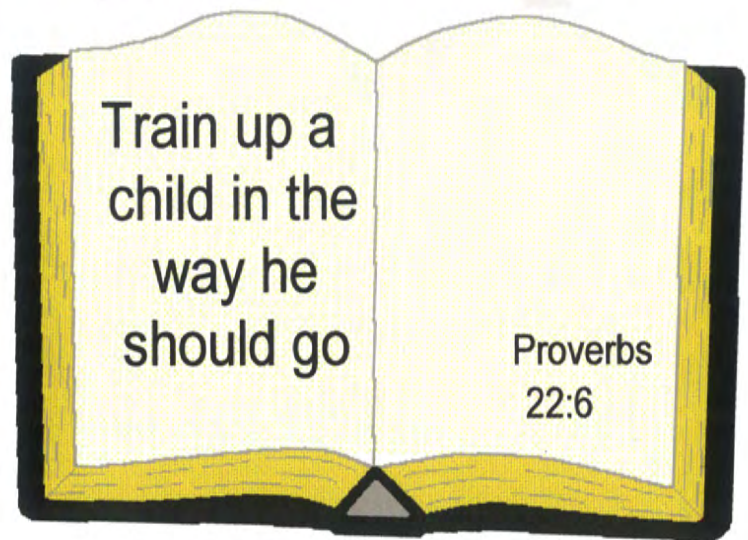


Friends and Enemies of the Apostle Paul

Vacation

Bible

School



A series of lessons for **Teens**

FRIENDS AND ENEMIES OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

A series of five lessons
designed for

Vacation Bible School

for

TEEN-AGE
Grades 7 through 12

Author: Betty Penn

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

Note to the teacher

Included in this notebook is a five-day series of lessons:

Lesson 1: Saul Of Tarsus, An Enemy Of the Church

Lesson 2: Barnabas, Paul's Friend

Lesson 3: Silas Becomes Paul's Friend

Lesson 4: Lydia At Philippi

Lesson 5: Timothy, A Friend Of Paul

These lessons are about people who became friends or 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.

Worksheets are reproducible for classroom use only.

The lessons are produced in three-ring binder format for convenience in removing pages for copying. Since the worksheets are created in black and white rather than color, it is suggested that you use different colors of copy paper for each worksheet to create variety.

Aim: Students should be taught while they are young that faithfulness to the truth is not popular with the world. To be faithful to the church will bring enemies with the world. To be faithful to what the Bible teaches may bring persecution. To be a christian will result in having enemies.

Emphasis: Saul was a devout Jew who loved and served God. Before his conversion on the road to Damascus he was ignorant of Jesus as the Son of God. Even though he committed atrocities against the true church, God forgave him and he became a powerful apostle. He was not proud of his actions in persecuting the church. He stated that he did it in ignorance, thinking he was doing God a favor. After his conversion he determined to make up for his earlier actions by living a dedicated life of service to Jesus Christ and to the church. There were many other people who also suffered persecution by being a follower of Christ through the teachings of Paul. The lessons are designed to emphasize the lives of these people more than just Paul. Many people became Paul's friends, and many people became Paul's enemies.

May God bless the use of these lessons as you teach young people the truths of God's Word.

Betty Penn

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

I. Friends and Enemies at Jerusalem

- A. The Jewish rulers were friends of Saul.
- B. Saul, an enemy of the church.
 - 1. persecuted the church at Jerusalem
 - 2. Stephen was stoned.
 - 3. men and women were arrested and placed in prison.
 - 4. The church began to scatter.

II. Friends and Enemies at Damascus

- A. Saul, an enemy of the church at Damascus.
 - 1. went there to persecute the saints
 - 2. Saul changed on the way to Damascus.
- B. Saul, a friend of the church at Damascus
 - 1. Ananias became Saul's friend
 - 2. preached in the synagogue that Jesus was the Christ
 - 3. church protected him
- C. Jews at the synagogue became Saul's enemies
 - 1. made plans to kill Saul
 - 2. fled from Damascus at night

III. Friends and Enemies At Jerusalem

- A. Saul, a Friend of the church
 - 1. returned to Jerusalem
 - a. Apostles were afraid of Saul
- B. Barnabas became his friend
 - 1. convinced the apostles to accept him
 - 2. allowed him to preach in the temple.
 - a. spoke boldly in the name of Jesus
- C. The Jewish leaders became his enemies
 - 1. Grecians were about to slay him
 - a. his friends, the church, sent him to Tarsus
- D. The church had rest from persecution

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

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

Emphasis: Saul's sincerity in his wrong-doing, and his changed life.

Memory Verse: Acts 8:3 "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

Saul's Early Life

Saul of Tarsus began his earthly life as a Jew, born to Jewish parents. He began his spiritual life as a faithful Jew, well taught in the laws and customs of the Jews, and as an enemy of the church.

Acts 22:3

Saul, who later became Paul the Apostle, was born in Tarsus to influential Jewish parents. He was raised as a strict Jew. At an early age he was sent to Jerusalem to study at the synagogue. He learned from the greatest Jewish scholar, Gamaliel. He was taught the Law of Moses, and the customs of the Jews. Saul grew up to become a lawyer, a member of the highest Jewish court, the Sanhedrin. He had a lot of zeal, or enthusiasm, in keeping the laws and being a devout Jew. But he had one serious fault, **he was very badly mistaken about who Jesus was**. He believed in the one true God in heaven. He lived according to the laws of God. He worshiped at the synagogues, and attended the temple regularly for all of the feasts and celebrations that were required by the law. He believed the promise God made to send His Son into the world to redeem man from their sins. He believed someday God's Son would live on the earth, and rule as their king. But he did not believe that the man named Jesus, from Nazareth, was the Son of God. He believed in the Lord, but didn't know who He was.

The Church

God chose a man named John to announce to the world that Jesus, the Son of God, had been born, and baptize those who believed His message. Baptism is immersion in water and pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When people came to John, repented of their sins and accepted the sacrifice that Jesus would make as payment for their sins, John baptized them. Jesus assembled people who had been baptized by John the Baptist and started the church while He lived on the earth. From among those who followed Him, He called out twelve to be apostles, or preachers.

The church followed Jesus while He was on the earth, learning from Him and witnessing His miracles to prove He was who He claimed to be. When Jesus went to Jerusalem the last time for the Feast of the Passover, the church went with Him. He told them He would be crucified, but He would rise again and return to heaven. He would no longer be there to teach and guide them. He instructed them to remain at Jerusalem after He was gone until God sent the Holy Spirit to come into their midst and guide them. He commanded them

to go into all the world and preach the gospel, baptize those who believed, and teach them all the things that He had taught them.

Jesus told His followers they would be persecuted. Matthew 10:16-23, *“beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils - - scourge you in their synagogues - - be brought before governors and kings - - brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. Ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.”* In Matthew 5:10-12 He promised, *“great is your reward in heaven.”* II Timothy 3:12, *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* Other scriptures: Luke 11:49; 21:12; John 15:20.

Jesus promised there would always be a church in existence. Matthew 16:18, *“the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Even Satan himself and all of the evil forces that are in the world shall not be able to destroy the church. **It has suffered and will suffer persecution, but will not be utterly destroyed.**

When Jesus was crucified He removed the Jewish way of worship. No longer would they offer animal sacrifices. They no longer needed to shed the animal’s blood to picture Jesus’ death for their sins. They would no longer burn incense. The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died on the cross. They no longer needed priests, because Jesus is our High Priest. Their whole way of worship changed. Now they would follow the teachings of Jesus rather than the customs and rituals of the Jewish religion.

Enemy of the church at Jerusalem

Saul did not accept this change. Ten days after Jesus returned to heaven the Holy Spirit fell on the church at Jerusalem. They received power to do as Jesus commanded - go into all the world and preach the gospel. They had power to speak languages they had not studied, to prophesy, and to do miracles in order to prove the message they preached was true. On the day of Pentecost three thousand people were saved, baptized, and added to the church. Every day more and more became followers and were added to this new religion. Acts 2:47, *“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”* Saul saw this as a threat to Judaism. **He was convinced that Jesus was an imposter and this new religion should be destroyed.**

Saul was an enemy of the church. He began by bringing persecution on the church at Jerusalem. *“And I persecuted this way (this religion, or the church) unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.”* Stephen, the first deacon in the church was stoned to death because he preached that Jesus whom the Jews crucified arose from the dead and was seated on the right hand of God the Father in heaven. Others were arrested and put in prison for no other reason than they were members of the church. I Timothy 1:13 Saul stated that he persecuted the church in ignorance, *“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”* **He thought he was doing God a favor by stamping out this “false religion”.** I Corinthians 15:9, *“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”*

After Stephen was stoned to death, many of the christians began to move away from Jerusalem to escape being put in prison or killed. The church began to scatter, Acts 8:3-4. Philip, another deacon went to Samaria. Acts 11:19-21, some went to Phenice, some to Cyprus, and some to Antioch, and other places seeking safety.

