

THE COMPASS

Volume 70, Quarter 3, 2020

Let's Study Acts!

Part 2

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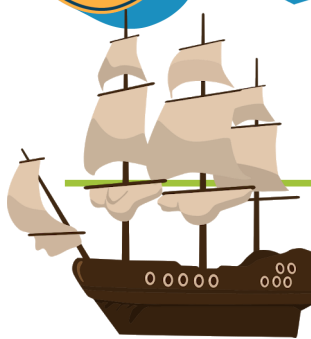
THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 4, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Meet the Missionary Paul's First Journey Begins

Scripture Reading: Acts 13:1-12



It had been approximately 45 years since Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended back into heaven. The Day of Pentecost had come and gone and the Holy Spirit had come down to live in the hearts of those who had accepted Christ. Salvation and belonging to God was no longer just for the “chosen people,” the Jews! It was, and still is, available to every person who is born!

Antioch (in Syria) had become a sort of “headquarters” for the Christians who weren’t Jews--the Gentiles. Remember, there were a lot of Jews at this time that didn’t believe that Jesus had been the Son of God. They hated the Christians for claiming that truth. There were also a lot of Gentiles who didn’t appreciate the Gospel either because it meant all their idols and gods were fake and powerless.

This is the scene where we start as we begin to read about a very prominent man in the New Testament.

Memory Verse

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. Acts 13:2

Key Thought

Even though Paul had persecuted the Christians, God made him a changed man, and he became one of the greatest missionaries of the early church.

Lesson Discussion

- What was Paul doing before he was converted on the road to Damascus?
- Did his past sins make him unworthy to work for God?
- Who was the man that traveled with Paul from Antioch in Syria? Who joined them in Salamis?
- What happened to the sorcerer they met in Paphos? From where did Paul's power come?

His name is Paul, or Saul (the author of Acts refers to him as Saul (Hebrew) until the 13th chapter, and after that, he is called Paul (Roman)). This is the same man who got permission from the Jewish leaders to persecute Christians. He threw them in jail, beat them, and stoned them. Then, he met God on the road to Damascus.

He was struck blind and forced to come face to face with the wrong he had been committing, but he submitted to God and was a changed man. God had big plans for him!

Now, we find Paul in Antioch. God called Paul, a godly man named Barnabas, and a few other people to travel around and spread the Gospel story. The members from the church in Antioch laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them. Then, the two men and their group of missionaries departed on a long and very interesting journey!

Their first stop was a town called Salamis on the island of Cyprus, where Barnabas’s cousin, a man named John Mark, joined them. From there, they traveled on to Paphos (on the same island) and met the proconsul of the country. His name was Sergius Paulus, and he was a smart man. He wanted to know more about God, so Paul and Barnabas began to tell him! However, there was a sorcerer who argued with them and disagreed with what they were preaching. His name was Barjesus, or Elymas. Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost when this sorcerer came against them, and he had some very strong words to say:

“You are a child of the devil and an enemy of righteousness. You are full of subtlety (or sneakiness) and mischief. Will you stop perverting the ways of the Lord?”

The hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind for a season!”

Can you imagine those words being spoken to you?! It isn’t a small thing to go against God and His plan to spread the Gospel. Immediately, darkness fell on Elymas and he searched for someone who would lead him because he couldn’t see!

Sergius Paulus saw everything that happened and was astonished! He believed that Jesus was the Son of God!

From there, Paul and Barnabas traveled on to Antioch in Pisidia (a different city than the Antioch in Syria). John Mark, Barnabas’s cousin, left them and returned to Jerusalem. ■



What Happened Here?

Look at the map of Paul's first missionary journey. We read about three cities in our lesson today. Can you list one thing that happened in each of these cities?

Antioch in Syria:

Salamis:

Paphos:

GOD IS CALLING. WILL YOU ANSWER?

We read today that God called Paul and Barnabas, along with a handful of other men, to travel and spread the Gospel story. If you have asked Jesus to live in your heart, then God definitely has something for you to do--He gives everyone a job! Sometimes that job is not as "glamorous" or "exciting" as being a missionary. Your job could be to befriend the boy at school who is always alone--that is God's work!

Use the list of "phone numbers" (or Bible references) God used to call people in the Bible. Use your Bible to find out who He was calling and write their name and what they did for God in the space provided.

| Reference | Name | What Did God Do? |
|----------------|------|------------------|
| Exodus 3 | | |
| 1 Samuel 3 | | |
| Judges 6:11-27 | | |
| Acts 24:24-27 | | |
| Acts 26:26-32 | | |

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 12, 2020



Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

The Gospel is Preached Paul Shakes the Dust off

Scripture Reading: Acts 13:13—14:17

When Paul and Barnabas left Paphos, Barnabas's cousin, John Mark, left their party and went back to Jerusalem. Still, the rest of the group traveled on to Antioch in Pisidia (this is a different city than the Antioch that's in Syria.) Paul was on a mission to spread the gospel to the Gentiles, but he constantly stopped at Jewish synagogues to preach. He did this when he got to Antioch, and preached a powerful message about God's plan to send Jesus as the Savior. He told about Jesus' death and resurrection and that every person could be saved from his/her sins.

Paul's message was so powerful that the Gentiles came and found him afterward, asking him to stay and preach on the next sabbath. There were also many Jews who had converted to Christianity that followed Paul and Barnabas, listening as they explained the gospel.

The next sabbath, almost the entire town gathered to listen to them preach!

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. Act 13:49

Key Thought

Despite the fact that Jews and Gentiles opposed them, Paul and Barnabas joyfully spread the word of God in every city into which they came!

- List the cities that Paul and Barnabas visited in today's lesson.
- How were they received in each city? Who was happy to hear the gospel and who wasn't?
- What did Paul do when he left a city that rejected Jesus?
- Paul and Barnabas were filled with the Holy Ghost,

power, and ____.

Many of the Jews, however, were so jealous that they began contradicting Paul's words and stirring up the crowd. Paul and Barnabas were not afraid! They became bolder and said, "The word of God was spoken to you (the Jews) first, but since you didn't listen and judged yourself unworthy of eternal life, we will preach to the Gentiles instead!"

Now, the Jews put a lot of importance in reading and memorizing scripture—they started teaching their sons to recite scripture at a very young age. They also believed the scripture was meant only for their own people. Because of this, what Paul and Barnabas said next made them even more angry. They quoted a scripture from Isaiah 49:6, saying, "God has sent us to be a light to the Gentiles, and to spread salvation to the ends of the earth."

The Gentiles rejoiced that they could be saved, and many were baptized as proof of their faith!

The word of the Lord was published, or spread, throughout the entire region, just as Paul and Barnabas had said.

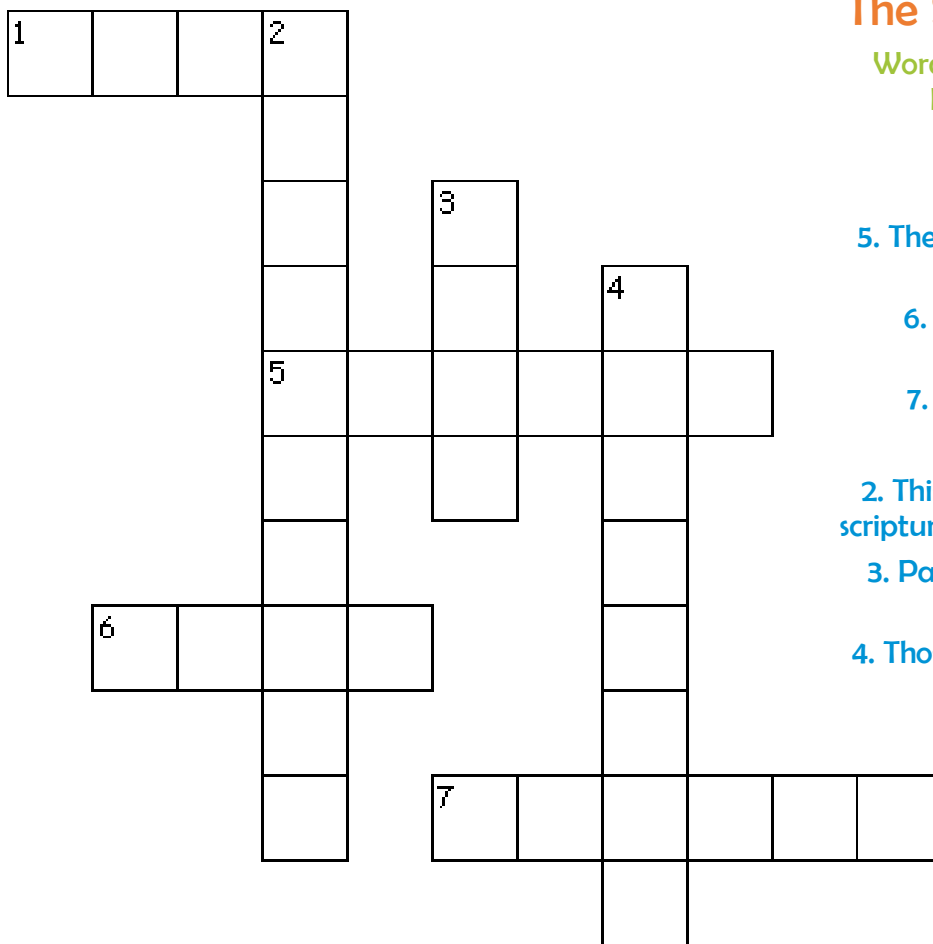
Not everything was joy and sunshine, though. There were Jews who had great power and influence that did not like the message of salvation. They stirred up the chief men and women of the city who made Paul and Barnabas leave their area.

