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# Look, Listen and Live

## Book 8

# Acts of the HOLY SPIRIT

## Sunday School Lessons

### from Acts

Look,  
Listen & Live



Book 8  
Acts of the HOLY SPIRIT

Based on the Sunday School Lessons published by the AIC Sunday School Committee, Juba, Southern Sudan.

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## INTRODUCTION

These lessons were written in response to some cries for help from young people who had been asked to teach in Sunday Schools. They are based on the Look, Listen and Live set of pictures (Book 8, purple cover) published by Global Recordings Network Australia (formerly Gospel Recordings), whom we would like to thank for permission to use their material and encouragement to go ahead with the project. These pictures are an all important visual aid in the lessons. A reproduction of the main picture or pictures needed in each lesson has been printed at its beginning.

This book deals only with the lesson section of the Sunday School and each is planned to last about twenty minutes. The rest of the Sunday School time, composed of singing, prayer, Bible reading, quizzes and other activities, is left to the teachers to plan. We recommend that each lesson should end with a short prayer and song based on that week's teaching. The lessons are aimed at a fairly wide age range of children from 7 to 12 years.

When they were first tried out, the teachers wrote each lesson out week by week in an exercise book so they were purposely kept quite short. Some lessons have been expanded but the idea was to give a fairly brief but comprehensive outline for the teacher to fill out during their own preparation.

The aim printed at the top of each story directs the teaching of that lesson. To make the lessons suitable for children, we cannot teach the whole truth about God in each lesson. Instead the teacher should concentrate on one or two truths in each lesson so that children gradually come to know more about God.

The lesson is not meant to be read to the class from the book. It aims to be the teacher's walking stick and not a pair of crutches.

AIC Sudan Sunday School Committee.

## **TEACHER INSTRUCTION**

READ THIS BEFORE EVERY LESSON

### **Teacher's Preparation**

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Have you prayed and asked GOD to help you prepare the lesson?
2. Have you read the plan of the lesson and learned the aim?
3. Have you read the Bible passage and do you know the story thoroughly?
4. Do you have your pictures, objects, questions and other teaching aids ready?
5. Have you planned your revision step?

### **Revision**

This is where you make strong the meaning of the lesson. Do not take longer than 4 minutes. Use some of these ideas or plan your own ideas.

1. Show the picture again and get the children to tell you the story.
2. Plan a quiz.
3. Tell the students again the aim of the lesson.

## Lesson 1 The Lord Jesus Returns To Heaven

### Picture 1

#### Aim

To teach that Jesus returned to heaven but will return to earth again one day.

**Reading:** Acts 1:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Memory Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 4:16

There will be the sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord himself will come down from heaven.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

When some one goes away for a long time how do you feel? You often feel sad because you are going to miss them. What questions do you ask them? Often it's, "When are you coming back?"

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus' disciples were just like this. After Jesus finished all the work he was to do on earth, after he had been crucified for us on the cross and after God raised him from the dead at the resurrection, Jesus went back to his Father. *Show picture 1.* The Lord Jesus is going to heaven. His followers are sad.

2. After the resurrection, Jesus saw His disciples many times. He taught them. He promised that the Holy Spirit would be given to them and He would give them God's power. They must wait for this gift that would enable them to talk about Jesus, who he is and what he has done, Acts 1:2-4.

To help understanding of this show the children an inner tube that is flat. It has no air in it. Ask them if it is any good. It is useless if there is no air in it. If possible pump air into the tyre in front of the class. Now it is full of air it can be useful.

Note: The words spirit and air are the same word in Greek, the original language of the New Testament.

3. Jesus' friends asked him what was going to happen in the future. When was he going to return? Jesus made a promise. He would return to the earth, but only the Father knows when this will be. We know his coming will be announced with a great shout and we shall go to meet him, Acts 1:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

4. Two men gave the disciples a message. Point to them in the picture. Put the message in your own words. When the disciples were called "men of Galilee" the messenger was naming the place where the disciples came from. It was like saying "men of Equatoria". In the next lessons we will see how the disciples obeyed these last words of Jesus.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Can you answer this question? Are you ready for Jesus if he came back to earth today? To be ready you need to be following him.

## Lesson 2 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

### Picture 2

#### Aim

To show that Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to his followers as he promised so that they might be witnesses to him.

**Reading:** Acts 2:1-12

**Memory Verse:** John 14:26.

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Show your torch. Ask what we use it for. We use it to give light, so that we can see in the dark. Switch the torch on (take batteries out before the lesson and do not let the children see you do it). The torch does not work. It has no power. Show the class that it has no power because there are no batteries in it.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. *Show picture 1.* Review briefly what happened. Where is Jesus going? Who is leaving His friends? Whom did He promise to send to His friends? Jesus said he would send the Holy Spirit. Review last week's memory verse, 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
2. Ten days after Jesus left his friends, one hundred and twenty of them were together in one house. Tell the story of verses 1-3 in your own words. There was a noise like a wind and tongues of fire came down on them. *Show picture 2.* The people were filled with God's power. This is the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Put batteries in your torch in front of the class. Switch the torch on. It works now it has power. Now Jesus' friends had his power. Describe what they did, v 5-12. They were able to talk to many different people in Jerusalem and tell them about Jesus in their own language.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit when we believe in Him and love Him. Jesus helps us to witness for Him, that is to tell others about him. How can we do this? We can tell our neighbours the stories we have heard in Sunday School. We can sing the songs or we can bring them to Sunday School too.

Sing a song about witnessing to finish your lesson.

