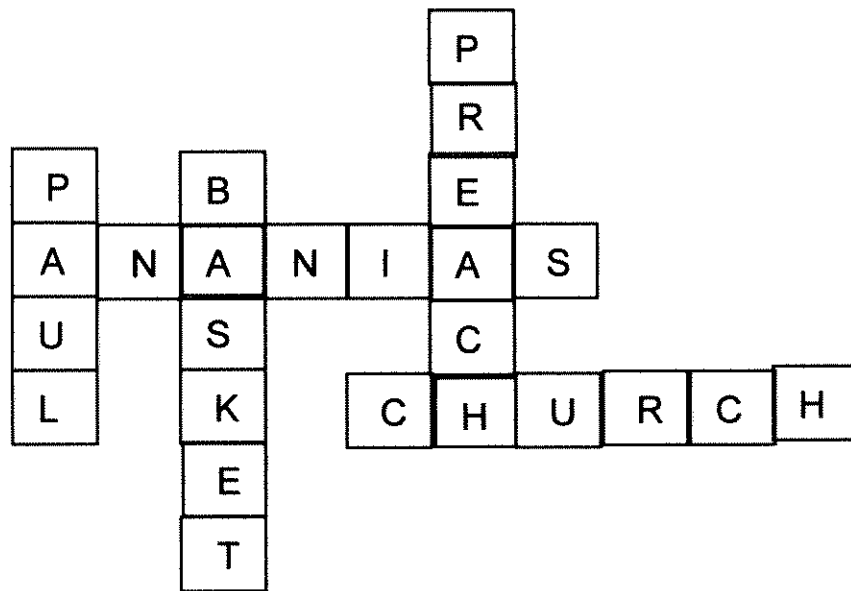
ANANIAS

PAUL

CHURCH

BASKET

PREACH



WORD SEARCH

Find each word in the puzzle 3 times:

ANANIAS

BASKET

DAMASCUS

PAUL

X	D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S
X	A	N	A	N	I	A	S	X
X	M	A	N	A	N	I	A	S
D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S	B
B	S	X	X	P	X	X	P	A
A	C	A	N	A	N	I	A	S
S	U	X	X	U	X	X	U	K
K	S	X	X	L	X	X	L	E
E	X	X	P	A	U	L	X	T
T	X	B	A	S	K	E	T	X

WORD SEARCH

Find each word in the puzzle 3 times:

ANANIAS

BASKET

DAMASCUS

PAUL

X	D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S	
X	A	N	A	N	I	A	S		X
X	M	A	N	A	N	I	A	S	
	D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S	B
B	S	X	X	P	X	X	P	A	
A	C	A	N	A	N	I	A	S	
S	U	X	X	U	X	X	U	K	
K	S	X	X	L	X	X	L	E	
E	X	X	P	A	U	L	X	T	
T	X	B	A	S	K	E	T	X	



## **Lesson 2: Barnabas, Paul's Friend**

**Scripture:** Acts 4:31-37 9: 26-30 11:19-26 13:1-3 14:6-20

**Aim:** Barnabas became Paul's friend even when he was punished for being his friend.

**Emphasis:** Barnabas believed that Paul really had changed. He convinced the apostles that Paul wanted to be a part of the church. Barnabas remained Paul's friend even when he was in danger.

**Memory Verse:** Acts 11:24 "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith:"

### **A Good Man**

The Bible tells us Barnabas was a good man. He was a member of the church that was at Jerusalem. Barnabas must have been one of the first men to change from Judaism (the religion of the Jewish people) to Christianity. He was one of the earliest members of the church. The first we read about Barnabas in the Bible was when he sold some land that he owned and brought all of the money to the apostles to be used to help the people in the church who were in need. He was not selfish. He did not keep some of the money for himself. He gave it all to the apostles.

We read about Barnabas again when Paul returned from Damascus to Jerusalem where he had earlier been an enemy of the church. Paul thought the church was wrong in preaching that Jesus was the Christ, so he tried to stop them from preaching. He persecuted the church. Saul arrested any person who professed to be a member of the group of Jesus' followers. He put them in prison. He helped to stone Stephen to death because he would not quit preaching. Paul changed on the way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there, and became their friend instead of their enemy. After Paul changed from an enemy of the church to a friend of the church, he was called Paul instead of Saul.

### **Paul Returns To Jerusalem**

The Jews at Damascus became Paul's enemies and tried to kill him because he began preaching that Jesus was the Christ. The believers at Damascus had become his friends, and they put him in a basket and let him escape over the city wall in the night time. He went back to Jerusalem.

When Paul left Jerusalem he hated the church, and when he returned they were afraid of him. They thought he had come back to persecute them again. When he left he was their enemy. When he returned he wanted to be their friend, but they were afraid to trust him.

Barnabas believed Paul. He convinced the apostles that Paul had changed. He told them what happened on the road to Damascus, and how Paul had boldly preached that Jesus was the Christ in the synagogues in Damascus. The reason he left Damascus was because he had changed from an enemy to a friend of the church and the Jews became angry. Now he was



being persecuted just like he had persecuted them earlier. He did not come back to persecute the church. He wanted to help the church preach the gospel. Barnabas convinced the apostles to accept Paul.

### **Paul Persecuted At Jerusalem**

When Paul went into the temple and preached that Jesus was the Christ, the Jews became his enemies. They were going to kill him, so the apostles took him to the seacoast and put him on a ship and sent him back to Tarsus. He stayed there for awhile.

Many of the Christians had left Jerusalem earlier when Paul was persecuting them. Some of them went to Antioch in Syria. They witnessed to those who lived there and soon there was a large group of believers at Antioch. The church in Jerusalem heard about them, and decided to send Barnabas to help them and teach them. When he got to Antioch and saw how many people there were who wanted to learn about Jesus, he knew he needed help. Paul was the one he wanted to help him. He went to Tarsus and asked Paul to come back with him to Antioch and teach the people in the church there.

### **Sent As Missionaries**

The Holy Spirit told the church at Antioch to send Barnabas and Paul to other places to preach and start more churches. God chose Paul to be a missionary to the Gentiles, and also chose Barnabas to be his helper. He said, "*Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*" God knew Barnabas was a good man and could be trusted to teach the truth and help Paul be a missionary. A missionary is one who goes to other places and tells them about Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas went to the island of Cyprus (where Barnabas was born). Sergius Paulus, the deputy at Paphos, became their friend. He wanted to learn the truth. A man named Elymas, who was possessed with an evil spirit, became their enemy. He did not want Sergius Paulus to hear and accept the truth. When he tried to keep Paul from preaching to Sergius Paulus, Paul caused him to be blind for a while. This caused Sergius Paulus to believe that Paul really did have the power of God, and was preaching the truth.

They went to other places and preached in the synagogues. When the Jews or the Gentiles who came there to worship believed them it made the Jewish ruler angry. The Jews became their enemies and ran them out of town. In Iconium the Jews were going to stone them to death so they went to Lystra. At Lystra Paul healed a crippled man and the people decided they were gods who had come down to the earth in the form of men. They called Barnabas Jupiter, and they called Paul Mercury. They wanted to worship them as gods and Barnabas and Paul refused to allow them to worship them. They taught them to worship only God. Their enemies from Antioch and Iconium caught up with them and convinced the people they were evil. They stoned Paul and left him outside the city thinking he was dead.

Barnabas was Paul's friend even when his own life was in danger.



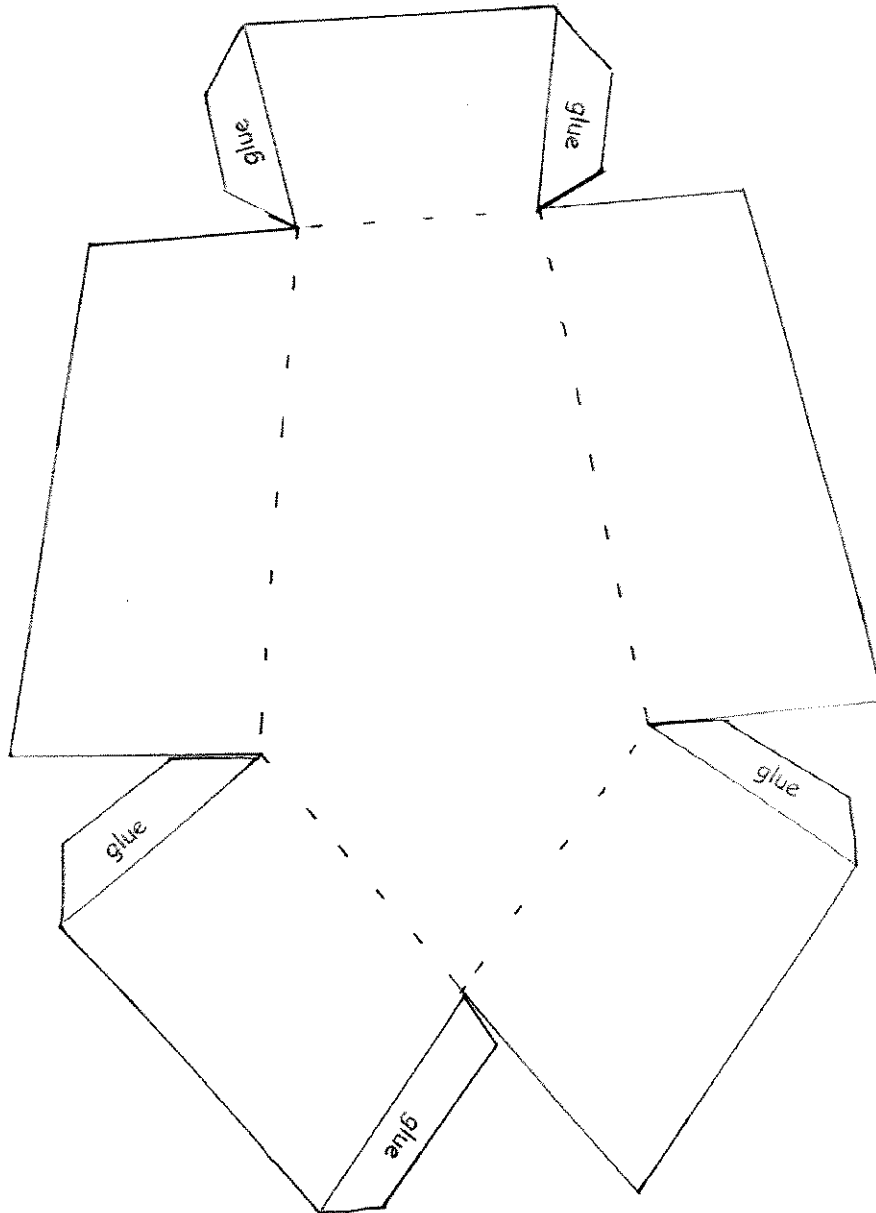
**Paul left Jerusalem as an enemy of the church. When he came back they were afraid to trust him. They thought he had come back to arrest them and maybe even have them killed.**

**Barnabas believed Paul. He became Paul's friend. He brought Paul to the apostles and convinced them that he really was a follower of Jesus.**

**Barnabas was a good man. The apostles believed Barnabas, and Paul became a friend of the church.**

Barnabas sailed across the Sea with Paul to do Mission work.