How do you think the missionaries felt at that point? They had worked hard to spread the gospel and were treated unfairly! The Bible says that Paul and Barnabas shook the dust of that town off their feet and traveled on to a new city called Iconium. They were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost!

Despite their struggles, the word of God was being spread and people were being saved!

Their struggles weren't over, however. They began preaching in Iconium, and many people believed and were baptized there too! The city was divided, though--some believed in the gospel story and some didn't, but because there were people accepting Jesus, Paul and Barnabas stayed, preached boldly, and performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Just like in Antioch, the people who disagreed with them, including some Gentiles, became so angry they tried to stone Paul and Barnabas. However, the apostles knew what was happening and fled the city before they were hurt. From there, they traveled to the region of Lycaonia! ■



The Spread of Christianity

Words: Dust, Gentiles, Gospel, Jews, Paul, Preach, Synagogues

Across

1. God's chosen people.
5. The story of Jesus--His birth, death, and resurrection.
6. God called this man to be a missionary.
7. Paul did this in many cities.

Down

2. This place where Jews met to read scriptures. Paul often preached in these.
3. Paul and Barnabas shook this off their feet when they left.
4. Those accepted into God's kingdom because of Jesus' sacrifice.



DUSTY FACTS:

“And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.” Matthew 10:13-14

Under the old law, Jewish people considered the dust of other countries to be polluted, especially when they compared it to their own land, Israel. Their country was holy land, ordained by God for them, so when they traveled to another place, they would literally shake the dust from that land off their clothes, shoes, and skin. It wasn't just a physical thing. They wanted to prove the point that they had no connection with the defiled, heathen countries.

Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 10 to go into a house and salute it with peace. If the house was worthy, their peace (blessing) would come into it. If it wasn't worthy, their peace would return to them, and they were to leave the house (or city) and shake the dust off their feet. They weren't to have any other connection with it.

This is exactly what Paul and Barnabas were doing in Antioch in Pisidia. The people there came against them and didn't accept the gospel and drove them out of the city. The apostles shook the dust of that town off their feet and searched for the next city worthy of receiving the gospel!

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 19, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Hard Times in Lystra

Paul and Barnabas Suffer for God



Paul and Barnabas had just run from the city of Iconium where their opposers meant to hurt them. Now, they came to the country of Lycaonia and stopped in a city called Lystra. Paul was preaching there when a crippled man heard him.

This man had been crippled from birth. In that time, being crippled meant you had no way to provide for yourself. Most likely, this man begged for food and provisions. As he sat and listened to the apostle speak, his faith grew strong. Paul noticed him and somehow knew the crippled man had faith. Maybe it was shining in his eyes, or perhaps Paul knew by the power of the Holy Spirit. Either way, Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, “Stand upright on your feet!”

The crippled man leapt up and walked as if he had been doing so all his life!

Suddenly, having seen the miracle, the crowd around Paul started crying out, “The gods have come down in the form of men!” They believed Barnabas was the god

Jupiter and Paul was Mercury. At that time, many people believed that a certain god protected their city, and they dedicated the city to that god. It is likely that Jupiter was the god of power in the city of Lystra. The priest of Jupiter brought oxen covered in garlands of flowers forward to sacrifice.

Can you imagine what Paul and Barnabas were feeling at this moment? It’s hard to know, but we like to feel important, don’t we? So, the apostles could have let the people of Lystra believe they were gods and been given money and many honors. Do you think that’s what they did? No, they were grieved in their hearts.

They tore their clothes and ran among the people, crying out and saying, “Why are you doing this?”

We are mortal men! We beg that you turn away from your false gods and worship the living God who made all things!” With these words, Paul and Barnabas were barely able to keep the people from sacrificing their oxen!

They stayed in Lystra and continued preaching the word of God. The Holy Ghost has sent them, and they were determined to fulfill their calling, even if it was hard and scary. Well, circumstances put their faith to the test when certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium came to Lystra. These men convinced the people there that Paul needed to be stoned, and so they did just that. Then, they dragged his body outside the city and left him there, thinking he was dead.

The pain and despair must have been overpowering for Paul at that moment. But God wasn’t done with miracles, and He wasn’t done with Paul. As the disciples (or followers) stood around him, Paul stood up and went back into the city! Wow! The next day, they traveled on to Derbe where they preached and taught many people.

The time had come for Paul and Barnabas to return home, but instead of heading straight back to Antioch in Syria, they stopped back by the churches they had visited on the way, including Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia. They encouraged the saints and appointed leaders.

When they got back home, they told all the saints there about their trip and the amazing things God had done. ■

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27

Key Thought

Paul and Barnabas suffered tribulation to spread the gospel.

- Name the wonderful and amazing things God did for Paul in this lesson.
- Name the hard and painful things that happened in this lesson.
- How did Paul react to the good things? How did he react to the hard times?

- Is living for God or doing His work always easy? Is it worth it?

Paul Said...

As Paul and Barnabas were traveling back home, they revisited the congregations where they had stopped during the first half of their journey. Acts 14:22-23 says that Paul exhorted (or encouraged) the people to continue in the faith and that they could enter into the kingdom of God through much tribulation.

What does “tribulation” mean?

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 14 | 9 | 23 | 6 | 10 | 3 |
| H | I | J | K | L | M | N |
| 17 | 26 | 20 | 5 | 18 | 24 | 11 |
| O | P | Q | R | S | T | U |
| 4 | 16 | 8 | 12 | 21 | 7 | 19 |
| V | W | X | Y | Z | | |
| 25 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 22 | | |

3 12 6 1 7

7 12 4 19 14 18 6

4 12

21 19 10 10 6 12 26 11 3

Was Paul qualified to talk to the new saints about tribulation?! Yes! And he knew that it was necessary for them to grow in their faith in God.

Let's think about it this way...

A Hot Iron!

Supplies: iron, ironing board or towel to lay on a table, very wrinkled garment or cloth

Plug in the iron and begin ironing the garment.

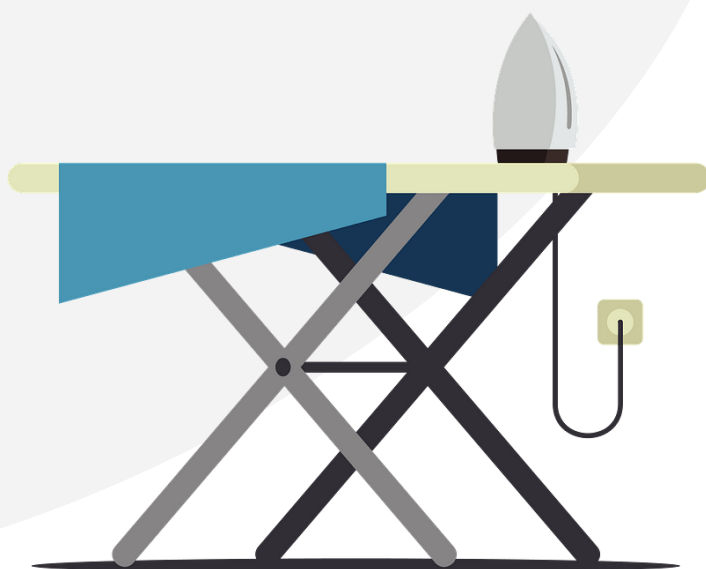
It's a lot of work to iron a nice shirt or dress, isn't it? You have to plug in the iron, wait for it to heat up, get the ironing board out and open it, and make sure it doesn't topple over with the hot iron on top of it....

And sometimes the wrinkles are stubborn and don't want to be smoothed out!

Can you imagine being the piece of clothing that's getting ironed, though? Ow!!! That's a kind of searing pain I don't want to feel. It would be a long, hot trial to have your wrinkles pressed out with an iron. But did you know that Paul understood how necessary it was for Christians to be “ironed out?” We can't be straightened out and smooth without a little hardship.

Maybe that means your friends turn on you and say mean things behind your back. Maybe it means someone doesn't want to be your friend at all. Maybe it's a punishment from your parents that is hard to accept. Did you know all of these things are God's way of “ironing out our wrinkles?” It isn't fun. It can be painful and feel like it's taking a long time. But if we turn to God, we will be smooth and beautiful when He is done with us!

And don't forget, God won't give us more than we can handle. Just trust Him to give you strength, and He will help you through the times when the iron is hot!





Junior Sunday School ■ July 26, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

The Church at Antioch A Peaceful Solution



Note: Do part one of the object lesson before reading today's text.

The church in Antioch had a problem.

The early church of God was still like a young and very tender plant that could easily be pulled out of the ground. Satan wanted to do exactly that! If he couldn't destroy Jesus' followers by persecution from evil people, he would try a different way—try to make them fight with each other. Let's find out what happened.

Many Jews still believed in following laws given by Moses—after all, that is what they had always done! When Jesus came, however, He brought a *better* way to live. The Gentiles, on the other hand, had never followed Moses's law and didn't feel like they had to! *(A Gentile is any person who was not born a Jew—that makes you a Gentile if you are not Jewish!)*

The problem was this:

Some of the Jews told newly-saved Gentiles that they could not be saved unless they followed certain laws given by Moses.

