





Look, Listen & Live

BOOK 8

GSS0098E

**ACTS OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT**



Sunday school lessons  
about

**THE YOUNG CHURCH  
AND PAUL**

GOOD NEWS MEDIA

Good News Media  
A Division of Bible Media

Originally published by Global Recordings Network

Based on the Sunday school lessons published by the  
AIC Sunday School Committee, Juba, Southern Sudan.  
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These lessons are for use with Look, Listen & Live, Picture Book 8  
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Photo on cover with permission of Global Recordings Network

Printed and bound by  
MegaDigital  
6 Koets Street  
Tygerberg Business Park  
7500

First edition, first print 2009  
Second print 2012

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# INTRODUCTION

These lessons were written in response to the cries for help from young people who had been asked to teach in Sunday schools. The content is based on the *Look, Listen & Live* set of pictures (*Book 8*) published by Global Recordings Network (formerly Gospel Recordings), whom we would like to thank for permission to use their material and for their encouragement to go ahead with the project. These pictures are a crucial visual aid to the lessons. At the beginning of each lesson a reproduction has been printed of the main picture or pictures needed.

This book deals only with the content side of the Sunday school sessions, and every lesson is planned to last about twenty minutes. The rest of the Sunday school meeting – composed of singing, praying, 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: children between 7 and 12.

When the material was first tried out, the teachers wrote out each lesson week by week in an exercise book, so lessons were purposely kept quite short. Some have been expanded, but the idea remained to provide teachers with a fairly brief but comprehensive outline to be filled out during their own preparation.

The aim stated at the beginning of each story directs the teaching of that lesson. In order to make the lessons suitable for children, we cannot cover every aspect of a particular truth about God in one lesson. Instead, the teacher should concentrate on one or two aspects in every lesson so that the children gradually get to know God better.

The lessons are not designed simply to be read to the class. Our intention is for them to be the teacher's walking stick, not a pair of crutches.

**AIC Sudan Sunday School Committee**



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

(Note: Instructions for the teachers appear in **bold**.)

## **READ THIS WHEN PREPARING FOR EVERY LESSON**

### **TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

#### **Ask yourself these questions:**

1. Have I prayed and asked God to help me prepare the lesson?
2. Have I read the lesson plan and learnt the aim of this specific lesson?
3. Have I read the Bible passage and do I know the story thoroughly?
4. Do I have my pictures, objects, questions and other teaching aids ready?
5. Have I planned some steps for revision?

### **REVISION**

This is where you drive home the message of the lesson. This must not take longer than four minutes.

### **USE SOME OF THESE IDEAS OR PLAN YOUR OWN STRATEGY:**

1. Show the picture again and get the children to tell the story back to you.
2. Hold a quiz.
3. Tell the children again what the aim of the lesson is.

# LESSON 1

## THE LORD JESUS RETURNS TO THE FATHER



*Aim:* To teach the children that Jesus returned to the Father, but will come back to this world one day.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 1:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



*Memory Verse:* 1 Thessalonians 4:16  
[T]he Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command ... and with the trumpet call of God ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

How do you feel when someone you love goes away for a long time? We often feel sad when we have to say goodbye, because we are going to miss the person who leaves us behind.

What questions do you ask the one who is leaving? A typical question is: "When are you coming back?"

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Jesus' disciples were just like this. After Jesus had completed the task he had to do on earth - after he had been crucified and God had raised him from the dead - Jesus returned to the father. Show Picture 1. This picture shows the Lord Jesus being taken up into heaven. See how sad his friends are.
2. After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. He taught them, preparing them to continue God's work in this world. Jesus promised that they would receive his Holy Spirit and that the Spirit would strengthen them with God's power. They had to wait for this gift that would give them the power and wisdom to talk about Jesus, and what he had done for mankind (Acts 1:2-5, 8).

**To help the children understand the working of the Holy Spirit, show them an inner tube of a tyre that is not inflated. Ask them if it is any good while there is no air in it. They will know that it is useless like that. If possible, bring along a pump and pump up the tube so that the class can see how it becomes useful once it is filled with air.**

**Note:** The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. In Greek the words "spirit" and "air" are the same. Followers of Jesus need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, just like tyres have to be filled with air in order to be useful.

3. Jesus' friends asked him what was going to happen in the future. When would he return? Jesus made a promise: He would surely return to this world. However, only the Father



knows when this will be. We know that his second coming will be announced with a great shout and that we shall go to meet him (Acts 1:6-7, 1 Th 4:13-18).