## Lesson 3 Peter Begins to Preach

### Picture 3

#### Aim

To show the power of the Holy Spirit at work in Peter.

**Reading:** Acts 2:14-41, Mark 14:66-72.

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:38

Each one of you must turn away from his sins. Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Talk about the loud speaker car that goes around big towns like Juba giving out announcements. People come out of their houses to listen. Children follow the car and a crowd collects. They want to hear the news. Give other examples of how a crowd collects in your town.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Ask the class who was sent to help the disciples. The Holy Spirit was sent. His power would help the disciples tell the people in Jerusalem about Jesus. Say the last week's memory verse, John 14:26.
2. The disciples did just what Jesus said and went out into the streets to talk about Him. There were many people in Jerusalem, from many different countries. *Show picture 3.* Point out the people from different countries. They spoke different languages but they all understood what the disciples said. They were very puzzled, Acts 2:12-13. Some people thought the disciples were drunk, but Peter stood up and spoke to them. (Show Peter in the picture)
3. Put picture down and remind children of how Peter had been so frightened at Jesus' trial. He had said he did not know him. Tell story of Mark 14:66-72 briefly. Ask what made the difference in Peter. How could he now stand up and talk about Jesus in front of a big crowd? The answer is he had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Show picture 3 again.*
4. Peter said they were not drunk. God had given them His Holy Spirit so they can tell everyone about Jesus God's Son. Peter told the crowd who Jesus was. One way Jesus showed he was God's Son was by his miracles, Acts 2:22. Ask children to name some of them. Jesus allowed men to put him to death so that he could save them from sin. God raised Jesus up to life.
5. The memory verse tells us what to do. Peter told the people what to do, v 38. Three thousand people did believe in Jesus.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Peter received God's Holy Spirit and witnessed for Jesus. When we believe in Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit. We can witness for Jesus. Can you give an example from your own life? End with a prayer of thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## Lesson 4 The First Church

### Picture 4

#### Aim

**Reading:** Acts 2:43-46

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:44

All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Ask the Sunday School class what people do when they come to Church. Possible answers will be:

- sing praises to God
- read God's word
- take Holy Communion
- attend Sunday School, women's meetings etc.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. *Show picture 3.* Ask questions like the following examples:

Question: Who is this preaching?

Answer: Peter

Question: What happened when he spoke about Jesus?

Answer: Three thousand people were saved.

They did what the memory verse said.

Review last week's memory verse, Acts 2:39

2. *Show picture 4.* This picture shows us some of the things that Peter and the other disciples did with the new Christians. What happened in the first church? They stayed together as one big family. Talk about the pictures one by one.

3. The new Christians learned from the disciples about the Saviour. They looked at the Old Testament to see what it said about Jesus (The New Testament had not been written yet). They met together in the temple every day to sing and pray, v 43-46.

4. The new Christians helped one another. The healthy looked after the ill and the old. Those who had a lot gave to those who had a need. They shared together, v 45.

5. They shared meals together in their houses. They remembered the Lord's death when they ate bread and wine together, v 46.

6. The result was that people were amazed when they saw the miracles done by the apostles and more people believed, v 47.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Ask the Sunday School what we do in the church today which follows the example of the first church. Some possible answers are (a) taking Holy Communion, and (b) meeting for teaching and worship.

Ask if there are any activities that we can do in Sunday School that the first church did and we do not do. Talk about the meaning of the memory verse and how we can follow the example of the first church.

## Lesson 5 Power to Heal

### Picture 5

#### Aim

To show that the Lord Jesus Christ worked through Peter to heal a lame man.

**Reading:** Acts 3:1-16

**Memory Verse:** Acts 3:6

I have no money at all, but I give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I order you to get up and walk.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Either prepare a child before the lesson to act as a beggar or the teacher could pretend to be one. Ask the class what the person is doing? Why do they think he is begging? Perhaps he is ill or crippled.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

This is a very good story to tell. Read the passage through several times so you know it well and tell the story in your own words.

1. Peter and John who were two of Jesus' disciples were leaders of the Church. They went to the temple to pray everyday at 3 o'clock.
2. They met the beggar at the gate. Describe him and what was the matter with him, v 2-3.
3. Peter and John stopped and looked at him, v 4-5.
4. Peter spoke to the beggar, v 6-7.
5. The man stood up. He was healed. *Show picture 5.* He jumped about and went into the temple praising God, v 8-9. Everyone was surprised.
6. Peter told the people it is through faith in the power of the living Lord Jesus Christ that the beggar was healed, v 15-16.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Activity

This is a very good story to act. All the class can be divided into groups of three. One person in the group can be the beggar, another John and the last Peter who says the memory verse. Then change over so the children take a different part and everyone will say the week's memory verse.

## Lesson 6 Giving to God

### Picture 6

#### Aim

To show we must be honest when we give to God.

**Reading:** Acts 5:1-11

**Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 9:7

God loves the one who gives gladly.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Make up a story about a child going to the shop to buy some bread for her mother. She is given Ls 5 for a loaf of bread. The bread is only Ls 4 not Ls 5 so she has Ls 1 change. (Make the prices the normal market ones.)

She does not tell her mother the truth when she is asked the price of bread. Her sister sees the extra money and tells the mother. The mother is angry.

Ask why the mother was angry? Her daughter had lied to her.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

Tell the story of Acts 5:1-11 in your own words.