Lesson

Discussion

Memory Verse

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Key Thought

Healthy and godly ways to resolve conflicts are important because peaceful solutions ruin Satan's plan to destroy unity and ruin friendships.

- Who were Jews? Who were Gentiles?
- What problem did they face? Discuss how it was resolved.
- Will everyone always agree with each other?
- Give an example (s) of how to resolve a conflict. What should you NOT do?
- Can we earn salvation by obeying the law of Moses or by only doing good things?

Paul and Barnabas strongly disagreed with this belief.

Much discussion and many differences of opinion were voiced. No agreement could be reached. *(Have you ever felt like YOUR way was the right way? What do you do when it is different from someone else's way of thinking? Fight? Argue?)*

How would the Jews and Gentiles resolve their conflict?

Rather than continuing to debate over Moses's law in Antioch, it was decided that Paul and Barnabas, along with certain others, would travel to Jerusalem to have a meeting with the elders. *(Sometimes, taking a tough problem to a parent, teacher, pastor, or trusted and godly friend and asking for their advice is a good answer!)*

The meeting was very important because without a good solution, relationships between the Jews and Gentiles would be damaged. They needed the wisdom of God most of all!

Many different opinions were once again discussed with much emotion.

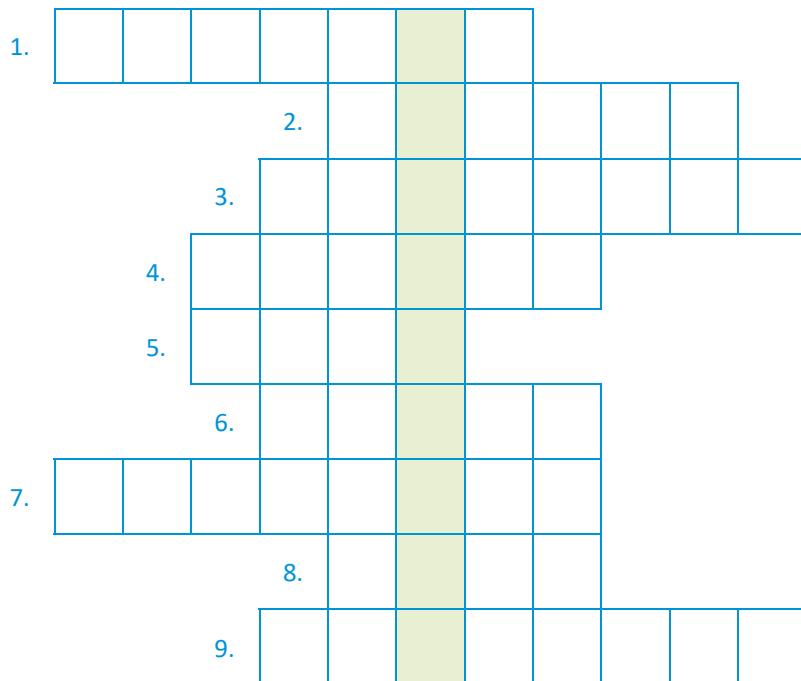
Finally, Peter, a respected elder, stood up and spoke. *(Yes, he was still alive at that time!)* He reminded the gathered group of how God had shown him that salvation was also for the Gentiles—not just the Jews. *(Does anyone remember the story of Cornelius, the Gentile who came to Peter's house?)*

Lastly, James, another respected leader in Jerusalem, stood up and spoke to the now-quiet group. He also reminded them of all the Old Testament verses that talked about how God would bring salvation to ALL people, no matter what their nationality was!

He said, *"Wherefore, my sentence is, that we trouble not them."* In other words, don't worry about the fact that the Gentiles are not following all the laws of Moses. Jesus didn't require it, neither should the Jews. *(James' words also remind us that we must always make sure our opinions agree with what God's word teaches! The Bible has the solution to all our problems!)*

When the Gentile Christians learned of the decision that had been reached, they were very joyful. They loved God and wanted to be part of God's holy church, too.

Satan's scheme to cause fighting among the members had not been successful! ■



Did You Know?

The first time followers of Jesus were called "Christians" was at Antioch.

Unscramble the following words and fill them into the appropriate rows.
(Hint: the first and last letters are in the correct place.)

1. ATOCNIH 2. CRCUHH 3. BRAAANBS
4. JWIESH 5. LWAS 6. PEETR
7. SLIUOOTN 8. PUAL 9. GTIELENS

A Free Gift?

Needed: Pens, paper, envelopes

Part One

(Do this section before reading the lesson.)

Pass out a pen, 2 pieces of paper, and an envelope to each student. Tell them there is going to be a pretend birthday party for one of the students. Have each student draw a picture or write a gift they are going to bring to the birthday party on one piece of paper (*for example, "My gift: A cool Pictionary game"*).

On the second piece of paper, have them write out instructions of a job they want done. (*For example, "The trash needs to be taken out and the kitchen floor swept."*)

Put the "gift" paper and the "job" paper in the envelope. On the outside of the envelope write "Birthday Gift."

Read the Lesson: Have the students set their envelopes aside during this time.

Part Two

After the lesson, choose a volunteer to be the "birthday" person. Have all the students present their gift envelopes. Tell the student they must *first* do the job before they can receive their gift.

Have the students talk about how they would feel if it was their birthday party and they had to do a lot of work before they received their gifts. Would they like it? Why or why not?

God has given each of us a gift, and it is free. We can't buy it or work for it. The gift is salvation. Just like we are not still required to follow all the ceremonies in Moses's law, we also don't receive salvation by "doing good things." Going to church, giving money to the poor, never telling lies, and always being nice.... Those things, while they are good, do not save us. We can't do enough work or be good enough to receive forgiveness of sins! To be saved, we have to believe in God, confess our sins, and ask God for forgiveness.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 2, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2



Paul and Silas Travel New Missionaries and New Christians

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:1-15

The church in Jerusalem had just met and agreed on a compromise with the church in Antioch. It was important for the Christians to get along so that the gospel would continue being spread!

Soon after the agreement was made and spread to the churches, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's travel to the cities where we preached the word of the Lord and see how our brethren are doing." Barnabas was ready to make another journey, and he wanted to take his nephew, John Mark. Remember him? He went with Paul and Barnabas on their first journey, but left their group halfway through and returned to Jerusalem. The Bible doesn't tell us why he did that, but now, he wanted to join the mission trip again.

Paul, however, did not think it would be a good idea for him to go. He remembered when John Mark had left them on their last trip and might have been afraid he would do the same thing again.

Memory Verse

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:10

Key Thought

Paul listened to the voice of the Lord and obeyed in every way. His second journey has already been busy!

Lesson Discussion

- With whom did Paul start his second journey?
- Who joined Paul's group in Lystra?
- Name the town to where the Spirit of the Lord told them not to travel? Where did they go instead?
- Who became saved and got baptized? What did she sell?

The churches had compromised on the things they had disagreed about, but Paul and Barnabas could not agree on this.

The Bible says that they disagreed so sharply that they departed from each other. Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus to work for God there, and Paul chose a man whom the saints recommended. His name was Silas, and he accompanied Paul through Syria and Cilicia as they visited the churches.

Now, Paul and Silas came to Derbe and Lystra. Do you remember these cities? The Jews here had raised persecution against Paul and his mission group. They met a man here named Timothy. He was respected by the brethren that lived in Lystra, and Paul wanted him to travel with them.

Timothy agreed, and his relationship with Paul grew throughout their travels.

First and second Timothy (books of the Bible) are letters that Paul wrote to him later in his life!

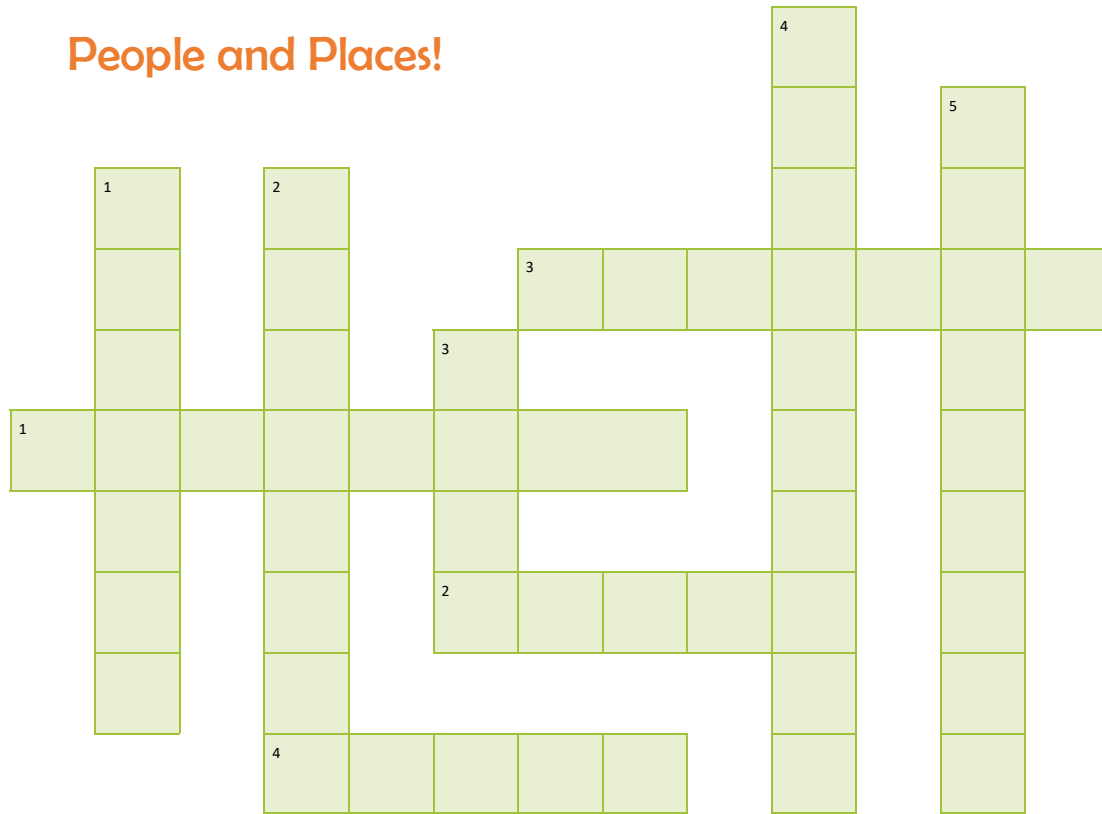
Paul's journey had now taken him through Phrygia and Galatia. From there, they wanted to go to Bithynia, but the Spirit of the Lord told them not to, so instead, they went to Troas. While they were there, Paul had a vision in the night. In the vision, a man from Macedonia urgently asked Paul to come and help the people there. The next morning, Paul rose up and took his entire group to Macedonia!