Use the patterns on the following page to make the sail for the boat.  
Make chenille wire men for Barnabas and Paul to place in the boat.



Cut one boat for each child from brown construction paper.

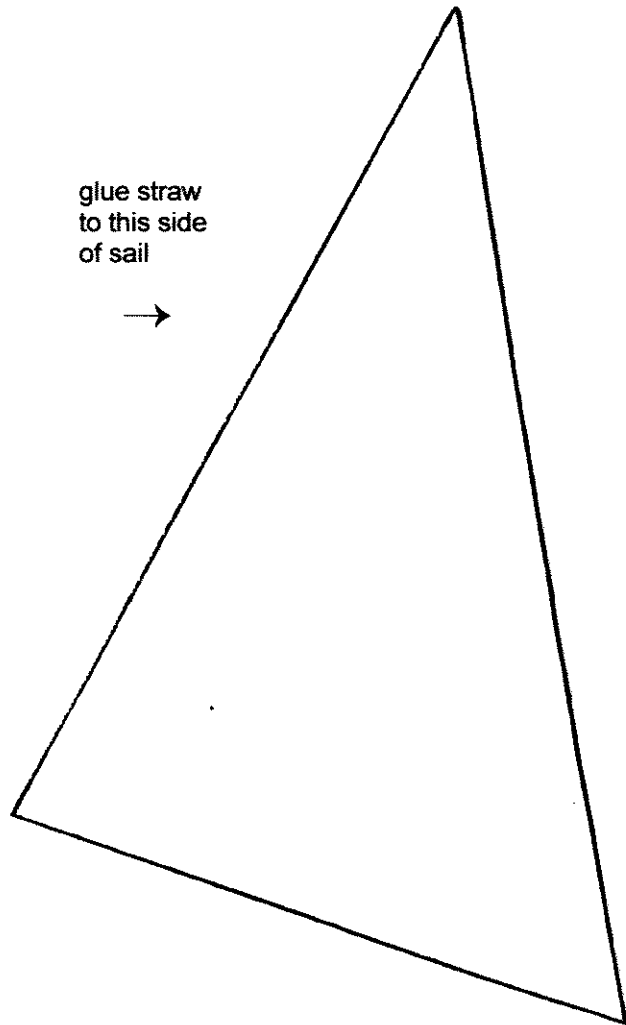
Cut one sail from white or off-white paper.

Use 5 ½ to 6 inch piece of paper straw to attach sail to attach sail.

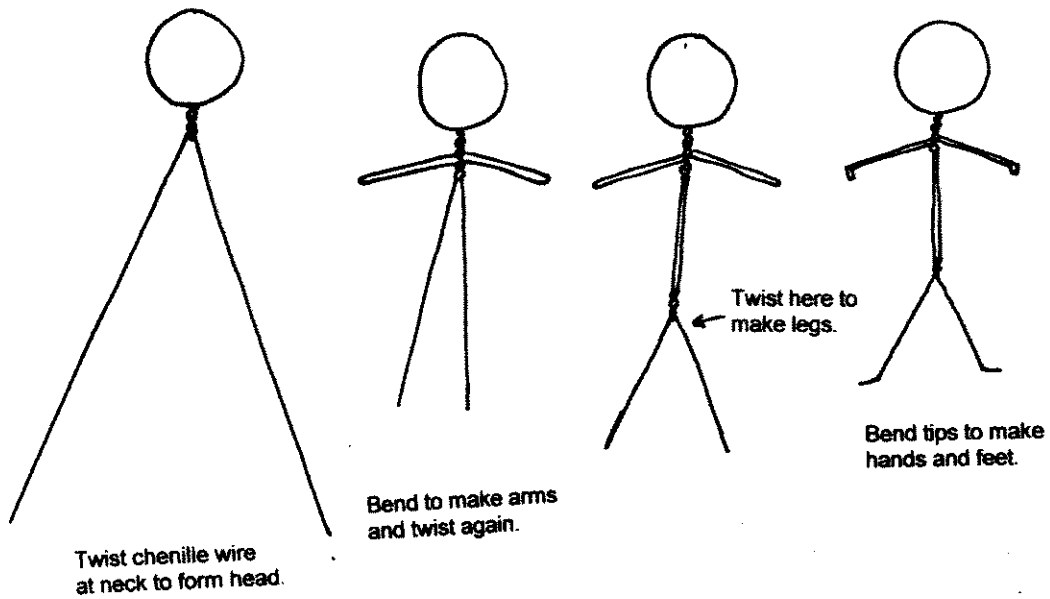
Glue sail to middle against back edge of boat.  
(Back of boat will support it.)

Make two men from white chenille wires for Paul and Barnabas.

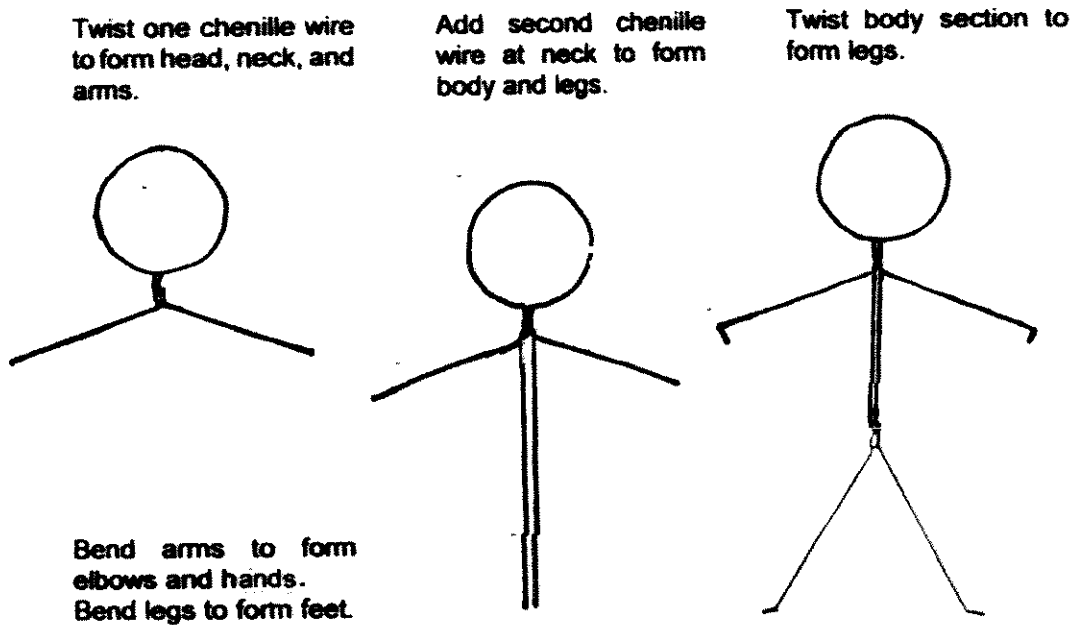
Place men in boat.



For long chenille wire:



For short chenille wire use 2:



WORD SEARCH

Find the following words from our lesson that are hidden in the puzzle.

Each words is hidden 2 times — once across and once down.

BARNABAS  
CHURCH

FRIEND  
JESUS

PAUL  
SEND

J X X P X X X X X X  
E X B A R N A B A S  
S C H U R C H A X E  
U H F L X X X R X N  
S U R S E N D N X D  
F R I E N D P A U L  
X C E X X X X B X X  
X H N X X X X A X X  
X X D J E S U S X X

WORD SEARCH

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BARNABAS  
CHURCH

FRIEND  
JESUS

PAUL  
SEND

J	X	X	P	X	X	X	X	X	X
E	X	B	A	R	N	A	B	A	S
S	C	H	U	R	C	H	A	X	E
U	H	F	L	X	X	X	R	X	N
S	U	R	S	E	N	D	N	X	D
F	R	I	E	N	D	P	A	U	L
X	C	E	X	X	X	X	B	X	X
X	H	N	X	X	X	X	A	X	X
X	X	D	J	E	S	U	S	X	X

## Lesson 3: Silas Becomes Paul's Friend

**Scripture:** Acts 15:1-2, 6, 20, 22-27, 32-34, 40-41  
16:9, 12-13, 16-39 17:5

**Aim:** Show the character of Silas as an honest man, and trustworthy. He proved himself worthy to be entrusted with important matters.

**Emphasis:** Silas proved by the way he lived that he was a "good man". Those who knew him trusted him to always tell the truth. Silas was persecuted for doing what was right. Persecution did not make him deny God. We should remain firm in believing the truth no matter how unpopular it is.

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 7:1, "O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust:"

### Silas comes to Antioch

Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey and found that some men had come from Judea while they were away and taught the church that Christianity was a Jewish religion, so the Gentiles had to obey the laws and the customs of the Jews before they could be saved. Paul and Barnabas disagreed with this teaching. The church at Antioch decided to send them to Jerusalem to ask the apostles and elders of the church what they should do. They went to Jerusalem and formed a council to discuss the matter and decided that since God had sent the Holy Spirit on Gentile churches just as He did on the church at Jerusalem, that God had accepted them as Gentiles and not as Jews. They should not require them to do things that God did not require of them. They wrote letters encouraging them to live by certain things that the law taught, just because it was a good way to live.

The church at Jerusalem agreed that they would choose two good men who were honest and dependable, and send them back with Paul and Barnabas to be a witness that this was what the church decided. The two men were Judas, surnamed Barsabas, and Silas. They were men who had placed their own lives in danger because they believed that Jesus was the Christ.