1. Ananias and Saphira were husband and wife. They had heard Peter speak and they wanted to follow Jesus. They belonged to the church. They watched people giving money to the church. They wanted to do the same so they sold some of their land, v 1.  
Land sold for Ls 400  
Church given Ls 200 kept Ls 200  
Ananias and Saphira kept Ls 200.
2. They only gave part of the money to the church but they said it was all. They lied, v 6. Give an example in actual money, v 3-6
3. Peter talked to Ananias giving him the opportunity to be honest, but he still told a lie, so he died. People were afraid. They saw God's power.
4. Saphira came. She also refused to be honest. *Show picture 6.* The people in the Church learnt that God demands we should be honest, v 7-11.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Think of places when we need to be honest, e.g. school tests and being truthful about the amount of money needed for school fees.

## Lesson 7 Stephen, Faithful unto Death

### Picture 7

#### Aim

To show that sometimes God asks his followers to die in his service.

**Reading:** Acts 6:1-15; 7:51-60; 8:1

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 1:28

Do not be afraid of your enemies; always be courageous,... because it is God who gives you the victory.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Famine relief food has often kept people alive in different areas of Africa in recent years. But there has been a lot of disagreement about this. Many people feel they have never had a fair share. Give an example of this to your Sunday School class. For instance people do not tell the truth about the number in their family. They always increase the size because of the fear of not being given enough food.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. The people in the church in Jerusalem were short of food. More people kept coming so there was less and less food to share out. Quarrels started between different groups, 6:1.
2. The twelve apostles appointed seven special men to be responsible for food distribution. They had to be wise and full of the Holy Spirit, 6:2-5.
3. Stephen was one of these men. He was very active in his service for Jesus even when men opposed him. No one could get the better of him. Describe what Stephen did, 6:8-11.
4. Because Stephen's enemies could not stop him they plotted against him and told lies about him. They sent him for trial before the religious leaders but Stephen remained faithful to Jesus, 6:12-15.
5. Stephen told the Jews that they were deaf to God. They did not listen to any of God's messengers, the prophets, and finally murdered Jesus Christ, who had come to bring ever lasting life, 7:51-53.
6. The religious leaders were so angry they dragged Stephen outside the city and stoned him to death. *Show picture 7.* Point out the man Saul watching. We shall hear much more of him later. Stephen was very courageous. His was a terrible death but the Lord Jesus was with him all the time, 7:54-60.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

In October 1963 the pastor and church members in Melut, Sudan, were accused by the army of helping the Anya-nya guerilla movement. Pastor Gideon and four of his elders were taken and shot. There was no trial. Their bodies were thrown in the River Nile. Many other Christians in the Sudan died in the last few years. Some Christians in different parts of the world are like Stephen, still called to die because they are Christians. Let us pray for Christians who are being persecuted because they are Christians.

## Lesson 8 The Good News Spreads to Sudan

### Picture 8

#### Aim

To show how the good news of the Gospel came to Sudan, and to encourage us to be witnesses to Jesus.

**Reading:** Acts 8:26-39

**Memory Verse:** Romans 10:15

And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are sent out? As scripture says "How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news!"



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

What do you do if you are reading a book and you find in it a lot of words you cannot understand? You may give up reading or find a dictionary if you have one. The easiest thing to do is to go and ask some one else to help you understand what you are reading.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. A disciple of Jesus named Philip once helped a man from Sudan understand what he was reading. Philip was busy preaching in the province of Samaria, v 4 and 5. But God's messenger told him to go to the desert, 8:26-27.
2. Philip met an important government official. He was a Nubian who served the queen in Meroe. He believed in God and was reading the Old Testament, 8:27-28. *Show picture 8.* Philip was told to go up to the carriage, v 29.
3. Philip asked the man, "Do you understand what you are reading?"  
"No," said the man, and invited Philip to help him, v 30-31.
4. Philip explained that the part the man was reading in Isaiah was about the Lord Jesus. God the Father had sent Jesus to die for man's sin, v 32-35.
5. The man believed and was baptised, v 36-38.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

How can we be like Philip who was a witness to Jesus? Philip told the story of Jesus to the man he met who returned to his own country of Sudan. We can tell the stories of Jesus at home and to our friends.

## Lesson 9 Peter's Vision

### Picture 9

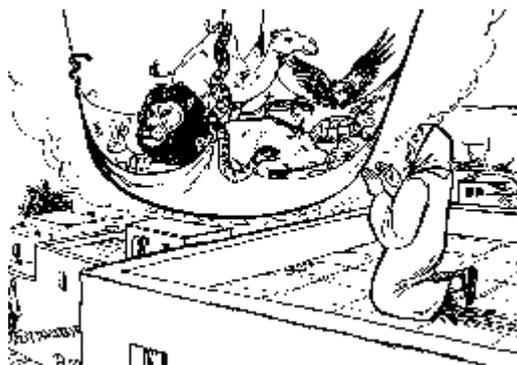
#### Aim

To show that the gospel is for all men of every tribe and race.