They came to the main city in Macedonia, called Philippi. On the Sabbath day, they went out of the city and down to the riverside where there was a gathering of Christians praying and worshipping. Paul sat down and began speaking to the women gathered there. In that group was a woman named Lydia.

She was a merchant—she sold purple cloth, and she loved and worshipped God. When she heard the words of Paul, her heart was opened and she believed in Jesus!

Lydia and her entire house were baptized by faith. She said to Paul, "If you believe I am faithful to the Lord, come into my house and live there while you are in Philippi." Paul, Silas, Timothy, and the rest of their mission group stayed at Lydia's house until the time came for them to travel again. ■

People and Places!



Down:

1. The young man Paul met in Lystra. Paul wrote two letters to this man later in his life.
2. The man Paul took on his first missionary journey.
3. He was converted on the road to Damascus and became a prominent missionary to the Greeks!
4. The name given to followers of Jesus Christ.
5. The last town Paul traveled to in this lesson.

Across:

1. Barnabas took this young man with him to Cyprus.
2. A woman who sold purple cloth.
3. The city in which the main Greek Christian church was founded.
4. The man Paul took on his second journey.

Antioch, Barnabas, Christians, John Mark (one word), Lydia, Macedonia, Paul, Silas, Timothy

Seller of Purple

Lydia was a merchant. She sold purple fabric to the wealthy people of Phillipi. Back during this time, having purple on your clothes was a symbol of status. It meant you were rich, important, or successful in battle. The reason people valued purple so highly is because it was very difficult to make. They didn't have dyes readily available--they had to search in nature. Flowers and plants were the most common thing used to color fabric, but purple dye came from marine snails. These snails were very difficult to get because they lived in the water, and they had to be boiled for days in order to obtain the deep purple color everyone wanted. On top of all that, it took *thousands* of snails to dye enough fabric for a single purple trim!

You start to get a picture of what kind of person Paul and Silas met in Lydia! She was a prominent and important woman. Through her salvation, many people were taught about Jesus.



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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 9, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Paul and Silas in Prison



As Paul and Silas went to prayer one day in the city of Philippi, a girl with a spirit of divination followed them. (*This was NOT a spirit from God!*) This girl made a lot of money for her masters because people paid money for her to predict their futures.

As this girl followed Paul and Silas, the spirit inside of her spoke: “These men are servants of the most high God, who shows us the way of salvation.”

For many days, the girl said the same thing over and over to them, until Paul became tired of it. He turned and said to the spirit inside the girl,

“I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” The spirit came out the very same hour.

When the girl’s masters realized they could no longer make money, they were very angry. They caught Paul and Silas and took them to the leaders of the city, saying, “These men are Jews and teach the people

Lesson Discussion

- What did the girl who had the spirit of divination say over and over?
- How did Paul and Silas end up in prison?
- What two things did Paul and Silas do in prison? Do you think this was easy? Why or why not?
- WHO was pleased with their

Memory Verse

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Acts 16:25

Key Thought

Power and Praise = God’s Power

praise? Do you ever have to *decide* to praise--no matter how you feel?

- Who got saved?

things that go against the customs of the Roman people.”

The rulers tore off the clothes of Paul and Silas, beat them for preaching Jesus, and threw them in jail. “Keep them safe,” they firmly instructed the prison-keeper!

With bloodied backs and feet and arms in wooden stocks, Paul and Silas were not in a good situation!

At the quiet hour of midnight, however, Paul and Silas made a decision.

They *knew* they didn’t have the weight of sin on their hearts. They *knew* God was stronger than the rulers of the city. They *knew* how they were living and what they were teaching was *right*.

So they prayed, and they sang praises to God.

The voice of their singing from the deepest part of the prison reached all the way up to the ears of God in Heaven. And He was pleased. The power of their praise caused God to make a decision as well.

A sudden earthquake shook the foundation of the prison. Immediately, the doors of the prison were opened and the bands that held all the prisoners were broken, freeing them.

When the keeper of the prison awoke and saw the prison doors were open, he was afraid. He would have killed himself, thinking all the prisoners had escaped, but Paul cried with a loud voice saying, “Don’t hurt yourself! We are all here!”

So he called for a light to be brought in, and he came, shaking and fell down before Paul and Silas. He said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (*Notice the respectful tone of his voice?*)

Paul and Silas then spoke some of the greatest, most hopeful words this man had probably ever heard. They said,

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, and all your house.”

They then taught him about Jesus.

The prison-keeper (*and all his house*) then took Paul and Silas and washed their backs. This family was baptized that same hour. As he rejoiced, believing God was in his house, he gave Paul and Silas food to eat.

When daytime came, the rulers of the city no doubt heard what had happened and said, “Let those men go!” (*Read Acts 16:35-40 to learn a little “twist” that happened at the end of this story!*) ■

Sing Praise to God!

Learn and sing this song. Notice in the last line of each verse what happens when we count our blessings!

On a separate piece of paper, write down as many things that you can think of to praise God for. Put the paper in your Bible and read it when you are feeling stressed.



The Story Behind the Song

The hymn was written by Johnson Oatman in 1897. As a child, he admired his father who was a local merchant in town. It was said his father had a rich and powerful voice and was a very good singer. Young Johnson could not sing as well as his father, but as he grew up, he wanted to make a difference through music. As it turned out, God had given him the gift of song-writing, which he realized at age 36. He wrote over 5,000 songs—his way of preaching the gospel! Maybe you are familiar with two other songs he wrote, “No, Not One” and “Higher Ground.” By far his most popular song, however, was “Count Your Blessings.” Johnson Oatman died in Norman, Oklahoma in 1922, but his songs continue to live on and have been a blessing to millions of people.

Count Your Blessings

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Th. 5:18
Blessed be... God... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings... in Christ. Eph. 1:3*

1. When up - on life's bil - lows you are tem - pest - tossed, When you are dis -
2. Are you ev - er bur - dened with a load of care? Does the cross seem
3. When you look at oth - ers with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has
4. So, a - mid the con - flict wheth - er great or small, Do not be dis -

cour - aged, think - ing all is lost, Count your man - y bless - ings, name them
heav - y you are called to bear? Count your man - y bless - ings, eve - ry
prom - ised you His wealth un - told; Count your man - y bless - ings—mon - ey
cour - aged, God is o - ver all; Count your man - y bless - ings, an - gels

one by one, And it will sur - prise you what the Lord hath done.
doubt will fly, And you will keep sing - ing as the days go by.
can - not buy Your re - ward in heav - en, nor your home on high.
will at - tend, Help and com - fort give you to your jour - ney's end.

Refrain

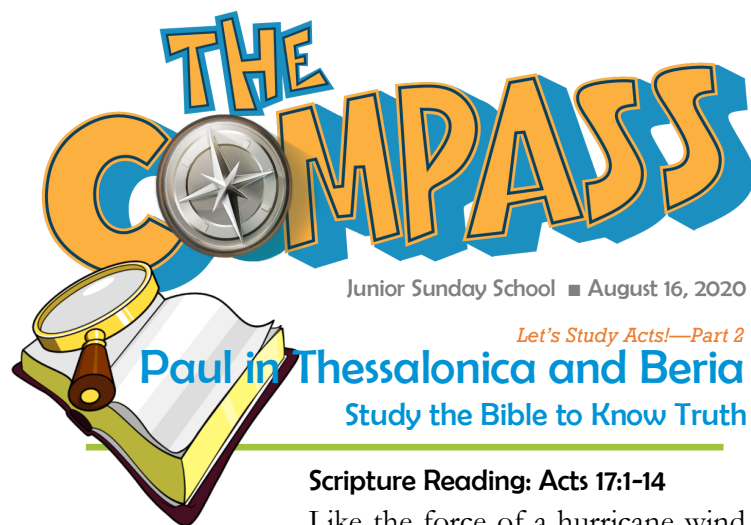
Count your bless - ings, name them one by one, Count your
Count your man - y bless - ings, Count your man - y

bless - ings, see what God hath done! Count your bless - ings,
bless - ings, Count your man - y bless - ings,

rit. *a tempo*

name them one by one, Count your man - y bless - ings, see what God hath done.