Enemy of the church at Damascus

Saul heard that many of the christians had gone to Damascus, so he received permission to go there and arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem to be placed in prison. Acts 9:1-2 *“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.”* As he traveled, suddenly a very bright light shone down from heaven all around him and a voice said, *“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”* Saul asked, *“Who art thou, Lord?”* Jesus spoke to him and said, *“I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:”* **Saul realized that he was wrong**, and Jesus really was the Christ. He desired to serve God by becoming a part of the church that he had previously persecuted. Saul trembled and shook as he asked, *“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”*

Friend of the church at Damascus

Jesus sent Saul to **Ananias**, who healed his blindness, baptized him, and **became his first friend** in Damascus. He was baptized and went into the desert of Arabia where he was taught by Jesus for three years. He came back to Damascus and preached in their synagogue. The Jews at the synagogue no longer liked Saul because he preached about Jesus. **The church became his friends and the Jews became his enemies.** Now Saul was being persecuted because he was a christian. The Jews at the synagogue would have killed him, so the church secretly let him down in a basket during the night so he could escape in the darkness. He returned to Jerusalem.

Friend of the church at Jerusalem

When Saul left Jerusalem to go to Damascus he was an enemy of the church. When he returned he wanted to be a friend of the church, but the apostles were afraid of him. **Barnabas became his friend.** He believed Saul had changed and convinced the church to accept him. Saul preached boldly in the temple at Jerusalem that Jesus was the Christ. The Jews who had once been his friends when he persecuted the christians became his enemies. The Grecians were going to kill him. God warned him to leave Jerusalem, Acts 22:17-18. When the church found out he was about to be killed, the brethren risked their lives for him. They took him to Caesarea on the seacoast and sent him by ship to Tarsus.

Lesson wrap-up:

Saul began his religious life as an enemy of the church.

Ananias became his first friend. God told him to heal Paul's blindness and baptize him.

He had been an enemy of the church at Damascus, but they became his friends.

The Jews in Damascus became his enemies and attempted to kill him. His friends let him down over the wall of the city in a basket so he could escape during the night.

After he had been a bitter enemy of the church at Jerusalem, they became his friends.

The apostles and the church at Jerusalem were afraid of Saul, until Barnabas became his friend. Then the apostles became his friends.

The church became his friends. The Grecians (Jews who spoke the Greek language) became his enemies and sought to kill him. The apostles sent him back to Tarsus.



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 8:3

“As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”

Discussion:

Saul (Paul) devoted his time and energy to looking for members of the Lord's church so he could persecute them and put an end to this “false religion” that was fast growing since the death of it's founder. He went into their homes and arrested them. He was an enemy of the church until Jesus convinced him on the road to Damascus that He was the Son of God and not an imposter. Paul then became a friend of the church.

Paul showed his humility by thinking of himself as the least of all the apostles when he said in I Corinthians 15:9 “*For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*” Paul was not proud of the fact that he persecuted the church. He said that he was not worthy to even be called an apostle because of the persecution he brought on the church, but he did it ignorantly, thinking he was doing God a favor by stamping out what he thought was a false religion.

Circle the correct answer

- 1. Which book in the Bible records the travels of Paul?**
 - a. Luke**
 - b. Acts**
 - c. Romans**

- 2. Who wrote the book of Acts?**
 - a. Paul**
 - b. John**
 - c. Luke**

- 3. What was Paul's name before he became an apostle?**
 - a. Saul**
 - b. Silas**
 - c. Barnabas**

- 4. Where was Saul born?**
 - a. Jerusalem**
 - b. Syria**
 - c. Tarsus**

- 5. Saul was first an enemy of the church at:**
 - a. Antioch**
 - b. Jerusalem**
 - c. Syria**

- 6. Paul next became an enemy of the church at:**
 - a. Macedonia**
 - b. Syria**
 - c. Damascus**

- 7. Saul was baptized by:**
 - a. Peter**
 - b. Ananias**
 - c. Barnabas**

8. His friends in the church at Damascus:

- a. let him be arrested**
- b. let him down over the city wall in a basket**
- c. sent him away by ship**

9. _____ became Paul's friend and convinced the apostles at Jerusalem to trust him.

- a. Peter**
- b. John**
- c. Barnabas**

10. The church at Jerusalem became _____ of Paul.

- a. friends**
- b. enemies**

1. Which book in the Bible records the travels of Paul?
b. Acts
2. Who wrote the book of Acts?
c. Luke
3. What was Paul's name before he became an apostle?
a. Saul
4. Where was Saul born?
c. Tarsus
5. Saul was first an enemy of the church at:
b. Jerusalem
6. Paul next became an enemy of the church at:
c. Damascus
7. Saul was baptized by:
b. Ananias
8. His friends in the church at Damascus:
b. let him down over the city wall in a basket
9. _____ became Paul's friend and convinced the apostles at Jerusalem to trust him.
c. Barnabas
10. The church at Jerusalem became _____ of Paul.
a. friends

Select "friend" or "enemy" for the correct answer.

1. At Jerusalem, Saul of Tarsus was an _____ of the church.
2. Saul of Tarsus started to Damascus as an _____ of the church.
3. When Saul got to Damascus he became a _____ of the church.
4. The Jews in the synagogue at Damascus became Saul's _____.
5. Ananias was Saul's first _____.
6. The church at Damascus was Saul's _____.
7. Saul returned to Jerusalem and Barnabas was his _____.
8. The apostles thought Saul was still their _____.
9. Barnabas convinced the apostles that Saul was their _____.
10. The apostles became Saul's _____.
11. The Jews at Jerusalem became Saul's _____.
12. The church at Jerusalem became Saul's _____.

Select "friend" or "enemy" for the correct answer.

1. At Jerusalem, Saul of Tarsus was an enemy of the church.
2. Saul of Tarsus started to Damascus as an enemy of the church.
3. When Saul got to Damascus he became a friend of the church.
4. The Jews in the synagogue at Damascus became Saul's enemies.
5. Ananias was Saul's friend.
6. The church at Damascus was Saul's friend.
7. Saul returned to Jerusalem and Barnabas was his friend.
8. The apostles thought Saul was still their enemy.
9. Barnabas convinced the apostles that Saul was their friend.
10. The apostles became Saul's friends.
11. The Jews at Jerusalem became Saul's enemies.
12. The church at Jerusalem became Saul's friends.

Lesson 2: BARNABAS, PAUL'S FRIEND

I. Barnabas, A Good Man

- A. From Cyprus
- B. Sold land that he owned and gave the money to the church

II. Barnabas Becomes Paul's Friend

- A. Convinced the apostles and the church at Jerusalem that Paul had changed
- B. The Apostles and the church became Paul's friends

III. Barnabas Goes To Antioch In Syria

- A. Taught the new Christians
 - 1. Brought Paul to help him
- B. The Church at Antioch became Paul's friends
 - 1. Sent Barnabas and Saul out as missionaries
 - 2. From now on known as Paul

IV. Jews Became His Enemies and Gentiles Became His Friends

- A. Paphos
 - 1. Friend - the deputy, Sergius Paulus
 - 2. Enemy - Elymas the sorcerer
- B. Antioch in Pisidia
 - 1. Gentiles became his friends Acts 13:42
 - a. Whole city followed Paul v. 44
 - 2. Jews became his enemies v. 45
 - a. Ran them out of town
- C. Stoned At Lystra
 - 1. Jews and Gentiles at Iconium became his enemies
 - a. Attempted to stone them
 - b. Followed them to Lystra and convinced the people to stone Paul

III. Returned to Antioch

- A. Reported that the gospel had been spread to the Gentiles
- B. Planned another trip
 - 1. Parted company because Barnabas wanted to take John Mark

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

Aim: Barnabas became Paul's friend. A friend is a person who will stand by another in good times and in bad times. They can have disagreements but still remain friends.

Emphasis: Barnabas truly became Paul's friend. He had confidence that Paul really had been changed, and he was a witness to the apostles of Paul's desire to be a part of the church. Barnabas remained Paul's friend, and even put himself in danger because he would not abandon Paul.

Memory Verse: Acts 11:24 "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

Barnabas, A Good Man

Acts 11:24

The Bible describes Barnabas as "a good man". He was a good man because he had been saved from his sins by the blood of Jesus. He was also "full of the Holy Ghost". He let the Holy Spirit of God lead him and direct his life. He lived a good life, trying to obey the teachings of Jesus. He used his life in the service of God, and as a result, many more people were saved and added to the church.

Barnabas was a Jew, born of the tribe of Levi. However, he was not born in Jerusalem. He was born on the island of Cyprus, in the Mediterranean Sea. He was taught the religion of the Jews and came to Jerusalem to worship. The Jews from many areas came to Jerusalem for the feasts and celebrations at the temple several times a year. Cyprus was several miles away, but not too far for Barnabas to come to Jerusalem to worship as other devout Jews did.