**Reading:** Acts 10:1-48 particularly verses 9-16.

**Memory Verse:** Acts 10:35

Whoever worships God and does what is right is acceptable to him, no matter what race he belongs to.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Talk about dreams. Ask the children if they have them. Describe one you have had. Often dreams do not make sense, but sometimes God sends us a dream or a vision to teach us something very important.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. God sent Peter a dream to teach him an important truth. Peter was a follower of Jesus and now leader of the church. Describe how Peter was hungry and he prayed as he waited for his food to be served. Maybe it was hot; Peter was on the flat roof of the house where it was cooler.
2. God sent a dream to Peter. *Show picture 9.* Using the picture, tell in your own words what happened in verses 11-14. Peter refused to eat these animals because God's law forbade him to do so.
3. Peter was told twice more to get up and eat these animals, v 15-16. Tell what happened each time. Children like some repetition in a story and learn from it.
4. Peter woke up and wondered what the dream meant. He heard knocking at the door and his name being called. Describe what happened, v 17-18. Perhaps Peter wondered if he was going to be taken to prison when he saw one visitor was a soldier.
5. God's Holy Spirit told Peter to go with these men; they needed to hear about Jesus Christ. But they were Gentiles. Jews never had anything to do with them. They were unclean. Then Peter saw why God had sent him that dream. Nothing and no one is unclean. The gospel is for all men.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

The teacher could mention people who are unpopular or outcasts in your community. How can we take the gospel to them?

## Lesson 10 Peter Visits the House of Cornelius

### Picture 10

#### Aim

To show that all men and women are of equal importance to God.

**Reading:** Acts 10:1-48

**Memory Verse:** Galatians 3:28

You are all one in union with Christ Jesus.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Imagine an important soldier comes to visit your house. He is a lieutenant or even a general. How will you entertain him? Get the Sunday School class to give you suggestions.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Today's story is about a Roman soldier called Cornelius. The Romans ruled Palestine, the country where the Jews lived. Jesus and his disciples were Jews. Describe Cornelius. He did not worship the false Roman idols but followed God, v 1-2. Everyone who is not a Jew is called a Gentile.
2. Describe the vision of Cornelius. God had heard his prayer. An angel told him he would be helped by a man called Simon Peter. He was to send messengers to find him, v 3-6.
3. Cornelius sent his servants off to find Peter. He even sent his personal servant, v 7-8.
4. They were already on their way when Peter had his vision. *Show picture 9.* Review last week's memory verse, and God's message to Peter – the gospel is for all men. Peter was going to be tested – had he learned the lesson? Peter received the messengers. He listened to what they said, and the next day they all went to Cornelius' house, v 19-23.
5. Describe how Cornelius met Peter. *Show picture 10.* This is not the usual way a soldier meets any one. Peter stopped Cornelius worshipping him, as he was only a man.
6. Peter went into the house. A Jew would never enter a Gentile's house, but Peter was learning the lesson of his dream. Many people were there to hear the gospel from Peter, v 24-28.
7. Cornelius told Peter why he had sent for him, v 30-33.
8. Peter told Cornelius who Jesus of Nazareth is and what He came to do, v 36-43. God showed that the Gentiles are part of His church by sending the Holy Spirit, v 44-48.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Follow up on the thoughts mentioned under this section for last week. Has anyone beyond our church and small community been reached for Jesus?

## Lesson 11 Peter in Prison

### Picture 11

#### Aim

To show how the Lord protected and cared for Peter in prison.

**Reading:** Acts 12:1-11

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 32:7

You are my hiding place; you will save me from trouble.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Ask the class if they have noticed what a mother hen does to her chicks when she sees a big bird of prey like a hawk flying over head. She spreads her wings out and gathers her chicks underneath her; she protects them and hides them from the danger.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. The disciples of Jesus who were now the leaders of the church faced many dangers and persecution from the government; some were put to death, v 1-2.
2. Peter was arrested, put in prison and very carefully guarded by four soldiers who were changed regularly so that they always watched Peter closely, v 4.
3. The Christians prayed continually for Peter, v.5.
4. The night before Peter was to go to court he slept well, even though he was chained to his guards. He must have known God was caring for him if he could sleep like that, v 6.
5. Suddenly an angel came into the prison. He had to shake Peter to wake him up, v 7. *Show picture 11.*
6. The angel gave Peter instructions. Explain what they were, v 7-8. He told Peter to follow him. Peter wondered if he was dreaming, v 9.
7. The angel led Peter out of prison and through all the different gates. When they were safely outside, the angel left Peter, v 10.
8. Peter realised that God had rescued him, v 11.

#### Teach Memory Verse

This says what Peter learnt about God.

#### Our Response to the Story

Refer to the introduction. As the mother hen protects her chicks, God cares for and protects his children. During the shelling of her home town, Mary was alone with her five young children. Her husband was away and the children were very frightened. As Mary gathered the children around her, she thought, now is the opportunity to see and prove that God cares for us. It is not just words. God kept Mary and her children safe during the shelling

## Lesson 12 Power Through Prayer

### Picture 12

#### Aim

To show the power of prayer.

**Reading:** Acts 12:12-18

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 3:22

We receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Begin the lesson by telling the class about an answer to prayer you have had. Perhaps the answer was not exactly what you prayed for. It is often a different and sometimes a better one but it is still an answer!

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. *Show picture 11.* Ask questions about it. Some examples:

Q. Who is the man between the soldiers?

Q. What is the angel telling him to do?

With this kind of question you can review the previous memory verse, Psalm 32:7.

2. When the angel left Peter, and he realised God had freed him from prison, he went to find some of the Christians. They were praying together, v 12.

3. Peter knocked at the door and asked the Christians to open it. Rhoda, who came to open it, was so happy to hear Peter that she forgot to let him in! v 13-14.

4. Some of the Christians, even though they had been praying, did not believe Rhoda, v 14-15.

5. The Christians opened the door to Peter eventually.

*Show picture 12.* Point to the surprise on their faces. Notice the man with the stick in his hand. He could not believe it was Peter at the door.

6. Peter told the Christians what had happened then he went elsewhere, v 17. If he had stayed there he might have put that house in danger, as they lived near the prison.

