

The Good News of the Kingdom



PRIMARY NOTES — 5 to 8 Years

STAGE FIVE OF FIVE STAGES

CHRISTADELPHIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 121, ST. AGNES 5097, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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FOREWORD

Our lessons last year helped us to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ, and his teachings which we must understand, believe and obey. We learned how that he gave his life in sacrifice, that all who believe the Gospel he taught and are baptised might be saved.

Now this year we are going to study the exciting events which took place as the apostles spread the wonderful news of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ and the coming Kingdom which he will set up when he returns to the earth. Beginning at Jerusalem, we will follow Peter and the other apostles as they taught the Gospel there and then took it into the areas of Judea. We will go up into Samaria with Philip as he preaches the Truth there. We will also see how some of the faithful followers of Jesus, like Stephen, lost their lives because they believed in Jesus Christ.

Then we will meet Paul. We will see how he was converted from persecuting the followers of Jesus to becoming one of Jesus' greatest followers. We will travel with Paul throughout Asia, Greece and the Mediterranean Sea to Italy as he tirelessly taught the Gospel.

We are sure that you will find this year's lessons very exciting. They are taken from the book of the Bible called Acts, which is so called because it tells of the different acts or events that took place as the apostles went forth preaching the Gospel.

The book of "The Acts of the Apostles" was written by Luke, the disciple who was a doctor. He also wrote the Gospel of Luke which is a record of the life of Jesus.

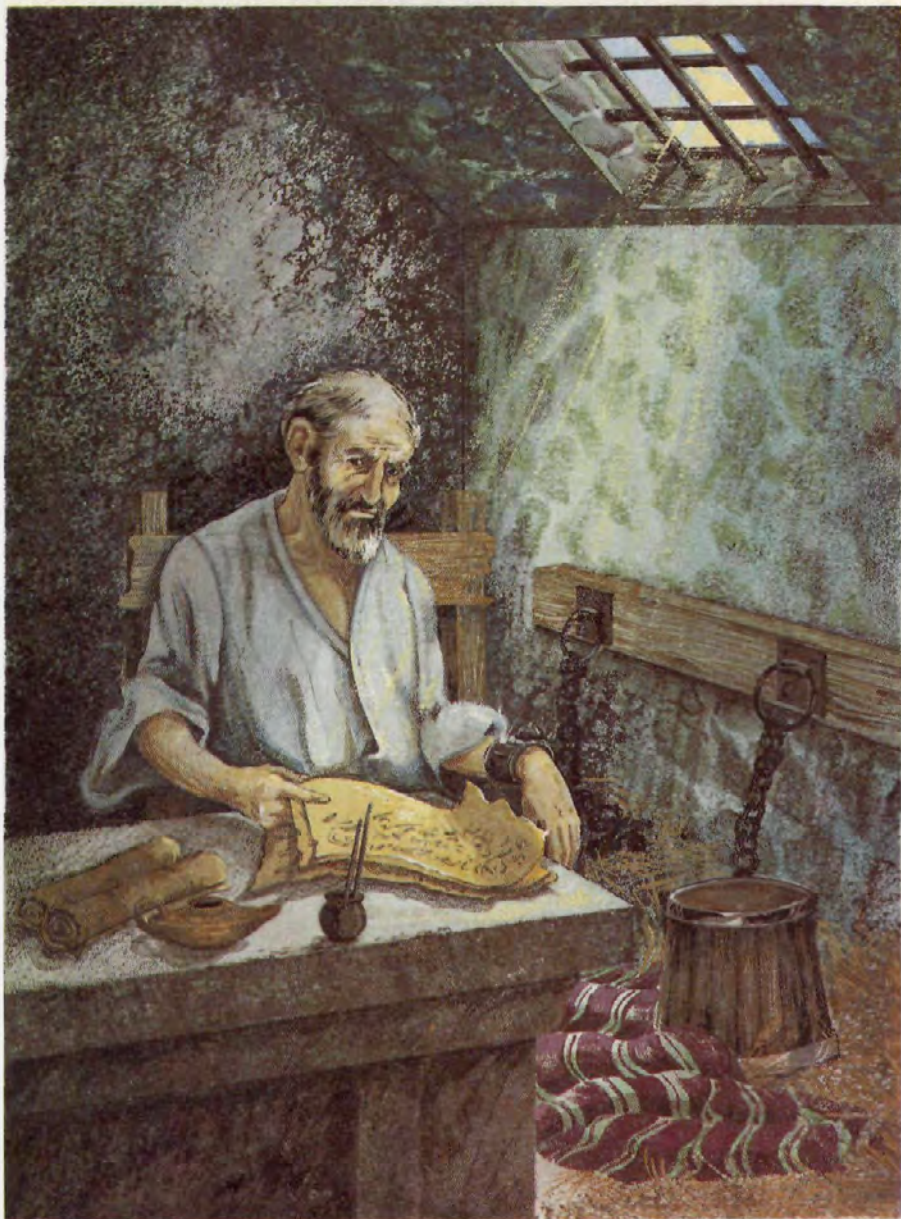
As you read your lesson notes this year read also the chapters referred to in Acts and do not forget to use your Bible maps. There are usually maps in the back of your Bible so follow closely the journeys of the apostles as it will help you to understand what is happening in each place.

The Committee

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THE APOSTLE PAUL IN PRISON



"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"

—2nd Tim. 4:7-8

(1) THE DISCIPLES SEE JESUS GO TO HEAVEN

“This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go”

Aim:

To show that Jesus went to heaven but he will come back. The work that Jesus did was now to be carried on by the disciples.

Jesus left the earth to be with His Father in heaven. Two angels gave the promise that he will return. Acts 1:1-11.



FORTY DAYS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

After Jesus rose from the dead he was with his disciples for forty days. He showed them many times that God had made him alive again. He ate and drank with his disciples. He talked with them about the Kingdom which, one day in the future, God was going to set up.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem. They must wait in Jerusalem because God had promised to send His special power, His Holy Spirit. This special power was going to help the disciples to teach the gospel to all the people in Israel. But not just in Israel, because they were going to teach about Jesus and the Kingdom to people all over the world. Everyone who believed God's message and was baptised and continued to obey God's command would be saved. By God's Holy Spirit, the disciples were going to speak other languages and heal people too.

JESUS IS TAKEN INTO HEAVEN

Jesus was walking with his disciples towards the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem. He had just finished telling his disciples of the work he wanted them to do. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. They were all looking at him. As they looked, Jesus was taken up from them and a cloud covered him and they could not see him anymore. They stood there gazing up into heaven, wondering what had happened. Suddenly two angels dressed in white robes stood by

them and said, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven”.

THE PROMISE OF JESUS’ RETURN

The disciples had seen it with their very own eyes as Jesus was taken to heaven. Jesus will come back to the earth in just the same way. Men will be able to see him with their own eyes. He will set up his Kingdom then and be a wise king. But until that time when God sends him back to the earth, he is in heaven at God’s right hand.

GOD WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE

God has promised to send Jesus back to this earth. God never breaks promises. We can be sure that when the time is ready, God will send him back to make the world a happy and peaceful place. Then all men will know God and love Him. Jesus is sitting at God’s right hand now and waiting for God to tell him when to return. Ask your teacher to read you Acts 1:10-11 and see if you can learn it off by heart.

THE DISCIPLES RETURN TO JERUSALEM

The disciples were very happy that the angels had given them this wonderful promise of Jesus’ return. They went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, happy and praising God.

LESSON FOR US

God has promised to send Jesus back to set up the Kingdom. While we are waiting for him we can be busy like the disciples, learning God’s Word and telling other people about our wonderful king. Anyone who wants to be a disciple of Jesus must teach people that Jesus is coming very soon.

Remember these points:—

- * Jesus was with his disciples for 40 days telling them what he wanted them to do after he had left them and gone to live with God.
- * He told them about the Kingdom which God would set up.
- * They were to wait in Jerusalem for God to send His special power, His Holy Spirit to help them.
- * They were standing together on the Mt. of Olives when Jesus was taken up from them into heaven.

- * Then two angels spoke to them and said, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven”.
- * We are waiting for Jesus to come back to the earth and set up God’s Kingdom.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Jesus was with his disciples for forty days. What did he talk to them about?
2. Where did Jesus tell the disciples to stay until God’s special power came upon them?
3. What happened when Jesus had blessed his disciples on the Mount of Olives?
4. What did the two angels promise the disciples as they stood gazing into heaven?
5. Where is Jesus now?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. What work did Jesus tell his disciples that they were to do?
7. What was God going to give them to help them in this work?
8. Acts 1:10-11 tells us what happened when Jesus went to heaven. Can you quote these words?

(2) PETER PREACHES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

“Repent and be baptised, every one of you”

Aim:

To show how God gave this special power, the Holy Spirit, which enabled the apostles to preach the Gospel or the Good News about the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost. Peter preached to the people and about three thousand people were baptised. Acts 2.



THE APOSTLES GO BACK TO JERUSALEM

The disciples went back to Jerusalem. Jesus had told them to wait there until the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them. Then they were going to start the work of spreading the Gospel to people all over the world. The disciples are also known as Apostles. *Apostle* means “one sent.” The *Gospel* is the “good news” about the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON THE APOSTLES

On the day of Pentecost the apostles were all together in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, like a rushing mighty wind. It filled the whole house. Tongues of fire rested above the head of each apostle. Each one was filled with God’s special power — the Holy Spirit. Now they could speak in other languages which they had never learnt before and perform wonderful miracles.

THE PEOPLE ARE AMAZED

Because it was the feast of Pentecost there were many Jews staying in Jerusalem who had come from many different nations. When they heard about the apostles speaking in other languages, they crowded around to listen. Everyone said, “These men are only Galileans. How is it that we can hear them speak in our own language, wherever we are from? What does it mean?” Some



laughed at them and said they were drunk. But they were not.

PETER PREACHES TO THE PEOPLE

Peter stood up and said, “These men are not drunk. Jesus has been raised from the dead, and has gone to heaven. He has sent forth this power which you can see and hear. Now you know that Jesus whom you crucified, is the one that God has anointed to be your king”.

THE PEOPLE ARE AFRAID

Now when the people heard this they felt sorry in their hearts. They said to Peter and the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

“Repent and be baptised, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins”, said Peter.

And we know that many people really took notice of the Gospel message that day, for the Bible tells us that about three thousand people were baptised!

LESSON FOR US

God gave the apostles His Holy Spirit so that they could teach the people. God wanted the people to change their ways and be baptised. The things that the apostles said are now written in the Bible, so that we can learn them too. When we understand and believe the Gospel or the Good News about the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ, we can be baptised too.

Remember these points:—

- * The Apostles were together in Jerusalem when there came the sound of a mighty rushing wind.
- * Tongues of fire rested above each apostle and they were able to speak in different languages and do miracles.
- * The people were amazed — some laughed and said the apostles were drunk.
- * 3,000 believed the Gospel — or the Good News of the Kingdom of God and were baptised.
- * When we understand and believe the Gospel we too must be baptised.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What did the apostles hear as they sat together on the day of Pentecost?

2. What did the apostles see as they sat together on the day of Pentecost?
3. What could the apostles do when the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them?
4. What did Peter tell the people to do when they were sorry for their sins?
5. What is the word we use when we talk about the Good News of the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Tell the story of what happened on the day of Pentecost.
7. What must we do when we understand and believe the things that the apostles wrote about Jesus Christ?



(3) THE LAME MAN AT THE GATE

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk”

Aim

To show the wonderful power of God used for teaching and healing.

The Apostle Peter was not rich. But he gave a poor man something better than money. He made him walk and then Peter preached the gospel to the people. Acts 3; 4:1-22.



THE POOR LAME MAN AT THE BEAUTIFUL GATE

In Jerusalem there used to be a beautiful temple where people worshipped God. One of the gates of the temple was very beautiful, decorated with silver, gold and brass. It was called the “Beautiful Gate”.

But not everything at the Gate was beautiful. Every day a poor lame man was brought there. He was over 40 years old and had never ever walked. He was lame. Each day he lay at the Beautiful Gate as the people went into the temple. He begged them to give him money. He could not work to earn money, like other people.

Peter and John were going into the temple one day at the hour of prayer. The lame man asked them for alms — or gifts of money to help the poor.

PETER SPEAKS TO THE LAME MAN

Peter and John looked at him very hard. “Look on us”, said Peter. The poor lame man looked up at Peter and John, thinking that they were going to give him something. And Peter did give him something, but it was not what he expected!

THE LAME MAN IS HEALED AND WALKS THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL GATE INTO THE TEMPLE

Peter said, “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones became strong enough for him to stand up. He

leapt up and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, which God had given him, Peter had made him walk again!

THE PEOPLE ARE AMAZED

All the people were amazed to see the man who had been lame walking. He was not just walking; he was leaping up in the air, and loudly praising God, because he had been healed. Everyone ran together to see him in the porch of the temple called “Solomon’s Porch”.

PETER SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE

Peter said to the people, “Ye men of Israel, why are you so surprised about this? or why are you looking at us as if by our own power or goodness we have made this man walk? You delivered up and killed God’s son Jesus, but God has raised him from the dead!”

Peter told them that God had healed the lame man in front of them all, to prove that the words that he spoke to them were true, and that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

PETER TELLS THE PEOPLE TO REPENT

“I know you crucified Jesus without realizing what you were doing,” said Peter. But they knew what they had done now. “Repent therefore, and change your ways, that your sins may be forgiven”. He also told them that Jesus was going to come back to earth and that those who would not obey him would be destroyed.

Many people believed what Peter said because of what they had seen and heard.

THE PRIESTS AND SADDUCEES ARE ANNOYED

But even though the lame man was healed, some people were not pleased at all to see Peter and John preaching about the resurrection of the dead. The priests, and Sadducees and rulers of the temple came and arrested Peter and John and put them in prison with guards to watch them until the following day.

The next day they said to Peter and John, “Don’t speak or preach at all in the name of Jesus”.

Peter and John said, “You judge whether we should listen to you more than to God”. They would have to obey God, of course!

So they had to let Peter and John go free again. They could not think of a way to punish them, and the people who had seen the lame man healed at the Beautiful Gate of the temple were there giving thanks to God for what had happened.

LESSON FOR US

God has given us something more precious than silver or gold. He has not given us His Holy Spirit so that we can heal people, but He has given us the Bible, which is His Word. If we believe and obey God's Word and are baptised, He will give us eternal life. We know He can do this because He raised Jesus from the dead and through the power of His Spirit healed the lame man at the Beautiful gate of the temple.

Remember these points:—

- * For over 40 years this man had been lame.
- * Each day he was brought to the Beautiful Gate outside the Temple where he begged for alms or money.
- * When Peter and John went into the Temple at the time of prayer he asked them for alms.
- * Peter replied "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."
- * He took him by the right hand and immediately the man stood up leaping and walking and went into the Temple praising God.
- * Many people believed what Peter said when he told them God had healed the lame man to prove that what he said was true.
- * The Sadducees and Pharisees were annoyed and put Peter and John into prison.
- * God has given us His word and if we believe and obey Him by being baptised He will give us Life Eternal.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. One of the gates of the temple was decorated with silver, gold and brass. What was it called?
2. Who was laid daily at the gate of the temple?
3. What did Peter do to the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the temple?