Barnabas was unselfish

Barnabas must have been one of the first people to convert from Judaism to Christianity. He was one of the earliest members of the church. He was apparently in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast when Jesus was crucified. We learn about him in the book of Acts soon after the day of Pentecost. Jesus told the church to stay in Jerusalem after he went back to heaven until the Holy Spirit came upon them and gave them the power they needed to go into all the world and preach about Him to all nations. Forty days after Jesus came forth from the grave He went back to heaven. Ten days later the Holy Spirit came down to dwell in the church. A short time later persecution of the church had already begun. Acts 4:32 tells us "*The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*" The church members united together as a close group. They were not selfish with their possessions. Some of them lived in Jerusalem. Many of them came from other places, following Jesus as He traveled and taught. Those in Jerusalem shared their belongings with the others. They did not look upon their possessions as being "theirs". They shared so that no one did without the things he or she needed.

“Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” Many of the church members owned land or houses, either in Jerusalem or in other areas, which they sold. They brought the money and gave it to the apostles. It was then distributed among all of the church members according to how much each one needed.

Barnabas was the first person mentioned by name who sold his land and brought the money to the apostles. His name was Joses, and the apostles called him Barnabas, which means “the son of consolation”. Consolation means “to console, or to comfort”, indicating a caring, comforting person; one who shows kindness. Acts 4:36-37, Barnabas, *“Having land, (possibly in Cyprus) sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”* Barnabas brought all of his money. He did not hold back some for himself, but gave it all.

Barnabas trusted Paul

We read about Barnabas again when Paul returned from Damascus to Jerusalem where he had earlier been dedicated to the destruction of the church. He arrested and put men and women in prison for no other reason than they were Christians. But his mind was changed on the road to Damascus, where he intended to arrest and imprison Christians. A great light struck him down and the Lord spoke to him. He came to realize that Jesus of Nazareth whom he had persecuted really was the Son of God. He repented of the wrong he had done the church and became a follower of Christ.. He preached boldly in the face of opposition in Damascus, and had to leave to escape being killed himself because he was now a Christian.

He returned to Jerusalem as a friend of the church, but the apostles were skeptical. They were afraid of Paul. They were afraid that he was using a disguise of being a Christian to get on the inside so he could cause harm to the believers. They did not trust him. *“But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”* Barnabas became Paul’s friend. He believed that Paul really had changed. He convinced the apostles that Paul had met Jesus on the road to Damascus and had now dedicated his life to preaching the truth. Barnabas convinced the apostles that Paul had preached without hesitation in Damascus and had to leave because the Jews there sought to kill him. Barnabas trusted Paul and risked his life and his reputation by befriending him.

Paul became a friend of the church rather than an enemy. He *“spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus.”* When he tried to convince the Grecians (Jews who spoke the Greek language) that Jesus whom they crucified was the Christ, they made plans to kill him. The brethren in the church heard about their plan and secretly took Paul to Caesarea on the seacoast and sent him back to his home town in Tarsus. They risked their lives to protect him.

The church sent Barnabas to Antioch in Syria

Stephen, the first deacon in the church at Jerusalem preached that Jesus arose from the dead and returned to heaven and was seated on the right hand of God the Father. For this he was killed. Paul was still an enemy of the church at that time, and he consented to and was apparently overseer of the stoning to death of Stephen. After this many members of the church

left Jerusalem to keep from being killed. Some went to Antioch in Syria. They taught the Grecians and convinced many of them to believe. The good news of people accepting Jesus as the Christ spread back to the church in Jerusalem. They were happy. They sent Barnabas to teach these new Christians. They chose Barnabas because *“he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith.”* When Barnabas came to Antioch and saw the work of God among these people he was glad, and he encouraged them to remain faithful to the Lord.

Barnabas goes to Tarsus to get Paul

Barnabas stayed at Antioch for some time teaching the people. The church grew so fast he saw that he needed help. The one he wanted to help him was Paul. He knew Paul had the ability and the courage to teach these people the things they needed to know. He went to Tarsus and brought Paul back to Antioch. They stayed there and taught the people for a whole year. Acts 11:26, *“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”* Paul taught them to be Christians in their actions so others would see that they were followers of Christ. Prophets came from Jerusalem and told them about a famine in the land, and how badly they needed help. The saints at Antioch sent Barnabas and Paul to take help to the brethren in Jerusalem. After they completed their mission they returned to Antioch.

Barnabas and Paul become missionaries

God chose Paul to be a missionary to the Gentiles, and also chose Barnabas to be his helper. *“Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”* They were sent out from the church at Antioch and traveled to many towns preaching the message that Jesus was the Christ. They made friends and enemies everywhere they went. Paul worked miracles to prove the message he preached was true, and this caused him trouble in many places. On the isle of Cyprus (where Barnabas was born) Sergius Paulus, the deputy at Paphos, befriended Barnabas and Paul and sent for them because he wanted to hear the truth. A sorcerer named Elymas, who was possessed with an evil spirit, opposed them and did not want Serguis Paulus to hear and accept the truth. Paul cast blindness on him for a period of time. They went to another town called Antioch, this one in Pisidia, and because so many Gentiles believed their message, the Jews were filled with hatred and ran them out of town. They went to Iconium and preached in the synagogue. The Jews there stirred up the Gentiles and both groups joined together and attempted to stone them to death. They fled 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. The priest of the false god, Jupiter, brought oxen and garlands and prepared a sacrifice. Barnabas and Paul refused to allow them to worship them as gods.

By this time men 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. Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch and reported to the church all that God had done through them, and all the Gentiles who had accepted their message. After staying in Antioch for a while, *“Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.”* Barnabas wanted to take his nephew, John Mark, with them, and Paul did not. He had gone with them earlier and after a short while he turned back, so Paul did not want to take him again. The tension became so great between them that they parted company.

Lesson wrap-up:

Barnabas was a good man, and filled with the Holy Spirit. He became Paul's friend.

When Paul returned to Jerusalem and wanted to be a part of the church Barnabas trusted him and convinced the apostles to accept him and become his friends.

Barnabas was a good man. He was sent to Antioch to teach new converts there. He went to Tarsus and brought Paul back to help him.

The church at Antioch sent them out as missionaries. They made friends and enemies everywhere they went. Paul had the power of God to work miracles in the name of Jesus.

They were run out of Antioch at Pisidia. They attempted to stone them at Iconium. They did stone Paul at Lystra.

They returned with a good report that many Gentiles were saved as a result of their preaching. Many Gentile churches were started.

They disagreed over taking John Mark with them on their next journey. The tension was so great they parted company. Barnabas took Mark, and Paul chose Silas to be his helper.



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 11:24

“For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”

Discussion:

Barnabas was a “good man” because he had received Jesus as his Savior, and he had the Spirit of God living in him. He wanted to obey and please God. He was not selfish. He shared his earthly possessions with others in the church who were in need.

He was willing to go where God wanted him to go. He used his influence in Antioch to teach the new converts. They were called “Christians first at Antioch”.

Because he loved and obeyed God many people were saved, and churches were started and strengthened in many places.

BARNABAS, PAUL'S FRIEND

Teens Worksheet 1

Answer the questions and then discuss them:

1. Who became Paul's friend in today's lesson? _____

2. When Paul left Jerusalem to go to Damascus was he a friend or enemy of the church? _____

3. Why were the apostles afraid of him when he returned to Jerusalem?

4. Who convinced the apostles that Paul had changed and had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in the synagogues at Damascus? _____

5. Did the church accept Paul as their friend? _____

6. Why did Paul leave Jerusalem? _____

7. Where did the church send Paul to escape from the Jewish rulers? _____

8. What did Barnabas do the first time he is mentioned in the book of Acts?
(4:36-37) _____

9. Why did Barnabas go to the church at Antioch in Syria? _____

10. Which church sent Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries? _____

BARNABAS, PAUL'S FRIEND

Teens Worksheet 1
Answer page

Answer the questions and then discuss them:

1. Who became Paul's friend in today's lesson? Barnabas
2. When Paul left Jerusalem to go to Damascus was he a friend or enemy of the church? enemy
3. Why were the apostles afraid of him when he returned to Jerusalem?
He left to go to Damascus with authority to arrest and imprison the christians, and they thought he had come back to arrest and maybe even kill them.
4. Who convinced the apostles that Paul had changed and had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in the synagogues at Damascus? Barnabas
5. Did the church accept Paul as their friend? yes
6. Why did Paul leave Jerusalem? The Jews became his enemies because he was a friend to the church and was preaching boldly that Jesus was the Christ.
7. Where did the church send Paul to escape from the Jews? Tarsus
8. What did Barnabas do the first time he is mentioned in the book of Acts?
(4:36-37) He sold his land and brought the money to the apostles to be used by the church members as they had need.
9. Why did Barnabas go to the church at Antioch in Syria? Some of the christians who fled Jerusalem to keep from being killed went there and started a church. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to go and teach them.
10. Which church sent Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries? Antioch in Syria