#### Teach Memory Verse

Point out our prayers are answered if we are obeying and following Jesus as Peter was. They are not answered if they are selfish prayers. Sometimes the answer is more than we expect, as it seemed to be to these Christians.

#### Our Response to the Story

Ask the children what they would like to pray for. They may ask prayer for the sick relatives. Include these with other requests in your closing prayer and encourage children to go on praying for these things at home in the coming week.

## Lesson 13 Paul is Changed

### Picture 13

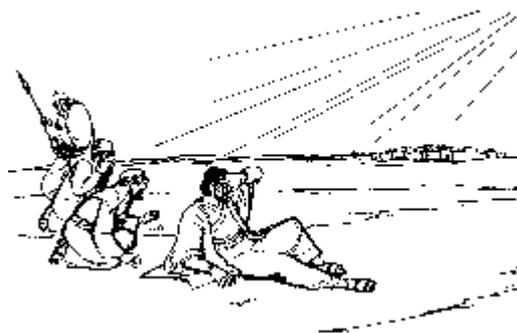
#### Aim

To show how Saul came to meet the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in him.

**Reading:** Acts 9:1-9; 26:9-18

**Memory Verse:** 1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Suppose you are walking along a road at night time and it is very dark. Suddenly a car comes along with bright lights. What do you do? You cover your eyes because the light is so bright, it hurts them and you cannot see.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. A man called Saul was on a journey to a town called Damascus. He was nearly there, but it was midday and very hot. Suddenly a light shone on him so brightly that he could not see, 9:3.
2. Saul was a clever lawyer. He was a Jew but he hated the Christians. He had a special letter from the High Priest in Jerusalem to put all the Christians in prison, 9:1.
3. *Show picture 13.* As Saul and his companions shielded themselves, Saul heard a voice speaking just to him. It was Jesus. Paul as a Jew refused to believe Jesus was alive, but now Jesus was speaking to him!
4. Describe the conversation between Jesus and Saul, v 4-6.
5. The men who were with Saul did not hear Jesus' words but they had to lead him into Damascus. The light had blinded him, v 7-8.
6. For three days Saul waited in Damascus for Jesus to speak to him. He did not eat or drink but he was ready listening, v 9.
7. Saul had been a cruel and wicked man. He thought he was following God and obeying him when he hurt the followers of Jesus Christ. He had not stopped Stephen being killed. *Show picture 7.* Point out Saul holding the clothes. Jesus changed Saul. He never forgot he was a sinner. He wrote the words of today's memory verse.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

There is no one whom Jesus cannot change if they come to him as a repentant sinner. The best way to end this lesson would be to say how you, the teacher, met the Lord Jesus.

Note to teacher: This lesson is an opportunity to invite the children to accept Jesus as Saviour. Most children like to please the teacher and will quickly respond to the teacher who says "Put up your hand if you want to accept Jesus as your Saviour" even though they may not really mean it. It is better for the teacher to say anyone who wants to talk more about Jesus becoming their Saviour should come and talk to you after Sunday School ends.

## Lesson 14 Ananias Visits Paul

### Picture 14

#### Aim

To show that obedience to God brings blessings even if we are asked to do surprising things like Ananias.

**Reading:** Acts 9:10-19; 22:12-16

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 3:24

Whoever obeys God's commands lives in union with God and God lives in union with him.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Make up a story about a parent telling a child to take a message to someone. The child does not want to go as he is rather frightened of that person. Perhaps you can remember something like this really happening in your family. If you can, use that story instead of making one up.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. There was once a man called Ananias. He followed Jesus. He lived in Damascus. One day Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision. Put verse 10 into your own words.
2. Tell what Jesus asked Ananias to do, v 11-12.
3. Ananias was afraid. He had heard what other people said about Saul, v 13-14.
4. Jesus commanded Ananias to go and see Saul. He told Ananias the work Saul would do, v 15-16.
5. Ananias obeyed. He called Saul "brother" even though Saul had persecuted Christians, v 17. *Show picture 14.* Ananias is reaching out to touch Saul. Saul was healed and baptised, v 19.
6. Because Ananias obeyed God even though he was asked to do something difficult, God used Ananias. He took God's blessing to Saul.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Anyone can do easy things, but we can only do difficult work for God when he asks us. Then He is with us as He was with Ananias. Ask the class to think of other people in the Bible who obeyed God when he asked them to do something difficult. Emphasise God blessed them through their obedience. E.g. Noah built a boat, David fought Goliath, Abraham left home.

Challenge the children to be like Ananias next time they are asked to do something difficult – to go and do the task with God's help.

## Lesson 15 The Church Sends Missionaries

### Picture 15

#### Aim

To show that the church sent out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries, and that this continues today.

**Reading:** Acts 13:1-3, 9.

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 9:16

How terrible it would be for me if I did not preach the gospel.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Ask the children if they have ever changed their names. Some people like to take a new name when they become Christians to show that they have begun a new life.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Saul changed his name to Paul. God told him he was going to take the gospel to many different people. He began to teach a new group of believers with another Christian called Barnabas. This new church was at a place called Antioch.
2. There were people of different nationalities at the church, both black and white as well as rich and poor, v 1.
3. The teachers of the church fasted and prayed together, and the Holy Spirit directed them to send Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries. This means they were to be sent out by the church to people who had never heard the gospel, v 2.
4. *Show picture 15.* The church obeyed, v 3. When the elders put their hands on Paul and Barnabas they were sending them out from that church. They would support them in prayer.
5. The church still sends out missionaries today to people who have not heard the good news of Jesus. Pastor Peter Mualuko from Kenya heard God call him to take the gospel to the Taposa. It took him many years to get permission but eventually he got there for a short time. He had to learn a new language and leave his wife and the children behind. Many people heard the gospel. Pastor Sirisio is a Sudanese who knows God has called him to take the gospel to the Boya. He has prepared for this by going to Bible school and missionary training college. He is ready to go and live with the Boya.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

There are still many tribes in Sudan who have not heard the gospel. Find the name of one tribe. Pray for the people and for Sudanese missionaries to go there. Is there an unreached tribe or some people from it living near you?