WORDS: Johnson Oatman, Jr., pub. 1897. MUSIC: "Blessings"; Edwin O. Excell, 1897.



Scripture Reading: Acts 17:1-14

Like the force of a hurricane wind that would not and could not be stopped, the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ was “turning the world upside down”—these were the words of men who did not even like or believe in Jesus!

Leaving Philippi, Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, traveled to Thessalonica, staying in the home of a believer named Jason.

For three Sundays, Paul reasoned with the Jews in their synagogue, explaining how the Old Testament proved Jesus was the true Messiah—the Saviour that the Old Testament prophesied.

The Bible is not a fable or fairytale story written to trick people into believing about Jesus! It can be explained in a fair way!

A few Jews, a great number of Greeks, and many honorable women believed Paul's teaching about Jesus. Envy rose up in the hearts of many of the Jews when they saw how people followed Paul and his

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

These [the Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Acts 17:11

Key Thought

Everyone will not believe in Jesus and His word. Will you? Study, learn, and examine the Bible.

- What did Paul do when he went to Thessalonica? Did everyone believe the message of Jesus?
- What did the hired troublemakers mean when they said Paul has “turned the world upside down?”
- How were the Berean people different than the people of Thessalonica?
- Discuss ways you can learn what is in the Bible, so you will

know the answers to your questions about God.

teachings of Jesus. They were so envious that they hired not-so-nice men—troublemakers—who gathered a mob, stirred up the city, and went out with the purpose of arresting Paul.

Under the cover of night, however, the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away.

When the mob reached Jason's house, expecting to seize Paul, they found him gone. So, they instead drug Jason and certain other believers before the city leaders.

Their angry charge was this: “Men have come into our city who have “turned the world upside down—and this man, Jason, let them stay at his house!” The rulers of the city were troubled when the Jews told them Paul was teaching of a king other than Caesar—a Messiah named Jesus.

(The name of Jesus still makes many people angry today, 2,000 years later. Truly, Jesus turned the world upside down! Does this give us a clue that His way is right that His name still has that kind of power?)

The rulers told Jason to behave and let him go.

Meanwhile, Paul and Silas were unafraid! They entered another town named Berea, a town about 50 miles away, and went into yet another Jewish synagogue.

The Bereans were different than the people of Thessalonica. They were more noble and received the words of the gospel respectfully and with better manners. They were open-minded to the truth, but they didn't just blindly accept what Paul told them. They daily examined the scriptures to see if they were true.

In Berea, many honorable Greek women and men believed.

(If you have honest questions about what is right and what is wrong, the Bible has the answer!)

Be like the Bereans. Read the Bible. Memorize verses. Pay attention to the messages in church. Ask your parents for answers. Pray and ask God to shine His flashlight of truth in your heart.

Many people still challenge truth—but God's word is strong enough to withstand the pressure of close examination!)

When the Jews in Thessalonica heard that the word of God was preached by Paul in Berea, they again were very unhappy. It was not enough for them to stir up the people in their own city, they traveled to Berea and stirred up the people of that city as well.

Immediately, the brethren sent Paul away from the city, but Silas and Timothy remained. Where will Paul preach next? Do you think he will stop? ■

Did you Know?

Did you know? Even though many people in the city of Thessalonica did not believe in Jesus, there were some who did, and a congregation was started. Paul later wrote two letters to the church in Thessalonica. Can you find I and II Thessalonians in your Bible?



Look It Up!

Look up the following verses and fill in the missing words below!
For our _____ came not unto you in word _____, but also in _____, and in the Holy _____, and in much assurance... and ye became _____ of us, and of the Lord, having _____ the word in much _____, with the joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were _____ to all that believe in Macedonia.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-7

List the books of the Bible that come before and after
1 and 2 Thessalonians:

1 and 2 Thessalonians

O Taste and See!

Needed: A candy bar(s) and a magnifying glass

Have the children study the wrapping on the candy bar. Use the magnifying glass to make the small print of the ingredients in the candy bar larger. Have them write down or say what ingredients are in the candy bar. (For example, in a Hershey bar, there is milk chocolate, sugar, cocoa butter, lactose, milk fat, soy lecithin, PGPR, emulsifier, vanillin, artificial flavor.) Open the wrapping and have them inspect the actual candy, describing what they see.

Then, ask them if they are satisfied to put the candy back in the wrapper without eating it. Do they know just by reading the ingredients and studying the candy bar what it tastes like? (Most will probably not be satisfied to stop the exercise at this point!)

Read Psalms 34:8. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

It is good and right to study the scriptures and know what is right. But we shouldn't stop there! God's way "tastes good," and He wants us to believe in Him and live for Him, so we can actually know with our heart—and not just with our mind—that it is worth it to live for Him.



The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com. Contributors: Sister Julie Elwell and Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2020.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 23, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Paul Preaches in Athens The Unknown God



Scripture Reading:
Acts 17:15-34

Paul was no doubt ready to be impressed by the beautiful and ancient city of Athens, the city where he went after leaving Berea.

Famous poets and philosophers, *people who spend their time studying and thinking*, had walked the cobblestone streets; it was the religious capital of Greece.

As Paul entered the city, he saw hand-carved idols lining the shelves of merchants booths. Artwork and statues of gods and goddesses were everywhere. Elaborately-built temples welcomed people sacrificing or paying homage to their gods.

A man who visited the city 50 years after Paul was there said that it was easier to meet a god or goddess on the main street of Athens than to meet a man—

the population of people was 10,000, compared to 30,000 statues of gods!

Lesson Discussion

- How did Paul feel when he saw the city of Athens completely serving idols?

Memory Verse

Neither is [God] worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.

Acts 17:25

Key Thought

An idol is any object of worship other than God—idols have no life and cannot save us from sin or help us in our lives.

- Name the two different groups who approached Paul about the gospel. Can you pronounce their names? What did they each believe?

- Name the hill on which Paul stood to preach.

- Talk about the three different ways in which the people responded to Paul's message.

- Do people still respond the same way today?
- Name some idols people worship today.

When Paul saw that the city was completely given over to idolatry, he was deeply disturbed. So, he started preaching and talking about Jesus—first to the Jews in their synagogue and also to people he met in the marketplace. It did not take long for word to begin to circulate around the city about Paul and his “strange new doctrine.”

Because the people of Athens spent all their time waiting to hear or tell of something new, two groups of important people soon approached him wanting to know about this God of whom he spoke—the Stoics and the Epicureans.

Background Information: The Stoics believed the universe WAS god. The rocks were god, the trees were god—god was everywhere and in everything. The Epicureans, on the other hand, believed life was only to be lived for pleasure and that everything happened by chance. Both groups worshipped their gods, but neither group believed in life after death.

So, high on Mars' Hill, surrounded by the gold, silver, and bronze altars and temples of false gods, and with the idolatrous city spread out below him, the Holy Spirit began to speak through Paul in one of the most powerfully-spoken sermons recorded.

“Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious [religious]. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.” *People can be religious and still not worship God!*

Paul captured the attention of the people when he mentioned the God of one of their own altars! Paul proclaimed, “This God is creator of heaven and earth; He does not live in temples made by men's hands and is not made of silver or gold.” He continued,

“For a time, God did not judge idol-worshippers because they did not know better, but now it is time to repent.

An appointed day is set when God will return, and the world will be judged by Jesus, whom God has resurrected from the dead.”

When Paul spoke of the resurrection of Jesus, the people responded in three different ways:

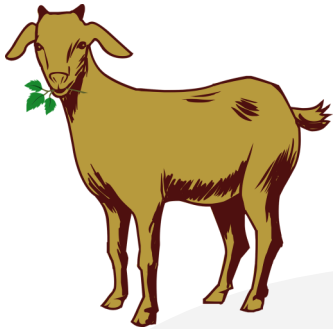
Some *mocked* and did not believe him. Some *delayed* by saying, “We will hear you again about this matter.” However, some people were convicted of the truth about Jesus and *believed*. Among those who believed was a man named Dionysius and a woman named Damaris. ■

The Unknown God

Use the space below to copy today's memory verse. The words Paul spoke all those years ago apply to you today!

Why did the Athenians have statues dedicated to "the unknown god?"

Six hundred years before Paul, a terrible plague came on the city and a man named Epimenides (e.pi'me.ni.de:s), one of Athen's famous and respected poets, had an idea. In order to appease the gods and stop the plague, he let loose a flock of sheep through the town, and wherever they lay down, they sacrificed that sheep to the god that had the nearest shrine or temple. If a sheep lay down near no shrine or temple, they sacrificed the sheep to the "unknown god." They wanted all their bases covered, so to speak.



Epimenides was also the poet whose words Paul "borrowed" when he said, "For in Him we live and move and have our being." *Paul knew the men to whom he was preaching were familiar with the lines of this poem, and, again, he wanted to get their attention.* Only, Epimenides was not speaking of the true God when he penned those lines. He was speaking of Zeus, king of Greek gods, who supposedly was everywhere and in everything.

Paul wanted the idol and god-worshipping Athenians to know that

What is an Idol?

Needed: A "statue" of any kind (Lego man, doll). A cell phone in which a game (of any kind) is on the screen (representing technology). A football (representing sports) – or any other object which the teacher desires to use which represents a possible idol of today.



Have the student quietly think of something about which they are concerned or a trouble they have had. Again, give a couple minutes, and ask them to choose an "idol" and have them talk (quietly in their head) to the idol about their problem.