WORD SEARCH

Find the words backward, forward, up and down, or diagonally:

M	L	M	H	X	L	G	R	R	T	T	W	B	T	X
I	T	U	E	U	G	O	G	A	N	Y	S	O	S	S
S	Y	E	A	L	F	Q	R	Q	N	S	H	A	I	R
S	L	S	M	P	A	S	W	E	J	T	B	H	R	U
I	D	Y	J	P	U	S	D	H	G	A	I	T	H	Y
O	L	R	S	S	L	H	U	N	N	E	H	O	C	E
N	O	I	T	U	C	E	S	R	E	P	R	Y	C	P
A	B	A	E	R	B	R	A	P	E	I	R	G	P	H
R	A	L	U	N	D	B	L	N	G	J	R	S	J	P
I	Y	H	C	A	E	R	P	Y	S	B	E	F	X	O
E	C	B	I	D	U	M	O	X	N	B	R	S	P	M
S	X	N	M	L	J	Y	Y	L	H	H	X	K	U	M
K	S	U	D	R	P	I	X	T	N	G	Q	V	H	S

ANTIOCH
 BARNABAS
 BOLDLY
 CHRIST
 CHURCH

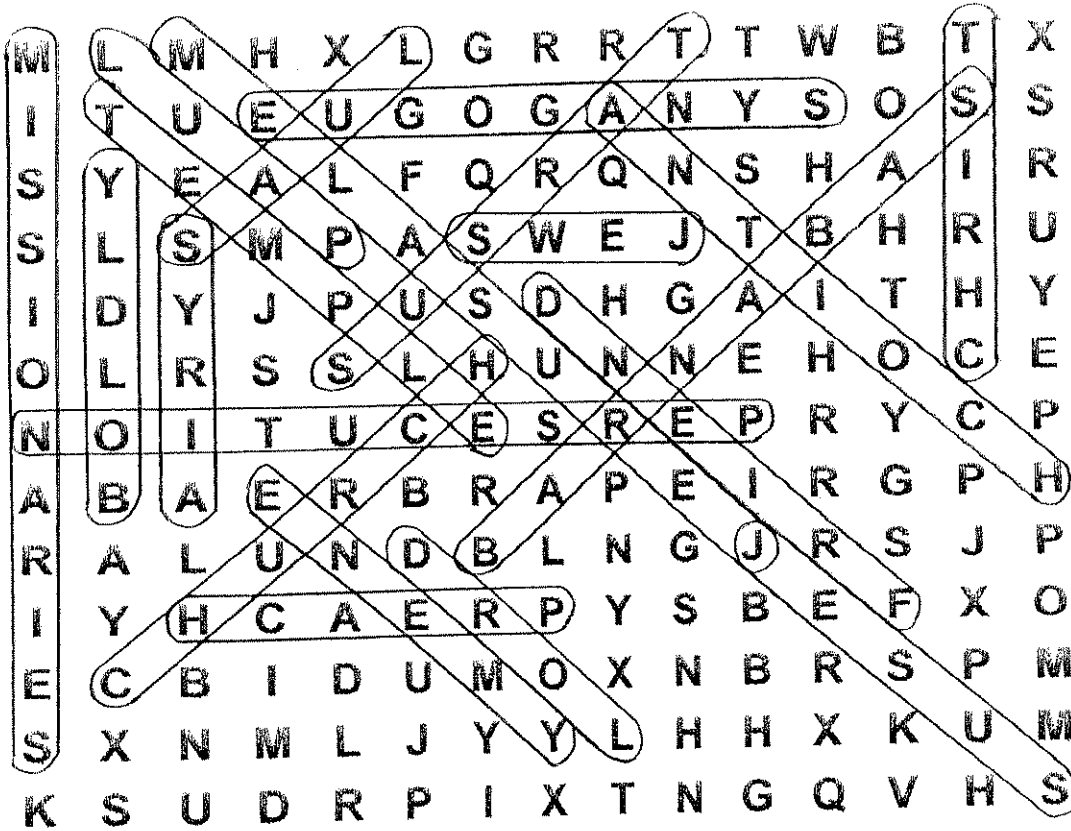
ENEMY
 FRIEND
 JERUSALEM
 JESUS
 JEWS

LORD
 MISSIONARIES
 PAUL
 PERSECUTION
 PREACH

SAUL
 SYNAGOGUE
 SYRIA
 TARSUS
 TEMPLE

WORD SEARCH

Find the words backward, forward, up and down, or diagonally:

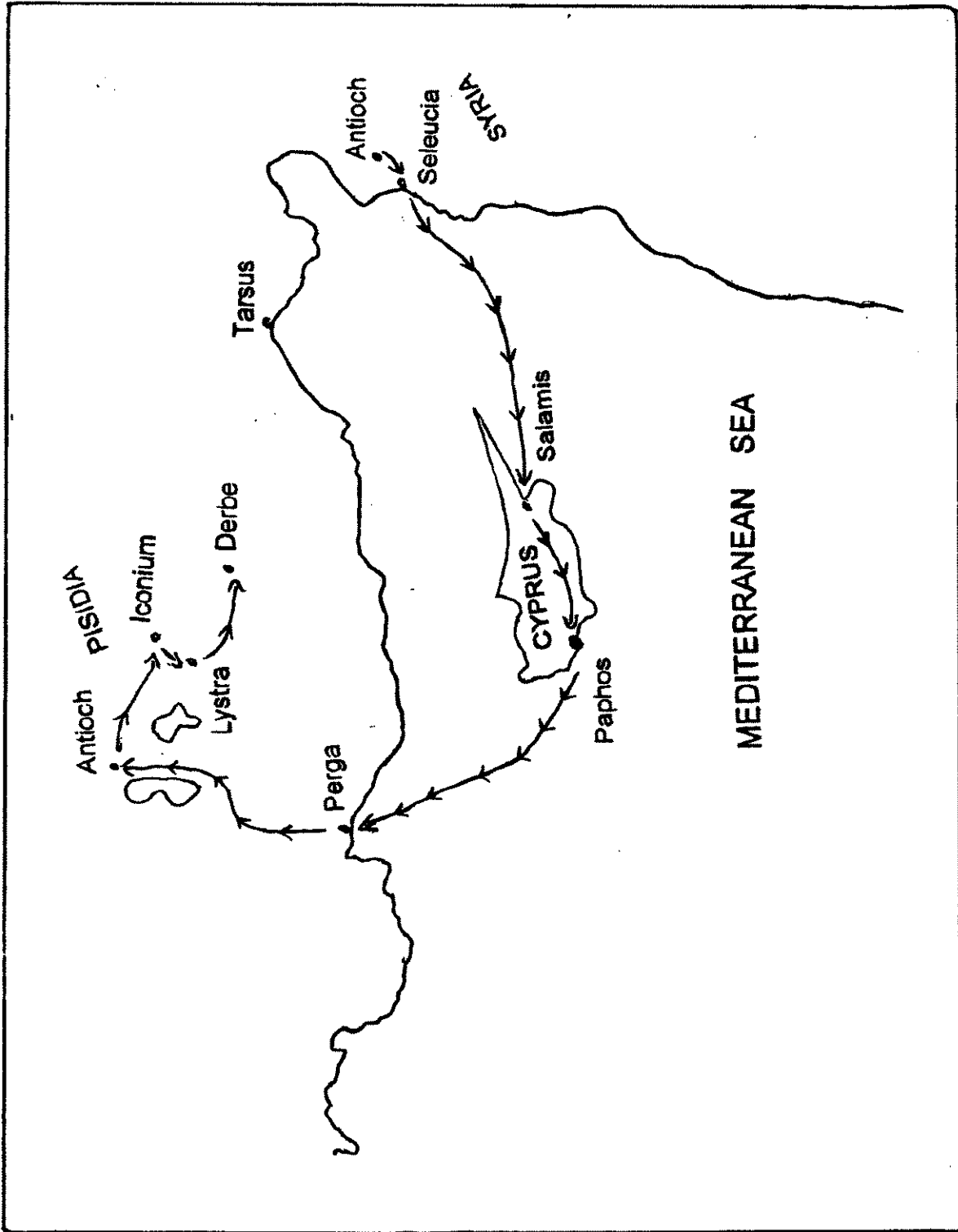


ANTIOCH
BARNABAS
BOLDLY
CHRIST
CHURCH

ENEMY
FRIEND
JERUSALEM
JESUS
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MISSIONARIES
PAUL
PERSECUTION
PREACH

SAUL
SYNAGOGUE
SYRIA
TARSUS
TEMPLE



Lesson 3: SILAS BECOMES PAUL'S FRIEND

I. Silas in Jerusalem

- A. A trusted member of the congregation
 - 1. a good man, respected
 - 2. had risked his life for the cause of Christ
 - 3. a prophet

II. In Antioch

- A. trusted to be sent as a representative of the council
- B. Silas was sent from Jerusalem to Antioch to confirm that the letters Paul and Barnabas brought back were authentic, and the will of the council.

III. Accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey

- A. Paul chose him because of his reputation of being truthful and dependable.
- B. in Philippi
 - 1. not ashamed to speak publicly
 - 2. harassed by a soothsayer
 - 3. beaten and put in prison
- A. protected by God
 - 1. earthquake

IV. Thessalonica

- A. opposed by the Jewish rulers
- B. left secretly by night to avoid harm
- C. stayed behind in Berea and met Paul again in Corinth

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 his life style that he had earned the reputation of being a “good man”. Those who knew him in his everyday life trusted him and selected him when they needed someone to vouch for the truth. Silas was not a stranger to persecution. Persecution did not make him deny the principles of right or wrong. 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: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:”

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 some false doctrines. They taught that Christianity was a Jewish religion, so the Gentiles must put themselves under the Law of Moses and the customs of the Jews before they could be saved.

Paul and Barnabas disagreed. In order to settle the matter the church sent some other members with them to Jerusalem to ask the apostles and elders of the church. They formed a council to study the matter and decided what the truth was. They 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 Jews, and they should not require them to do things that God did not require of them. James suggested that they not make them abide by the Law of Moses before they could be saved and baptized, but that they write letters encouraging them to abide by certain things that the law taught, just because it was a good thing to do.

The council wrote letters of instruction and sent them back to the Gentiles at Antioch, and Syria, and Cilicia. The elders, the apostles, and the whole church at Jerusalem agreed that they would choose two good men, honest and dependable men from the church, and send them back with Paul and Barnabas to be a witness that this was the decision of the church. The two men were Judas, surnamed Barsabas, and Silas. They were two of the leading and most respected men in the church at Jerusalem. They were men who had placed their own lives in danger because they believed that Jesus was the Christ.

The council wrote the letters of apology assuring the Gentiles that they did not send these men to teach that they must observe Jewish customs or they could not be Christians, saying, “*to whom we gave no such commandment.*” (Acts 15:24) They instructed them in some good practices, V. 29, and they all agreed that they should send Judas and Silas with Paul and Barnabas to confirm that the letters were from the council, and contained the wishes of the church at Jerusalem regarding the Gentiles who were their brethren in Christ. They wrote in the letters that they were sending Judas and Silas so they could tell them the same things

that were written in the letters to confirm their truthfulness. This was a very important issue. They wanted the Gentile churches to believe what they wrote and that it was what they had written, not just what Paul and Barnabas wanted them to believe. Silas was considered a trustworthy man, one the Gentile churches could believe when he verified the truthfulness of the letters. Judas returned to Jerusalem, but Silas chose to stay with Paul at Antioch.

Silas was as prophet. God still revealed His will through certain men at this time because the Bible as we have it today had not been completed. The people did not have the written will of God to read. When the Holy Spirit came upon the church on the Day of Pentecost, they received the power of spiritual “gifts”. One of these gifts was the ability to prophesy. Silas was one God chose to be a prophet. When Paul and Barnabas separated as a missionary team, Paul chose Silas to be his partner when he began his second missionary journey.

Paul and Silas persecuted

Paul and Silas went to the city of Philippi. Since there was no synagogue for them to go and worship, on the Sabbath they went down by the river side to pray. There was a certain place by the river side where others of the city went to pray. While gathered there, Paul and Silas preached to them. Each day as they went to the river a young woman followed them. She was possessed with an evil spirit. She had a spirit of divination, or was a fortune teller. She was not a prophet like Silas who had the power of God to tell things God wanted the people to know. Evil spirits would imitate the power of God by possessing people and giving them the ability to foretell the future. In the Bible they are called false prophets. They practiced witchcraft and idolatry. Some men in the city owned her, 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. Everywhere they went, she followed them 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, mocking them, and making fun of them for being men of God. Every day it was the same thing everywhere they went. She distracted from their preaching by her presence. Finally Paul got tired of it. He was grieved, or wearied. He was tired of her distracting others by making fun of them. After she had done this for many days, Paul turned to her and said to the evil spirit that was within 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.

Her masters (the men who owned her and made her work for them) saw that their future profits were gone. The prospect of her earning a lot of money for them by fortune telling was gone. They could not hope to remain rich men. 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, and they were displeased with what Paul had done. They became Paul’s enemies.

They brought Paul and Silas into the marketplace to the rulers and they took them to the magistrates, or the judges. They 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 magistrates had their coats removed and commanded them to be publicly beaten. 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 rod they cast them into prison. Their feet were fastened securely 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 so they could not pull them out. They could not stand, walk, or even move around. Silas had risked his life before in Jerusalem for the cause of Christ, and he did not forsake Paul now.

Paul and Silas had been beaten so badly their backs hurt. They were in prison, and their feet were fastened securely in stocks. They were in this position 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 at this time of night in their miserable condition.

Suddenly they felt an earthquake. The foundations of the prison shook. All of the doors of the prison were opened. All of the bands that held the prisoners securely were loosened. They were all free and could run away. The jailor was awakened from his sleep by the shaking and the noise of the earthquake. He 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 reached for his own sword and intended to kill himself so he would not be tortured and killed for letting the prisoners escape. Paul knew the jailor feared for his life so he assured him that no one had escaped. He called out very loudly, “Don’t harm yourself. We are all here.”

The jailor knew Paul and Silas worshiped God, and he feared God. He knew this was the work of God to protect His servants. He asked for a light so he could see for himself in the darkness. He came into the prison and 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. He wanted to 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 them that night. They told them that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live as a man and die on the cross to pay the price for sin. They believed what they preached. They were saved that night. The jailor took them immediately and washed their stripes, probably anointing them with ointment to make them feel better. Paul then baptized him and the other members of his household who believed. The jailor took them into his own house and gave them food to eat. He rejoiced. He was happy. He had been forgiven of his sins and was now a child of God. He had reason to rejoice because he now believed in God, and he had influenced those in his household to also believe. Paul and Silas rejoiced because the will of God had been done in the lives of many people. God had protected them. God sent the earthquake to release them and to prove to the town that they were His servants, His children, and He would protect them from their enemies.

Silas knew it was God who sent the earthquake. It was God who protected them, and he continued to go with Paul to preach to others that Jesus was the Christ. They left Philippi and went to Thessalonica. There they 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 some did not. 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. They accused Jason 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. They went to Berea, and when the Thessalonians followed them there to persecute them, Silas stayed behind while Paul went on to Athens and Corinth. Silas came to be with him in Corinth, and probably spent much of the rest of his life preaching in Corinth.

Lesson wrap-up:

Silas was respected by the church at Jerusalem. He was called a "good man". He was endowed by the Holy Spirit with the gift of prophecy. He was trusted to go to Antioch and witness for Paul that what he preached to the Gentiles regarding salvation was true.

Paul chose him to be his traveling companion, knowing they would face persecution. He trusted Silas to help him. The church at Antioch recommended Silas as a missionary.

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, and remained faithful to him during many years of traveling and preaching. 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 with the care of churches when he had to go on somewhere else to preach.

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



Memory verse: Psalms 7:1

"O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:"

Silas trusted the Lord to save him from his enemies. He risked his life by remaining a true believer in the first church at Jerusalem. He went to Antioch to deliver a ruling on a controversial issue. He preached the truth with Paul and did not forsake him when he was confronted by the angry Jews in the synagogues. He stood with him even when he was arrested. Silas was persecuted, but he trusted God to protect him.