## Lesson 16 The Missionary Message

### Picture 16

#### Aim

To show how Paul and Barnabas preached and witnessed to Jesus Christ.

**Reading:** Acts 13:14-52

**Memory Verse:** Acts 13:29

It is through Jesus that the message about forgiveness of sins is preached to you.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Sometimes when people talk to us we want to hear what they say so we listen very carefully. At other times we are not interested so we shut our ears to their words.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. *Show picture 16.* Paul and Barnabas were sent by their church to many towns to tell the people about Jesus. First of all they always went to the synagogues or prayer houses of the Jews, v.14.
2. Paul as a visitor was invited to speak. He used the Old Testament scroll, v 15. (In those days books were long rolls of paper called scrolls.) Both Jews and Gentiles were there to listen.
3. Paul taught the people like this: The God of the Jews chose our fathers (Abraham, Joseph and David) and made them into a great people. The great leaders and teachers amongst them spoke about someone who was to come and save them from sin. He has come. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. But the Jews have not recognised who Jesus is, v 16-27.
4. Paul continued to speak about Jesus. Jesus did no wrong but he was killed. God raised him from the dead. He will never die again. Everyone who puts his trust in Jesus will be put right with God but those who laugh at the truth will die, v 28, 30, 37-41.
5. Look at picture 16 again. Some people listened to what Paul said. Others were angry. Point out the different attitudes in the picture.
6. Paul and Barnabas were invited back to speak again next week. Some people went home with them as they could not wait to hear more, v 42-43.
7. Next week the synagogue was full. Everyone came. The Jews were angry that so many people from different races had come. They did not want to share or hear the gospel, v 44-46.
8. A church was begun, but Paul and Barnabas were forced to leave. They went to take the gospel to more places, v 49-52.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

God asks us to take the gospel to people who have not heard. People will not always listen and believe but they must be given the opportunity to hear. Continue to pray for the unreached tribes mentioned in last week's lesson.

## Lesson 17 God Guides Paul

### Picture 17

#### Aim

To show how God guided Paul where to preach the Gospel.

**Reading:** Acts 16:6-10

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 48:14.

This God is our God for ever and ever; He will lead for all time to come.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

If you go to a place you do not know you need a guide to show you the way. Describe a time when you have needed a guide to take you somewhere.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul made many journeys to different towns and countries to teach the good news of Jesus Christ. On one journey he did not know where to go next. He tried to go to several places but in some way God stopped him. What was Paul to do? He knew God would guide him.
2. Describe how Paul had a vision one night, v 9. He saw a man from Macedonia (now called Greece). He knew the man was from that country by his clothes. *Show picture 17.*
3. In the vision the man asked Paul (the Bible uses very strong word for ask) to come and teach them the gospel. Paul knew the call was from God, v.9.
4. Paul knew God wanted him to go to Greece so he got up and went with his companions, v 10.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

God guides us today. He may do it by dreams or through our church and Christian friends. He often guides us through his Word the Bible. When we pray He may use that time to put an idea into our minds. We should ask God to guide us and then trust that He will, as the memory verse promises.

## Lesson 18 Paul and Silas in Trouble at Philippi

### Picture 18

#### Aim

To show how God was with Paul and Silas so that a difficult time in prison became a time of great joy.

**Reading:** Acts 16:11-34

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 4:16

If you suffer because you are a Christian, do not be ashamed, but thank God that you bear Christ's name.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Make up a story about a bad day in a person's life. Here are a few ideas; Maria got up late because it was dark and she did not wake up. She was late for work and so her boss was cross with her. Then she realised she had left her pen behind, and so on. She had a very bad day.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. When Paul and his companion Silas arrived at Philippi they began by having a very good time as people wanted to listen to the gospel.
2. Then things began to get difficult: Paul, in the power of Jesus, made an evil spirit come out of a girl. This made some of the people angry, v 16-19. Some men had been using the girl to get money for themselves.
3. Paul and Silas were badly treated and put in prison, v 20-24.
4. But instead of feeling sorry for themselves Paul and Silas sang songs of praise to God, v 25.
5. Describe the earthquake. All the doors opened, all the prisoners were set free. If the prisoners escaped the jailer would pay for their lives with his own, v 26-27. *Show picture 18.*
6. The jailer was about to kill himself but Paul stopped him, v 26-28.
7. The jailer asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul told him, v 29-31.
8. Now there was great joy. The jailer and all his family believed in the Lord Jesus.
9. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and cared for them, v 32-34.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

The following story is true.

A young woman became a Christian but as she followed Jesus, her husband began to hate her. One day he decided to kill her and their two children. He would say she had lost his very important keys. As he crossed the River Nile he dropped the keys into it.

Later that day his wife bought a big fish at the market. When she was cutting it she was very surprised to find her husband's keys inside it!

The man came home very drunk and shouted. "Woman where are my keys?" The woman gave them to him. The man at once became sober. He asked his wife's forgiveness and believed on Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

The woman had continued to be a Christian even when her husband made her life so difficult. She had the joy of seeing her husband become a Christian. We should not give up when the Christian life is difficult. Paul and Silas did not give up.

