

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Acts 18:23-21:14



The Story

The Apostle Paul's third missionary journey took him to the big city of Ephesus. Ephesus was a very old city. Paul brought a new idea there and it caused a big problem.

The people who lived in Ephesus did not know about the True God. The Ephesians believed in a make-believe goddess whom they called Diana. They said she was the daughter of Zeus, another make-believe god. There was a giant temple to Diana in Ephesus. Many tourists came every year and they bought small silver statues of Diana made by silversmiths. The silversmiths made a lot of money this way.

So what was the big problem? Paul had not been in Ephesus very long before the silversmiths became very angry at Paul. They were so angry that they started a riot. Why would they be so angry? They were worried because Paul told the people that Diana was an idol, a false god. He said that Jesus was the true God who saved them from their sin. This message is known as the Gospel. The silversmiths shouted

that Jesus would ruin their religion and their government! Everyone gathered in the streets, shouting and fighting. Some people came out of their houses and tried to grab Paul. A big riot started. Finally the city clerk made them let Paul go.

Paul was not frightened off by this trouble because the Holy Spirit gave him strength. Paul stayed in Ephesus for a long time so he could bring the Gospel to these people called Gentiles. (A Gentile is a person who is not a Jew.)

Paul was a missionary. He preached the Gospel to the people and told the people that Jesus loved them and died to save them. He told them that Jesus is stronger than death. He told them that Jesus rose from His grave so that we can all live in Heaven with Him when we die. Jesus took the punishment that we deserve for sinning. Many, many people believed what Paul said about Jesus.

The believers loved Pastor Paul. They kept him safe and listened to his sermons. They gave him money to take back to the

hungry Christians in Rome. They invited him to their houses, and learned from him and helped him tell more people about Jesus. They helped him travel across land and sea.

Paul was a good pastor to these believers. He was their friend. He wrote letters to people

who were worried. He preached sermons and hymns. This helped strengthen their faith in Jesus. He made sick people well and when a boy fell off a building and died, Paul brought the young man back from the dead. Paul served God faithfully while living in Ephesus.

Paul preached to the people in Ephesus and many became believers.

Activity One - In the table below there is a list of things Paul did as a missionary. Read each item in the list. In the second column, put a check mark after each thing that you could do. See if your teacher and your friends agree with you.

Paul Did This	✓ I Could Do This
Shared Jesus with his friends	
Wrote sermons and hymns	
Healed sick people	
Raised people from the dead	
Prayed for people	
Served God faithfully	

Activity Two - Make a poster to share with your friends. Write these words on your poster.

Jesus is the True God.
There are no other gods.

Draw a cross on your paper. Use the whole piece of paper so that your poster is easy to read from far away.

Activity Three - Color the pictures on the first page of the lesson. Each picture might remind you of some things that Paul did as a missionary. As you coloring, talk about how each picture is showing you how to be a missionary. Remember, you can be a missionary like Paul was.

Just like Paul, we can talk to others about Jesus so they can believe in Him.

Passages

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
Romans 10:13

Hymn - TLH #496, Stanza 2

If you cannot speak like angels,
If yo cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you can not rouse the wicked
With the judgments dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior’s waiting arms.

Prayer

Dear God,
You are the only true God. Give us courage to tell others about You and Your Son Jesus. Help us spread that Gospel to others so they can go to heaven to be with You when they die.
In Jesus’ name we ask this. Amen.