4. Who was annoyed when Peter healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the temple and then preached the Gospel to the people?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

5. What did the Pharisees and Sadducees do to Peter and John because they preached the Gospel?
6. What has God given us that is more precious than silver and gold?



(4) ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

“You have not lied unto men but unto God”

Aim

God knows our very thoughts, we cannot hide anything from Him, and must serve Him sincerely.

A man named Ananias told lies to the Apostle Peter, and because of this he died. Then his wife Sapphira told Peter the same lies and she died suddenly as well. Acts 5:1-11.



PEOPLE GIVE THEIR MONEY TO THE APOSTLES

After Peter healed the lame man by God’s power, more and more people believed the Gospel. The apostles spent all of their time teaching the Gospel, and had no time to go to work and earn their living. Many people who believed the Gospel sold some of their lands and houses and brought the money to the apostles so that it might be shared to help those in need.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA TELL A LIE

But a man named Ananias and his wife named Sapphira, sold a piece of land and brought a part of the money to the apostles. They wanted the apostles to think they were very good and generous and to praise them for what they had done. So they pretended they were giving all the money to the apostles. But this was a lie. They had kept some of it themselves.

PETER SPEAKS TO ANANIAS

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter knew that Ananias was telling a lie, so he said, “Why have you done this? It was your land. When you sold it you did not have to bring all the money to us. You could have done whatever you liked with the money — it was yours. Why have you done this thing, bringing us some of the money and telling us that you have brought it all? You haven’t lied to us. You have lied to God!”

ANANIAS DIES

When Ananias heard this, he was ashamed and frightened and fell down dead in front of everyone! Some young men bound him up in graveclothes, and carried him out and buried him. Sapphira his wife did not know that this had happened and about three hours later, she came to see Peter too.

PETER SPEAKS TO SAPPHIRA

“Tell me”, said Peter to Sapphira, “Did you sell the land for so much?”

“Yes, that was all we sold it for” said Sapphira. Peter knew that she had told a lie.

He knew that she and Ananias must have planned together to tell this lie.

“Why did you and Ananias agree together to deceive God?” asked Peter. At that moment the men who had buried Ananias were just coming back.

SAPPHIRA DIES AS WELL

“Behold,” said Peter, “the men which have buried your husband are at the door and shall carry thee out also.”

Then Sapphira fell down dead as well! The young men came in and found her dead. They carried her out and buried her by the side of her husband.

Everyone was very afraid when they heard these things. God not only used His Holy Spirit to heal, He used it to punish people as well.

LESSON FOR US

We must not think that we can hide things from God. He even knows our thoughts though we might try to keep them secret! If we try to hide things from God we may not fall down dead, but we can be sure that God will punish us when Jesus returns to the earth again. We must remember that it is much more important to obey God than to receive the praise of men.

Remember these points:—

- * Many people sold some of their land and houses and brought the money to the apostles to help those in need.
- * Ananias and Sapphira sold some land and brought some of the money to the apostles pretending it was all the money

- they got. They wanted praise for what they had done.
- * But they lied! They lied to God. Peter knew this by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - * Both Ananias and Sapphira died.
 - * God used His Holy Spirit not only to heal but to punish as well.
 - * How important it is that we remember to obey God, for He knows our very thoughts; we cannot hide anything from His all-seeing eyes.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land. What did they do with the money?
2. How did Peter know that Ananias told a lie?
3. What happened to Ananias and Sapphira when they told lies to the apostles?
4. Who knows when we have told a lie even if we try to keep it a secret?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

5. What was the lie that Ananias and Sapphira told the apostles?
6. Tell all you know about the story of how God punished Ananias and Sapphira for telling a lie.

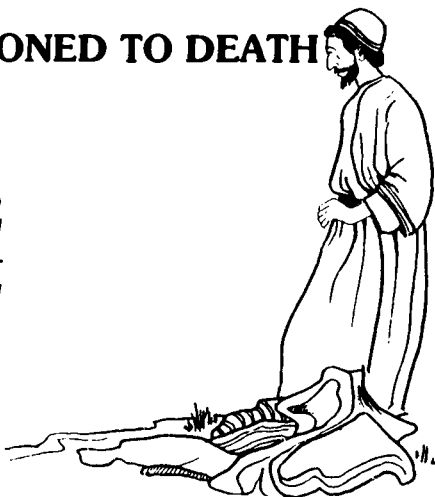
(5) STEPHEN IS STONED TO DEATH

“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge”.

Aim

To show how important it is to understand and know God’s Word to obey God, for He watches over all those who put their faith and trust in Him.

Stephen was stoned to death because he spoke the truth. But he will rise again from the dead when Jesus returns to earth. Acts 6 and 7.



STEPHEN IS CHOSEN TO HELP THE APOSTLES

The apostles were very busy preaching the Gospel and looking after the ecclesia. They were so busy preaching, praying and studying the Word of God that seven other men had to be chosen to help them. One of these was a young man named Stephen.

SOME JEWS DECIDE TO KILL STEPHEN

Stephen knew what the Scriptures taught about Jesus. He told many Jews about Jesus. He told them that they should believe in Jesus Christ and that the temple in Jerusalem would soon be destroyed. He taught them that they should obey the commandments of Jesus Christ.

Many Jews argued with Stephen against his teaching of the Truth, but his words were always much wiser than theirs because God’s spirit was with him. The Jews were angry with Stephen and planned to kill him. They paid money to false witnesses who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God”.

The council of the Jews (called the Sanhedrin) was brought together and Stephen had to stand before them.

STEPHEN IS ACCUSED

The false witnesses repeated their story to the council together with other lies as well. Everyone looked hard at Stephen but he was not afraid.

Even the men on the council saw that his face was like the face of

an angel.

The high priest asked him if these things that were being said about him were true.

STEPHEN SPEAKS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

“Men, brethren and fathers, listen carefully”, said Stephen. Then he went on to remind the Sanhedrin about a lot of things that they should have thought about before. He told them about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to whom God had promised the land of Israel. He also spoke of Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness, who had all worshipped God even before there was a temple. Therefore it could not be wrong to say that you did not need a temple to worship God!

Stephen said, “God doesn’t live in temples made by men! The prophets tell you that!” God is everywhere by His Spirit, for His Spirit fills heaven and earth.

Stephen also spoke to them of many of the other prophets whom God had sent to the people of Israel, and he reminded them that the people of Israel had always hurt and killed those faithful prophets.

“And now”, said Stephen, “you have betrayed and killed Jesus”.

STEPHEN IS KILLED

The Sanhedrin became terribly angry when they heard Stephen’s words. They were so angry that they ground their teeth together. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw God’s glory, with Jesus standing at God’s right hand.

“Behold,” said Stephen, “I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God”. God was pleased with Stephen for he served God faithfully. So God showed him Jesus at His right hand, the place of power, acting as judge against all who are wicked, and helping all in need.

When they heard this, all the Sanhedrin put their hands over their ears and rushed at Stephen. They did not want to hear him, they were so angry. They seized him and pushed him out of the city. They took off their coats and laid them at a young man’s feet (whose name was Saul) and then picked up stones and threw them at Stephen. He put up with all that they did to him and still prayed to God. Just as Jesus had been willing to forgive those who crucified him, so faithful

Stephen prayed to God to forgive those wicked men. As the stones hit Stephen he knelt down on his knees. “Lord lay not this sin to their charge”, he cried. And then Stephen died.

STEPHEN WILL LIVE AGAIN

But God tells us in the Bible that people like Stephen, who obey God, do not die forever. They will be raised from the dead again, when Jesus comes back to the earth. It will seem to Stephen as though he just shut his eyes for a moment and suddenly he will be alive again and there will be no more pain for him.

LESSON FOR US

When Stephen was brought before the Sanhedrin, he knew what to say, because he had studied the Bible and God helped him. We must study the Bible too. We must let God’s words enter into our mind and heart. The Jews, who did not like the things that Stephen said, thought that God lives in buildings. God is in heaven, but He watches over us if we put our faith and trust in Him. We must let the things of God fill our hearts and minds and obey Him. We must always remember that it does not matter where we worship God — but *how* we worship Him.

Stephen will rise from the dead when Jesus comes back to earth. And if, when we grow older, we are faithful and obedient to God’s will, God will raise us from the dead too. Then we can live in the Kingdom with Stephen.

What a wonderful person Stephen was to forgive his enemies. We will probably never have to put up with people throwing stones at us, but whatever people do to hurt us we must be ready to love our enemies and forgive them.

Remember these points:—

- * Stephen was a young man chosen to help the Apostles in preaching the Gospel. Because he spoke of the Good news about the Kingdom of God and of Jesus Christ he was brought before the Jewish Sanhedrin.
- * He reminded them of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and of Moses and the children of Israel who did not need a Temple to worship God.
- * God is everywhere by His Spirit which fills heaven and earth.
- * He spoke of the prophets and how the people of Israel had continually hurt and killed them. And now they had killed the Lord Jesus Christ.

- * For this the Sanhedrin took him out of the city to stone him, placing their coats at Saul's feet.
- * Stephen knelt and prayed that God would forgive these men, then he died.
- * Stephen will be raised from the dead when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth to set up God's Kingdom.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What was the name of the man the Jewish rulers stoned to death outside Jerusalem?
2. Stephen reminded the Jewish leaders that their fathers had continually hurt or killed faithful prophets. What had they done to Jesus?
3. God does not live in temples made by men, Where does God live?
4. What did the people who threw stones at Stephen do with their coats?
5. Will Stephen always stay dead?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. What did Stephen see just before he died?
7. How can we be like Stephen so that we can be in the Kingdom with him?

(6) PHILIP BAPTISES A EUNUCH FROM ETHIOPIA

“See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptised?”

Aim

To show how important it is to believe the Gospel and be baptised.

Philip was sent by God to help a Eunuch from Ethiopia who wanted to understand the Bible. When he understood what Philip had taught him the Eunuch asked Philip to baptise him, and Philip did. Acts 8:26-40.



AN ANGEL SENDS PHILIP ON A JOURNEY

Philip was like Stephen. He was one of the seven men chosen to help look after the ecclesia in Jerusalem. When the Jews who had killed Stephen made a lot of trouble, Philip went to Samaria teaching other people, who were not baptized, about Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

God spoke to Philip one day through an angel and said, “Arise, and go towards the south by that road leading down from Jerusalem to Gaza”. It was desert there.

Philip did not know why God wanted him to go there, but he went anyway, because God had told him to go.

PHILIP MEETS A EUNUCH FROM ETHIOPIA

Soon after he reached the road between Jerusalem and Gaza he saw a chariot coming along the road. A man with dark coloured skin was sitting in the chariot reading a scroll. He was a man from Ethiopia who looked after the money for the Queen of the Ethiopians whose name was Candace. Although he was not a Jew and he lived a long way from the land of Israel, he believed and worshipped Yahweh, as they did. He had just been up to Jerusalem to worship in the temple.

God said to Philip, “Go near and join thyself to this chariot”.

THE EUNUCH READS ABOUT JESUS

When Philip ran up he heard the Ethiopian reading from the prophet Isaiah. He was concentrating very hard on what he was

reading, trying to understand what it meant.

Philip said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"How can I", replied the Ethiopian, "unless someone guides me".

So he asked Philip to get into the chariot and sit beside him.

PHILIP TEACHES THE EUNUCH ABOUT JESUS

The Eunuch was reading from Isaiah chapter 53. "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter and like a sheep dumb before his shearers so opened he not his mouth".

"Now", said the Eunuch to Philip, "tell me please, who is the prophet speaking about here; himself or someone else?"

"The prophet Isaiah is talking about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ here," Philip explained. So Philip told him more about the Gospel, and how men can have their sins forgiven if they believe the Gospel and are baptised.

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH IS BAPTISED

A little further down the road they came to a lot of water. "See, here is water", said the Eunuch. "What is stopping me from being baptised?"

"If you believe with all your heart", Philip replied, "You can be".

The Eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God".

The Eunuch really did believe what Philip had been teaching him. The chariot stopped. They both went down to the water and the Eunuch was baptised. He was completely covered by water as he went down underneath it and then he came up again to live a new life with his sins forgiven. It was just as though he had gone into a grave like Jesus did, and come out again as Jesus had.

The Eunuch did not see Philip anymore because God, by His Spirit, took him away. The Eunuch went on his way home to Ethiopia. He was very, very happy now.

LESSON FOR US

God will help us to understand the Bible too as He helped the Ethiopian Eunuch. We must show that we want to understand what He has written by studying the Bible, thinking very hard about it, and most important of all, asking God's help in prayer. When we do understand what is written in the Bible we must be obedient to what

God asks us to do as the Ethiopian was.

Remember these points:—

- * God told Philip to go towards the south by the road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza.
- * Here he met an Ethiopian Eunuch who was reading from Isaiah 53.
- * Philip sat in the chariot and explained who the prophet was talking about and the Gospel — the Good news about the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- * They came to some water and the Eunuch asked to be baptised.
- * How necessary it is for us to believe the Gospel and be baptised.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Who told Philip to go towards the south by the road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza?
2. Whom did Philip meet when he reached the place God sent him to?
3. What part of the Bible was the Ethiopian Eunuch reading from?
4. Whom did Philip say that the prophet was speaking about in this part of the Bible?
5. What did the Ethiopian Eunuch do when they came to some water by the side of the road?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Why did God send Philip south by the road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza?
7. Tell all you know of what happened when Philip spoke to the Ethiopian Eunuch.

(7) HOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CHANGED SAUL'S LIFE

"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Aim

To show that true zeal for God must be founded on belief and obedience.

Saul hated the followers of Jesus and treated them cruelly, but Jesus showed himself to Saul and changed Saul's way of thinking. Acts 9.



SAUL TRIES TO STOP PEOPLE FOLLOWING JESUS

When Stephen was stoned to death, those who stoned him laid down their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. This showed that Saul too thought it was right to kill Stephen.

Saul was very cruel to the followers of Jesus. He thought they were the enemies of God. He put many of them into prison, both men and women. Some of them were killed. He hated them and tried hard to stop them believing in Jesus. A lot of the believers left Jerusalem and went to live in the towns and cities of Judea and Samaria. They thought they might be safe if they left Jerusalem. But Saul was still feeling angry about people who believed in Jesus and he threatened to punish and even kill all he could find. He asked the High Priest for letters which said he was allowed to bring any followers of Jesus from Damascus to Jerusalem and put them in prison there.

All of this Saul did because he believed that God would be pleased, but on the way to Damascus God showed him that he was wrong.

SAUL SEES JESUS

Saul and the men with him were travelling along the road to Damascus. They had almost reached the city. The sun was beating down on them, for it was about mid-day. Suddenly they saw a light that was even *brighter* than the midday sun! They fell to the ground in fear as this light shone so brightly from heaven. And then Saul heard

a voice saying, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?" The men who were with Saul were amazed because they could hear a voice, but they could not see anyone, or understand what it said.

"Who are you Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting", said the voice, and when Saul looked up he saw Jesus. He knew now that he had been wrong in being cruel to those who followed Jesus.

"What shall I do, Lord?" he asked. He was shaking with fear.

"Arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what to do", Jesus replied.

The men who were with Saul had to hold his hand and lead him into Damascus because he could not see anymore. God had made him blind.

ANANIAS VISITS SAUL

For three days and three nights Saul sat in a house in Damascus. He did not eat and he did not drink. He could not see. So he sat there and thought about the wrong things he had thought and done. No doubt he prayed to God to forgive him.

Jesus spoke to another man named Ananias. He said to Ananias, "Go into the street called Straight, and ask at the house of Judas for a man called Saul of Tarsus". Saul was waiting and praying.

Ananias was too frightened to go at first. He was a disciple of Jesus and he knew that Saul was putting the followers of Jesus into prison. But Jesus told him that even though Saul had done evil things, there was an important work for him to do now. He was to teach many people, even Gentiles and kings about the life and death of Jesus.

"He is a chosen vessel unto me", he said to Ananias.

So Ananias went and did as Jesus said. He laid his hands on Saul, and Saul was able to see again.

He got up immediately and was baptised.

SAUL LATER BECOMES PAUL

Instead of trying to kill the followers of Jesus, from that time on Saul himself taught others about Jesus, and how he is the Son of God. The Jews hated him for this. They tried to kill him but God looked after him. The Jews watched the gates of Damascus night and day. But the disciples let Saul down the walls of the city in a basket at

night and he escaped safely to Jerusalem.

Saul was to become known by the name 'Paul' and because Christ sent him on his work he was called 'The Apostle Paul'. The word 'Apostle' means 'one sent'. In our later lessons we will learn how hard he worked and how much he suffered as he preached the Gospel.

LESSON FOR US

Saul thought he was serving God by punishing God's enemies, but he was really God's enemy, until God changed him. God had an important work for Saul to do. God forgave him and changed his heart. He was very willing then to be a follower of Jesus himself. He was baptised and served Him in truth.

We must make sure that we learn to love the Truth. Then we can be baptised and God will forgive us all that we have done wrong.

Saul was full of zeal for God — that is, he wanted to serve Him with all his heart. We should be like Paul in this way too.

Remember these points:—

- * Saul was going to Damascus to bring back bound to Jerusalem followers of Jesus.
- * Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus. Saul, blind, was led to the city.
- * Ananias was sent by Jesus to Saul. "He is a chosen vessel unto me."
- * For three days and three nights Saul, who was blind, waited.
- * When Ananias came he put his hands on Saul and he could see.
- * Saul was baptised.
- * His name was changed to Paul.
- * The Jews hated him because he now taught about Jesus the Son of God, and the good news of the Kingdom.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What was the name of the man who was cruel to the followers of Jesus but later became a follower of Jesus himself?
2. Why was Saul travelling to Damascus?
3. Who spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus?
4. Why did the men with Saul have to hold his hand and lead him into Damascus?

5. What did Saul do straight away when Ananias came to him and he could see again?
6. The man named 'Saul' also had another name. What was it?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. Tell all you know about what happened on the road while Saul was travelling to Damascus.
8. Saul had gone to Damascus to do cruel things to the followers of Jesus, but what did he do after he was baptised?



(8) THE RAISING OF TABITHA

“Tabitha, arise”.

Aim

To show that those who are faithful workers for Jesus are rewarded.

Kind Tabitha became sick and died. Peter raised her to life again, just as Jesus will raise the dead believers when he returns. Acts 9:36-42.



TABITHA DIES

In the ecclesia at Joppa was a lady named Tabitha, or, in the Greek language, Dorcas. Everybody knew and loved Tabitha because of all her good deeds. Whenever there was someone in need she was always very willing to help. She was a true follower of Jesus. Not only did she believe the things he had spoken, but showed that she believed them by her good works.

One day Tabitha became very sick and then she died. They laid her in an upper room. All the brethren and sisters in the ecclesia were very sad when they heard what had happened. They had loved Tabitha and they sorrowed that she would no longer be with them.

PETER IS SENT FOR

Then they remembered that Peter was staying at Lydda, a town not far away from Joppa. They knew what Peter was able, through the power of God, to cure sick people. At Lydda he had even cured a man who was so sick of the palsy that he had not been able to get out of his bed for eight years. Surely Peter could help them now, they thought.

Straightaway two men were sent off in a hurry to Lydda and asked Peter to come quickly because Tabitha had died.

PETER ARRIVES AT JOPPA

As soon as Peter heard this, he left for Joppa. When he arrived, he went straight to the upper room where Tabitha was laid.

All the widows stood by him weeping. They showed Peter some of the coats and clothes which Tabitha had made and told him about the good work that she had done.

TABITHA RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Then Peter sent everyone out of the room. He kneeled down and prayed to God. He knew that only God could give him the power to bring Tabitha back to life.

He turned to the body lying there and said, “Tabitha, arise!” And she opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter reached out his hand and helped her to stand up.

THE BRETHREN AND SISTERS REJOICE

Peter called the brethren and sisters back into the room. How happy they were when they saw Tabitha alive and well again. They rejoiced and they praised God for all His mighty power.

They told all the people in Joppa what had happened so that many more believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON FOR US

Peter was able to raise Tabitha from the dead through the Power of God. When Jesus comes back to the earth he will raise from the dead those who have been faithful to him. Tabitha (or Dorcas) had been a faithful sister in the ecclesia. She loved the Truth and she helped everyone with clothes that she had made herself. She was especially kind to the widows (their husbands had died) who had no one else to help them. God is always pleased when we do our best in any small way to help others.

Remember these points:—

- * Tabitha, a true follower of Jesus, lived at Joppa.
- * She became sick and died.
- * The brethren and sisters sent to Lydda for Peter.
- * Peter through the power of God raised Tabitha to life again.
- * Many people in Joppa believed the Gospel.
- * We know those who have been faithful and have died will be raised from the dead.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Tabitha lived at Joppa. What was she well known for?
2. What did the brethren and sisters at Joppa do when Tabitha died?
3. What did they show to Peter as they stood about crying?
4. What did Peter do before Tabitha was made alive?

5. What happened when Peter said, “Tabitha, arise!”?
6. What will Jesus do for people who have believed him when he returns?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. How was Peter able to raise Tabitha from the dead?
8. What did the people of Joppa think when they heard of Peter raising Tabitha to life?



(9) PETER BAPTISES THE GENTILE CORNELIUS

“God has shown me I should not call any man unclean”

Aim

To show that salvation is for all men of any nation and that there is only one way acceptable to God.

Cornelius, the Roman centurion, was told by God to send for Peter who would tell him what he should do. Peter was shown that the gospel had to be taught, not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles. Acts 10.



CORNELIUS SENDS FOR PETER

Cornelius was a Roman centurion who lived at Caesarea. Even though he was the captain of one hundred soldiers, he wanted to learn about God. He always prayed to God and gave away a lot of money to poor people. He even built a synagogue for the Jews to worship in, but they still looked on him as a Gentile; he was a Roman Centurion and not a Jew.

One day an angel of God appeared to him and called him; “Cornelius!”

Cornelius felt afraid. “What is it, Lord?” he said.

The angel answered, “God has heard your prayers and knows about your good works. Send now to Joppa and call for Peter. He is staying with Simon, the tanner, whose house is by the seaside. He will tell you what you ought to do”.

As soon as the angel left, Cornelius called two of his servants and a faithful soldier. He told them what had happened and sent them to Joppa to call Peter.

PETER AT JOPPA

Peter was in Joppa just as the angel had said. He was staying with Simon the tanner. (A tanner is a man who works with the skins

of dead animals to turn them into leather).

At about mid-day Peter went up to the top of the house to pray. As he prayed he became very hungry. Suddenly he saw a vision. It seemed to him as though the heavens opened and something was coming down to him. It was like a big sheet, tied together by the four corners and let down to the earth. Inside the sheet were all kinds of animals, creeping things and birds.

Peter heard a voice, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat".

But Peter answered, "No, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is unclean". For the animals inside the sheet were the kinds which he had never eaten before. Under the Law of Moses God had said that His people were only to eat clean animals.

Then the voice spoke again and said, "What God has cleansed, you must not call unclean".

Three times this happened, and then the sheet was drawn back into heaven.

Peter was very puzzled as he tried to work out the meaning of this strange vision.

THE MEN FROM CORNELIUS ARRIVE

Then, just at the very same time, the three men from Cornelius came to the gate of Simon's house. They asked to see Peter.

Peter was still on the housetop wondering about the vision. God spoke to Peter, "Three men are looking for you. Go down and go with them without worrying: For I have sent them."

Peter went downstairs and found the men. "I am the man you are looking for," he said. "Why have you come?"

They replied, "Cornelius, the centurion, a good man who fears God, was warned by God's holy angel to send for you and to hear the words you have to say".

So the next morning Peter went with them to Caesarea.

PETER MEETS CORNELIUS

Cornelius was waiting for them. He had asked his friends and relations to gather at his house. Never before had Peter, the Jew, anything to do with the Gentiles, but now he went right inside the house of a Roman Centurion. Now Peter was beginning to know the reason why God had sent the strange vision. Peter and the Jews thought that the Gentiles were like unclean animals and had no hope of being in God's Kingdom. Peter needed to understand that Gentiles would learn and obey the Gospel too. They were not to be thought of as 'unclean' any more.

Peter said to Cornelius, “You know how that it is not permitted for a Jew to come to see a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call any man unclean. Tell me now, why you have sent for me?”

Cornelius explained about the angel and his message.

Peter said, “Now I can see that God does not make any difference between Jews and Gentiles, but He accepts everyone who worships Him in truth”. And Peter went on to tell Cornelius all about the things which Jesus did and how he was killed and how God raised him from the dead. He said, “Jesus commanded us to preach to the people. Everyone who believes shall have their sins forgiven”.

CORNELIUS IS BAPTISED

As Peter spoke these words, the Holy Spirit came on Cornelius and on all who heard his words. Peter was amazed. For they could speak in different languages too. But now he knew for certain that God had accepted these Gentiles. He said, “These people should be baptised”. And they were.

They asked Peter to stay with them for a while too. What a happy time it would be for them to speak together of the wonderful things God had done for them and of His coming Kingdom.

LESSON FOR US

Even though Cornelius prayed to God and was kind to the poor, he still had to believe the Gospel and be baptised in order to have his sins forgiven and to seek a place in God’s Kingdom. It is not enough just to be nice people. We must believe what God says in the Bible and obey the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember these points:—

- * Cornelius was a Gentile, a Roman Centurion who wanted to learn of God.
- * God told him to send for Peter.
- * Peter was shown a vision of unclean animals and told to kill and eat.
- * He was told to go with the three men from Cornelius.
- * Peter learnt the meaning of the vision.
- * He preaches the Gospel to Cornelius and his family.
- * The Holy Spirit came upon them.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Was Cornelius a Jew or a Gentile?
2. One day an angel came to Cornelius. What did the angel tell him to do?
3. Peter was staying with Simon the tanner at Joppa. Why did Peter go up to the rooftop?
4. When Peter saw a vision, what did he see inside the sheet tied together in the four corners?
5. Why did Peter go to the house of Cornelius at Caesarea?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. What did Peter learn from the vision of the animals in the sheet?
7. What happened when Peter explained the truth to Cornelius and his friends?
8. Cornelius was a kind man and he prayed to God. But what more did he have to do to be saved?



(10) PETER IS PUT IN PRISON AND THEN FREED BY GOD

“Prayer was made without ceasing”

Aim

To show the power of God. He is with those who put their faith and trust in Him.

Peter was put into prison by Herod. The ecclesia prayed for him and God sent an angel, who let him out of the prison.

Acts 12



PETER IS PUT INTO PRISON

Herod was a very cruel and wicked king and he liked to please the leaders of the people. He had taken the apostle James and killed him with a sword. He was beheaded. The rulers of the Jews were very happy about this. They did not like the apostles, because they spoke about Jesus. Herod thought that he would make the rulers even happier by killing Peter as well.

Herod sent his soldiers out to arrest Peter and then locked him up inside the prison. 16 soldiers were told to keep watch to make sure that Peter did not escape! They took it in turns — four soldiers at a time.

THE ECCLESIA PRAYS FOR PETER

All the time Peter was in prison, the ecclesia in Jerusalem gathered together and kept praying for his safety. They knew that only God could save Peter now.

AN ANGEL IS SENT TO FREE PETER

Then, the very night before Herod was to have Peter killed, an amazing thing happened. Peter was asleep with two soldiers chained to him. At the door two more soldiers kept guard. Suddenly an angel appeared before Peter and all the room was filled with light. The angel woke Peter by striking him on his side and said, “Arise up

quickly”. Peter stood up. The heavy chains which had held him to the soldiers now fell to the floor.

“Gather up your clothes and put on your sandals”, said the angel. Peter did so.

“Now put on your cloak and follow me”. Peter obeyed the angel but it seemed to him that it was all happening in a dream. They passed the first guard and then the second and came to the iron gate which led to the city. To Peter’s surprise the gate opened without anybody touching it. The angel led Peter out of the prison into the city and, after walking down one street with him, suddenly disappeared.

When Peter saw where he was he realised that he had not been dreaming at all. He said, “Now I know it is true that God sent His angel and rescued me from Herod”.

PETER GOES TO THE ECCLESIA

Peter hurried to the house where many of the brethren and sisters were gathered praying for him. It was Mary’s house, the mother of John Mark.

Peter knocked at the outside gate and a girl called Rhoda came to ask who was there. When she heard Peter’s voice she was so excited that, instead of letting Peter in, she ran and told everyone that Peter was standing outside at the gate.

“You must be mad”, they replied. Even though they had been praying for Peter to be set free, they did not believe that God could have answered their prayers just like that. Rhoda was sure it was Peter. “It must have been a messenger from him”, they said.

But Peter kept on knocking. When they opened the door they found it was Peter just as Rhoda had told them. They were amazed but overjoyed that God had delivered him out of the prison.

Peter told the brethren and sisters all about his escape and asked them to tell the other brethren. He then left for another place where he would be safe from Herod and the rulers of the Jews.

HEROD KILLS THE GUARDS, AND IS THEN KILLED HIMSELF

Back at the prison, very early in the morning, as soon as the daylight appeared, there was a great commotion among the guards. Whatever had become of Peter? Herod searched for him too and when he could not be found, Herod questioned the guards. Then he had them put to death. What a wicked man he was. But not long after that, God sent an awful disease upon Herod and he died.

LESSON FOR US

The brethren and sisters earnestly prayed to God for Peter to be let out of prison but they were very surprised when he was set free! Let us always remember that God hears the prayers of those who truly believe and trust Him. He answers our prayers in the way that He knows is best.