4. When Jesus had disappeared from their sight, two messengers from God brought the disciples a message. **Point to the messengers in the picture, then say the message in your own words (Acts 1:9-11).**

The messengers called the disciples "men of Galilee," because that was where the disciples came from. It was like saying "men of Equatoria". In the next lessons we shall see how the disciples obeyed Jesus' last instructions. From now on they would be called Jesus' apostles. All his other followers would become disciples.

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Think about this question: Are you ready for Jesus if he should come again today? As we do not know when he will return, the only way to be ready is to follow Jesus faithfully every day.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 2

## THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



*Aim:* To teach the children that Jesus sent his Holy Spirit upon his followers so that they might be witnesses for the Lord.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 2:1-12



*Memory Verse:* John 14:26

[T]he Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Bring along a torch from which you have removed the batteries. Do not let the class know this. What do we use this for? Give the children time to respond. We use it to give light, of course, so that we may see in the dark. Switch on the torch. It will not work. It has no power! It has no power because there are no batteries inside, see?

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. **Show Picture 1. Briefly review what is happening here.** Who is leaving his friends behind? Where is Jesus going? Who did he promise to send to them? Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit. **Read Acts 1:8 out loud.**
2. Ten days after Jesus had left his friends to return to the Father, all the apostles were gathered in one place. **Tell the story of 2:1-3 in your own words:** There was a noise like a strong wind, and what looked like tongues of fire came to rest on each of them. **Show Picture 2.** They were filled with God's power, the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Put the batteries in the torch in front of the class. Switch it on.** Now that it has power, it works! In the same way, Jesus' friends had his power inside them from that day onward. **Describe what this power enabled them to do (2:5-12).** There were people from many different countries gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles the ability to speak to all those people in their own language about Jesus.

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Jesus gives his Holy Spirit to all who believe in him and love him. In this way, Jesus helps us to be his witnesses; that is, to tell others about him.



There are many ways to do this, even if you are a child. You can tell your neighbours and friends the stories you hear in Sunday school. You can sing the songs you learn here wherever you find yourself. You can invite someone along to Sunday school or to church.

### **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**

**Conclude the session with a song about witnessing.**



# LESSON 3

## PETER BEGINS TO PREACH



*Aim:* To show the children how the power of the Holy Spirit worked in Peter.



*Scripture Reading:* Mark 14:66-72; Acts 2:14-41



*Memory Verse:* Acts 2:38

**"Repent and be baptised  
... in the name of Jesus  
Christ for the forgiveness  
of your sins. And you  
will receive the gift  
of the Holy Spirit."**

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Have you ever seen a car with a loudspeaker on the roof that goes around big towns like Juba to make important announcements? People come out of their houses to listen. Children follow the car and a crowd collects. **Give other examples of how crowds gather in your town.** People have always been like that; they want to hear the news, to find out what everybody is talking about.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Can you remember whom Jesus sent to help the apostles carry on God's work? That is right: the Holy Spirit. His power would help the apostles tell everybody in Jerusalem about Jesus. **Say the memory verse of Lesson 2, John 14:26, together.**
2. The apostles did as Jesus asked. They went out into the streets to talk about him. There were many visitors in Jerusalem at that time of year, and they came from many different countries. **Show Picture 3**, pointing out the people from different countries. Even though they spoke different languages, they all could hear the apostles speaking in their own language. They could not explain it. Some even thought the apostles were drunk (Acts 2:12-13). Then Peter stood up and spoke to them (2:14). Show Peter in the picture.
3. **Put down the picture and remind the children of how frightened Peter was at Jesus' trial. He even said he did not know Jesus – three times! Tell the story of Mark 14:66-72 briefly.** What brought about this 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 explained that they were not drunk. God had given them his Holy Spirit so they could tell everyone about Jesus, the Saviour of all mankind (2:15-17a, 21). Peter told the crowd who Jesus was. One way in which Jesus showed he was the Son of God was by his miracles (2:22). **Ask the class to give some examples.** Jesus allowed mere human beings



to put him to death so that he could save them from sin and death. After three days God resurrected Jesus (Acts 2:23–24).

5. The memory verse tells us how we should react to this message. This is what Peter told the people that day, and 3 000 people accepted Jesus as their Saviour (Acts 2:38, 41).