The council wrote the letters assuring the Gentiles that they did not send the men who came teaching that they must observe Jewish customs or they could not be Christians. They said, "*to whom we gave no such commandment.*" (Acts 15:24) They instructed them in some good practices, V. 29, and sent Judas and Silas with Paul and Barnabas to confirm that these were the wishes of the church. They wanted the Gentile churches to believe that this was what they decided, not just what Paul and Barnabas wanted them to believe. Silas was a trustworthy man. The Gentile churches could believe what he said. After they delivered the letters Judas returned to Jerusalem, but Silas chose to stay with Paul at Antioch. While Silas was at Antioch Paul chose him to be his partner on his second missionary journey.

### Paul and Silas persecuted

Paul and Silas went to the city of Philippi. They looked for a synagogue to worship on the Sabbath. They did not find one, so they went outside the city by the river side to pray. Paul



and Silas saw a group of women who came to the river regularly to pray, and they preached to them. Every day they would go to the river and teach the people. Every day a young woman followed them. She was possessed with an evil spirit and was a fortune teller. She was not a prophet like Silas who had the power of God to tell things that God wanted the people to know. Evil spirits would imitate the power of God by possessing people and causing them to tell things about the future. In the Bible they are called false prophets. Some men in the city owned this young woman, and she earned a lot of money for them by her evil powers. She became an enemy of Paul and Silas.

Every day she followed Paul and Silas, mocking them and crying out, *“These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.”* Day after day after day she followed them, making fun of them for being men of God. She kept other people from listening to what they preached. Finally Paul got tired of it. After she had done this for many days, Paul turned to her and said to the evil spirit that was inside her, *“I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.”* The Bible says he immediately came out of the young woman. The men who owned her were angry when she could no longer earn a lot of money for them by telling fortunes. They did not care about the young woman and her unhappiness by being possessed with evil. All they cared about was the money she made for them. They were unhappy with what Paul had done. They became Paul’s enemies.

They brought Paul and Silas to the rulers in the marketplace and accused them of being trouble-makers. They said, “These men are Jews and they are teaching things that are against our Roman beliefs.” To punish them for “causing trouble”, the judges had their coats removed beat them with large sticks. Verse 23-24, *“And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.”*

After striking Paul and Silas many times across their backs with a large stick, they put them into prison. They fastened their feet in stocks. Stocks were logs or pieces of heavy wood with holes in them so their feet could be placed through the holes and tied with thongs or chains so they could not pull them out. They could not stand up or walk around. Silas did not forsake Paul. He went to prison with Paul because they preached that Jesus was the Christ.

Paul and Silas had been beaten very badly. Their backs hurt. They were in prison, and their feet were fastened in stocks for several hours. You would not expect someone in this condition to want to sing praises to God. But that is exactly what they did. At midnight the other prisoners heard Paul and Silas praying and singing praises to God. They did not understand how they could be happy enough to sing in the middle of the night.

Suddenly God sent an earthquake that shook the prison. All of the doors of the prison were opened. All of the bands that held the prisoners were broken loose. They were all free. They could run away from the prison. The jailor woke up and saw the prison doors open and he was sure that all of the prisoners had escaped. If a jailor let a prisoner escape, he was punished by being put to death. He was afraid. He reached for his own sword and intended to kill himself so he would not be tortured and killed for letting the prisoners escape. Paul saw what was happening, so he called out very loudly, “Don’t harm yourself. We are all here.”

The jailor knew Paul and Silas worshiped God, and he was afraid. He knew God sent the earthquake to release them. He asked for a light and came into the prison. He was shaking and trembling when he fell down at the feet of Paul and Silas. He asked them, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*" He wanted to trust the God that they worshiped and be saved from his sins. They told him simply, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*" All the members of his household, his family members, and those who lived there and worked for him could be saved the same way. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

The jailor became Paul's friend. Paul and Silas preached to him and his family that night. They believed what Paul said and were saved from their sins. The jailor washed the stripes on their backs to make them feel better, and took them into his own house and fed them. Paul baptized him and the other members of his household who believed.

Silas knew it was God who sent the earthquake to release them from prison and to prove to the town that they were His servants and He would protect them from their enemies. He continued to travel with Paul to preach to others that Jesus was the Christ. They went to Thessalonica and preached in the synagogue of the Jews that Jesus whom the Jews crucified was the Christ, and that it was necessary for Him to die in order for all the world to be saved. Once again Silas was in danger because he was Paul's friend. Some of the Jews believed, but those who did not believe accused Paul and Silas of being trouble makers and teaching the people that there was another king besides Caesar, a man named Jesus. They went to the house of Jason, one of Paul's followers, and accused him of hiding Paul and Silas and had him arrested. The brethren in the church heard about it and secretly sent Paul and Silas away during the night so they would not be persecuted.

Silas had risked his life in Jerusalem for the cause of Christ. He chose to be a friend of Paul even in the face of persecution. He was beaten and went to prison with Paul, and remained faithful to him and to the cause of Christ. He was run out of Thessalonica with Paul. He traveled delivering letters to churches for Paul. Paul trusted him to preach the truth.

Later in his life Paul referred to him as a faithful brother.



**Silas was beaten and placed in stocks in prison because he was a friend of Paul and a follower of Jesus. He traveled with Paul to Philippi where they were accused of being trouble makers and were arrested.**

**They sang and praised God at midnight while in prison. God sent an earthquake to release them. The prison shook, the doors were opened, and the stocks fell off from their feet.**

## Silas Becomes Paul's Friend

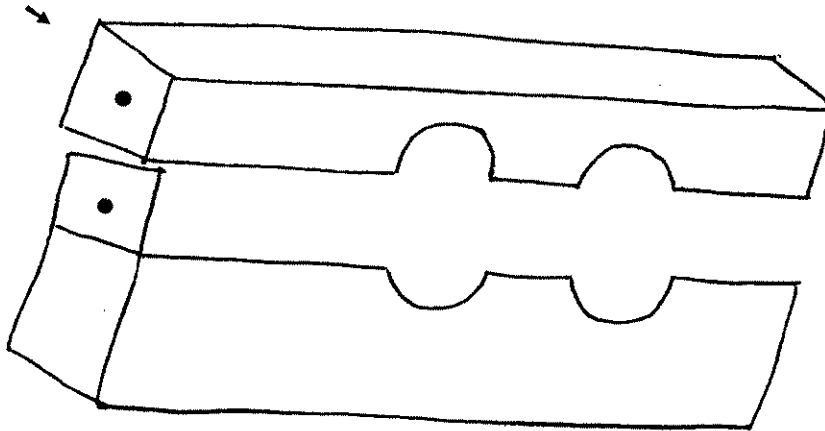
Make one figure of Silas, one of stocks, and one copy of prison interior (from following page) for each child.

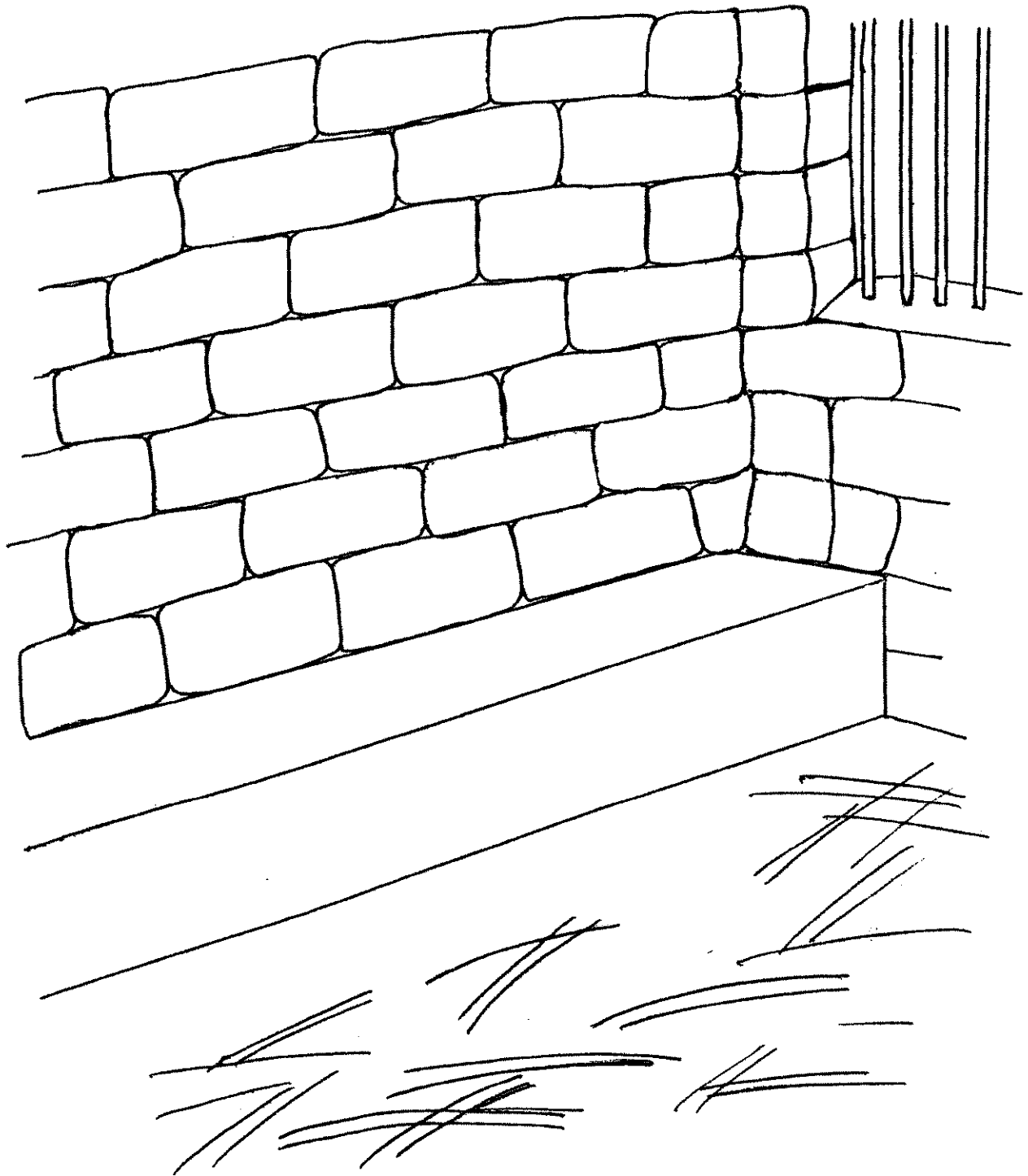
Cut out Silas and stocks. Paste lower portion of stocks to background. Attach upper portion to background with small brad so it will open and close over Silas's feet.