Remember these points:—

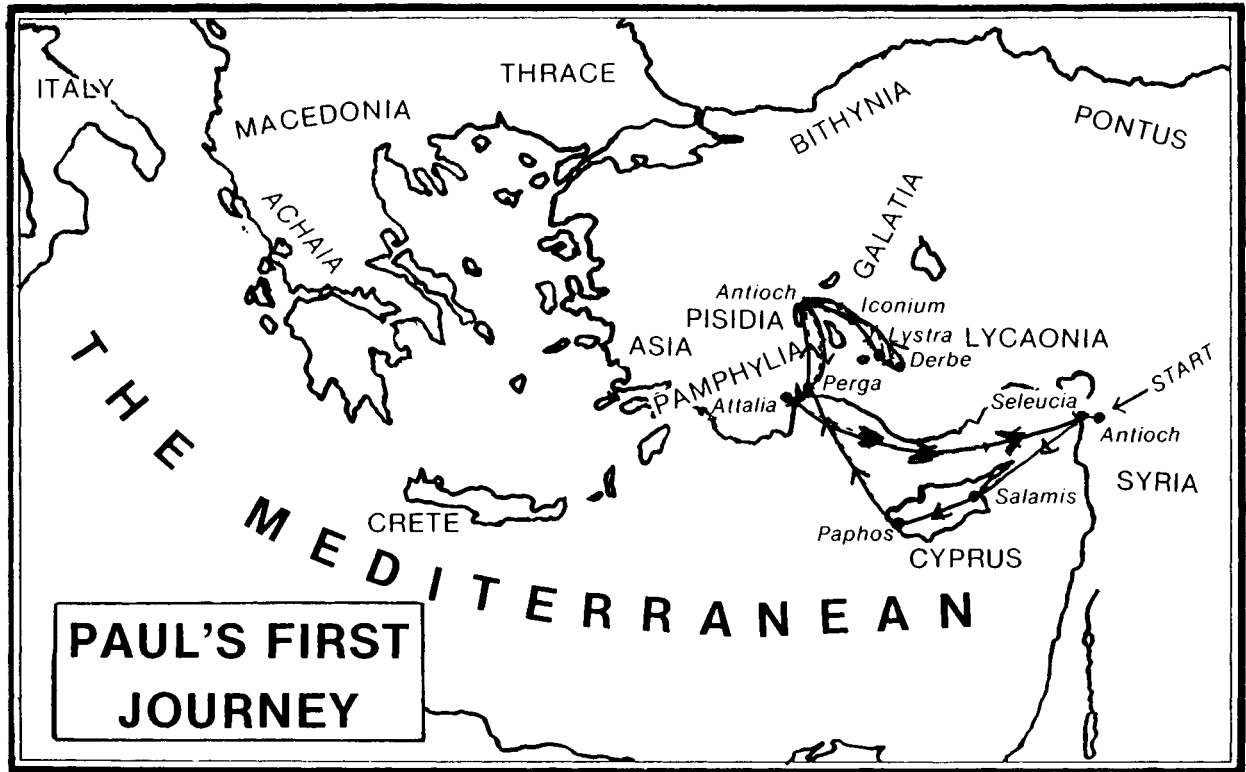
- * Herod, a wicked king, wanted to please the rulers of the Jews by killing Peter.
- * While Peter was in prison the ecclesia prayed earnestly for his safety.
- * An angel appeared in the night and led Peter out of the locked heavily guarded prison.
- * Peter went to the house where the brethren and sisters had been praying.
- * God answers the prayers of those who put their faith and trust in Him.
- * The wicked are always punished.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What sort of a king was Herod?
2. Why did Herod want to kill the apostles?
3. What were the people of the ecclesia doing while Peter was in prison?
4. How was Peter rescued from the prison?
5. Where did Peter go after he had been set free?
6. What happened to the guards when Herod found that Peter had escaped?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. Tell the story of how God rescued Peter out of prison, so that Herod could not kill him.
8. When the angel set Peter free, he went to the house where the brethren were praying for him. Tell what happened when he knocked on the gate.



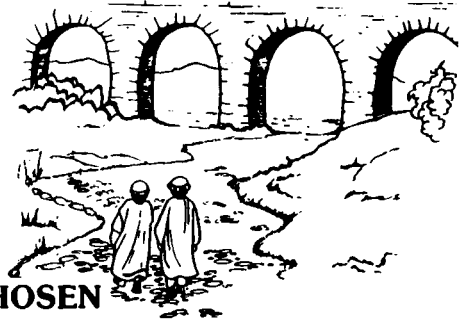
(11) PAUL AND BARNABAS GO TO CYPRUS

“Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

Aim

To show how God provides special workers to teach the Good News of the Kingdom and of Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas received a special call from God to go and preach the Gospel throughout Asia. This was Paul's first long journey to preach the Gospel. Acts 13:1-12



PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE CHOSEN

God had a special work for Paul to do. Remember that the Lord Jesus had said, “He is a chosen vessel unto me.” (Lesson 7). He was the apostle specially chosen to travel to many countries preaching the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles. On his journey he had helpers. The first of these helpers was a disciple named Barnabas.

One day while Paul and Barnabas were worshipping together with some other disciples, God spoke to them and said, “Separate me Barnabas and Saul (that is Paul) for the work whereunto I have called them”. There was no doubt that God was calling them to leave their brethren and preach the Gospel to others.

PAUL AND BARNABAS SAIL TO CYPRUS

Their first journey was across the sea to the island of Cyprus. When they landed they looked for the synagogue. They always did this first, so that they could teach their Jewish brethren about the Lord Jesus Christ. So they travelled from one end of the island to the other till they came to Paphos, the chief city of Cyprus.

THE GOVERNOR HEARS THE GOSPEL

At Paphos they met the Roman governor, Sergius Paulus. He was a sensible man and listened carefully to what Paul and Barnabas had to say. He became very interested and asked them to tell him more about the Word of God. But there was another man there with the governor, who tried to stop him listening to the apostles. His name was Elymas and he was a false prophet, a Jew who told lies. He

argued with Paul and Barnabas and wanted the governor to take no notice of what they said.

ELYMAS IS MADE BLIND

Paul could tell what a wicked man he was. He knew that he was speaking lies to turn the governor away from hearing the Gospel. God would teach Elymas a lesson. He gave Paul the power to perform an amazing miracle to punish Elymas.

“The hand of the Lord is upon thee,” Paul said to Elymas, “and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season”. Straight away darkness fell upon him and he had to ask for someone to lead him by the hand.

The governor was astonished. This amazing miracle was enough to make him believe the things that Paul had been speaking about the Gospel.

LESSON FOR US

See how hard Paul and Barnabas worked to preach the Gospel. They went on long and tiring journeys wherever God sent them. They never complained even when people would not listen to the Word of God, but kept on preaching.

We too must learn to understand the gospel and make sure that we teach others the Truth too. That is what God wants us to do.

Remember these points:—

- * Paul was specially chosen to preach the gospel.
- * He had helpers, Barnabas helped him first.
- * They went to Cyprus.
- * They spoke in the synagogue first.
- * At Paphos the governor listened carefully.
- * Elymas, the false prophet, argued with Paul and Barnabas.
- * God gave Paul power to make Elymas blind.
- * The governor was amazed at the miracle and believed.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What did the Lord Jesus say about Paul?
2. Who was the first helper who went with Paul?
3. Where was the first place Paul and Barnabas travelled to on their journeys?
4. To whom did Paul and Barnabas always preach the gospel first?

- 5. Who listened carefully to Paul and Barnabas?
- 6. What happened to Elymas?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

- 7. Tell the story of Elymas, the false prophet, and what happened to him.



(12) PAUL AND BARNABAS PREACH THE GOSPEL

“Lo, we turn to the Gentiles”.

Aim

To show how glad the Gentiles were to hear the gospel.

Paul and Barnabas were on a long journey to preach the gospel throughout Asia. They preached to the Jews first but when they did not want to listen they turned to the Gentiles. Acts 13:14-52



PAUL AND BARNABAS GO TO ANTIOCH

God had a special work for Paul and Barnabas to do. They went forth to spread the Gospel, or the Good News of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Travelling by sailing boat and on foot they went from place to place preaching in the synagogues in Asia.

They came to a town named Antioch in Pisidia. It was a busy town with many markets, and was a good place to preach the Gospel because so many people passed through there.

PAUL AND BARNABAS GO TO THE SYNAGOGUE

In Antioch Paul and Barnabas prepared themselves to speak to the people. They did this in every city or town as soon as possible after arriving there. On the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. The synagogue was the place where the Jews met together to read the Bible and to be taught about it. After the readings the rulers of the synagogue said to Paul and Barnabas, “If you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on”.

PAUL SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Paul stood up and spoke to the people.

“Men of Israel and ye that fear God”, he said “Listen carefully. The God of Israel brought His people out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan. Later He promised King David that one of his sons would sit on David’s throne forever, and be the saviour of Israel. That saviour has come and his name is Jesus. The people and rulers of

Jerusalem killed him, but God raised him from the dead. If you believe in him, God will forgive your sins”.

Many of the Jews and Gentiles were so interested in what Paul had said, they asked Paul and Barnabas to tell them more about the things of God.

During the following week a lot of people heard about Paul and Barnabas. And the next sabbath almost all the city came to hear the Word of God.

THE JEWS ARE JEALOUS

When the rulers of the Jews saw the crowds of people who had come to hear these two strangers they were filled with envy. They kept interrupting Paul and arguing with him. They were very rude and tried to prove that Paul and Barnabas were wrong.

PAUL AND BARNABAS TURN TO THE GENTILES

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. They said, “It was necessary that the Word of God should first be spoken to you, but seeing ye put it from you and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles”.

When the Gentiles heard this they were glad. Many glorified God by believing what Paul had taught and by being baptized. And the Truth became known throughout all the district.

But the jealous Jews stirred up a lot of trouble for Paul and Barnabas and finally made them leave the city.

PAUL AND BARNABAS SHAKE THE DUST OF ANTIOCH OFF THEIR FEET

As Paul and Barnabas left, they shook the dust of Antioch from their feet. This was a sign to show the Jews of that city and the leaders they were guilty for not wanting to hear the Gospel (See Jesus’ words in Matt. 10:14).

LESSON FOR US

The Gentiles in Paul’s day were very glad that God had sent Paul and Barnabas to teach them the good news of the Kingdom. We are very glad today too, that God has shown us the way to be saved. We must show him how grateful we are by believing what is taught in the Bible and being baptized. We do not want to be like those Jews who did not want to hear what is written in the Bible.

Remember these points: —

- * Paul and Barnabas travelled by boat and on foot as they went to preach the Gospel in the synagogues in Asia.
- * It was the Sabbath day in Antioch in the synagogue that Paul spoke to the people of Jesus Christ and the good news of the Kingdom.
- * Many Jews and Gentiles desired to hear more of the things of God.
- * The Jews became jealous and refused to listen.
- * Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly “It was necessary that the Word of God should first be spoken to you, but seeing you put it from you and judge yourself unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”
- * If we are wise we will listen to God’s Word and obey Him.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. How did Paul and Barnabas travel about?
2. Why did Paul and Barnabas travel about?
3. What is the name of the promised saviour of Israel that Paul told the people of Antioch had already come?
4. After Paul spoke in the synagogue on the first sabbath day in Antioch what did many of the Jews and Gentiles ask him to do?
5. The Jews did not want to hear what Paul and Barnabas were teaching. Whom did Paul say they were going to teach the Gospel to now?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Why did the rulers of the Jews get jealous on the second sabbath day that Paul spoke in the synagogue?
7. What is a synagogue?
8. Why did Paul and Barnabas shake the dust off their feet as they left Antioch?

(13) PAUL HEALS THE LAME MAN AT LYSTRA

“Turn unto the living God which made heaven and earth”

Aim

To show that God must come first in our lives and faith is needed to perform miracles.

Paul healed a lame man at Lystra. First of all the people wanted to offer sacrifices to him, but later turned against him and threw stones at him. “It is only through much tribulation that we can enter the kingdom of God”, he said. Acts 14:8-22.



THE MAN AT LYSTRA

Paul and Barnabas came to a city named Lystra. Most of the people in Lystra believed that there was many gods. But they were wrong. There is only one God.

At Lystra there was a man who was crippled in his feet. He had been crippled ever since he was born. He had never walked. Not even once.

When Paul preached the Gospel there, the poor lame man heard him. Paul looked very carefully at the man sitting there and he saw that he was very interested in what was being said. He had the faith to be healed.

THE LAME MAN IS HEALED

Paul said to him with a loud voice, “Stand upright on thy feet”. And the lame man did just that! He leaped up on his feet and walked! God had healed him.

THE PEOPLE THINK THAT PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE GODS

The people of Lystra thought that Paul and Barnabas had healed the lame man by their own power. They decided that Paul and Barnabas must be two of the gods that they worshipped. They said, “The gods have come down to us in the shape of men”. They called Barnabas “Jupiter” and Paul “Mercurius”.

The priest of Jupiter even prepared animals to sacrifice to them. He brought oxen decorated with garlands of leaves and flowers to the gate of the city to sacrifice there.

PAUL AND BARNABAS TRY TO STOP THE PEOPLE

As soon as Paul and Barnabas knew of this they were very upset. They ran among the people saying, "Sirs, why do you do these things? We are only men like you. We have preached to you that you might turn away from these wicked idols to obey the living God who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all things that live in them."

And though they spoke to the people like this they could hardly stop them sacrificing to them.

PAUL IS STONED

But then some wicked Jews from Antioch and Iconium came along. They persuaded the crowd and told the people Paul's teachings were bad.

They picked up stones and threw them at him.

When he fell down hurt, they dragged him out of the city and left him there. They thought he was dead.

PAUL LEAVES LYSTRA

But as the believers were standing sadly around Paul, he got up again and went bravely back into the city. The next day he left Lystra.

Paul was often hurt like that as he travelled about preaching the Gospel. "It is only through much tribulation (that means trouble and difficulties) that we can enter into the kingdom of God", he said to his friends. "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us".

LESSON FOR US

Paul loved the Truth of God and was prepared to suffer even stoning so that other people might hear and believe it. We also must not worry what people think of us when we speak the Gospel to them. God hears us and is pleased.

Remember these points:—

- * There is only one God.
- * The lame man of Lystra listened to the Gospel preached by

Paul and had faith.

- * The lame man was healed by God.
- * The people think Paul and Barnabas are gods.
- * Paul and Barnabas try to turn the people to the one true God.
- * Paul was stoned and left for dead.
- * They left Lystra the next day.
- * How important it is to serve God first.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What was wrong with the man at Lystra who sat listening to Paul?
2. What did Paul do for the man?
3. Why did the people of Lystra bring oxen and garlands (rings of flowers)?
4. What did the Jews from Antioch and Iconium do to Paul when they came to Lystra?
5. What did Paul say to his friends after he had been hurt at Lystra?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Tell what happened to Paul and Barnabas at Lystra when Paul cured the lame man there?
7. Paul was not concerned when he was hurt while preaching the Gospel. What should this teach us?



(14) PAUL AND SILAS GO TO PHILIPPI

“Come over and help us”

Aim

To show how the word of God was spread further and how faith made Paul and Silas fearless in a time of trouble.

Paul preached the gospel at Philippi. He healed a sick girl there but was put in prison for doing it.
Acts 16:9-25



PAUL SEES A VISION OF A MAN OF MACEDONIA

Paul was on another journey, this time with a disciple named Silas. One night he saw a vision. (A vision is like a dream, but it is given by God to tell the person who sees it something that He especially wants him to know). In the vision Paul saw a man of Macedonia (a country just across the sea from where Paul was staying). The man in the vision said, “Come over into Macedonia and help us”.