Did they feel silly talking to the object about their problem? Did they feel the object which they chose was able to help them? Did they feel comforted and relieved?

Discuss how things people give their lives to in our world today—like the Athenians did to their gods—are unable to meet their heart-needs or bring salvation.

God created every man with a need to worship something—that is why the Athenians had so many gods! Many times, people look in the wrong places to fill that need and should be looking to the God in whom we "live, move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). God does not want us to worship man-made things, or even ourselves, but He wants our hearts!



The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com. Contributors: Sister Julie Elwell and Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2020.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 30, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Paul in Corinth

Scripture Reading: Acts 18:1-17

Paul left the beautiful city of Athens and came to Corinth, a bustling town located between two seas.

Paul stayed in the home of a husband and wife, Aquila and Pricilla. The three of them had a special connection—they were

tentmakers. Pricilla and Aquila became very good friends to Paul and helped him in his ministry. *Did you know preachers need good friends—spiritual friends—to support them in their ministry?*

Every Sabbath, Paul preached and taught the Jews in their synagogue, but during the week, he worked making tents. *Don't ever think that because someone works with their hands, they cannot be a spiritual person!*

After some time had passed, Timothy and Silas rejoined Paul in Corinth, bringing him an offering of money from the saints in Thessalonica. With the support of these two men, Paul once again wholly dedicated himself to preaching and teaching. *It is important to give our money to support preachers and missionaries who are teaching people about God!*

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. Acts 13:47

Key Thought

Despite constant opposition, God gave Paul pressed through and continued to preach and teach the Gospel.

- Where did Paul stop and who did he have a special connection with?
- Paul started out preaching to the Jews. Why did he eventually stop and where did he preach after that?
- What emotion did Paul feel one night? How did God reassure him?
- Were the Jews able to put a stop to the Gospel?

As in other cities, many of the Jews did not accept the gospel message. Finally, Paul “shook his raiment and said unto them, your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.” In other words,

“You have rejected the gospel and you will have to live with the consequences of that decision. From now on, I will preach to the Gentiles.”

This was a turning point in Paul's ministry!

Paul no longer taught in the Jewish synagogue in Corinth, but taught in the home of a Roman believer, Justus, a man who lived right next door to the synagogue! To the Jews' dismay, their synagogue leader, Crispus, also believed on Jesus, along with all those in his house. The Jews appointed a new synagogue leader, Sosthenes, who also later believed in Jesus. They just couldn't stop the Gospel from spreading! *(Keep reading to find out what happened with Sosthenes!)*

Paul must have been troubled, however. What would happen to him? Would he be beaten or run out of the city again? One night as he lay on his bed, the Lord spoke to him in a vision. “Do not be afraid to speak to the people.” He said, “For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.” It always brings comfort when Jesus gives us a verse or promise to think about during hard times!

Comforted and strengthened, Paul stayed, teaching the people of Corinth for a year and a half, which was longer than he had stayed in any of the other cities.

Although Paul no longer taught in their synagogue, the Jews were still not happy with Paul—or happy with the gospel he preached. They did not have the power to punish him themselves, so they once again gathered a mob together and brought him before Gallio, the Roman governor.

They accused him saying, “This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.”

Gallio was said to have been a very mild-mannered man who had a good disposition. He dismissed the Jews saying, “You settle this matter between yourselves. I don't want anything to do with it.” The unhappy mob then took the new Jewish synagogue leader, Sosthenes, and beat him before the judgement seat, but Gallio remained unwilling to interfere.

Why did they beat Sosthenes? I Corinthians 1:1 tells us that this man had also become a believer in Jesus, and the Jews were most likely unhappy at his conversion.

The gospel could not be stopped! ■

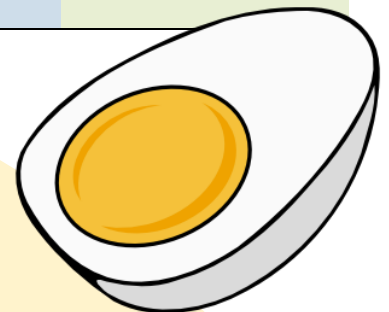


Corinth was a bustling town built on an isthmus. *An isthmus is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger pieces of land; it had oceans on either side of this narrow strip of land.* These two bodies of water were connected by a four to five-mile road in Paul's time—a shortcut for ships that sailed to Corinth. The ships would be put on wheeled carts, which they would then drag across this road to the other ocean. In this way, sailors saved many days and a lot of dangerous ocean travel. Does this give you an idea of how busy (and small) the town of Corinth was? People from all of the world came and lived in this bustling, booming town by two seas.

Can you remember what happened at each of the places Paul has gone on his missionary journey so far?

| Philippi | Thessalonica | Berea | Athens | Corinth |
|----------|--------------|-------|--------|---------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Equality in God's Sight



Truth: God created every person born equal. He loves every person and every person has an equal chance to be saved and love Him back.

Also True: God is love, but He is also Holy, and He cannot accept sin in people's lives. *(He died so that we could get rid of that sin!)* Sometimes, people do wrong and they don't realize it is wrong, and God knows that and will only judge a person based on what they know.

Conclusion: We should be like God—love every *single person on this earth* no matter how they are different from us; BUT, we should also recognize that it is not okay for us to accept the *sin* in people's lives. We can love the person and not like the sin. There is a difference.

Needed: An egg (either boiled or not) and pens.

Give each student an egg and have them write how people are different on the outside of the egg (gender, nationality, personality...etc.). Discuss all the differences the students thought of. Also discuss some of the wrong ways our culture interprets these words.

Afterwards, cut (or break) the egg into a bowl, showing how the center of the egg is the same, reinforcing how God created all human beings equal. No one person is greater than or less than another person.

Corinth was filled with a group of diverse people from every walk of life, but God had many people among them. Pricilla was a woman (in a time during which women were not highly valued), and yet she was important in Paul's ministry. (Look up other Bible verses where she is mentioned.) The gospel was sent to the Jews first, but they rejected it, so it was preached to the Gentiles—to ALL people. God has never been narrow in His view about who is worthy or unworthy to receive the gospel. We should work to accept the people in our lives the same way He does.

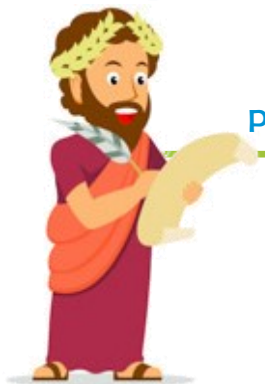
THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 7, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Apollos

Preacher of the Early Morning Church



Scripture Reading: Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-7

Apollos was a preacher mentioned in the books of Acts and I Corinthians. He was a Jewish man with a Greek name who was born in Alexandria, Egypt!

Most importantly, Apollos was “mighty in the scriptures,”

and he was an eloquent (*good*) speaker and was fervent in spirit.

Apollos not only knew the Old Testament scriptures, but he *believed* them. He understood that Adam and Eve had sinned, sending the whole world into a state of separation from God. He also understood the prophecies of a coming Messiah. He even knew about John the Baptist’s message of Jesus.

Armed with this knowledge and believing that people needed to be saved, Apollos preached boldly and fervently of the coming Messiah to the people of

Ephesus. There was a slight problem, though. Jesus, the Messiah, had already come, but Apollos hadn’t yet heard of it!

Aquila and Pricilla heard Apollos preach and saw how the people were drawn to this fervent and eloquent man. (*Remember Aquila and Pricilla? They were a husband and wife who were friends of Paul and a great help to him in his ministry.*) After Apollos was finished preaching, they called him aside and “expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.” They told him about Jesus—telling the story of His birth, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension into heaven.

Apollos willingly and happily received their instruction! He was not so well-spoken or so fervent in spirit that he was not willing to humble himself to receive information he needed. (*We should be the same way! Always be willing to humbly listen to instruction given to us by our parents, pastor, or teacher!*)

Apollo had been given the gift of preaching!

When Apollos left Ephesus for another city, Paul and other disciples advised the saints to willingly accept him.

Acts 18:28 tells us, “For he [Apollos] mightily convinced the Jews,” and he “shewed them by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.” Apollos also “helped them much which had believed.” (*When you don’t understand something very well—maybe a math problem—isn’t it nice when somebody not only explains it to you, but then HELPS you work the problem? That is what Apollos did for the new Christians—he helped them!*)

Later, a problem arose because some Christians in Corinth (another city in which Apollo preached) followed Paul and some followed Apollos; this divided the Christians!

Paul admonished the people not to follow him or Apollos, but reminded them it was God’s message of salvation!

(*Remember, you might have one preacher you enjoy listening to more than another preacher, but it is ALWAYS about God—not the preacher!*)

In the meantime, Paul continued to move from city to city preaching the gospel. After he left Corinth, he went to Ephesus (*the city in which Apollos had just preached*). Worship of the great goddess Diana was everywhere. (*Did you also know that Ephesus, which was once a seaport, is now six miles away from the sea?*)

Paul found believers in this city and asked them, “Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?” They said to him, “We haven’t even heard if there is such a thing.” Paul therefore taught them about the Holy Ghost, and when he laid his hands on them, they received the Holy Ghost. ■

Lesson Discussion

- Who was Apollos and what do you know about him?