Place Silas seated on bench and place his feet through the stocks.



attach brad  
through dots





**Silas was placed in prison along with Paul.**

WORD SEARCH

Find the words from our lesson, across or up and down.

JESUS	S T O C K S X Y Z
MIDNIGHT	X Y Z X Y I Y P M
PAUL	X Y P A U L X R I
PRAYED	Z X R P R A Y E D
PREACHED	Y Z I X Y S X A N
PRISON	J E S U S X Y C I
SANG	X Y O Z A Z X H G
SILAS	Y Z N X N Y Z E H
STOCKS	X Y Z X G X Y D T

WORD SEARCH

Find the words from our lesson, across or up and down.

JESUS	S	T	O	C	K	S	X	Y	Z
MIDNIGHT	X	Y	Z	X	Y	I	Y	P	M
PAUL	X	Y	P	A	U	L	X	R	I
PRAYED	Z	X	R	P	R	A	Y	E	D
PREACHED	Y	Z	I	X	Y	S	X	A	N
PRISON	J	E	S	U	S	X	Y	C	I
SANG	X	Y	O	Z	A	Z	X	H	G
SILAS	Y	Z	N	X	N	Y	Z	E	H
STOCKS	X	Y	Z	X	G	X	Y	D	T

## Lesson 4: LYDIA AT PHILIPPI

**Scripture:** Acts 16:12-15, 40      Philippians 4:3

**Aim:** To show how women were important in the early church.

**Emphasis:** Lydia was a very successful business woman. She was not ashamed to be seen going to her regular place of worship. She listened to the teaching of Paul, and led the members of her household to believe what Paul taught. She was the first member in the church at Philippi.

**Memory Verse:** Acts 16:14, "And a certain woman named Lydia, - - - - which worshiped God, heard us."

### The call to Europe

God had a work for Paul to do in Europe. Paul and Silas went to Troas, and Paul saw a vision that told him to, "*Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*" (Acts 16:9). Paul obeyed and went to Philippi, the chief city of Macedonia.

### The synagogues

When Paul came into a city, the first place he went was to the synagogue. The synagogue was the place where the Jews met on the Sabbath to worship God. They had prayer, they chanted from the Psalms, and they read the Old Testament writings from the scrolls. Then someone was appointed to explain what was read. In Damascus: "*Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.*" On the Isle of Cyprus, "*And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.*" "*They came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath.*"

Many times Gentiles also came to the synagogue to worship because they had accepted the God of the Israelites, and came there to pray and be taught. "*And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.*" "*They came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.*" Even at Athens, "*his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons.*" In Corinth, "*he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.*" In Ephesus, "*he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.*"

### Paul in Philippi

If at least ten Jewish men lived in a city they could build a synagogue. In Philippi there was no synagogue. The road leading into the city crossed a river about a mile outside the city. There was a certain place down by the river where people came to pray. Even though there was no synagogue in Philippi, there were people there who believed in the true God. They chose a spot by the river to worship God, and came there on the Sabbath to pray.



Paul and Silas heard that people gathered down by the river to pray, so on the Sabbath they went down by the river side. They sat down and spoke to some of the women who had gathered. One the of women was named Lydia.

### **Her occupation**

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Lydia except that she was a seller of purple from Thyatira, and worshiped God. She was not born a Jew, but the phrase "*which worshiped God*" indicates that she had converted to the Jewish religion. She was not an idol worshiper like many of the people, but she worshiped the true God in heaven. She was the head of a "household" and her husband is not mentioned, so she must have been a widow.

Lydia was a "seller of purple". Purple is a red-blue color used for dyeing fabric to make clothing. It was very expensive, so only the kings and the very wealthy could afford clothing of red, blue, or purple. The famous Tyrian purple dye was made from a tiny shellfish found off the coasts of the city of Tyre in Phoenicia. It was sent to many other places in the world. The water in Thyatira were very good to permanently dye bright colors. The purple dye was taken from the tiny shellfish a very small bit at a time. Therefore the color purple was very expensive.

### **Purple, the color of royalty**

When the people of Israel brought things to be used to build the Tabernacle, God specifically asked for "*blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red*", Exodus 25:4-5. The veil in the Tabernacle was made "*of blue, and purple, and scarlet*" and the "*hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet.*" Specific instructions were given for the clothing that the high priest wore, Exodus 28:5, "*And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.*"

Kings wore purple and scarlet. Before Jesus was crucified, a purple robe was placed on Him in mockery because of He claimed to be king of the Jews.

### **Lydia, a religious woman**

Lydia apparently came to Philippi to find a place to sell her goods in Macedonia. She was not only a good business person, but she was dedicated to the worship of God. She prayed regularly. There was a certain place down by the river where she went on the Sabbath to pray. She not only prayed secretly, but she met with other women and prayed publicly.

Paul and those traveling with him went down by the river on the Sabbath and sat down at the place of prayer. Lydia was there and she heard Paul preach that Jesus was the Christ, the promised Messiah. The Bible says that God "*opened her heart*". She paid attention to the things Paul said. Lydia believed in the true God in heaven, and she believed Paul when he said Jesus was the Christ. She believed when he said those who accepted Jesus as the Savior should be baptized. Not only did she believe and was baptized, but she witnessed to those of her household, and they also believed and were baptized.

### **The church in her house**

Lydia had a desire to be a part of the true church. She insisted that Paul and his

companions come to her house and stay there. Travelers did not have hotels and motels in which to stay, or apartments to rent. They often depended on the local people to open their homes and give them a place to stay. Lydia wanted to know more. She wanted Paul to teach those in her household. *“And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”* Lydia became Paul’s friend.

When the soothsayer in Philippi became an enemy of Paul and Silas, and followed them for many days mocking them and saying in a disrespectful way, *“These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation,”* Paul cast out the evil spirit that controlled her. They were arrested for being “trouble makers” and cast into prison. At midnight God sent an earthquake to open the prison doors and release the chains that held their feet in stocks. When Paul and Silas were released from prison they returned to Lydia’s house. Verse 40, *“And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, (the church) they comforted them, and departed.”* They wanted to meet with the church before they went somewhere else to preach.

#### **Other women who became friends of Paul**

There were other women who became friends of Paul and helped him in the church. When he wrote the letter to the church at Philippi he mentioned *“those women which laboured with me in the gospel,”* probably Lydia and the other women who gathered with her for prayer down by the river. When Paul went to Thessalonica and preached in the synagogue the Bible mentions many women who believed.

When Paul went to Corinth he met Priscilla and her husband Aquila. They took him into their home and he helped them make tents. They became his friends, and Paul called them, *“my helpers in Christ Jesus.”* I Cor. 16:19, Paul wrote *“Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.”*

**Lesson wrap-up:**

Paul and Silas met Lydia and a group of women at Philippi. It went every Sabbath down by the river to pray.

Lydia listened as Paul preached about Jesus, the Christ.  
God caused Lydia's heart to be opened so that she believed the words he spoke.

Lydia became a friend of Paul She insisted that Paul and his companions stay at her home while in Philippi preaching.

Lydia led members of her household to be saved and baptized, and the church met in her house.

Priscilla and her husband Aquila became friends of Paul. The church also met in their house.



**Memory Verse: Acts 16:14**

“And a certain woman named Lydia, - - - - which worshiped God, heard us.”

**Discussion:**

Lydia was a devout believer in the true God in heaven. She prayed regularly on the Sabbath with a group of other women.

The Lord opened her heart. She wanted to know the truth. She believed what Paul preached. She did what was expected after salvation - she was baptized and became a part of the true church. She obeyed the things Paul taught.

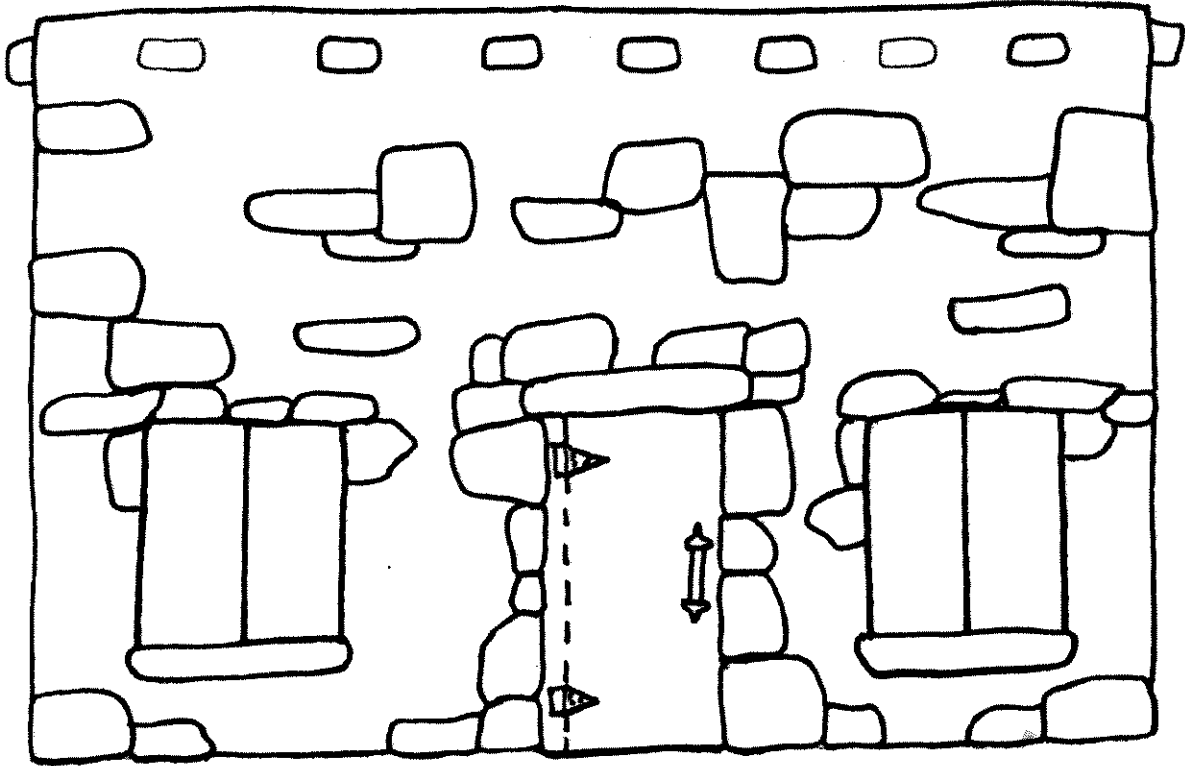


Lydia lived at Philippi. She was a seller of purple goods. She met by the river with some other women every Sabbath to pray.