PAUL GOES TO MACEDONIA

Paul always went wherever God, by His Holy Spirit, sent him. So straight away he got into a ship and sailed to Macedonia and came to the main city there called Philippi. (Find it on the map).

On the sabbath day they went out of the city by a riverside. People gathered there to pray. Paul and Silas knew it would be a good place for preaching and they sat down and spoke to the women who came.

One of the women was called Lydia. She was a seller of purple cloth and dye. Lydia already worshipped God and was glad to hear Paul and Silas. God knew what was in her heart and through the words of Paul and Silas, helped her understand the Truth. She took careful notice of the things they spoke and she believed them. Quite soon Lydia was baptized, as well as all the people in her house. She asked Paul to stay with her for a while in her home.

A GIRL WITH A SICK MIND IS HEALED

There was a young girl in Philippi who was sick in her mind. She

worked for some wicked men who pretended that she could really tell what was going to happen in the days ahead. People gave them money to hear her speak. So her masters were glad she was ill. It made them rich.

Day after day she had followed Paul and Silas. She met Paul and Silas as they were on their way to preach. She called out, "These men are the servants of the Most High God which show unto us the way of salvation". This was true. But the way she said it over and over, crying out loudly in a silly way showed how sick she was.

Paul felt sad and he turned and spoke to her and healed her of her sickness. She became a normal, sensible girl.

THE GIRL'S MASTERS ARE ANGRY

When the masters of the girl saw that they would not be able to use her to make money any more, they were angry and dragged Paul and Silas to the market place to the rulers of the city. They said that Paul and Silas were making trouble in the city.

PAUL AND SILAS ARE PUT IN PRISON

The magistrates tore off the coats of Paul and Silas and had them beaten many times until their backs were very sore. Then they cast them into prison, telling the jailor to keep them safely. To make sure they could not escape, the jailor put them into the inner prison. Their feet were locked tightly in wooden stocks. The jailor knew he would be put to death if his prisoners got away. He did not want that to happen.

PAUL AND SILAS SING AND PRAY

But Paul and Silas did not worry about what might happen. At midnight the other prisoners heard them singing hymns and praying to God, for Paul and Silas knew that He was watching over all that was going on.

In our next lesson we will learn of the exciting things that happened after midnight.

LESSON FOR US

God, in His wisdom, knows all things. He knew there were lots of people in Macedonia whose hearts were ready to hear the Gospel and obey its call. So He led Paul there so that they could learn the Truth and be baptised. Let us always keep our hearts and minds open like Lydia to hear and learn God's Word.

Remember these points:—

- * Paul saw a vision of a man from Macedonia saying “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”
- * Paul went to Philippi in Macedonia straight away.
- * Lydia believed the words of Paul and Silas and she and her household were baptised.
- * The young girl with the sick mind followed Paul & Silas.
- * Paul healed her of her sickness.
- * The young girl’s masters accused Paul and Silas of making a disturbance.
- * They were beaten and placed in stocks in the inner prison.
- * At midnight they sang hymns and prayed to God.
- * Our hearts and minds must always be open to receive instruction from the Word of God.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Paul saw in a vision, a man from Macedonia. What did the man say?
2. What do you know about a lady called Lydia?
3. There was a girl with a sick mind at Philippi. What did she do day after day?
4. What did Paul do for the girl with the sick mind?
5. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight in the prison?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. What did Paul and Silas do on the sabbath day at Philippi?
7. What happened when the masters of the sick girl saw that they could not use her to get money any more?

(15) PAUL AND SILAS BAPTISE THE JAILOR AT PHILIPPI

“What must I do to be saved?”

Aim

To show God’s power to save those who are His and that good may come from even the hardest times of trouble.

The jailor at Philippi felt like ending his life when he thought his prisoners had escaped. But then he learnt of the way to live forever and was baptised. Acts 16:26-40



PAUL AND SILAS ARE FREED BY GOD

Paul and Silas were in the prison at Philippi. It was midnight and those two faithful gospel workers were praying and singing praises to God. The other prisoners there heard them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake. The foundations of the prison shook and the doors of the prison burst open. All the prisoners’ chains fell off.

The jailor woke up with a start and saw that the prison doors were open. He thought that all the prisoners had escaped and that he would be put to death. So he took out his sword to kill himself.

THE JAILOR LEARNS THE GOSPEL

But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Do yourself no harm: for we are all here”. The jailor called for a light. He ran into the prison, trembling, and kneeled at the feet of Paul and Silas. When he had brought them out he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” And they preached the Gospel to the jailor and his household, then and there.

Next, the jailor gently bathed Paul and Silas’ sore backs where they had been beaten. How grateful he would have felt to think that Paul’s sufferings had made it possible for him to learn the Truth and be saved. Then the jailor was baptized, he and all his household, straight away.

After that they all sat down and shared a meal together, rejoicing and praising God for the wonderful things he had done.

PAUL LEAVES PHILIPPI

The next day the magistrates asked Paul and Silas to leave their city. They were afraid of getting into trouble for putting them into prison. Paul and Silas went, but first they called at Lydia's house. Paul exhorted the ecclesia there and then they went on their way.

Years later Paul wrote a letter to the ecclesia at Philippi and we can read it today in our Bibles. It is called the Epistle (or letter) to the Philippians. They were always his friends and helped him in his work. He called them his "joy and crown".

LESSON FOR US

Paul and Silas helped the jailor and his household to learn the Truth, even though they were suffering from being beaten. We must learn the Truth and then try to help other people to learn the Truth too, no matter how hard it may be for us to do so.

Remember these points:—

- * At midnight God sent an earthquake which freed Paul and Silas.
- * The jailor kneeled, trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas.
- * They told the jailor how he could be saved and preached the Gospel to him.
- * The jailor bathed their backs.
- * The jailor and his household were baptised.
- * We can read the letter that Paul wrote to the Philippians in the Bible.
- * Even when they were suffering, Paul and Silas preached the Word of God.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What happened at midnight when Paul and Silas were in the prison at Philippi?
2. When the jailor saw that the prisoners had not escaped, what did he do?
3. The jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" What did Paul answer?
4. What did the jailor do for Paul and Silas?
5. What did Paul and Silas do for the jailor and his household?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Tell the story of how Paul and Silas were saved from the prison at Philippi?
7. Where can we read a letter which Paul wrote to the believers at Philippi?



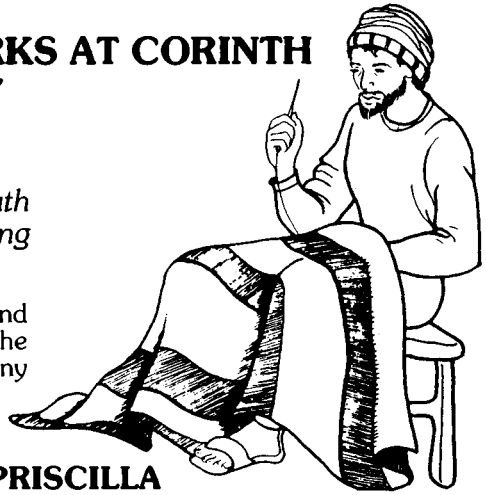
(16) PAUL WORKS AT CORINTH

“I have much people in this city”

Aim

To show how friends in the Truth can encourage and help us along the way to the Kingdom.

Paul worked at Corinth with Priscilla and Aquila. They made tents. Besides that he preached the gospel there and many people believed and were baptised. Acts 18:1-11; Romans 16:3-5



PAUL FINDS AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

Another city that Paul came to in his travels was Corinth. (Look for it on the map). In Corinth he met a Jew named Aquila and his wife who was named Priscilla. Priscilla and Aquila loved the Bible.

PAUL AND PRISCILLA AND AQUILA WORK TOGETHER

Aquila and Priscilla earned their living by making tents. Paul was a tent-maker too. He stayed with Aquila and Priscilla and they worked together making tents. We may be sure that as they worked together, they talked about the Word of God.

PAUL TEACHES, FIRST IN THE SYNAGOGUE, THEN GOES NEXT DOOR

Every sabbath day Paul would go to the synagogue in Corinth and preach the Truth. But the people there did not want to listen, when he told them that Jesus was the promised Saviour. So Paul left the synagogue and went to the house next door. Justus, the man who lived there worshipped God and he did not mind Paul using his house. Many people from Corinth came there and heard the Gospel preached. Even the chief ruler of the synagogue, Crispus, believed and his household too and they all were baptised.

PAUL ENCOURAGED BY A VISION

One night God spoke to Paul in a vision and said, “Do not be afraid, but speak. Do not keep quiet. For I am with you and no man shall hurt you for I have many people in this city.”

Paul knew then what God wanted him to do. He stayed there at

Corinth for a year and a half and kept on teaching the Word of God among them.

There are two letters in the Bible which Paul later wrote to the believers at Corinth — 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

WHAT PAUL THOUGHT OF AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

Paul became very fond of Aquila and Priscilla. He loved them dearly. They went with him sometimes on his journeys. At one time they even risked their lives to save Paul's life. He called them "my helpers in Christ Jesus." The ecclesia often held their meetings in the home of Aquila and Priscilla.

LESSON FOR US

Priscilla and Aquila were very happy together because they both loved to learn about God. They were both waiting for the Kingdom of God. So was Paul. This is why they were so happy together and such good friends. We also should only choose friends who love the things of God.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have Paul call us his helpers when he is raised from the dead again? If we learn the things in the Bible and do them, then we can be sure that he will do this.

Remember these points:—

- * Paul stayed with Priscilla and Aquila at Corinth.
- * They were tent makers like Paul.
- * Paul preached the Gospel from the home of Justus and many believed.
- * God encouraged Paul in a vision by night.
- * Paul loved Priscilla and Aquila dearly.
- * We should only choose friends who love the things of God.

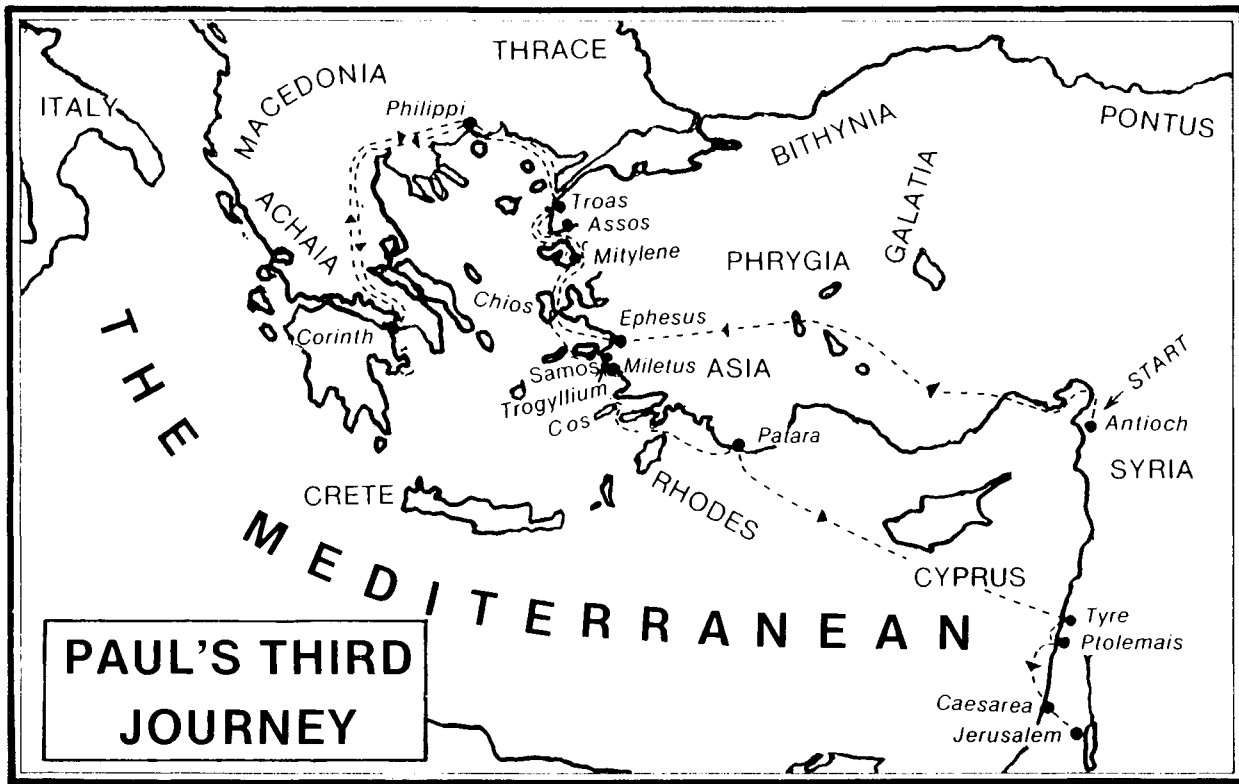
QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Paul stayed with a tent-maker and his wife at Corinth. What were their names?
2. How did Paul earn his living at Corinth?
3. Did many people in Corinth hear and believe the Gospel?
4. Paul stayed a year and a half at Corinth. What did he do all that time?
5. What sort of friends should we choose?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Why was Paul able to preach the Truth in Corinth for a year and a half without being afraid of harm?
7. Why were Aquila and Priscilla such dear friends of Paul?





(17) THE RIOT AT EPHESUS

“Many that believed. . . brought their books and burned them”

Aim

To show that God protects from harm and danger all those who put their faith and trust in Him.

Many people believed the gospel in Ephesus. Demetrius the silversmith stirred up a dangerous riot among the people because of it. But God saved the disciples from harm. Acts 19:17-41.



One day the people of Ephesus had a riot because of the things that Paul was teaching. (A riot is when people in a city gather together in a mob and start to shout and make a commotion. They often break the law and rush about making everyone excited and angry and afraid).

At Ephesus it happened like this.

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THE GOSPEL IN EPHESUS

When Paul was in Ephesus, many people believed the Gospel. Some of them were people who had had a lot of books about magic and all sorts of other things that they had believed before. They decided to get rid of them.

They brought all their books out together in front of everyone in the city and set alight to them. They counted up how much they could have sold these books, and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver — a fortune in those days. But they burnt them to ashes to show that the things in those books were lies. They were going to believe the things of the Truth from now on.

THE MEETING OF THE SILVERSMITHS

Although many people were thrilled to learn the Truth at Ephesus, there were some who were not pleased about it. There was a man named Demetrius, who was a silversmith. (A silversmith is a man who makes things out of silver). Demetrius used to make images and shrines to the idol named Diana. He used to sell them to people.

He soon became rich doing this. But now he could see that if people were going to stop worshipping the goddess Diana, he was not going to make a lot of money anymore. He called together all the other workmen who made idols and ornaments.

DEMETRIUS SPEAKS TO THE CRAFTSMEN

“Sirs”, he said, “you know that we make a lot of money by making shrines and idols to Diana.”

“You can also see”, Demetrius went on, “that this Paul is turning people away from worshipping idols. Our craft is in danger.” He was telling them that if people stopped *worshipping* idols, then people would stop *buying* the shrines and silver trinkets and ornaments and then all the craftsmen would get no more money.

“Not only that,” he said, “But the great temple of Diana will be despised”. Well, the people listening thought that this would be a terrible thing. People would stop coming to Ephesus to see the magnificent temple to Diana and to worship there. If they did not come to Ephesus then they would not spend their money there.