Memory Verse

This man [Apollos] was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord. Acts 18:25

Key Thought

Humility + Knowledge of the Bible + Fervency in Service to God = POWER

- Who instructed Apollos more perfectly about Jesus, and how did Apollos receive their instruction? Is it hard to receive instruction from parents, teachers, or elders? Why or why not?
- What happened with the Christians in Corinth? Some followed Apollos and some followed _____. What was Paul’s response to this dividing? Talk about whether it is okay (or not) to have favorite

preachers.

- In what city did Paul preach in our lesson today?

Boiling Water and Glow Sticks

Fervency



Needed: Boiling water (Note: Boiled water put into a thermos shortly before the lesson will

Pour the hot water into a bowl and immediately have the students put their hands into the very hot water. (*Do they all want to do this? Why or why not?*)

Did you know that the word “fervent” means to be hot or to boil? It also means to glow. Have you ever been burned with boiling water or a burning liquid? It is not likely an experience you want to repeat! Hot water—or one might say “fervent” water—has the ability to cause very serious burns to your skin! (*Give the opportunity for students to share times they have accidentally been burned.*)

If used correctly, however, boiling water—fervent water—can be very beneficial. Eggs, hard carrots, and tea leaves are all things to which boiling water changes in a positive way! (boiled eggs, cooked carrots, and hot tea!)

We should be fervent, or enthusiastic, in serving God. However, all by itself, fervency is not enough! It needs to be mixed with humility before God and other authority figures in our life in

order for it to accomplish something good!

Now, pass out the glow sticks. Fervent also means to “glow.” Hold up the unbroken glow sticks. Do they glow? Ask the students if they know what causes them to glow. Yes! They have to be broken.

Inside the flexible part of the glow stick is a chemical and dye. A second brittle container lies within the flexible stick that contains another chemical. When the glow stick is flexed and bent, the brittle container breaks and all the chemicals mix, causing a chemical reaction. If you shake the glow stick, it mixes the chemicals more thoroughly! The energy released from this chemical reaction creates the light you now see in your glow stick!

Question: Can the glow stick “glow” without all the chemicals being mixed together? No, it cannot! It requires each chemical to be mixed together to create the glow!

Let’s think about Apollos again. He was **FERVENT** in spirit, **SERVING THE LORD**. He was **HOT** in his zeal, and he was a light that glowed. But, he needed **INSTRUCTION** from Aquilla and Priscilla. He needed the “brokenness” of **HUMILITY** to receive this instruction. Finally, he not only needed Biblical **KNOWLEDGE** but to **BELIEVE** the scriptures he read. Mixed together, **GOD** was the light that came out of his life!

God needs and *wants* us to have a **FERVENT** desire to serve Him! He doesn’t like half hearted efforts!



Life situations offer us many opportunities to **mix** what we **know** is right with acts of honesty, respectfulness, and responsibility. It is sometimes hard, but when we pray and ask for God’s help and mix the right actions with our knowledge of what is right, then God shines out of our lives!

For each number and situation, circle the word that needs to be “mixed into the situation” so that you can **GLOW** for God and so **HE** will receive glory from your life:

1. You broke a lamp.

A. Be **honest** and tell your mom you did it.

B. **Ignore** it and act like it didn’t happen.

2. You are in a library reading a really funny book. You laugh out loud and yell to your friend that they need to come see what you are reading.

A. This is the appropriate thing to do in a library—**be LOUD!**

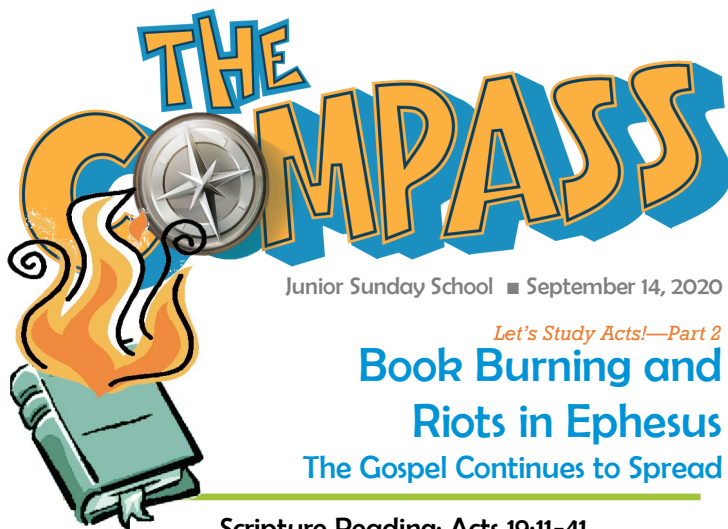
B. **Be respectful** and realize you are not considering the needs of other people who are trying to work and need quiet.

3. You are playing soccer at the park with some friends. Your mom said to be home by 6pm for dinner. At 5:55 your friends want to play just one more game, but you know if you do then you won’t make it home by 6.

A. Who cares! A game sounds more fun, so you **disregard** the time and your mother’s instruction.

B. **Be responsible**. Tell your friends you’ve had fun, but you have to go home. Maybe you can play tomorrow!

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com. Contributors: Sister Julie Elwell and Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2020.



Scripture Reading: Acts 19:11-41

Paul lived in Ephesus for about two years, and many people believe that he wrote 1 Corinthians during this time!

All the people who lived in the area, Jews and Greeks alike, heard about Jesus.

God had given Paul amazing power--illnesses were healed and evil spirits cast out because people touched a handkerchief that Paul had prayed over.

Soon, Paul gained the attention of a certain group of men--the Bible calls them vagabonds--who used the power of the devil to perform magic. (A vagabond is someone who has no home, but wanders around from place to place.) They thought they could make some money by casting out evil spirits as Paul had done! When these vagabonds met a man who was possessed of an evil spirit, they said, "We command you in the name of Jesus, the man of whom Paul preaches, to come out!"

Lesson Discussion

- Who were the men who tried to imitate the power of the Holy Spirit? What did they try to do?
- How did the evil spirit answer them?
- Imagine what it would have been like to be in the streets in Ephesus during the riot. Would you have followed the crowd? Is it always easy to go against the crowd?
- The Bible does not say the city official was a believer, but he helped Paul by

breaking up the riot. Talk about how God uses people and situations for His purpose.

Memory Verse

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Acts 19:20

Key Thought

As the gospel spread, people from many walks of life believed in Jesus and were saved. Paul and his friends worked hard and paid a high price to spread the word of God.

Something incredible happened--the evil spirit answered, and said,

"Jesus, I know, and Paul, I know. But who are you?"

The man who was possessed of the evil spirit leapt on the vagabonds and beat them terribly until they finally escaped.

The story of this situation spread until all of the people in Ephesus feared the name of the Lord! In fact, another group of people who practiced magic came to believe in God so strongly, they burned all their magic books! The price of all the books they burned was over fifty thousand pieces of silver!

God's word was spreading far and fast.

Even though many people had turned to God, there were still people in Ephesus who worshiped the idol, Diana. One of these people was named Demetrius, and he was a silversmith. He crafted small images of Diana for worshippers to purchase, and he made a lot of money doing it! As people started worshipping God instead, Demetrius became worried--if no one worshipped Diana anymore, how would he make any money? He called a meeting and invited all the silversmiths to come. He convinced them that they would not have any business left if they didn't stop Paul from preaching about God. Soon, the craftsmen were so angry and riled up, they began to run through the streets, yelling, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" People joined in, and soon the entire city was in an uproar!

For two whole hours, the city was in confusion. Some of the people didn't even know what was going on, but joined in anyway, yelling, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" The mob even grabbed two of Paul's companions and dragged them to the town meeting place. As soon as Paul heard what happened, he wanted to rescue the two men, but his friends held him back. They were afraid Paul would be hurt if he went out into the mob.

Finally, a city official stood before the crowd and managed to quiet them down. He spoke to the silversmiths and said, "If you believe in the goddess Diana's power, you should be quiet. Don't do anything you will be sorry for. You've brought these men here, but they have not robbed you or spoken ill of Diana. If you do not stop rioting, you are in danger of being arrested for breaking the peace!" With those words, the city official broke up the riot and sent everyone home.

Soon after, Paul journeyed to Macedonia. ■

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

Find the following words about
 Paul in Ephesus:

Books
 Ephesus
 Gospel

Paul
 Riot
 Salvation

Books are Valuable

The magicians in Ephesus burned their books as a symbol of their dedication to God. All of the books they destroyed were worth 50,000 pieces of silver.

One piece of silver is thought to be worth about \$20 in modern money. Can you do a little bit of math to figure out how much the magician's books would be worth today? (Maybe your teacher will help you out a little bit!)

1. 50,000 pieces of silver x \$20 = _____

2. A modern day book is worth about \$15. How many books would equal that amount of money?

_____ / \$15 = _____

Answer to problem 1

3. A kids basketball is worth about \$35. How many basketballs equal that amount of money?

_____ / \$35 = _____

Answer to problem 1

4. An American Girl Doll is worth about \$60. How many dolls would equal that amount of money?

_____ / \$60 = _____

Answer to problem 1



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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 21, 2020

Let's Study Acts!—Part 2

Paul Preaches Long Paul Says Goodbye



Scripture Reading: Acts 20

Eutychus (u'-ti-kus) was a young man who lived in Troas. His name meant

fortunate; however, a very **unfortunate** thing happened to him one Sunday night.

On the first day of the week (*Sunday*), Paul and Christians of Troas met together to break bread, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was not a normal service because

Paul preached until midnight!