Circle the correct answer:

1. The lesson is taken from the book of
 - a. Matthew
 - b. Luke
 - c. Acts

2. Who did Paul choose to go with him on his second missionary journey?
 - a. Barnabas
 - b. Silas
 - c. Peter

3. What church sent Paul and Silas out as missionaries?
 - a. Antioch
 - b. Jerusalem
 - c. Corinth

4. Where was Silas born?
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Tarsus
 - c. Cyprus

5. Where was Silas a church member when Paul met him?
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Antioch
 - c. Damascus

6. Silas was a
 - a. salesman
 - b. apostle
 - c. prophet

7. Silas was chosen by the council to represent them at Antioch because he was
 - a. a good speaker
 - b. truthful
 - c. wealthy

SILAS BECOMES PAUL'S FRIEND

**Teens Worksheet 1
(continued)**

8. Where were Paul and Silas beaten and put in prison?
 - a. Antioch
 - b. Philippi
 - c. Thessalonica

9. Paul and Silas were released from prison by
 - a. their friends
 - b. the city ruler
 - c. an earthquake

10. Did Silas continue to travel with Paul after they were released from prison?
 - a. yes
 - b. no

1. The lesson is taken from the book of
c. Acts

2. Who did Paul chose to go with him on his second missionary journey?
b. Silas

3. What church sent Paul and Silas out as missionaries?
a. Antioch

4. Where was Silas born?
c. Cyprus

5. Were was Silas a church member when Paul met him?
a. Jerusalem

6. Silas was a
c. prophet

7. Silas was chosen by the council to represent them at Antioch because
he was
b. truthful

8. Where were Paul and Silas beaten and put in prison?
b. Philippi

9. Paul and Silas were released from prison by
c. an earthquake

10. Did Silas continue to travel with Paul after they were released from
prison?
a. yes

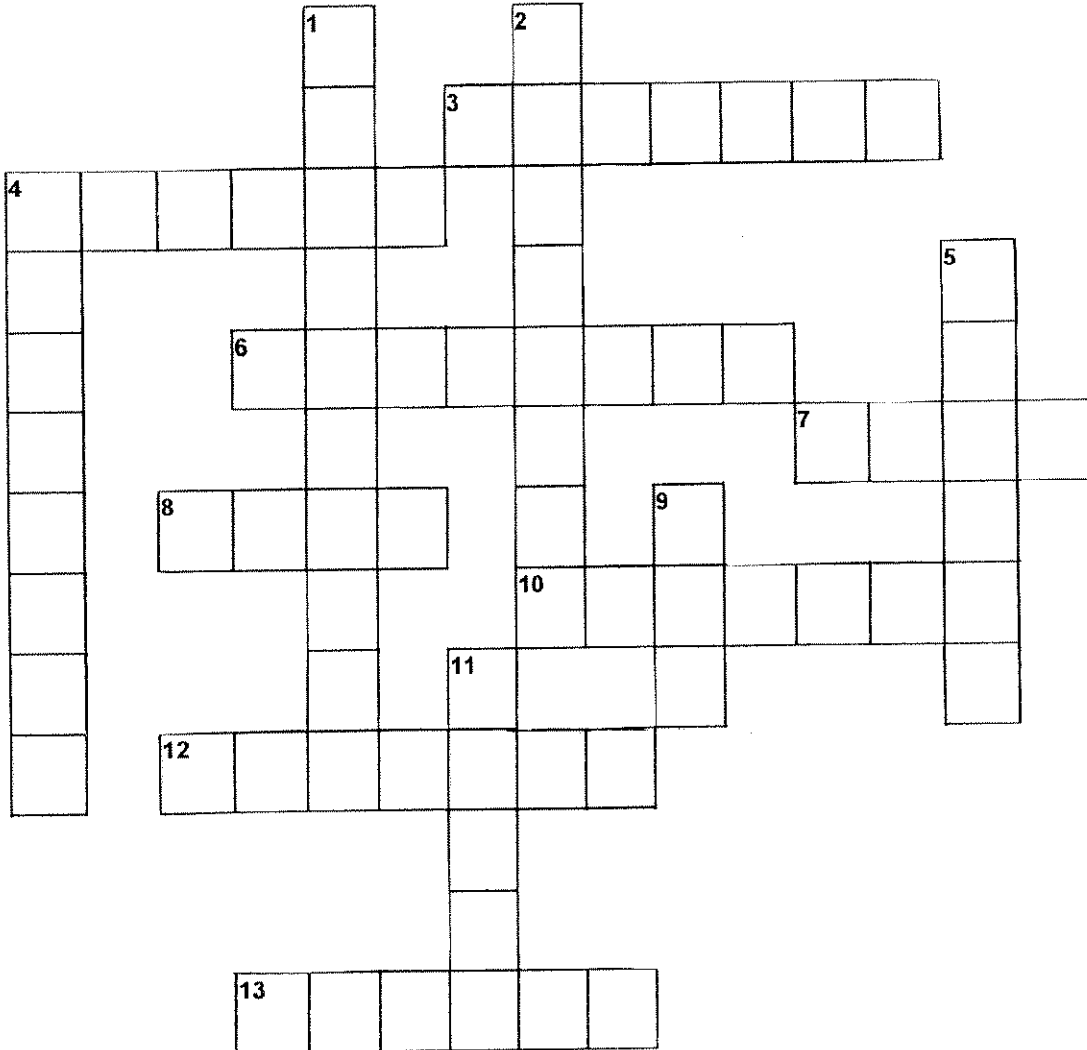
SILAS BECOMES PAUL'S FRIEND

ACROSS

1. Paul and Silas were _____ in prison at midnight.
4. A soothsayer tells the _____.
6. Paul and Silas were placed in prison at _____.
7. The soothsayer was possessed
8. _____ cast out the evil spirit.
10. They were accused of being _____ makers.
12. The Jews became their _____.
13. Paul and Silas were put in _____.

DOWN

1. An _____ shook the prison.
2. The earthquake happened at _____.
4. A soothsayer _____ Paul and Silas.
5. The _____ asked, "What must I do to be saved?"
9. Paul and Silas were praising _____.
11. _____ was Paul's friend.



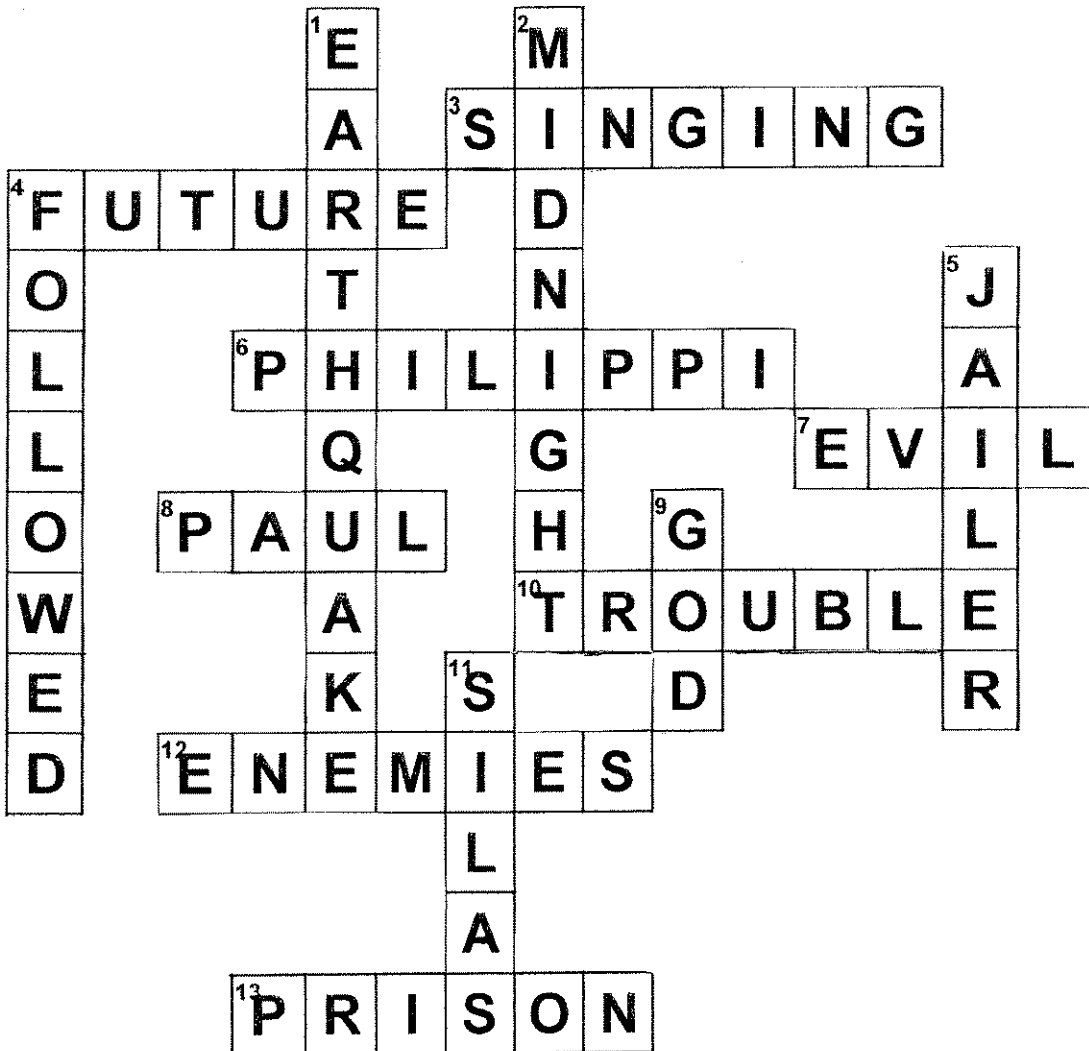
SILAS BECOMES PAUL'S FRIEND

ACROSS

1. Paul and Silas were _____ in prison at midnight.
4. A soothsayer tells the _____.
6. Paul and Silas were placed in prison at _____.
7. The soothsayer was possessed
8. _____ cast out the evil spirit.
10. They were accused of being _____ makers.
12. The Jews became their _____.
13. Paul and Silas were put in _____.