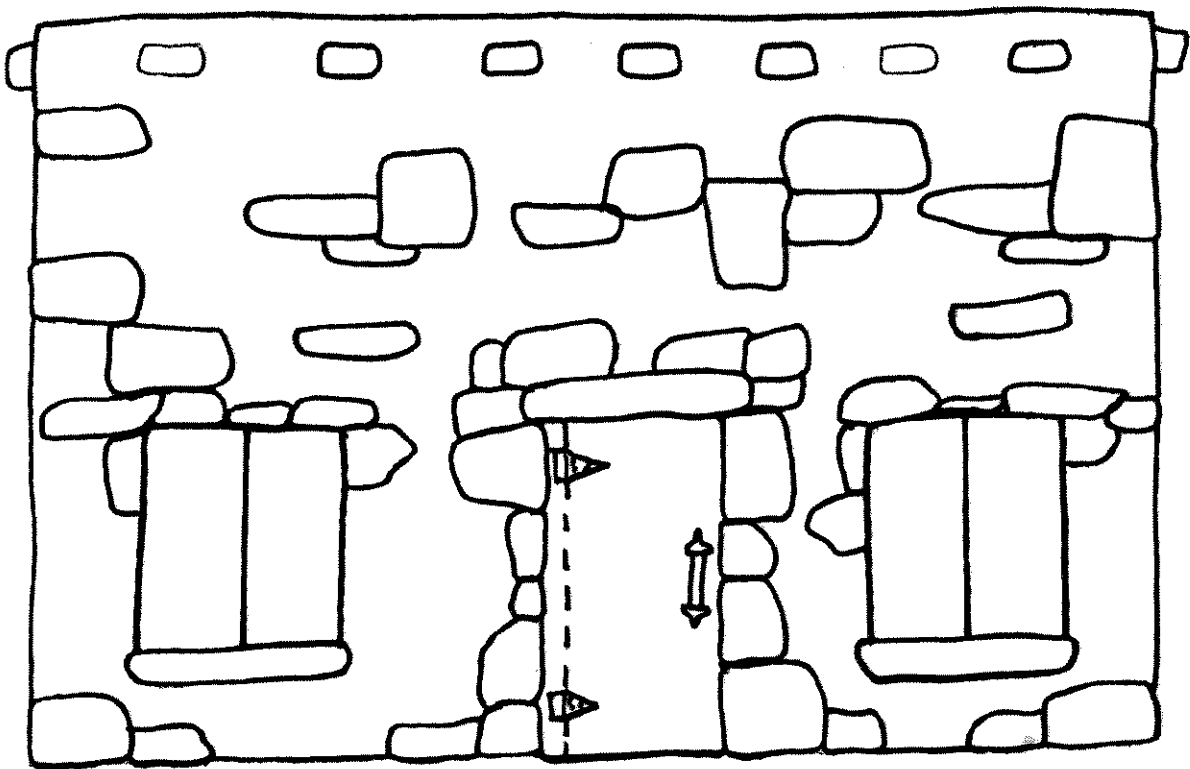
Paul and Silas went to the riverside on the Sabbath to pray. Paul preached to the women.

Lydia believed what Paul preached, and was baptized. She invited Paul and his friends to stay in her home.

The church at Philippi met in Lydia's house.



**Make one for each child. Cut across top and side of door. Cut middle, top, and bottom of shutters. Fold back to open.**



**Make one for each child. Cut across top and side of door. Cut middle, top, and bottom of shutters. Fold back to open.**

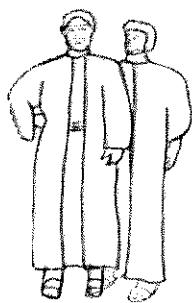
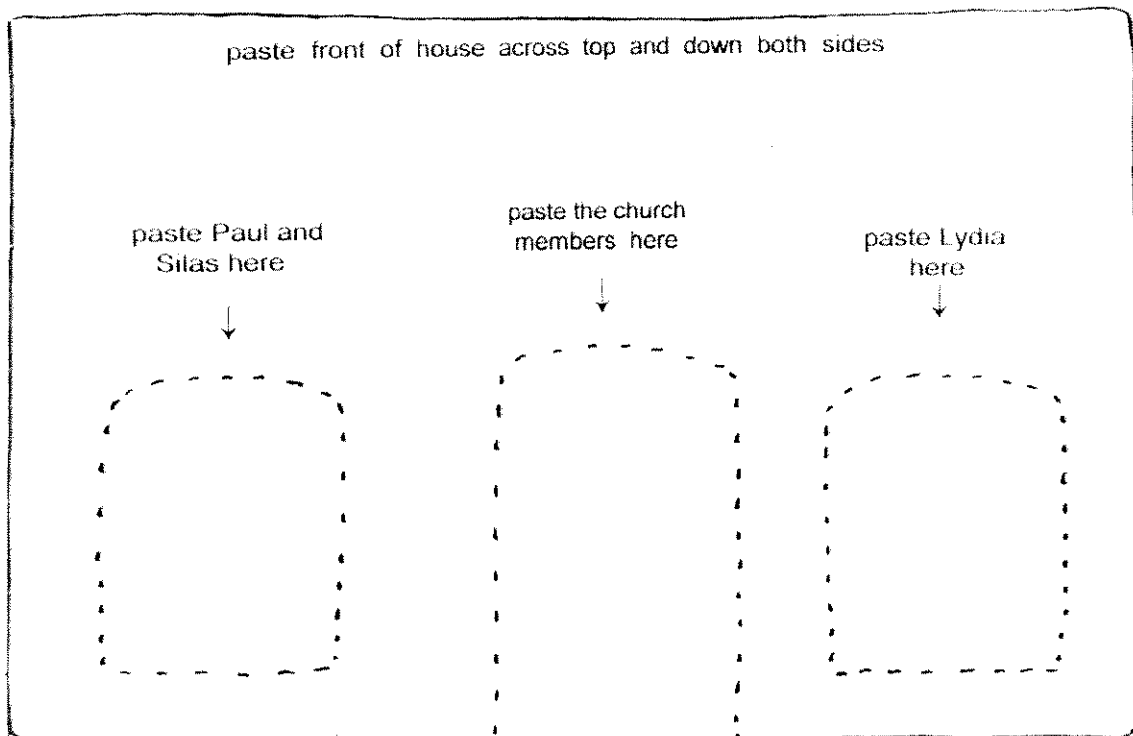
# LYDIA AT PHILIPPI

# PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Cut one house for each child out of gray or tan construction paper.

Cut one house underlay out of white construction paper for each child.

Make one set of people for each child to be cut out and pasted on house underlay under window shutters and behind door - so they will be seen when shutters and door are opened.



