



## STORY

Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Acts 15:36-18:22)

7/27/03

## TEACHER PRAYER

O dearest Jesus, You have given me the privilege of teaching Your little lambs. Bless my studies and efforts to share Your Word with them and thereby strengthen their faith in You. Enable them, too, to share Your Word with others. Awaken in them a sincere desire to support the preaching of the Gospel far and wide with prayers and offerings. Amen.

## VOCABULARY

*contention* - a verbal strife, argument, controversy, dispute

*commended* - committed

*foremost* - first

*purple* - purple dye

*spirit of divination* - able to foretell the future and/or do fortune telling

*fair-minded* - noble

## OUTER AIM

The Lord sent Paul and Silas to revisit old churches and open new ones.

## INNER AIM

The Lord uses believers to fulfill the truth that "The Lord gives the increase."

## BACKGROUND

 Rupprecht *Bible History References, Vol. 2*, pp. 556-573

After their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas gave a lengthy report to the brethren in Antioch, Syria. The early church there had sent them on their journey, called by the Holy Spirit. Their journey had been very successful and rewarding. Many doors had been opened. About a year later, Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem to consult with the apostles and other brethren over a question that had arisen in Antioch regarding the Old Testament ceremonial law. The meeting went well. There was agreement. About a year later, the Antioch church again sent Paul on a missionary journey which would last three years.

Acts 15:36-41

Paul and Barnabas made plans and preparations to visit the brethren to whom they had preached on their first journey. Barnabas hoped to take along John, called Mark; but Paul said no. Barnabas and John therefore went off to Cyprus alone. Paul chose a man named Silas to accompany him. They journeyed through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 16:1-11

Paul and Silas stopped at Derbe and Lystra. They asked a disciple named Timothy to join them on their journey. "The churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily." v.5 They then passed through Phrygia and Galatia. The Holy Spirit prevented them from preaching in the Roman provinces of Asia and Bithynia. In a vision, the Lord called them to pass over into Europe.

Acts 16:12-40 Paul and Silas in Philippi

This section records their contact with Lydia, the seller of purple, and her conversion. Later Paul and Silas were arrested after casting out an evil spirit. They landed in prison. The Lord subsequently brought the jailer of Philippi and his household to faith.

Acts 17:1-9 Paul and Silas and Timothy at Thessalonica

Acts 17:10-14 Paul and Silas and Timothy at Berea

Acts 17:15-34 Paul in Athens

The idols and idolatry moved Paul to preach to the philosophers of the day. His sermon is recorded for us. Only a few of the hearers believed. They mocked at the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 18:1-17 Paul and his coworkers at Corinth

Here Paul met Aquila and Priscilla. The Lord encouraged him to continue there for some time--over 1 and a half years.

Acts 18:18-22 The journey continued with a stop in Ephesus.

Paul hurried on to Jerusalem to observe the Passover feast. While in Jerusalem he greeted the church. From there he went to Antioch in Syria and reported on his second missionary journey.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

O dearest Jesus, the great Shepherd of the Sheep, bless the preaching of the Gospel, both near and far. Be with all our missionaries, pastors, and teachers wherever they labor. Bless their efforts according to Your good and gracious will. Increase our faith. Move us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." Enable us to do all that we can to help bring Your saving Gospel to lost, dying sinners. Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

This lesson follows the last. Again a map of the areas where Paul traveled would be most helpful to teacher and students alike. Following Paul and his companions as they journeyed helps make the account live. Within this bigger lesson there can be found more than one familiar Bible story from Paul's second missionary journey. (cf. The jailer of Philippi)

## **APPLICATION**

Paul was "the apostle to the Gentiles." His missionary activities remind us that "the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. God our Savior will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." Paul's example and zeal to reach out to the heathen should serve as an inspiration also to us. This is one reason why the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to record the second missionary journey of Paul for us in the Scriptures.

In this story we again see how the Lord is in control. He calls, sends, guides, leads, and blesses. His Word and Spirit are what bring forth fruit.

The fact that Paul and Silas revisited places where they had labored earlier demonstrates the importance of "continuing in the Word" and confirming one another in the faith.

The Lord definitely was with Paul and Silas and those with them. He will also be with us. He has promised: "All authority is given unto Me. . . I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." Mark 28:20

### Levels 1 & 2 - Activity Three Directions

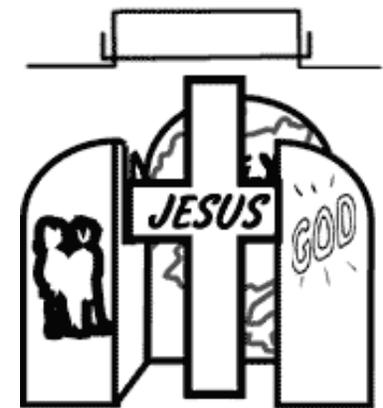
1. Cut out the patterns and glue them on cardboard; color them and bend them as shown on Picture 1. Make openings where indicated. Bend parts of the cross marked with the dotted lines 90 degrees to the back.
2. Put the ready craft into an envelope and write on the envelope: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
3. This craft activity can help you explain your story for today.



**Picture 1**  
God and Man were together.



**Picture 2**  
Sin separated man from God.



**Picture 3**  
The sacrifice of Jesus restored the relationship between man and God.

[http://www.emmanuel.kiev.ua/Kids/shem\\_p2eE.html](http://www.emmanuel.kiev.ua/Kids/shem_p2eE.html)

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Beginners

Matt. 28:18 - "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

2 Tim. 2:19 - "The Lord knows those who are His."

Middle

Matt 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Mark 16:16 - "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

John 8:31-32 - "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Upper

John 10:16 - "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:27-28 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

2 Tim. 4:18 - "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly Kingdom."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Rise, Thou Light of Gentile Nations - TLH #498

O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness - TLH #505

Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word - TLH #507