## Lesson 19 Paul and the Unknown God

### Picture 19

#### Aim

To show how Paul preached to people who had never heard of Jesus.

**Reading:** Acts 17:16-34

**Memory Verse:** Acts 17:30

God commands all men every where to turn away from their evil ways.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Describe a visit to somewhere you have not been to before. What do you do? You look around because it is all new to you.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul went to a city that he had not been to before. It was called Athens. There were many beautiful buildings. As he walked around he saw many of these buildings were for worship. But the people worshipped gods they themselves had made out of silver or gold. Paul was very sad when he saw this, v 16. The gods may have been very beautiful but they could not help anyone. They were not alive.
2. Every day Paul talked to the people in the synagogue and in the public square. People were interested and asked him to speak before the city council. They liked to hear new things, v 17-21.
3. Paul was very polite to the people of Athens. He did not say how foolish they were to make their own gods to worship, but how very religious they were. He told them how he had found an altar which said it was "To an Unknown God." He wanted to tell them about this God, v 22-23. *Show picture 19.*
4. Paul taught them: God is Creator of the world and mankind. God is the master planner. God is alive. He is not made of gold or silver. God will judge the world. God wants us to know him personally, so he sent Jesus. He raised Jesus from death, v 24-31.
5. Some laughed at what Paul said but a few believed, v 32-34.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

A young man from an African island was converted and he went and witnessed to his wife's parents. They looked after a temple of idols. The old father was partly paralysed but these gods had not helped him. The parents were converted and in two weeks the old father who had taken two hours to peel a banana was now able to use his hands to smash the idols. Our God is alive. He is not dead like an idol. He wants us to know him personally and receive his help.

## Lesson 20 Conflicts at Corinth

### Picture 20

#### Aim

To encourage us, like Paul, to keep on speaking for Jesus even when there is opposition.

**Reading:** Acts 18:1-17

**Memory Verse:** Acts 18:9

Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking and do not give up, for I am with you.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Ask the class what they like to talk about with their friends. Have some suggestions ready to start them thinking if there are no answers to your questions. Then ask the class if they talk about Jesus at home and tell the stories they hear at Sunday School.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul like to talk about Jesus. He talked about Jesus to his friends with whom he worked in the city of Corinth, v 2-3.
2. He talked to the people of his own tribe and race who were the Jews but many did not want to hear about Jesus the Messiah. Paul shook off the dust of their synagogue and went to teach the Gentiles. He even went to live with a Gentile, v 5-7.
3. The Jews were angry. They abused Paul. Some important Jews became Christians. They made the other Jews even more angry, v 8.
4. One night Paul had a vision. Jesus spoke to him and encouraged him to keep on witnessing. Say the words of the memory verse, v 9-10.
5. Paul stayed in Corinth for over a year, and taught about Jesus even though there was opposition, v.11.
6. The Jews were so angry they took Paul before the Roman governor of the town. *Show picture 20.* They accused Paul of teaching the people bad ways of worship, v 12-13.
7. The governor refused to listen and dismissed them. Paul was not harmed but a Jewish leader was beaten, v 17.
8. Paul obeyed the Lord and continued to speak about him. Say the memory verse again. The Lord was with Paul.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

We should keep on talking about Jesus. He has promised to be with us too. This lesson would have more meaning if you can tell the story of some one you know who has continued to witness for Jesus even though he has faced opposition.

John is an evangelist. One day he, along with others, was captured by armed men and made to carry loads for them. After a few miles they stopped and had to listen to the propaganda talk from one of the armed men. At the end of it the leader asked the captured men if they had anything to say. Everyone kept quiet as they were too frightened to say anything – except for John. He said to the captors, "You have told us what you want to do in this country in the future but have you thought about your own future? Where are you going when you die?" The armed men listened and said they would think about what John said. John spoke in the power of Jesus. If he had not the men would not have heard the gospel.

## Lesson 21 Paul Faces Death

### Picture 21

#### Aim

To show that, as a Christian, Paul was not afraid of death.

**Reading:** Acts 21:17-40; 22:1-24

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Ask the children what they are frightened of. They may not be willing to say they are frightened of anything so have some suggestions ready. "Are you frightened of the dark?" "Are you frightened of snakes?"

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. The missionary Paul had many difficulties and problems on his journeys. Sometimes he was put in prison and taken to court because of his preaching. *Show pictures 18 and 20.*

Paul wanted to return to Jerusalem, the headquarters of the church. Some of the Christians pleaded with him not to go. He would be killed by the Jews. Paul said he was ready to die for Jesus, 21:12-13.

2. Paul was welcomed by the church in Jerusalem but the Jews tried to kill him in the street, 21:17, 27, 28, 31. There was a riot.

3. Roman soldiers stopped the riot and arrested Paul. Describe the scene in your own words, v 31-36.

4. Paul was allowed to speak to the people, v 37-40. He was not afraid. *Show picture 21.* Point out that Paul is surrounded by soldiers to keep him safe from the angry men.

5. Paul gave his testimony. He was a Jew who had persecuted Christians but then Jesus met him, Acts 22:3-16. *Show picture 13.*

6. When Paul said he had obeyed God's command and taken the gospel to the Gentiles, the Jews refused to listen any more. They demanded Paul's death, 22:21-23.

7. Paul was not afraid to die. The Roman soldiers took him into prison to save him from the people.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

Paul was not afraid to die because he knew death was not the end. There is great reward in heaven awaiting Christians, 2 Timothy 4:8.