THE RIOT STARTS

The silversmiths became very angry. They cried out, “GREAT IS DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS!”

And then the whole city was confused by the noise. Some of them caught two of Paul’s friends, Gaius and Aristarchus, who had travelled with him, and dragged them to the theatre. (The theatre was a large open-air hall where crowds could gather to listen to speeches and plays). Paul tried to go in to speak to the people, but the other disciples would not let him. It was too dangerous. The Ephesians were so angry and excited they might have killed him.

THE UPROAR IN THE THEATRE

Inside the theatre, some people called out one thing, some another. Most of them did not even know why they had all come there anyway. They started to call out all together, “GREAT IS DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS, GREAT IS DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS”. They kept yelling like this for about two whole hours. What a dreadful noise!

THE TOWN CLERK QUIETENS THE CROWD

But then the Town Clerk stood up in front of the people and told them all to be quiet.

“You men of Ephesus”, he said, “Everyone knows that the Ephesians all worship Diana and look after the temple. You ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. If Demetrius has a matter against anyone he can do the proper thing and take them to the court. We are likely to get into trouble with the Roman soldiers for this uproar, because we have no excuse for this meeting”.

And when he had finished saying this he sent everyone home.

PAUL LEAVES EPHEBUS

After the riot was over Paul knew he must leave the city. It would not be safe for him to stay any longer. He called together all the disciples and said goodbye and went on his way.

LESSON FOR US

When they taught the people about God, Paul and his friends were often in danger. Those men at Ephesus were ready to hurt them. But God saved them out of trouble. We must always put our trust in God to help us. He will not help us if we do foolish things, but if we put our trust in Him, then whatever happens will be the best thing for us.

Remember these points:—

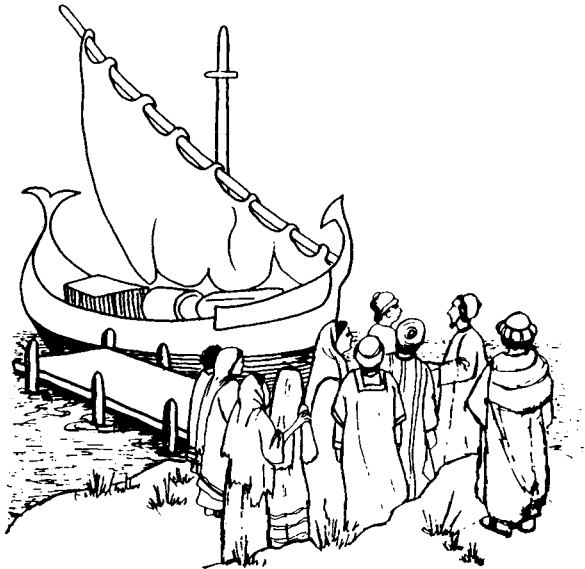
- * Many people believed the Gospel in Ephesus.
- * They burned their books about magic.
- * Demetrius the silversmith was not pleased.
- * All the craftsmen cried out “Great is Diana of the Ephesians” and started a riot.
- * The people were confused.
- * The town clerk quietened the crowd.
- * God saved Paul and he left the city.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What was the name of the city where there was a riot because of the things Paul taught?
2. A lot of people believed the Gospel in Ephesus. Some of them had books about magic. What did they do with them?
3. Who was Demetrius?
4. What did the people call out all together in the theatre at Ephesus?
5. Who was Diana?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Why did the people who believed the Truth in Ephesus burn their books?
7. Why did the silversmiths worry about the people not wanting to worship Diana of the Ephesians any more?



(18) EUTYCHUS FALLS ASLEEP

“Trouble not yourselves, for his life is in him”

Aim

To show God’s power in raising to life again people that have died.

A young lad named Eutychus fell asleep listening to Paul. He fell out of a window and was picked up dead. But Paul showed God’s power to bring the dead to life. Acts 20:7-12



THE MEETING AT TROAS

It was night time in the city of Troas. In one room, high up on the third floor of a house, many oil lamps were burning. It was the first day of the week and the followers of Jesus had met there to break bread and drink wine, as Jesus had commanded. Everyone in the crowded room was listening very carefully to Paul as he spoke to them from the Bible.

PAUL SPEAKS TO THE MEETING FOR A LONG TIME

The apostle Paul had been at Troas for six days now, but on the next day he had to leave them. He was on his way back to Jerusalem. Knowing that he would never again see the brethren at Troas until the Kingdom should come, Paul had many things to say to them. They must have been only too glad to listen, because Paul went on speaking until midnight.

EUTYCHUS FALLS OUT OF THE WINDOW

There was a young lad named Eutychus sitting on the window-sill listening to Paul. After Paul had been speaking for a long time, Eutychus became drowsy. His eyes closed, his head nodded, and soon he fell sound asleep. Then, while Paul was still speaking, Eutychus fell right out of the window and down on to the street, three storeys below. When the people lifted him up, he was dead, killed by the fall from the window.

EUTYCHUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Horried, the disciples rushed down the stairs; what a terrible

thing to happen on such a happy occasion! When they found that Eutychus was dead, they were shocked and very sad. But just as God had given Jesus the power to raise up the dead, so He gave this power to his apostle Paul. Paul fell upon Eutychus and put his arms around him. “Dont’ be frightened”, he said, to the disciples. “He is alive”. And so he was. Eutychus had been brought back to life.

LAST HOURS AT TROAS

They were all happy once again. With hearts full of thankfulness, the disciples returned to the upper room. With their own eyes, they had seen God’s power to raise the dead to life again. Now they broke the bread and drank the wine to remind them of how Jesus had died and God had raised him up again. How their faith was strengthened by the great miracle they had just seen!

PAUL SPEAKS UNTIL THE MORNING

Paul went on speaking through the early hours of the morning, encouraging them to be faithful to the words he had taught them from the Bible. If they remained faithful, they, too, would be given life from the dead at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But now the day was breaking and Paul had to leave for Jerusalem. He knew that they would bind him with chains and put him in prison there. But he too took courage from the miracle that had just happened. He also would die, but God’s power would raise him at the return of Jesus, just as it had brought Eutychus back to life again.

LESSON FOR US

Eutychus was a young man who wanted to hear God’s Word, but he grew tired, and fell from his seat on the window ledge and died. God’s power to raise the dead was shown when the apostle Paul brought him back to life again.

Eutychus had the opportunity to continue his study of the Word of God and to serve him. He would be granted eternal life at the return of Jesus, if he remained faithful. So must we learn from the Word of God and be baptized and continue to obey God that we too may be given life eternal when Jesus returns to the earth.

Remember these points:—

- * Paul spoke to the people in a third floor room at Troas.
- * Eutychus was killed when he fell out of the window.

- * By God's power Paul made Eutychus alive again.
- * The disciples returned to the upper room and broke bread and drank wine.
- * Next morning Paul left Troas to go to Jerusalem.
- * We must believe and be baptised and continue to obey God so that we may find a place in the Kingdom when Jesus returns to the earth.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Who spoke to the disciples at Troas when they met together to break bread?
2. What happened to Eutychus while the apostle Paul was speaking to the disciples at Troas?
3. How was Paul able to bring Eutychus back to life?
4. What did the disciples do when they returned to the upper room after Eutychus had been raised from the dead?
5. Where did Paul go after he left Troas?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. Tell the story of how Eutychus fell asleep at the meeting at Troas and was raised again to life.
7. What lesson can we learn from the story of Eutychus being raised to life?

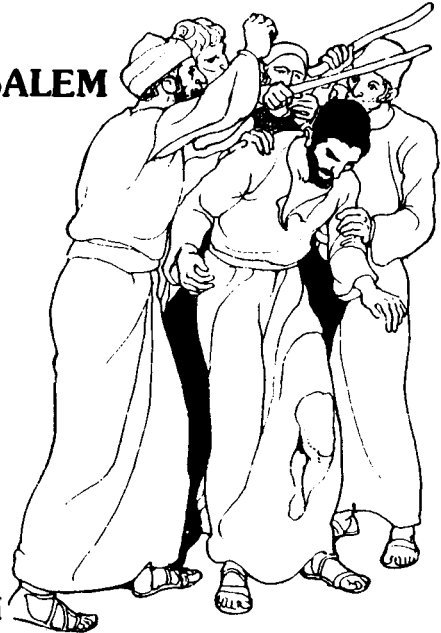
(19) PAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM

“I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”

Aim

To show Paul’s faith as he bravely faced the trials before him knowing that God was working in his life.

Paul went to Jerusalem even though he knew he would be put in prison there. God was really working in his life to bring him to Rome. Acts 21:10-40; 22:1-24



PAUL TRAVELS TO JERUSALEM

Paul was going back to Jerusalem. When he came to Caesarea, there was a prophet there named Agabus, who could prophesy by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Agabus took Paul’s girdle. He tied it around his own hands and feet. “Thus saith the Holy Spirit,” he said, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.” So Paul knew that he would be taken prisoner in Jerusalem, but he went there anyway.

PAUL ARRIVES IN JERUSALEM

When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, all the brethren were glad to see him. Paul told them the wonderful things that God had done through him among the Gentiles. Everyone joined in praise to God when they heard these things.

PAUL’S ENEMIES IN JERUSALEM

But some of the Jews whom Paul had argued against during his journeys saw him in the temple. They caught hold of him and cried out, “Men of Israel! Help! This is the man that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law of Moses, and this temple. He has brought Gentiles also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place”.

Of course, this was not true, but the news spread rapidly through

the crowd. People came running from all directions. They seized Paul and, dragging him out of the temple, set about to kill him.

THE CHIEF CAPTAIN MAKES PAUL A PRISONER

In Jerusalem there was a band of Roman soldiers. When the Chief Captain of the soldiers heard that Jerusalem was in an uproar, he ran down into the city with centurions and soldiers.

The people were so crazy that they would have killed Paul. But when they saw the Chief Captain and soldiers coming, they stopped beating him and stood back. The Chief Captain arrested Paul and made his soldiers bind him with two chains. Paul was a Roman prisoner now.

PAUL IS TAKEN TO THE CASTLE

The Chief Captain wanted to know who Paul was and what he had done wrong?

Some of the crowd shouted out one thing, and some shouted something else. The Chief Captain could not understand what they all meant because of the noise. So he ordered Paul to be brought into the castle. The soldiers actually had to carry Paul, because the crowd was so violent.

As he was led up the steps into the castle, Paul said to the Chief Captain, "I beseech thee, allow me to speak to the people". The Chief Captain gave him permission.

So Paul stood on the stairs and held up his hand. Then everyone became quiet and listened.

PAUL SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE

Paul spoke to all the people in the Hebrew language. He told them that Jesus Christ had appeared to him on the road to Damascus long ago, and had told him to preach the Truth to all men. God had even told him that he was sending him to the Gentiles.

As soon as Paul said the word "Gentiles", the people who had been very quiet until then, started to shout out loudly again.

"AWAY WITH SUCH A FELLOW FROM THE EARTH, FOR IT IS NOT FIT THAT HE SHOULD LIVE!!" they cried. They could not believe that God wanted to save Gentiles as well. They thought that God was only interested in the Jews like themselves.

PAUL IS KEPT IN PRISON

When all the shouting started again, the Chief Captain took Paul

right inside the castle.

So the words which God had spoken through Agabus had come to pass. Paul had been terribly beaten, and now he was a prisoner at Jerusalem! But this evil which had fallen upon Paul was really all part of God's plan. God was making a way open for Paul to visit Rome.

Remember these points:—

- * Agabus the prophet showed Paul that he would be a prisoner in Jerusalem.
- * The brethren at Jerusalem welcomed Paul.
- * Paul's enemies set about to kill him.
- * The chief captain arrested Paul.
- * The chief captain allowed Paul to speak to the people.
- * When Paul mentioned the Gentiles the people became angry again.
- * God was making a way open for Paul to go to Rome.
- * We should trust in God at all times and He will deliver us in times of trouble.

LESSON FOR US

Paul had been badly beaten and made a prisoner, all because he was teaching about Christ and the Kingdom of God! However unhappy this made him, he did not stop trusting in God. If we listen and obey His Word, and pray for His help and guidance, He will care for us and bring us at last into His Kingdom.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. How did Paul know that he would be made a prisoner at Jerusalem?
2. Who was glad to see Paul when he arrived at Jerusalem?
3. Why did the Jews in the temple seize Paul and beat him?
4. What did the Chief Captain do to Paul when he came into the temple court with his soldiers?
5. Paul stood on the steps of the castle and spoke to the Jews. What did he say that made them so angry?
6. Why did God allow Paul to be made a prisoner?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. Tell the story of how Paul was arrested at Jerusalem.
8. Whom should we always trust if things seem to go wrong in our lives?

(20) PAUL'S ENEMIES PLOT TO KILL HIM

"We will eat nothing until we have slain Paul"

Aim

To show that the cleverest plans of the wicked can be easily overthrown by God's power.

Over forty Jews vowed to kill Paul when he was brought down to the Council. The Chief Captain found out about it and sent Paul to Caesarea by night. God's plan to bring Paul to Rome was to come to pass. Acts 23



PAUL IN TROUBLE AGAIN

The Chief Captain of the Roman soldiers still wanted to know why the Jews had wanted to kill Paul. So the following day he called the rulers of the Jews together and sent Paul down to stand before them. But the meeting did not go well either. The Jews ended up arguing amongst themselves and became very angry. The Chief Captain was afraid that Paul would be attacked again. So Paul was hastily brought back inside the castle.

Poor Paul! He must have felt very unhappy. But God had not forgotten him. That night the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him and said, "Take courage Paul, for as you have testified of me in Jerusalem, so must you bear witness also AT ROME". How these words from Jesus must have encouraged Paul. God was giving him strength to face the troubles that were ahead.

THE PLOT OF PAUL'S ENEMIES

Now Paul's enemies thought of another plot to kill him. More than forty Jews banded together and promised that they would not eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul. They came to the chief priests and scribes and said, "Ask the Chief Captain to bring Paul down to you tomorrow. Tell him you want to question him. We will be ready to kill him as he comes down.

GOD OVERTHROWS THE PLOT

But a young man overheard their plan. The young man was Paul's nephew. He came quickly to Paul and told him what he had heard. Paul listened carefully to his story and then called for a soldier

to take the young man before the Chief Captain. When the Chief Captain heard the plot, he sent Paul's nephew away but told him not to tell anyone else. "Tell nobody that you have told me this," he said.

In this way God made known the wicked plan of Paul's enemies to the Chief Captain himself. The Chief Captain soon thought of a way to save Paul's life.

PAUL IS BROUGHT SAFELY TO FELIX

The Chief Captain issued his orders to save Paul from the hands of his enemies. He called two centurions to him. "Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen. Go at nine o'clock at night and bring Paul safely to Felix the Governor", he said.

And so at nine o'clock that night, four hundred and seventy soldiers, with Paul in the midst of them, rode out of Jerusalem. Into the night they marched, down the road to Caesarea. The following day they reached the streets of that city and brought Paul in safely before Felix, the Roman Governor.