DOWN

1. An _____ shook the prison.
2. The earthquake happened at _____.
4. A soothsayer _____ Paul and Silas.
5. The _____ asked, "What must I do to be saved?"
9. Paul and Silas were praising _____.
11. _____ was Paul's friend.



Lesson 4: LYDIA AT PHILIPPI

I. Paul and Silas went to Philippi

A. Paul went to Troas

1. God sent a vision to go to Europe
2. went to Macedonia, to the city of Philippi

II. The synagogues

A. In every town where he traveled, Paul went first to the synagogue.

B. no synagogue in Philippi

1. Paul went outside the city to the river on the Sabbath
2. women came to a certain place by the river to pray
3. Paul preached that Jesus was the Christ.

III. Lydia accepted Paul's message

A. was baptized

B. witnessed to her household

IV. Church in her house

A. Other occasions when the church met in a person's house

1. Acts 17:6-7 the house of Jason
2. Acts 18:7 the house of Justus

V. Other women who became friends of Paul

A. synagogue at Thessalonica, Acts 17:4, chief women, not a few

B. Priscilla and her husband Aquila Acts 18:1-3, 18

1. employed Paul to help them make tents
2. left Corinth and went to Ephesus with him

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

Aim: To show how women were instrumental in the spread of the gospel in the early church.

Emphasis: Lydia was a prosperous and influential business woman. She was not ashamed to be seen going to her regular place of worship. She was open to the teaching of Paul, and led the members of her household to believe. She was instrumental in starting the church at Philippi.

Memory Verse: Acts 16:14, "And a certain woman named Lydia, - - - - whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

The call to Europe

Paul and Silas went to Troas, and Paul saw a vision. Acts 16:9, "*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*" God had a work for Paul to do in Europe. He obeyed the call and went to Philippi which was the chief city in that part of Macedonia.

The synagogues

Paul's custom was to look for a synagogue when he went into a city. 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 from the scrolls. Then someone was appointed to explain what was read. Many towns outside the area of Israel had synagogues. The Jews had been scattered throughout much of the world centuries earlier, but they maintained their way of worship and continued to teach their children the law of Moses and the Jewish customs. In any town where at least ten Jewish men lived they built a synagogue. Most towns in Palestine and some larger towns in other places had more than one synagogue. When Paul went to Damascus he had letters written to the synagogues (plural) giving him authority to arrest anyone who professed Jesus as the Christ. After his conversion, "*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.*"

Wherever Paul went he first looked for a synagogue and went there and preached to the Jews. 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

In Philippi there was no synagogue. Paul and Silas heeded the call to come over into Macedonia and help the people there. Philippi was located about nine miles from the Aegean Sea. Paul sailed from Troas to Neapolis, on the sea coast, and traveled on to Philippi. 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 did not find a synagogue but they 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 of the 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, but worshiped the true God in heaven. She was the head of a "household" and her husband is not mentioned, so she was apparently a widow.

Lydia was a business woman. She was a seller of purple. She was from Thyatira, a city in Asia (now Turkey). Purple is a red-blue color that was the prized choice for dyeing garments. Purple was very expensive, so it was the color of royalty. Only the kings and the very wealthy could afford these richly colored garments, the red, blue, or purple clothing. The famous Tyrian purple dye was made from a tiny mollusk (a murex) found off the coasts of the city of Tyre in Phoenicia. It was exported to many parts of the world. The waters of Thyatira were known for being well suited to permanently dye brilliant colors. The purple dye was extracted from the secretion of this tiny shellfish. It was a very intricate process and resulted in a very small bit at a time. Therefore the color purple was very expensive.

Purple, the color of royalty

When God told Moses to ask the people of Israel to bring an offering of the things of value that they brought out of Egypt to be used to build the Tabernacle, He specifically asked for "*blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red*", Exodus 25:4-5. God gave instructions for building the Tabernacle, Exodus 26:31, "*And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet,*" and v. 36, "*And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet.*" Specific instructions were given for the garments of the high priest, Exodus 28:5, "*And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.*" Also verses 6,8,15.

Kings wore purple and scarlet. Esther 8:15, Daniel 5:7, Luke 16:19. Before Jesus was crucified, a purple robe was placed on Him in jest because of His claim to be king of the Jews.

Lydia, a religious woman

Lydia apparently came to Philippi to find a market for her goods. She had established a business in Philippi, bringing purple (probably including reds and blues) fabric and garments

from Asia to sell in Macedonia. She was head of a household, which probably included those who worked for her in her business. She was not only a good business person, but she was dedicated to worship of God. She prayed regularly. There was a certain place down by the river where she went on the Sabbath to pray. She did not pray secretly, but gathered with other women who prayed together in public assembly.

Paul and those traveling with him went down by the river on the Sabbath and sat down at the place of prayer. They spoke about Jesus, the Christ, the promised Messiah, to the women who had gathered at the usual time and the usual place to pray. Lydia was there and she heard Paul, and the Bible says that God opened her heart and she paid attention to the things Paul spoke. Lydia believed in the true God in heaven, and she was receptive to the truth when it was preached. She believed Paul when he said Jesus was the Christ, and she believed when he said those who accepted Him as the Savior should be baptized. Not only did she believe and be 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 by the week or the month. They often depended on the local people to open their homes and give them lodging. Lydia wanted to know more. She wanted Paul to teach 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.”*

Other women who became friends of Paul

When Paul wrote the letter to the church at Philippi he said to *“help 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. Paul went to Thessalonica he preached in the synagogue for three Sabbath days. Acts 17:4, some of the Jews believed, and *“of the chief women not a few.”* When Paul went to Corinth he met Priscilla and her husband Aquila. They took him into their home and employed him to help them make tents. They became his devout followers, and went to Ephesus with him when he left Corinth. They remained there while he went to Jerusalem for the Feast. While he was away they took Apollo (Acts 18:24-26) *“and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”* In Paul’s letter to the Romans he said, *“Greet Priscilla and Aquila 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 encountered Lydia and a group of women at Philippi. It was their usual habit to gather by the river on the Sabbath to pray.

Lydia listened as Paul preached about Jesus, the Christ.

God caused Lydia's heart to be opened so that she was receptive to the words he spoke.

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 apparently a church assembled in her house.

Priscilla and her husband Aquila became followers at Corinth. They had been persecuted in Rome, and moved to Corinth when "*Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome.*"



Memory Verse: Acts 16:14

"And a certain woman named Lydia, - - - - whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

Discussion:

Lydia was apparently a widow since her husband is not mentioned, and she was the head of a household. She was intelligent. She was a successful business woman, acquainted with the ways of royalty. She 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 was receptive to the preaching of Paul. She wanted to know the truth and believed the truth. 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 At Philippi

Teens Worksheet 1

Fill in the blanks and then find the words in the word search.

1. Paul saw a vision at _____.
2. A man from _____ said, "Come over and help us."
3. Paul and _____ went to Macedonia.
4. They went to the city of _____.
5. A woman named _____ lived at Philippi.
6. Lydia sold expensive _____.
7. Lydia sold _____ dye, fabric, and garments.
8. There was no _____ in Philippi for the people to go and worship.
9. Lydia and a group of women went down to the _____ on the Sabbath to pray.
10. _____ preached to Lydia and the other women.
11. Lydia believed what Paul _____.
12. Lydia was _____.
13. Lydia led the other members of her family and household to _____.
14. The _____ at Philippi met at Lydia's house.
15. Many _____ from the synagogue in Thessalonica were also believers.
16. Aquila and his wife _____ were friends of Paul, and the _____ met in their house.

Lydia At Philippi

Teens Worksheet 1 Answer page

Fill in the blanks and then find the words in the word search.

1. Paul saw a vision at TROAS.
2. A man from MACEDONIA said, "Come over and help us."
3. Paul and SILAS went to Macedonia.
4. They went to the city of PHILIPPI.
5. A woman named LYDIA lived at Philippi.
6. Lydia sold expensive CLOTHING.
7. Lydia sold PURPLE dye, fabric, and garments.
8. There was no SYNAGOGUE in Philippi for the people to go and worship.
9. Lydia and a group of women went down to the RIVER on the Sabbath to pray.
10. PAUL preached to Lydia and the other women.
11. Lydia believed what Paul PREACHED.
12. Lydia was BAPTIZED.
13. Lydia led the other members of her family and household to BELIEVE.
14. The CHURCH at Philippi met at Lydia's house.
15. Many WOMEN from the synagogue in Thessalonica were also believers.
16. Aquila and his wife PRISCILLA were friends of Paul, and the CHURCH met in their house.

WORD SEARCH

Use the answers on Worksheet 1, and find the words in the puzzle.