A young man in Uganda was arrested by rebels. He was about to be killed by a firing squad with several other men. He asked the man next to him if it was now too late to ask Jesus to forgive his sins. No, he was told, and he gave himself to Jesus. He was not afraid to die now. The soldiers fired but this young man was not killed. He lived to follow Jesus. Jesus can take away our fears when we trust Him to do so.

## Lesson 22 A Message for Kings

### Picture 22

#### Aim

To show how Paul witnessed for the Lord Jesus Christ before powerful rulers.

**Reading:** Acts 25:13-27, 26:1-32.

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16

I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God's power to save all who believe.



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Describe how you would feel if you were asked to go and meet a very important person like the governor or the president. How would you prepare yourself?

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul was invited to speak to King Agrippa. Paul was in prison. He had been there for two years without a trial. The Jews wanted Paul killed because he taught that Jesus had died but had risen to life again, 25:19. The Romans who ruled the Jews, would not put a man to death for his religion.
2. The Roman governor called Festus did not know what to do with Paul. Then Agrippa, whom the Romans had made king of the Jews, came to stay with Festus. Festus told Agrippa and his sister Bernice about Paul, 25:14-22.
3. It was a great occasion when Paul was brought before the king. Describe who was there, 25:23. *Show picture 22.* Point out the different people and Paul in his chains.
4. The governor Festus introduced Paul to the king, 25:23-27.
5. Paul was not afraid of anyone. He was polite to the king but he spoke about Jesus. Say the memory verse. Whoever we are, Jesus came to save us.
6. Paul gave his testimony to the king. Agrippa was a Jew, so he knew about the expected Messiah, 26:2-18.
7. Paul spoke about his work and witness to people everywhere, 26:19-23.
8. But the governor Festus thought Paul was mad and the king laughed off what Paul said. Paul would go to Rome the most important city in the world at that time to be tried by the Emperor. He would take the Gospel there, 26:24-32.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

The Gospel is for all people, whoever they are. Spend time at the end of the lesson praying for the people in powerful positions in the country and for opportunities for Christian witness to them. Pray too for those who are suffering because of their Christian witness.

## Lesson 23 With God In Danger

### Picture 23

#### Aim

To show God was with Paul when he was in great danger. God is with us too.

**Reading:** Acts 27:1-44

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:38

"For I am certain that nothing can separate us from God's love: neither death nor life..."



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

Most of us have been in danger at some time in our lives. Give an example. We are frightened but God has promised his presence with us.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul was going to be in great danger. He had a long journey to make by sea from the town of Caesarea in Palestine to Rome in Italy. He was going as a prisoner to be tried by the Emperor in Rome.

The ship's captain wanted to make the journey even though the weather was bad. He did not listen to Paul's advice, 27:9-12.

NOTE: The story of the storm is very clearly told. Read verses 13-44 several times and then tell it in your own words.

2. At first the ship sailed well. Then the winds became very strong. It was impossible to steer the ship, 27:13-15.

3. Ropes were put completely around the ship to strengthen it, 27:17.

4. The sailors threw the ship's cargo into the sea to make the ship lighter, 27:19

There was darkness for several days, v.20. Everyone thought they were all going to die.

5. Paul encouraged the people. He had a message from God. "Do not be afraid. No one is going to die." Paul told everyone to eat some food, 27:21-26.

6. After fourteen days in the storm they came near land and the sailors tried to escape. Paul stopped them, 27:27-32.

Paul urged them to eat and did so himself, 27:33-38. They followed his example.

7. When the ship came near land it began to break up. People jumped into the sea even if they could not swim.

*Show picture 23.* People held on to pieces of the ship and all arrived on land safely, 27:44

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Our Response to the Story

God did not take Paul out of the danger but He was there with him. God sometimes removes the danger, but sometimes He does not. However He is always there in the danger with us. Nothing can take away His love, as the memory verse says.

## Lesson 24 Paul in Rome

### Picture 24

#### Aim

To show that Paul continued to serve God by sharing the Gospel and by caring for Christians, even though he was a prisoner.

**Reading:** Acts 28:16-30, Philippians 1:12-13, 2 Timothy 4:9-18

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:13

"I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."



### Lesson Plan

#### Introduction

If we have even a small cut on our hand it makes it difficult for us to write or do our work. We are handicapped and cannot do our work until it is healed.

#### Main Points of the Lesson

1. *Show picture 24.* Describe what it is like to be a prisoner. You are not free to move about.

You would think that Paul had to stop talking about Jesus Christ now he was a prisoner in Rome, but he did not. Even though he was chained to a soldier, Paul still talked about Jesus. He talked to the soldiers he was chained to. Many guarded Paul and so they all heard about Jesus. Many became Christians, Philippians 1:12-13

2. Many visitors came to see Paul. He was not in prison but under house arrest. He spoke to the Jews and Gentiles. Some accepted the Gospel. Others rejected it, Acts 28:30-31.

3. Paul also wrote letters to the Christian Churches. the Bible books of Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon, Timothy and Titus were all written as letters by Paul while he was prisoner in Rome. These are very important to the church today.

4. Paul suffered many things for the sake of Jesus but he knew nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus. Repeat last week's memory verse. After about two years Paul was killed when Christians were being persecuted. As a servant of God, he knew Jesus was with him.

#### Teach Memory Verse

#### Response to the Story

Ask the children if they, like Paul, have given their lives to serve God and the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit? This is the only way to live the life which God gives us.