LESSON FOR US

Paul's enemies had met early in the morning to plan to kill Paul. Their plan was a clever one and seemed certain to succeed. But they did not know that God had a different plan. No matter what men may plan to do to us, God always watches over us.

We should learn from this to trust in God. God gives us strength to face trouble too — when we read His Word it strengthens us and encourages us.

Remember these points:—

- * When Paul was unhappy the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in the night and encouraged him.
- * Paul's enemies promised to kill him.
- * Paul's nephew overheard their plans and told Paul.
- * 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen and 200 soldiers took Paul safely to Felix the Roman Governor.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Paul was very unhappy. Who appeared to him at night to encourage him?
2. What vow or promise did Paul's enemies make?

3. What was Paul's enemies plan to kill him?
4. Who came to tell Paul about the plan of his enemies?
5. What did the Chief Captain do to save Paul from the wicked plan of his enemies?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. The Lord had appeared to Paul the night before his enemies had made their wicked plot.
What did the Lord tell Paul?
7. What lesson do we learn from this story that should help us all our lives?



(21) PAUL IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR

“Felix sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ”.

Aim

To show how patiently Paul suffered for Christ’s sake.

The Jews accused Paul before Felix, but Felix did not find any fault in him. Felix kept Paul in prison anyway. Acts 24.



PAUL IS TAKEN TO THE ROMAN GOVERNOR NAMED FELIX

Paul had been sent to Caesarea by the Chief Captain at Jerusalem. He was brought to Felix, who was the Roman Governor. The Chief Captain had sent a letter with Paul, telling him why Paul was a prisoner. He asked Felix to listen to the Jews and to find out if Paul was really worthy of death, as the Jews said he was.

Felix read the letter. Then he said, “I will listen to you, Paul, when those who want to accuse you come to see me.”

TERTULLUS SPEAKS AGAINST PAUL

After five days the High Priest and the elders came down from Jerusalem to see Felix. They brought with them a very cunning speaker named Tertullus. They had brought him with them especially to tell lies about Paul. What evil men they were! This is what Tertullus said: “We have found Paul to be a nuisance. He has stirred up a lot of trouble among all the Jews. He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him and would have judged him according to our law. But the Chief Captain came and took Paul from us and commanded us to come to you.”

PAUL ANSWERS TERTULLUS’ ACCUSATION

Then Felix asked Paul to speak.

Paul answered and said, “The Jews did not find me in the temple arguing with anyone, nor stirring up trouble among the peoples in the synagogues or in the city. Neither can they prove the things they have said against me.”

Then Paul went on to tell Felix the truth about the things he believed. "I believe all things which are written in the Law and in the prophets."

When Felix heard these things, he said, "When the Chief Captain comes down to me, I will decide your matter." But he did not ever get the Chief Captain to come.

PAUL IS KEPT IN PRISON

Felix commanded a centurion to guard Paul, but to let him see his friends whenever they came to visit him.

A few days later Felix sent for Paul. He was interested in what Paul believed. His wife Drusilla was with him. She was a Jewess and Felix himself was interested in Jewish laws and customs. Paul spoke to him of the things men must do to please God. He told him too of the judgments God was going to bring upon men because they did not obey Him. Paul spoke so confidently that 'Felix trembled'. So he told Paul that he would listen to him some other time when it was convenient. He was frightened of God's judgments, but he did not want to change his way of life.

Felix knew that he should release Paul, but he hoped that Paul would give him some money to let him go. Therefore, he sent for Paul more often to talk with him. Paul, of course, would never give him money to be set free, and Felix decided that it would be better to please the Jews and not release Paul from prison. So instead of letting him go free, he kept Paul as a prisoner in chains for two years.

LESSON FOR US

This lesson shows us how Paul suffered. He had done no wrong, but he was kept a prisoner for two years. We must be prepared to suffer for Jesus' sake even when we have not done anything wrong. We certainly should not be like Felix, who put off listening to the Truth. We all hear the Truth and we must obey it. We cannot please ourselves; we must please God.

Remember these points:—

- * Tertullus went to Caesarea especially to tell lies about Paul.
- * Felix wanted to hear Paul speak.
- * He trembled when Paul spoke about God's judgment on the disobedient people.
- * Felix hoped Paul would pay him money to set him free.
- * He kept him in chains for two years.

* We must listen to the truth today and not put it off to some other time.

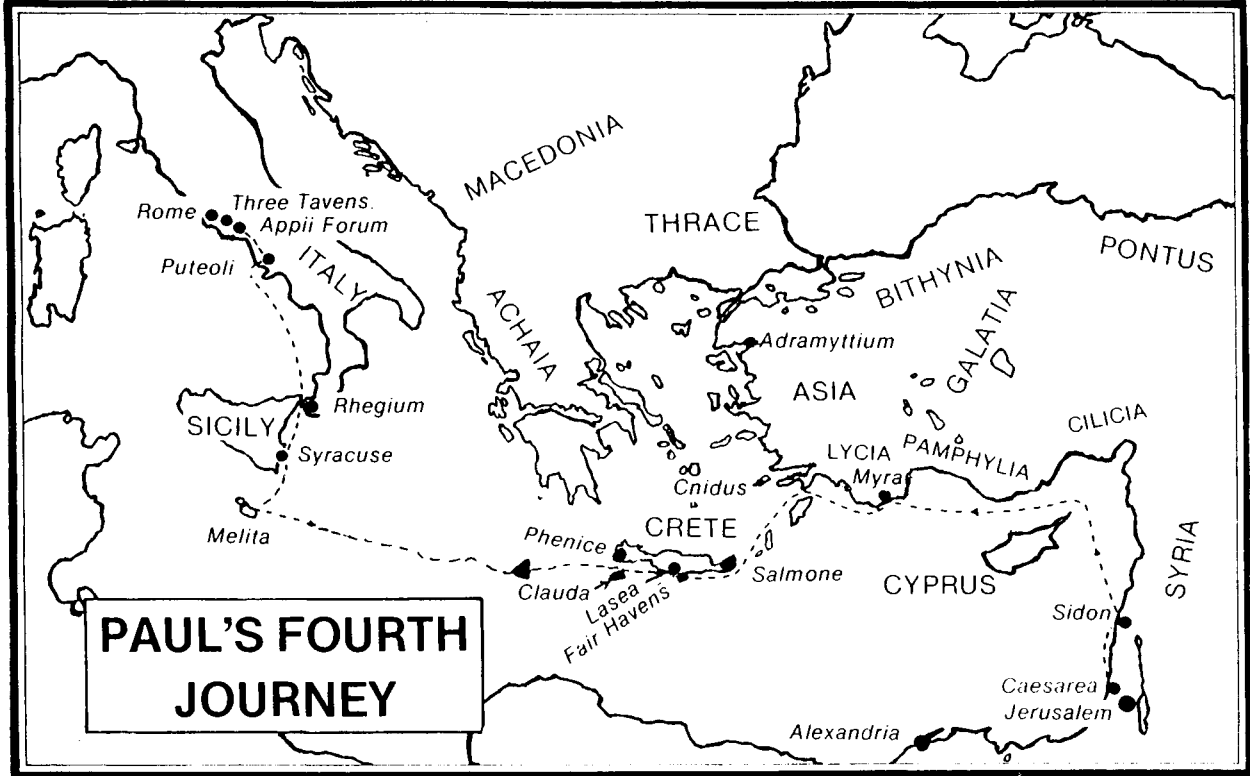
QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Who was Felix?
2. Tertullus told lies about Paul. What are some of the things he said?
3. Paul spoke to Felix about the Truth. Was Felix glad to hear it?
4. What did Felix hope Paul would give him if he set him free?
5. How long did Felix keep Paul a prisoner?
6. Felix should have let Paul go free. Why did he keep Paul in prison?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. What made Felix tremble when Paul spoke to him?
8. Felix was a bad example to us. How?





**PAUL'S FOURTH
JOURNEY**

(22) PAUL'S SHIP IS WRECKED ON THE WAY TO ROME

“Fear not, Paul, for thou must testify of me also in Rome”

Paul's ship was wrecked on the way to Rome, but Paul and all the others on the ship were saved. Acts 27



PAUL IS SENT TO ROME

When Paul had been a prisoner for a long while, he told the Roman governor that he wanted to appear before Caesar. So the governor had Paul and some other prisoner put on board a ship. A centurion with soldiers was sent with them to guard them as they sailed to Rome.

PAUL SETS OUT FOR ROME

They went on board a ship at Caesarea and sailed to a place name Myra. There they boarded another ship which was loaded with wheat and set sail again. They came to a port named 'Fair Havens', where they should have stayed, because winter was coming on. It was dangerous to go to sea in a sailing boat in winter.

PAUL WARNS THE CENTURION

The captain of the ship still wanted to set sail after a while, but Paul warned the Centurion that they should stay at 'Fair Havens'. The Centurion, knowing that Paul was only a prisoner, took more notice of the Captain of the boat than of Paul.

So they set sail again. It was not long before the wind changed from a soft breeze to a mighty gale.



THE STORM

The ship was tossed about in the sea by the huge waves. Neither the sun nor the stars were seen for day after day. Everyone, except Paul, became very frightened and felt sure that they would never be saved. Their ship would be wrecked and they would all drown. But Paul comforted them, saying, "Be of good cheer, for no one will lose his life; but we will lose the ship. For the angel of God stood by me this night and said, 'Fear not, Paul, thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all of them that sail with you'".

THE SHIP APPROACHES LAND

On the fourteenth night, about midnight, the shipmen knew they were near land. They were afraid the ship would run upon the rocks. So they let out four anchors. The terrified sailors tried to leave the ship and let everyone else drown. They let down the little boat so that they could escape. Then Paul said, "Unless these sailors stay in the ship ye cannot be saved". *as the men had to stay or abide in the ship to be saved, we have to abide in Christ.*

The soldiers cut the ropes of the boat and let it drift away.

As the day came nearer, Paul persuaded everyone to eat some food, because they had not eaten anything for fourteen days. He took some bread himself and thanked God and began to eat. Paul really believed that God would save them and this cheered everyone up and they all ate some food as well.

*e must
trust God
for our food.*

When they had all eaten enough they lightened the ship by throwing the cargo of wheat into the sea.

THE SHIP IS WRECKED

When the morning came they saw that they were near an island. They did not know what land it was, but they could see a place where they might be able to bring the ship in safely.

They cut off the anchors and hoisted up the sail and made towards shore. But while they were still some distance from land, the ship ran aground. The front part of the ship stuck fast, but the back part of the ship started to break apart because of the heavy waves beating upon it.

*what does
mean?*

EVERYONE IS SAVED

The soldiers asked, "Let us kill all the prisoners in case they should swim out and escape". But the centurion would not let them do that, because he wanted to save Paul. He had learned to admire Paul on this strange and dangerous journey. He had found that Paul completely trusted in his God to save them from death.

So the centurion ordered everyone to jump into the water and swim for land. Some swam and the rest floated on boards and broken pieces of the ship. *Show picture in book.*

And so it happened that they all reached land safely, just as Paul had said. God had indeed saved them. Here they were on the island of Melita, and Paul was still on the way to Rome.

LESSON FOR US

Even though it looked as if everyone on the ship was going to

drown, God was able to save their lives. Over and over again God saved Paul from being killed, because Paul was His servant to preach the Truth to the Gentiles, God had said that Paul should go to Rome. So, no matter what happened on the way, Paul would reach Rome safely. We must put our trust in God, just as Paul did. If we do then we can be sure that everything that happens to us will be for our good.

Remember these points:—

- * Paul, along with some other prisoners began the journey to Rome.
- * Paul warned that their ship should stay at Fair Havens for the winter.
- * When the storm came Paul comforted everyone with the words which the angel of God spoke to him.
- * Everyone had to stay together on the ship or they would not be saved.
- * The ship was wrecked near an island.
- * They all swam safely ashore to the island which was called Melita.
- * Paul knew he would reach Rome because he had faith and trust in God.
- * We should put our trust in God and not be afraid when things trouble us.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. When Paul and some other prisoners went on the boat with the Centurion, where were they sailing to? *Myra*
2. Paul's boat came to the port called 'Fair Havens'. What did Paul say to the centurion about sailing on? *The should stay, because winter was coming.*
3. Everyone on the boat was frightened in the storm, except Paul. Why was he not afraid? *The angel of God comforted Paul & said Bc of God cheer*
4. The ship that Paul was travelling on was tossed about by the huge waves.
 - (a) What did the sailors try to do? *Leave the boat & let everyone else drown*
 - (b) What did Paul say about that? *Unless these sailors stay in the ship ye cannot be saved.*
5. How did everyone get ashore? *They swam to shore, or floated on boards or piece of the ship.*
6. What was the name of the island where the ship was wrecked? *Melita.*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. Why did the Roman governor send Paul to Rome?
8. Tell the story of the shipwreck when Paul was on the way to Rome.

(23) THE PEOPLE OF MELITA LOOK AFTER PAUL

“The barbarous people showed us no little kindness”

Aim

To show God’s overshadowing care for his servants.

The people of Melita looked after Paul and the other people who were shipwrecked. Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake, but did not die. He cured the many people of Melita of their sicknesses.

Acts 28:1-10



THE PEOPLE OF MELITA ARE KIND

The ship that Paul was travelling on to get to Rome was wrecked. Everyone came safely to shore as an angel had told Paul. The place where they were wrecked was the island of Melita. The people of the island were very kind to Paul and to the others who had been shipwrecked with him.

PAUL IS BITTEN BY A POISONOUS SNAKE

One of the kind things that the people of Melita did was to light a fire. It was cold and raining; so everyone was glad to gather round the fire to get warm. Although Paul must have been very tired from swimming ashore, he helped gather sticks for the fire too. But as he laid the sticks on the fire, something slithered up out of the flames. It was a poisonous snake. It bit into Paul’s hand and hung on.

PAUL KILLS THE SNAKE

The people of the island said, “This man must be a murderer. He has escaped the sea, but he will die now”. But Paul just shook the snake off his hand into the fire. The people of the island just watched him for a while, thinking that he would die. But to their amazement he did not! So they changed their minds and said, “He must be a god!”

They did not understand that the one true God was looking after Paul.

PAUL HEALS THE SICK

A man named Publius lived near the place where the ship was

wrecked. Publius was the chief man of the island of Melita. He was very kind to Paul and looked after him and his companions for three days, so that they could recover from their shipwreck. Then the father of Publius fell very sick. Paul was able to heal him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many others on the island came to him and had their diseases healed as well.

No doubt Paul was very anxious to get to Rome, but they stayed three months in Melita, until the winter was over. Paul spent this time teaching them about the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He would have shown them that God is able to save His servants out of all their troubles. When they set sail again, the people of Melita gave them many gifts to show how they respected what they had been told.

LESSON FOR US

God was still looking after Paul, because He was using Paul to preach the Gospel, and wanted Paul to get to Rome. We must trust God to watch over us all the time too, for He wants us to learn the Truth so that we can teach it to others.