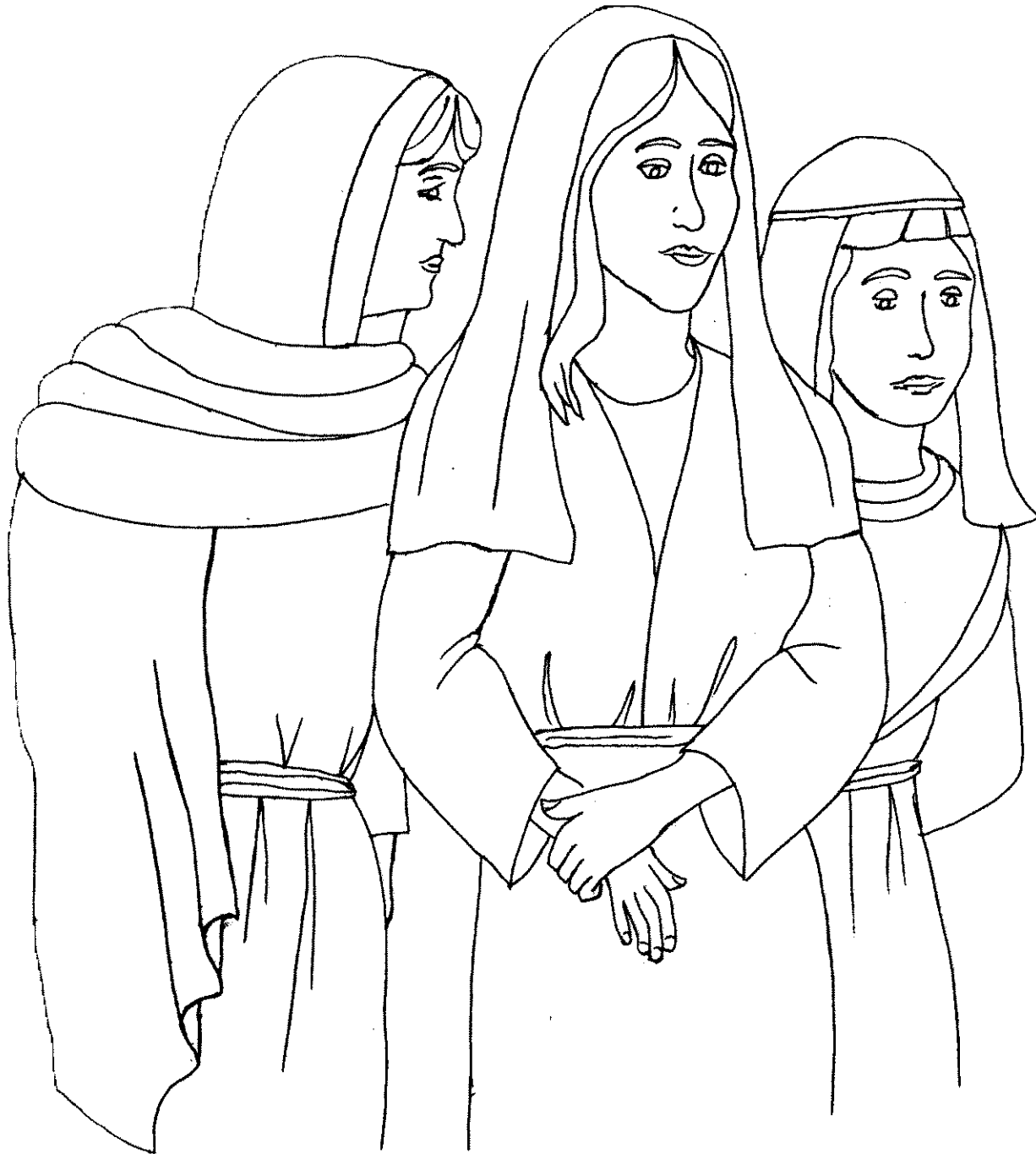
Paul and Silas



Lydia

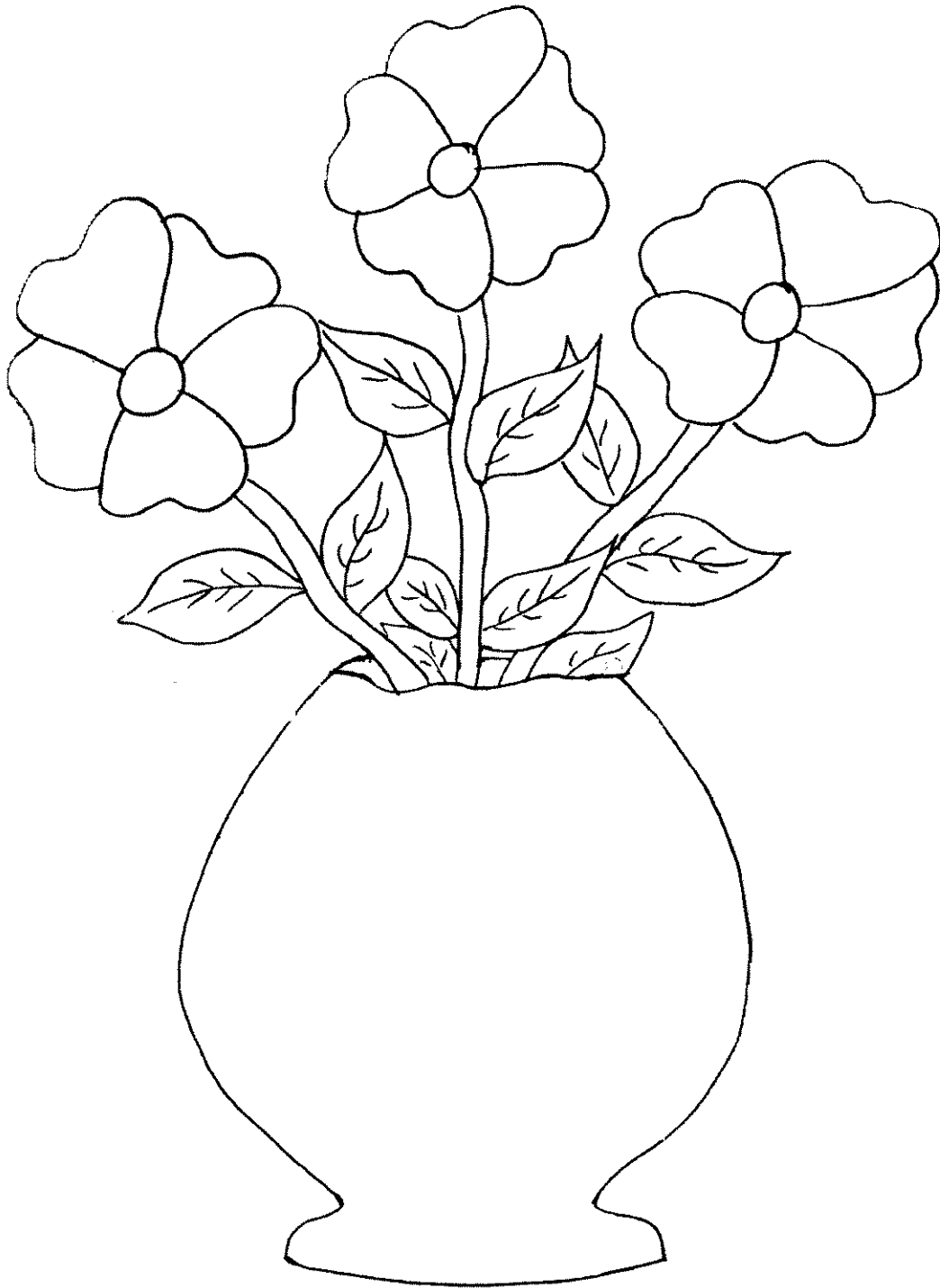


church members



**Lydia and the women from Philippi went down  
by the river side to pray.**

**LYDIA AT PHILIPPI**



Color the flowers purple.

Color the vase blue.

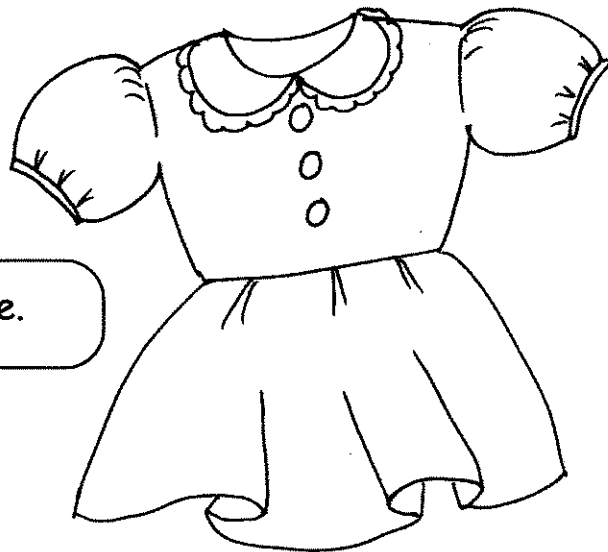
Color the stems and leaves green.



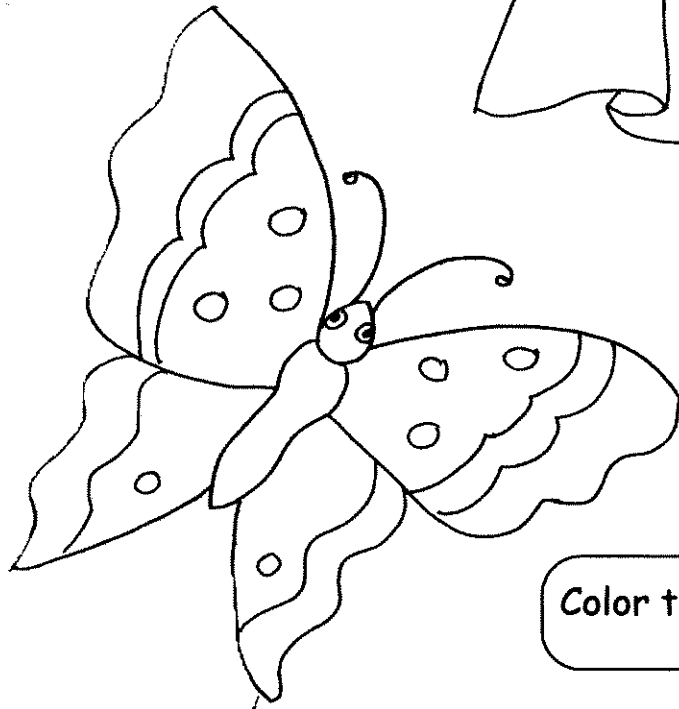
# LYDIA AT PHILIPPI



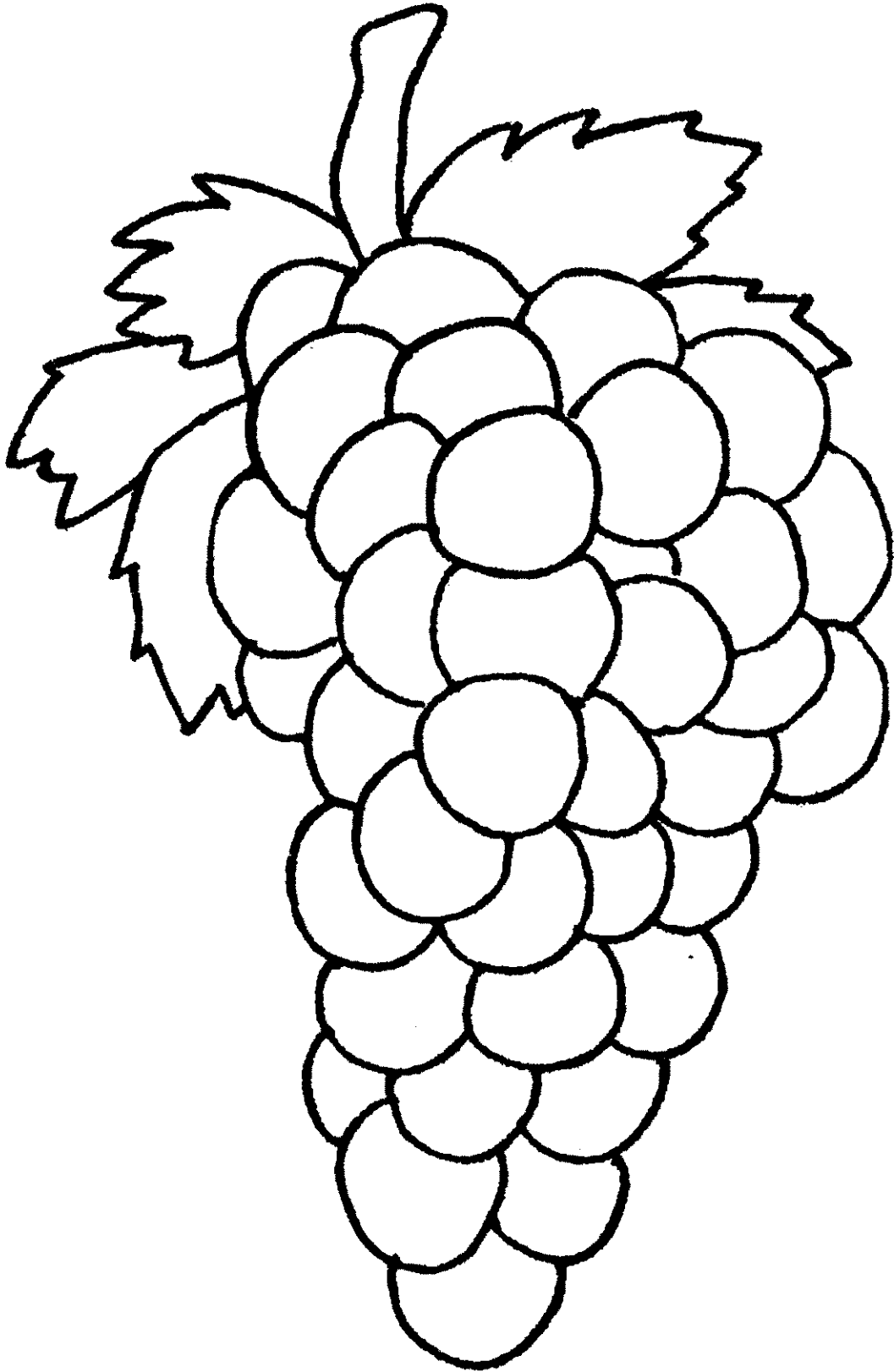
Color the umbrella red.