He knew he would not be in Troas again, and he had many things to say.

Eutychus found a place to sit on an open windowsill. Many lights burned in the upper room in which they met, and perhaps it was warm. As the hours passed and Paul continued preaching, Eutychus fell into a deep sleep. (*Have you ever gotten sleepy while listening to the preacher in a church service?*) As Eutychus

slumped over in sleep, he fell down from the third-story window to the ground below.

Imagine the immediate panic and fear that filled the room. The people rushed down two flights of stairs and outside to where Eutychus lay. (*Could you survive a three-story fall?*) What a terrible way to end an evening. But wait!

Paul, also having gone downstairs, fell upon the young man and embraced him. As he stretched himself over Eutychus, he told the people, “Do not be alarmed. He is still alive.”

A miracle of God had just been performed—Eutychus had been dead, but God brought life back into his body as Paul spoke!

After the excitement had subsided, Paul and the disciples went back upstairs. Paul continued to preach and talk with the disciples until the morning sun rose! When it came time for Paul to leave Troas, Eutychus was brought to him. How comforted Paul and the other disciples were to see him alive!

Paul was now in a hurry to get back to Jerusalem because he wanted to be there for the day of Pentecost. He especially wanted to sail by Ephesus so that he could say goodbye to the elders of the church. Why did he want to say goodbye?

Paul knew in his heart his missionary journeys were coming to an end.

Goodbyes can be hard.

The ship docked in a city called Miletus, and Paul called for the elders of the church to meet him. When they did, Paul gave them one last talk.

He reminded them how he had served the Lord with all humility, many tears, and temptations. In every city to which Paul went, imprisonments and hard times had awaited him because of Jews who wanted to harm him. Yet, Paul believed in the gospel message so strongly that he had been willing to risk his life. He told them, “I don’t value my life. I want to finish my life’s journey with joy and finish the work the Lord Jesus has given me to do.”

After encouraging them with many words, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Acts 20:28 tells us, “And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.” ■

Lesson Discussion

- Why did Eutychus fall asleep while

Memory Verse

And as Paul was long preaching, he [Eutychus] sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft. Acts 20:9

Key Thought

Sleeping in church, even when the preacher gets long, is not a good thing to do! (*We will talk about why!*)

Paul was preaching? What time was it? Why was it dangerous for him to fall asleep? Do you blame him for falling asleep?

- What miracle did Paul perform?
- To which city did Paul want to sail in order to say goodbye to the elders?
- Discuss times you have had to say goodbye to someone.

Why is knowing God a comfort during those times?



In Church Service: What Can I Do to Help?

1. My mind is thinking about something OTHER than singing. What can I do?

2. I feel sleepy during prayer or the message. What can I do? Should I just give in and go to sleep? Why or why not?

3. I have a burning, funny comment that I want to tell my friend sitting next to me. What should I do?

4. My least favorite preacher just got up. *(Should we have favorite preachers? Why or why not? Okay... honestly, I might feel more connected to some people than others--that's just truth!)* But what is something I can do if ANY preacher gets up in order to remember what the message was about?

5. I have to go to the bathroom really bad. Should I go or not? What can I do next time to prevent it? When is the least respectful time to leave service?

No One is Listening!

Needed: a Bible and a volunteer

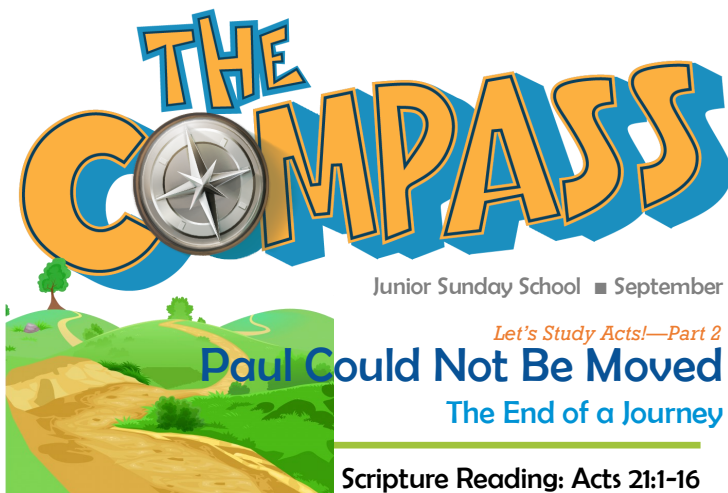
Have a student pick a chapter out of the Bible to read. It doesn't matter what chapter--whatever they want to choose! Explain to the class that while this student is reading the chapter, you want to demonstrate what it is like for the preacher or church speaker when the members of the audience are distracted. While the chosen volunteer is reading, have the students read the following list and then act these things out at various times during the Bible reading.



1. Be bored and disinterested.
2. Whisper or talk quietly to another student.
3. Shuffle around, pick up a nearby book and start reading it.
4. Get up and go to the bathroom. *(Well, pretend since you probably can't actually leave!)*
5. Chew gum--or act like it.
6. Write and pass a note and then laugh quietly (and then out loud) at what it says!
7. Go to sleep.

Look around at everyone while they are NOT behaving courteously to the Bible-reading volunteer. When the volunteer is through reading, discuss what happened. Have the person who read talk about what it felt like to be reading with no one paying attention.

Honestly, church can *feel*/kind of long sometimes. You might NOT even feel interested in what is happening. But, it is important to be courteous to the service, the speakers, and most importantly, to God. Remember that our services are to bring glory to and to worship the CREATOR--the one who *(even now)* is giving you each breath you take and gave you the strength to get out of bed. You will likely find that if you pay attention and are courteous, God Himself will give you an extra special blessing that you weren't even looking for.



Paul believed *so* strongly that Christians were wrong that he spent all of his time and energy persecuting them and throwing them into jail!

Until that divine intervention on the road to Damascus.

The light of God struck Paul blind, but the eyes of his soul were opened to the truth.

From that time--with salvation in his heart, and eyes healed of blindness--Paul began a new phase of his life. Now, instead of killing the Christians for their faith, he set out to convince people of the almighty power of Jesus Christ!

We have learned about Paul's missionary journeys. On three separate trips, he stopped in over 25 cities and spent approximately 18 years travelling. They were eventful adventures, and through Paul's travels and preaching, the whole world (that people knew of at that time) heard about the Messiah and salvation! Many, many people were saved because of him.

Now Paul knew his time for traveling was over. It was time to return to Jerusalem, and on his way back, he stopped and told new believers goodbye. One of the places he stopped was the house of the disciple, Philip, who told the Ethiopian on the side of the road about Jesus!

While at Philip's house, a prophet named Agabus visited. He took Paul's belt and bound his own hands and feet, saying, "This is what will happen to you if you return to Jerusalem. The Jews will give you over into the hands of the Gentiles. The Holy Ghost has told me to say this to you."

When Paul's friends heard this, they cried and begged him not to return to Jerusalem, for they feared Paul would die if he did. Finally, Paul said to them, "Why are you crying and trying to break my heart?"

I am ready not only to be bound, but to die in Jerusalem for the sake of Jesus Christ."

When his fellow disciples heard this, they stopped trying to change his mind,

for they knew he could not be persuaded.

The next day, they continued on to Jerusalem.

Paul changed a lot between the beginning of his life and the end of his missionary journeys, but one thing stayed the same. He was *strong* in his beliefs before he was converted, but was absolutely *unmoved* in them afterward.

Do you ever feel like you're going up against a lot of pressure to be a Christian? Do your friends try to convince you to do something you know isn't right? Are you tempted to look at or listen to ungodly things when you are alone? Remember Paul. He refused to change his mind--he knew Jesus was the way! ■

Lesson Discussion

- Think about Paul at the beginning of his life. What words can you use to describe him?

Memory Verse

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24

Key Thought

Jesus was the topic of all of Paul's gospel work. Paul was *steadfast* in his belief in Christ.

- Think about Paul by the time he finished his missionary journeys. Do any of the same words apply to him?
- What made Paul an amazing preacher and missionary? Was it his stubbornness and determination or his absolute devotion to Jesus Christ?
- How many cities did Paul visit? How many years did he travel? How many missionary journeys did he take?

None of These Things Move Me

Reread today's memory verse. Paul said these words when he was leaving Ephesus for the last time.

What kinds of pressure and temptation was he going up against? Did his friends agree with his decisions? Do you think he was scared of what awaited him in Jerusalem?

Use the space below to list some of your own fears, temptations, or pressures. God sees them all, understands, and cares about them.

In this space, copy the words of Paul. Apply them to your own fears, temptations, and pressures, and know that God will give you the *same strength* he gave Paul to stand up to them.

Unmovable

Paul was unshakable, unmovable, and steadfast in his belief and dedication to Jesus. It can be hard to change someone's mind when they believe something so strongly!

Use the space to the left to draw a design or simple picture with a red crayon. Hold it up to the class and ask what color of crayon you used.

When they insist you used red, insist equally as strongly that you used a blue crayon.

You get the point, right? Now matter how much his friends tried to argue with him, Paul still believed in the path that Jesus set out before him. He couldn't be talked out of believing, coerced by tears, or threatened with violence.

You can be that determined in your own life! God can give you the same kind of passion, belief, and strength he gave Paul. Then the enemy and people around you will not be able to move you. It will be as if they are running toward a brick wall with all their might in an attempt to knock it over. Each time, they are painfully thrown back by the unyielding bricks. Faith in God is your brick wall!