The people of Melita had been very kind. So when they needed help, Paul was glad to be able to heal their diseases. Paul was a good example to us. We too must be helpful and kind to others. By doing this we may be able to teach them the Truth, the Gospel or Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Remember these points:—

- * The people of Melita were kind to Paul and his companions.
- * Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake but did not die.
- * The father of Publius fell very sick and Paul cured him by the Holy Spirit.
- * He healed many other sick people.
- * Paul not only healed their bodies but was able to teach them the truth as well.
- * We should follow Paul's example of kindness and helpfulness.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. What kindness did the people of Melita show to Paul?
2. What did Paul do when the people of Melita lit a fire?
3. What happened as Paul laid sticks on the fire?
4. How did Paul help Publius, the chief man on the island of Melita?

5. What did Paul do to sick people on the island of Melita?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. What did the people of the island of Melita say when Paul was bitten by a snake?
7. Tell the story of what happened when the people on Paul's ship came ashore on the island of Melita.
8. In what way is Paul a good example to us?



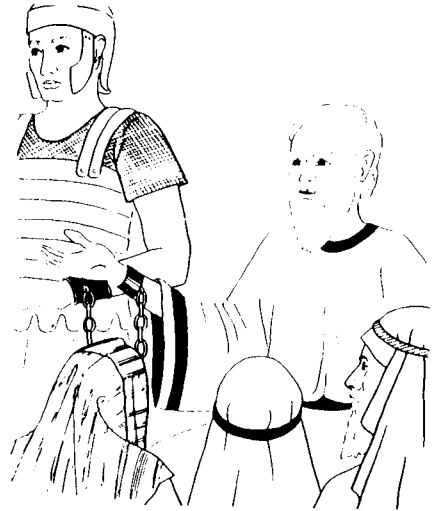
(24) PAUL COMES TO ROME

“For the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain”

Paul arrived in Rome at last. Even though he was a prisoner, he was allowed to live in a rented house with a soldier to guard him. He received visitors and wrote many letters to the brethren and sisters. Acts 28:11-31.

Aim

To show how the word of God came to be preached at Rome and to show that Paul’s whole life was an example of faith that we should follow.



PAUL LEAVES MELITA

The people of Melita had been very kind to Paul. After three months, when winter was passed, the centurion put all the prisoners on a ship again and they sailed for Italy.

Rome was not near the sea. They had to land at a place called Puteoli and travel by road from there.

PAUL FINDS BRETHREN AT PUTEOLI

Even though Paul had not been to Puteoli before, there were people there who made him welcome. They were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. They asked Paul to stay there for seven days with them. The centurion must have felt very friendly to Paul by now, for he let him stay.

PAUL TRAVELS TO ROME

Then the prisoners and the centurion set out along the road to Rome. But there were brethren and sisters in Rome as well and they came a long way down the road to meet Paul and travel back to Rome with him.

In Rome the other prisoners were put in the prison, but Paul was allowed to rent a house and receive visitors. There was a soldier there all the time to guard him though, because he was still regarded as a prisoner.

PAUL WORKS IN ROME

Paul did not stop preaching the Gospel. First of all he called the chief Jews to his house and preached the Gospel to them. For God had said, 'to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles'. Paul said to them, "For the Hope of Israel I am bound with this chain". He told them that Jesus was the king whom God had promised their nation who would set up God's Kingdom. The things he taught them could all be found in the Law of Moses and the prophets.

Some believed the things he said. Some did not.

"Let it be known to you", said Paul "that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and they will hear it."

When he had said these words, the Jews went away and spoke amongst themselves.

PAUL WRITES EPISTLES

The apostle Paul, the servant of God, was kept very busy while he was a prisoner. God had determined to bring him to Rome and now he had a lot of work to do. As well as teaching the Truth he wrote many letters called "epistles" in the Bible. ('Epistle' is a word which means 'a letter'). He wrote these epistles to many ecclesias, some of which are in our Bibles. So we can learn what Paul taught, even though he is dead now.

But even though Paul is now dead, God will raise him from the dead when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth. How important it is then that we carefully read those things that Paul has written and believe them.

They are not just Paul's words. They are the words which God told him to write.

LESSON FOR US

God kept His promise to bring Paul to Rome. Paul kept on working as God's servant all the time that he was a prisoner. He wrote letters to the ecclesias to teach them about God and to help them understand the Truth. Paul is dead now, waiting for the resurrection. He has left us with a hope of life, if we believe all that he wrote and follow his good example.

Remember these points:—

- * When Paul reached Puteoli he was met by believers who wanted him to stay for seven days.

- * Paul stayed in his own rented house in Rome.
- * Paul preached to the Jews first — then the Gentiles.
- * Paul wrote many letters to ecclesias from Rome.
- * We can read some of them in the Bible today.
- * Paul is dead now but will be raised to life again when Jesus comes back to the earth.
- * We must believe everything that Paul wrote and try very hard to follow his good example.

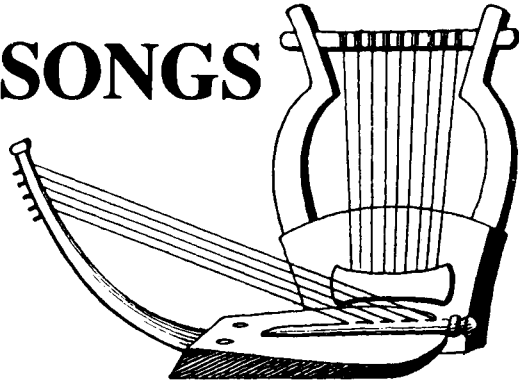
QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. Is Rome near the sea?
2. Who came to meet Paul as he travelled towards Rome?
3. Where did Paul live in Rome?
4. Whom did Paul send for first when he came to Rome?
5. When the Jews at Rome would not listen to Paul, what did he say to them?
6. What did Paul write while he was a prisoner at Rome?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. Tell the story of how Paul left Melita and came to live in Rome?
8. Tell all you know about the work Paul did in Rome.
9. What did Paul say was the reason for which he was bound in chains?
“For I am bound with this chain.”

SONGS



The Shipwreck

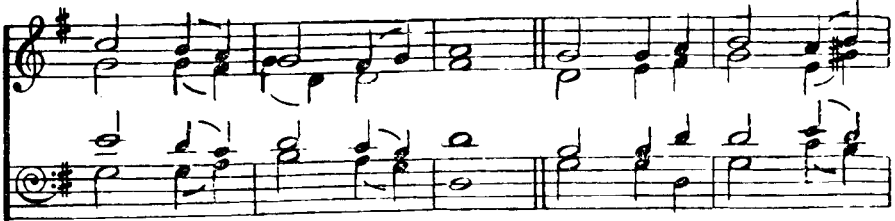
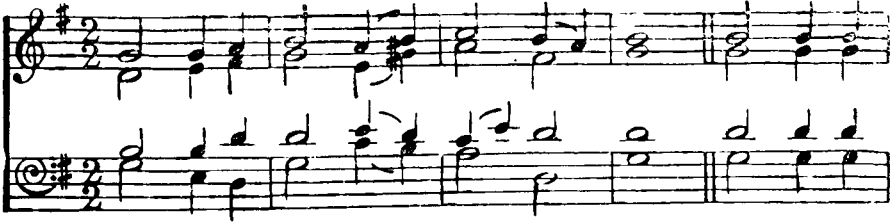
There was a ship of long ago,
Whose destiny was Rome,
It foundered on a stormy sea,
And sand amidst the foam.

The fearful men around them heard,
The sea's unceasing roar,
But God had promised all their lives,
And all escaped to shore.

The islanders were kind to them,
And quickly spread their fame,
For Paul of Tarsus healed their sick,
And taught the true God's name.

We should try hard to be like Paul,
No trial did he fear,
Because he knew no matter what,
The Lord was always near.

Ananias and Sapphira



Now Ananias and his wife,
Told God a lie and lost their life,
Thinking He knew not that they lied,
His Holy Spirit thus denied.

I'm not too young for God to see;
He knows my name and nature too;
And all day long He looks at me,
And sees my actions through and through.

He listens to the words I say,
And knows the thoughts I have within,
And whether I'm at work or play,
He's sure to see me if I sin.

O! how could children tell a lie,
Or cheat in play, or steal, or fight
If they remembered God was by,
And had them always in His sight.

Then when I want to do amiss,
However pleasant it may be,
I'll always try to think of this,
I'm not too young for God to see.

Paul's Vision

Rather slow, with earnestness

$d = 72$

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/2 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Rather slow, with earnestness' and the metronome marking is $d = 72$. The music consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system has a treble staff with a melody of quarter notes and a bass staff with a accompaniment of quarter notes. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The key signature is F# and the time signature is 4/2.

mf.

When God by night a vision sent.
While Paul asleep at Troas lay.
Where'er the spirit drove he went.
To Macedonia sailed by day.

cr.
dim.

The gospel there to Lydia came.
Whose heart the Lord had opened wide.
And she believed the saving name.
Of him who for our sins once died.

mp.

And then as Paul went out to prayer.
And healed a sick girl raving wild.

mf.
dim.

In prison he God's praises sang.
As I can, though I'm just a child.

Paul & Silas



Paul and Silas they were both in the jail,
 When the Lord sent an earth-quake strong,
 It woke the man in charge of the jail,
 And he knew there was something wrong.

'Do yourself, no harm,
 We are all, still here —'

So calling for a light he sprang in,
 And he fell on his knees in fear.

"Sirs, what must I do now to be saved?"
 And they said, "On the Lord believe."

The truth was preached whilst
 their sore backs were bathed,

And they all on the Lord believed.

And rejoiced in God,

For his saving grace,

The jailor and his household were baptised,

For they all on the Lord believed.

The Disciples See Jesus Go To Heaven

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system consists of two staves. The second system consists of two staves. The third system consists of two staves. The music is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides harmonic support. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Jesus arose and forty days,
He walked in Galilee
He taught his friends to watch and pray,
As likewise so must we.
Chorus: Watch when the day is bright
Watch through the darkest night
Ev'ry day, all the way,
Let us watch — watch — watch.

Then from the Mount named Olivet,
He rose to God on high,
Two angels said to those who watched,
"Why gaze ye to the sky."

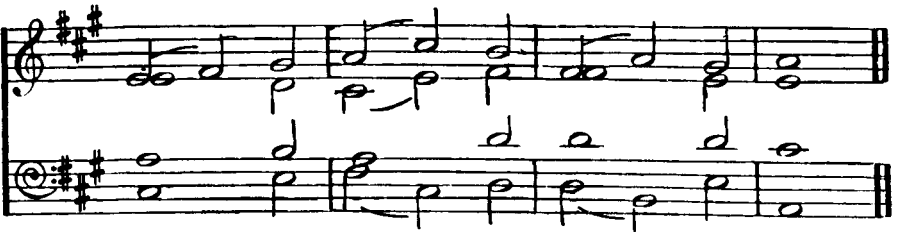
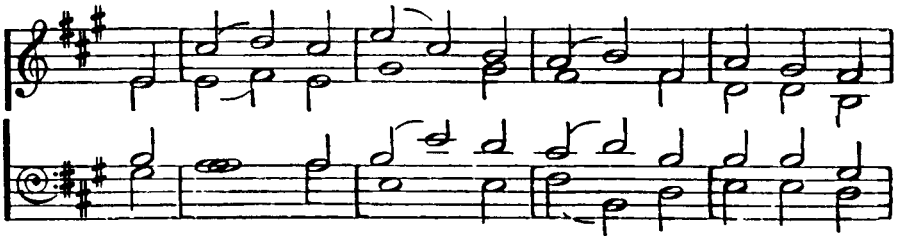
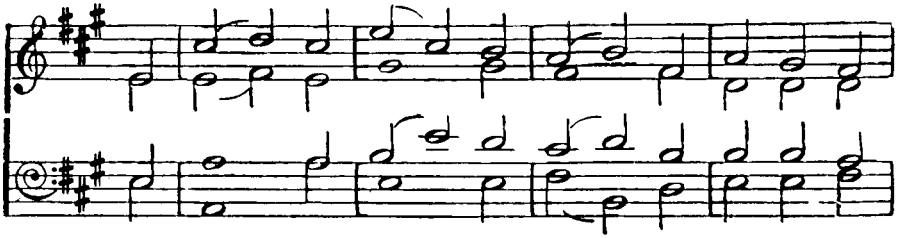
"For this same Jesus will so come,
The way that he has gone."
The men returned their hope revived,
Their work for Christ begun.

We too, must always watch and pray,
And ever ready be,
And when he comes on earth to reign
Our faith in him he'll see.

Chorus:

Stephen is Stoned

Moderate speed, with expression



mp. Stephen was hated by the Jews.
mf. Because he preached what they should do.
He taught of Yahweh's law of grace.
That He was found in every place.
Not to the temples made by hands.
But by His Spirit in all lands.
dim. Before the council he was accused
cr. But boldly challenged he the Jews

mf. "God's Holy Word you have defiled,
cr. Jesus, His Son, You've crucified,"
In anger they gnashed at him in vain.
God's Holy Spirit him did sustain.

mp. His face shone with angelic light.
He saw the Son of Man on God's right
cr. In fury then they cast him out,
dim. And for his death they set about.

mp. They then threw stones both small and large
He prayed. "This lay not to their charge."
mf. And so he died in faith and trust.
In God who is for ever just.

Moderate speed, pleasantly

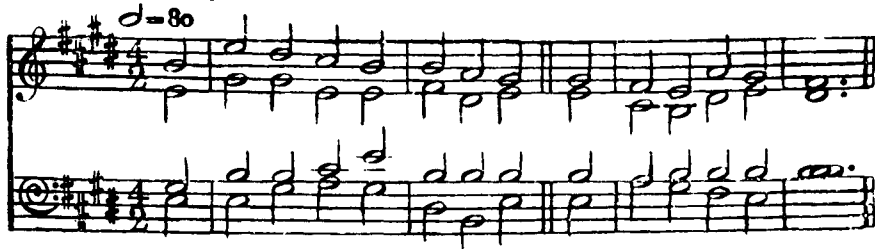
Eutychus

The musical score for 'Eutychus' is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is in a moderate tempo and is pleasant in character. The lyrics are printed below the score.

mf. Paul at Troas preached till morn.
Talking till the break of dawn,
Young Eutychus sat very still.
Listening from a window sill.
dim. He at midnight fell asleep.
p. And dropped down into the street.
mp. The brethren ran in fear and dread.
Picked him up, but he was dead.
mf. "Don't be sad," Paul cried to them.
"For his life is still in him."
cr. In his arms he held him tight.
And God brought him back to life.
f. We must listen to God's Word.
Always watchful and alert.
Virgins whose lamps always burn
Waiting for the Lord's return.
cr. Never, ever, fall asleep.
ff. But a faithful vigil keep.

Firmly, moderate speed

Cornelius



- mf.* A Roman with one hundred men.
Cornelius loved the Jew;
A synagogue he built for them.
The poor he gave gifts to.
- mp.* He feared the God of Israel.
cr. And prayed to Him each day
mf. That he might with God's people dwell
And seek to learn His way.
- An angel came and spoke to him.
And told him where to go.
And Peter there instructed him.
The living way to know.
- mf.* Arise, and be baptised, said he.
And wash away your sins.
Through Jesus Christ who died for thee.
A new life now begins.

The Conversion of Saul

(Hymns for Young People no. 111)

Tabitha or Dorcas Is Raised

(Hymns for Young People No. 110)