Color the dress blue.



Color the butterfly purple



Color the grapes purple.



## Lesson 5: Timothy, A Friend Of Paul

**Scripture:** I Timothy 1:2 3:1 4:11-16  
II Timothy 1:2, 5, 13, 2:1-3 16:1-5  
Acts 16:1-5

**Aim:** Timothy as a young man decided he would serve Christ. He remained faithful to the service of God all of his life.

**Emphasis:** Timothy's mother and his grandmother taught him the scriptures when he was a child. He was obedient to them, and learned the things they taught. They taught him the Law of Moses and what the prophets wrote. He accepted it as being from God even as a child. It is not necessary to wait until you are an adult to decide you want to believe the Bible and serve God.

**Memory Verse:** II Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God,"

### Paul's Son In the Faith

The Bible does not tell us much about Paul's family. He was born in the city of Tarsus. His parents were Jews. The Bible does not tell us if he had any children of his own. He met a young man named Timothy in Lystra. Timothy wanted to preach about Jesus. He wanted to go with Paul as he traveled. Paul considered Timothy as a son. He called him "his son in the faith", I Timothy 1:2, "*Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith*". II Timothy 1:2-3, "*To Timothy, my dearly beloved son*". He was not Paul's actual son, but was called his "son in the faith, or his son in the ministry".

When he was born he became his father's son. He was taught by his father when he was growing up as a child. Timothy became Paul's son in the ministry when he became a preacher and was "growing up as a Christian". As he traveled with Paul, he learned things he needed to know in order to teach other people and pastor churches. As a father would train his son to carry on his trade, Paul took Timothy as a young man and taught him, and trained him as a preacher. He said he did not cease to pray for Timothy night and day. Timothy loved and respected Paul, and learned from him as if he was his own father.

### Timothy's Early Life

We do not know if Timothy had any brothers or sisters. His mother was a young Jewish woman who was faithful to the teachings of Judaism. His father was not a Jew, he was a Greek. He was named Timotheus, which is the Greek name for Timothy. Acts 16:1 tells us he lived at Lystra, and was "*the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek*". Apparently his father was not a believer, and he did not practice the Jewish customs.

Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the customs of the Jews and the laws of God. Even though she was married to a Greek, his mother did not forsake her religion. Paul said in II Timothy 1:5 that he remembered the unfeigned faith that was in Timothy, that was first in his grandmother, Lois, and then in his mother, Eunice, and had been instilled in him.

“Unfeigned” means not counterfeit, not hypocritical, but real and genuine. This strong faith was first in his grandmother, Lois, and she taught her daughter, Eunice. It was the custom for several generations to live in the same household, so his grandmother probably had a part in teaching Timothy from the time he was born.

### **Paul’s First Visit To Lystra**

When Barnabas was traveling with Paul, they went to Lystra where Timothy lived. They preached that Jesus was the Christ. Timothy heard Paul preach and accepted his message as true. He apparently was baptized by Paul and was a member of the church at Lystra.

Paul’s first visit to Lystra wasn’t pleasant. The Jews ran him out of Antioch in Pisidia because he preached that Jesus was the Christ. The Jews hated the Gentiles, and when Paul told them it was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to them: but because they rejected it God turned to the Gentiles, they became his enemies. They became so angry they ran him off. He went to Iconium and preached, and the Jews there became his enemies. They were going to stone him to death for preaching the truth, so he fled to Lystra.

Many people in Lystra believed in false gods. They did not believe in the true God in heaven, so they made idols with their hands so they would have something to worship. Outside the city of Lystra they built a temple to worship the false god, Jupiter. There were false priests who served at this temple. Timothy knew about idol worship when he was growing up, but his mother and his grandmother taught him not to worship false gods, but to believe in and worship the true God in heaven. In Lystra Paul healed a crippled man and the people decided he and Barnabas were gods who had come down in human form. They tried to worship them as gods. They wanted to offer sacrifices to them. They were upset when Paul refused to allow it. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium heard what had happened and followed them to Lystra. They persuaded the people to kill them because they were evil. They stoned Paul so badly they thought he was dead. They left him outside the city. Paul lived, and left Lystra.

### **Timothy’s Desire To Preach**

Many months later Paul began another missionary journey with Silas as his traveling companion. When Paul came back to Lystra on this trip he learned that Timothy wanted to be a preacher. Timothy was a fine young man and well liked by all the church members. He wanted to go with Paul and Paul wanted to take him, so the church laid hands on Timothy and recommended him to travel with Paul and Silas. Timothy traveled with Paul for several years. Soon Paul began leaving him to oversee the work of a church in one place while he went on to another place to preach and start a new church.

Since he could not be at all of the churches at the same time Paul began writing letters to send back to the churches where he had been, teaching them and helping them with problems. They did not have a post office to mail letters like we have today. They did not have telephones to call and talk to people. They did not have computers to send e-mail. So Paul would write a letter and send someone to take it to the churches. Sometimes he would send Timothy to deliver the letters. This way Paul could stay and preach in one church and send information to another church without having to spend time traveling. Timothy was a great help to Paul for many years.

## **Timothy Begins To Pastor**

After Timothy had traveled with Paul for several years the church at Ephesus needed a pastor. They needed someone to teach them the truth, and lead them in the right way so they would not follow people who taught false doctrines. Paul left Timothy at Ephesus to guide those people while he went on to other places. After Paul had been gone for a few years, he wrote a letter to Timothy giving him instructions since he was not there to teach him personally. Several years later he wrote another letter to Timothy. These two letters are part of our Bible. They are the books of First Timothy and Second Timothy.

Paul was proud of Timothy as a father is proud of his son. He said he did a good thing in wanting to be a “bishop” or pastor, I Timothy 3:1. He wrote the letters to instruct him what to preach to the members of the church. These letters that Paul wrote to Timothy are included in the Bible so we can learn from them also. II Timothy 2:2, Paul told Timothy to remember what he had taught him, and teach it to other faithful men so they might in turn teach it to others. One of the most important things that Paul told Timothy is in II Timothy 2:15, to study in order to know the truth and to please God by the way he served Him. Paul said to study so God would approve of the work he did, and he would not have to be ashamed because he did not know how to teach the Word of God correctly.

### **Lesson wrap-up:**

Timothy was from Lystra. His mother was Jewish and his father was a Greek. His mother was a devout believer, and apparently his father was not.

He grew up among idol worship, but had a strong faith in God even as a child. As a young man he desired to preach.

He traveled with Paul, and sometimes stayed behind to oversee churches while Paul went somewhere else. He traveled for Paul delivering letters to other churches.

I Timothy and II Timothy are letters Paul wrote telling Timothy how he should act as a pastor, and how to teach the church.