C M A C E D O N I A D P C
L A Y R D P U R P L E R D
O L H S Y V E S P E Y E E
T L I Y W R E V I R S A Z
H I H N R I S I L A S C I
I C C A F U T X I M P H T
N S R G H C R U H C A E P
G I U O N P O V P M U D A
G R H G I R A I D Y L K B
T P C U X J S G N E M O W
D E V E I L E B D Y M A C

WORD SEARCH

Use the answers on Worksheet 1, and find the words in the puzzle.

C	M	A	C	E	D	O	N	I	A	D	P	C
L	A	Y	R	D	P	U	R	P	L	E	R	D
O	L	H	S	Y	V	E	S	P	E	Y	E	E
T	L	I	Y	W	R	E	V	I	R	S	A	Z
H	I	H	N	R	I	S	I	L	A	S	C	I
I	C	C	A	F	U	T	X	I	M	P	H	T
N	S	R	G	H	C	R	U	H	C	A	E	P
G	I	U	O	N	P	O	V	P	M	U	D	A
G	R	H	G	I	R	A	I	D	Y	L	K	B
T	P	C	U	X	J	S	G	N	E	M	O	W
D	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	D	Y	M	A	C

Lesson 5: Timothy, A Friend Of Paul

- I. Timothy, Paul's son in the faith**
 - A. Jewish mother and Greek father
 - B. Paul's son in the faith, or the ministry
 - 1. joined Paul at Lystra on his second missionary journey
 - 2. was taught by Paul as a father would teach his son

- II. Born at Lystra**
 - A. Grandmother Lois and mother Eunice
 - 1. godly women
 - 2. taught Timothy the Jewish religion
 - a. Law of Moses
 - b. prophecies
 - c. observed Jewish customs
 - B. grew up among idolatry

- III. Had a desire to preach**
 - A. Paul began the church at Lystra on his first missionary journey
 - 1. probably baptized Timothy
 - B. Paul returned to Lystra on his second missionary journey
 - 1. Timothy desired to travel with him and Silas
 - a. the church at Lystra authorized him to go with Paul
 - C. Traveled with Paul through Asia, Macedonia, and Greece
 - 1. left by Paul to pastor churches while Paul went elsewhere

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 was an obedient child and learned the things taught him by his mother and his grandmother. He knew the Law of Moses, and knew and understood the prophecies as God as a child. It is not necessary to wait until adulthood to decide you want to believe the Bible and to serve God.

Memory Verse: II Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Paul's Son In the Faith

The Bible does not tell us about Paul's family other than he was born to Jewish parents in the city of Tarsus. We do not know if he had any children of his own. However he considered Timothy as a son. Paul 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". As a child becomes his father's son by birth, and is taught by his father, Timothy became Paul's son in the ministry when he became a preacher and was chosen to travel with Paul. Paul taught him all of the things he needed to know in order to teach other people. 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 him, and learned from him as he would have his own father.

Timothy's Early Life

Timothy's 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 was taught the laws of God and the customs of the Jews by his mother and his grandmother who were both women of faith. Even though she was married to a Greek, his mother did not forsake her religion. II Timothy 1:5, Paul said that he remembered the unfeigned faith that was in Timothy, that was first in his grandmother, Lois, and then in his mother, Eunice. "Unfeigned" means not counterfeit or 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

Timothy lived at Lystra when Paul first met him. On his first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra. They preached that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah that God had promised to send to the Jewish nation as their redeemer. The Jews as a nation rejected Jesus as the Son of God, and crucified him. Paul preached in their synagogues that this man named Jesus whom they crucified was indeed the Son of God. It seems that Timothy heard Paul preaching 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. He had been run 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 so angry they ran him off. He went to Iconium and preached, and because the Jews were going to stone him to death for preaching the truth he fled to Lystra.

The people in Lystra believed in false gods. They did not believe in the true God in heaven, so they invented gods so they would have something to worship. Outside the city of Lystra there was a temple built to worship the false god, Jupiter. There were false priests who served at this temple. This was the influence in which Timothy was raised, 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 they were gods who had come down in human form. They attempted to worship them as gods and 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 that they were evil, and to kill them. They stoned Paul so badly they thought he was dead and left him outside the city. Paul lived, and left Lystra. They went to Derbe and then went back through Lystra to check on the believers there as they returned to Antioch in Syria, the church that had sent them out to preach.

Timothy's Desire To Preach

Many months after Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch in Syria, Paul and Silas began a second missionary journey. They traveled to Lystra where Paul learned about Timothy and his desire to be a preacher. Timothy was a fine young man and well liked by all the church members. *"Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium."* He wanted to go with Paul, and Paul wanted to take him with them. 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 while he went on to another place to preach and start a new church. It seems that Paul left him at Philippi to teach the young church there while he went on to Berea. He joined Paul later in Berea and stayed behind to teach the church there, and rejoined Paul in Athens.

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, instructing them how to handle problems.

They did not have postal service like we have today, or telephones to call someone, or computers to send e-mail. So Paul would write a letter and send someone to take it to its destination. Sometimes he would send Timothy to deliver the letters to the churches. 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 friend and 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 and Timothy had been apart for a few years, Paul 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 praised him for being a strong and faithful servant of God, II Timothy 1:5. He said Timothy had a good mother and a good grandmother for teaching him the truth. 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 in the churches that he pastored. He encouraged Timothy to remain strong and faithful. 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. Paul told him 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.

Other Friends

Many other people traveled with Paul, and befriended him in towns where he stayed. Luke, who wrote the book of Luke and the book of Acts joined Paul at Troas when he went into Macedonia the first time and traveled with him. Priscilla and Aquilla became his friends at Corinth and went with him to Ephesus. When the Jews in Corinth became his enemies, Justus, who lived next door to the synagogue became his friend and let the church meet in his house. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue became Paul’s friend and left the synagogue. He worshiped in the house of Justus with them. On Paul’s third missionary journey there were several who became his friends and traveled with him on his way back to Jerusalem. Acts 20:4 lists Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica, Gaius of Derbe, as well as Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Ephesus. As they sailed back toward Jerusalem they came to Caesarea and went to the home of Philip. Philip was a deacon in the church at Jerusalem when Paul was their enemy. After Stephen was stoned Philip left Jerusalem so Paul would not kill him also. He fled to Samaria and after preaching in other places he went to Caesarea. It had been more than twenty years, and now Philip was no longer afraid of Paul. Paul, who was once his bitter enemy, was welcomed into the home of Philip as his friend.

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 amidst idolatry, but had a strong faith even as a child.

As a young man he desired to preach.

He traveled with Paul extensively and stayed behind on occasions to oversee churches in Paul's absence. He traveled for Paul delivering letters to other churches.

I Timothy and II Timothy are letters Paul wrote to Timothy instructing him in the way he should conduct himself as a pastor, and in how to teach his congregation.

Philip, who fled from Jerusalem so Paul, who was his enemy, could not kill him for preaching the truth about Jesus, welcomed Paul into his home at Caesarea many years later as his friend.

**Memory Verse: II Timothy 2:15**

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Discussion:

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy instructing him and encouraging him as a preacher. He advised him to study the scriptures in order to know the truth. If Timothy did not know the truth he would not know what to preach, and consequently might preach error. Any man who works must know what he is doing in order to do a good job. If a man does a poor job he will be embarrassed by the results and ashamed of his work. Eternal results are much more serious than anything else.

Paul wanted Timothy to study so he would know how to correctly interpret the word of God. He wanted him to teach the truth and conduct himself according to the teachings of God's Word so that God would approve of his service to Him. He would not be ashamed before God because he had not done what was right or taught what was right.

Fill in the blanks

1. Paul chose _____ to be his partner on his second missionary journey.
2. Paul and Silas traveled to _____ and Derbe.
3. _____ lived at Lystra.
4. Timothy became Paul's _____.
5. Timothy had a desire to _____.
6. The church ordained Timothy to travel with _____.
7. Later in his life Paul wrote two _____ to Timothy.
8. The two letters are books in our _____.
9. Write the names of the two books: _____

10. The book of _____ tells us about the journeys of Paul.
11. _____ wrote the book of Acts.
12. At Caesarea Paul went to the home of _____.
13. Early in his life Paul had been an _____ of Philip at Jerusalem.
14. Even though at one time Paul would have killed Philip, now Philip was his _____

Fill in the blanks

1. Paul chose Silas to be his partner on his second missionary journey.
2. Paul and Silas traveled to Lystra and Derbe.
3. Timothy lived at Lystra.
4. Timothy became Paul's friend.
5. Timothy had a desire to preach.
6. The church ordained Timothy to travel with Paul.
7. Later in his life Paul wrote two letters to Timothy.
8. The two letters are books in our Bible.
9. Write the names of the two books: First Timothy
Second Timothy
10. The book of Luke tells us about the journeys of Paul.
11. Luke wrote the book of Acts.
12. At Caesarea Paul went to the home of Philip.
13. Early in his life Paul had been an enemy of Philip at Jerusalem.
14. Even though at one time Paul would have killed Philip, now he was his friend.