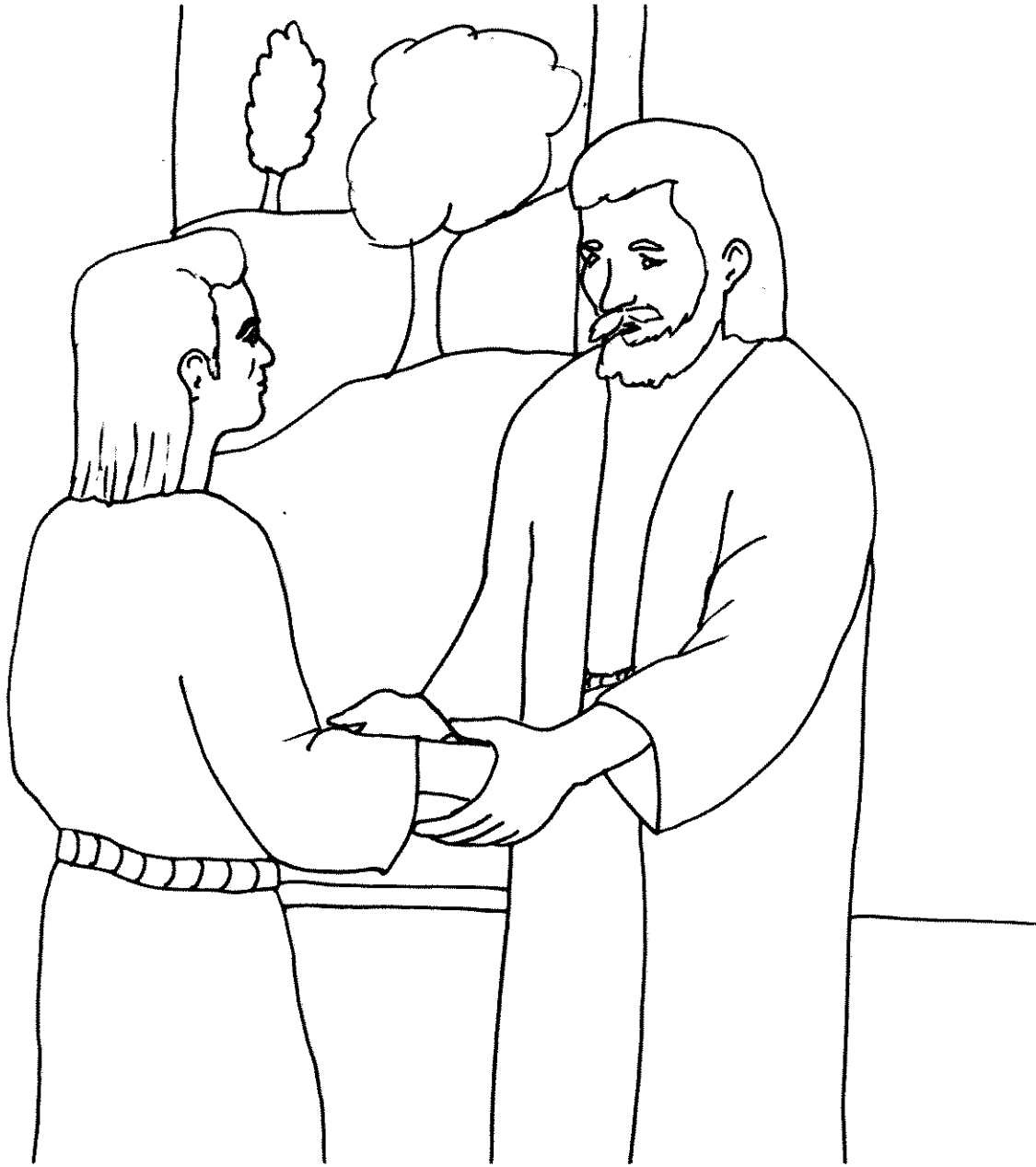


**Memory Verse: II Timothy 2:15** “Study to show thyself approved unto God.”

### **Discussion:**

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy teaching him and encouraging him as a preacher. He told him to study the scriptures in order to know the truth. If Timothy did not know the truth he would preach error and would be embarrassed and ashamed of his work.

Paul wanted Timothy to study so he would know how to correctly interpret the Word of God. He wanted him to teach the truth so that God would approve of his work, and he would not be ashamed before God because he had not taught what was right.



Timothy was a young man from Lystra. He was like Paul's own son. His mother and his grandmother taught him the scriptures when he was a child.

He became Paul's friend and traveled with him. A few years later when Timothy was pastor of a church, Paul wrote two letters of advice and instruction to him. They are in our Bible — the books of I Timothy and II Timothy.

Circle the correct answer

1. Paul and ( Silas Peter ) traveled together.
2. Paul found Timothy at ( Derbe Lystra ).
3. Timothy's ( aunt mother ) taught him about God.
4. Timothy wanted to be a ( preacher lawyer ).
5. Paul wrote ( two three ) letters to Timothy.
6. Timothy was Paul's ( friend enemy ).



Circle the correct answer

1. Paul and ( Silas Peter ) traveled together.
2. Paul found Timothy at ( Derbe Lystra ).
3. Timothy's ( aunt mother ) taught him about God.
4. Timothy wanted to be a ( preacher lawyer ).
5. Paul wrote ( two three ) letters to Timothy.
6. Timothy was Paul's ( friend enemy ).

## Timothy, A Friend Of Paul



When Paul was sent to prison for preaching,  
he wrote letters to Timothy.

## CRAFT PROJECT 1

Using card stock or heavy weight paper make a card to fold in half crosswise.

Print a picture of your church, and the name of the church, on the lower half so it will be on the front when it is folded.

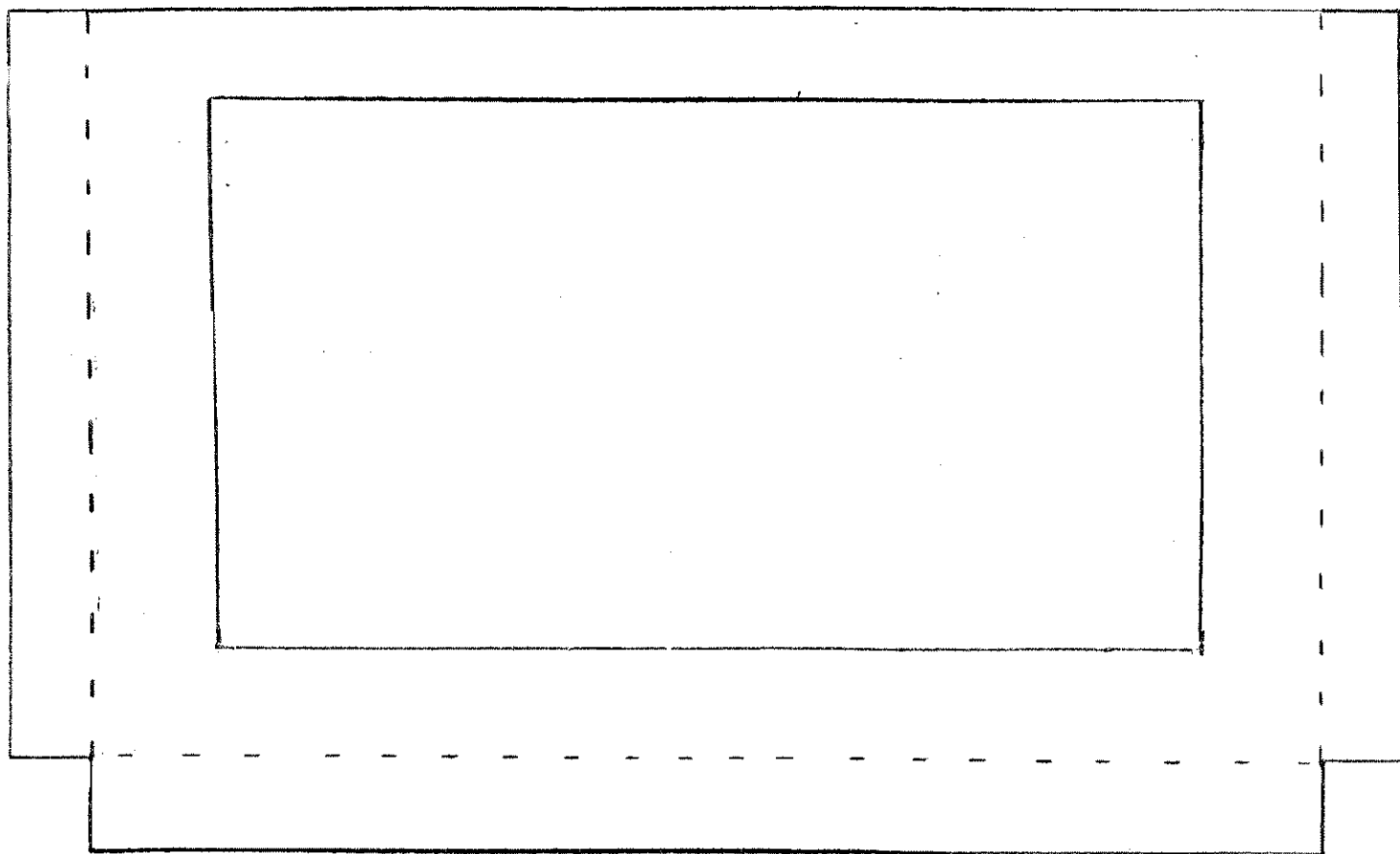
On the top half of the inside put: "I came to Vacation Bible School with my friends — the date — name of class — and teacher's name.

Make pocket for inside according to pattern below using any color you choose.

Cut out around dark lines. Carefully cut out middle.

Fold back on dotted lines.

Paste backs of the edges that are folded under to the inside of card with church picture on the front to make a pocket to insert a 4 X 6 inch group picture of the class.






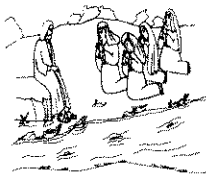

# PUPIL PROJECT 2

On white construction paper, make a front for each pupil from the following pattern page.

Have pupils color the letters, red for V B S, and blue for remaining letters.

Use a plain piece of construction paper for the back.

Take up the following coloring pictures from each day's lesson:

 <p>Saul of Tarsus was an enemy of the church. He was changed on his way to Damascus. He was blinded by a bright light. The Lord told him to send for Ananias and he would tell him what to do.</p> <p>Ananias was afraid of Saul because he knew that he was coming to Damascus to arrest the Christians. Ananias believed the Lord when He told him that He had chosen Saul to be an apostle to the Gentiles.</p> <p>Ananias became Saul's friend. He healed his blindness and baptized him. The church at Damascus became his friends. The Jews at Damascus became his enemies.</p>	 <p>Paul left Jerusalem as an enemy of the church. When he came back they were afraid to trust him. They thought he had come back to arrest them and maybe even have them killed.</p> <p>Barnabas believed Paul. He became Paul's friend. He brought Paul to the apostles and convinced them that he really was a follower of Jesus.</p> <p>Barnabas was a good man. The apostles believed Barnabas, and Paul became a friend of the church.</p>	 <p>Silas was beaten and placed in stocks in prison because he was a friend of Paul and a follower of Jesus. He traveled with Paul to Philippi where they were accused of being trouble makers and were arrested.</p> <p>They sang and praised God all night long while in prison. God sent an earthquake to release them. The prison shook, the doors were opened, and the stocks fell off from their feet.</p>	 <p>Lydia lived at Philippi. She was a seller of purple goods. She met by the river with some other women every Sabbath to pray.</p> <p>Paul and Silas went to the riverside on the Sabbath to pray.</p> <p>Paul preached to the women.</p> <p>Lydia believed what Paul preached, and was baptized. She invited Paul and his friends to stay in her home.</p> <p>The church at Philippi met in Lydia's house.</p>	 <p>Timothy was a young man from Lystra. He was like Paul's own son. His mother and his grandmother taught him the scriptures when he was a child.</p> <p>He became Paul's friend and traveled with him. A few years later when Timothy was pastor of a church, Paul wrote two letters of advice and instruction to him.</p> <p>They are in our Bible — the books of I Timothy and II Timothy.</p>
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On the last day, put pictures from the five lessons between booklet fronts and backs. Punch holes and lace with narrow paper ribbon. Tie ribbon to form booklets.

# Friends and Enemies of the Apostle Paul

Vacation

Bible

School