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Peter received God's Holy Spirit and witnessed fearlessly about Jesus. All of us who believe in Jesus have received the Holy Spirit (2:17a). Therefore, we can all witness about Jesus. **Try to confirm this with an example from your own life.**

End with a prayer of thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# PETER BEGINS TO PREACH **LESSON 3**

# LESSON 4

## THE FIRST CONGREGATION



*Aim:* To teach the children how the first Christian community lived in fellowship.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 2:42-47



*Memory Verse:* Acts 2:42, 47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship ... they gave to anyone as he had need.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

What do people do when they meet as a congregation for a church service? Possible answers:  
They sing songs of praise to God.  
They read/listen to God's Word.  
They take Holy Communion.  
They attend Sunday school, women's league meetings, etc.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

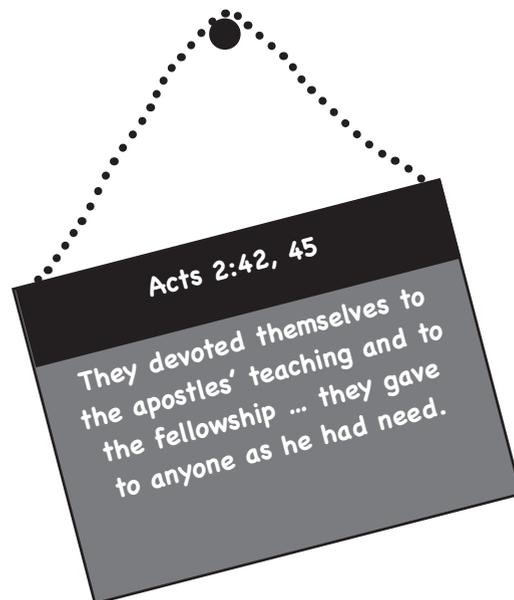
1. **Show Picture 3. Review Lesson 3 by asking questions like the following:**  
Question: Who was preaching?  
Answer: Peter.  
Question: What happened when he shared the message about Jesus?  
Answer: 3 000 people were saved. They did what the memory verse said.  
**Review the memory verse for Lesson 3, Acts 2:38.**
2. **Show Picture 4.** This picture shows us some of the things Peter and the other apostles did within the new Christian community. What happened in this first congregation? They lived as one big family, God's family (2:44). This was the beginning of the church. **Discuss the pictures one by one.**
3. The congregation of the first church learnt about the Saviour from the apostles. They looked at the Old Testament to see what it said about Jesus. (The New Testament had not been written yet.) They met in the temple every day to sing and pray (2:42, 46-47a).
4. Those first Christians helped one another. The healthy looked after the sick and old. Those who had a lot gave to those who were needy. They shared everything (2:44-45).
5. They took their meals together in their homes. They ate bread and wine in communion to remember the Lord's suffering and death that brought them salvation (2:46).
6. Their life in loving community made other people want to join them. Also, people were amazed by the miracles performed by the apostles. The result was that more and more people came to believe in Jesus Christ (2:43, 47).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Have we stopped practicing any of the activities of the first Christian congregation? Talk about the meaning of the memory verse and how we can follow the example of the early church.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# THE FIRST CONGREGATION **LESSON 4**

# LESSON 5

## DIVINE POWER TO HEAL



*Aim:* To teach the children that the Lord Jesus worked through Peter to heal a cripple.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 3:1-16



*Memory Verse:* Acts 3:6

"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Either prepare a child before the lesson to act as a beggar or pretend to be one yourself. What is this person doing? Why do you think he is begging? Possible answers: he may be crippled or too ill to work.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

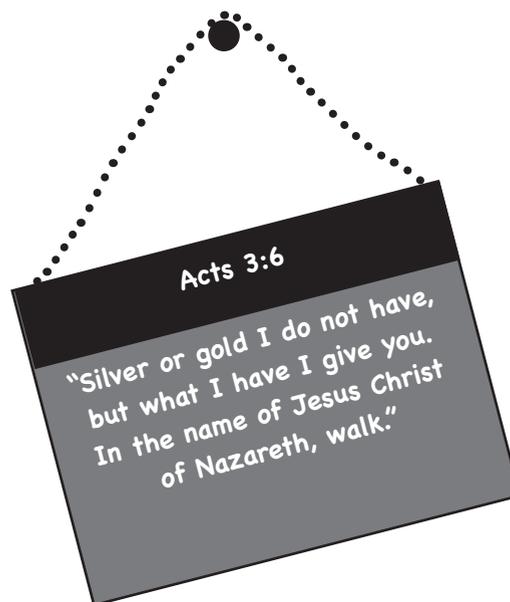
This is a very dramatic story. Read the Bible passage several times so you know it well and then tell the story in your own words.

1. Peter and John, who were two of Jesus' disciples while he lived on earth, were leaders of the first Christian congregation. They went to the temple every day at three o'clock (3:1) to pray.
2. At the gate they met a beggar. **Describe the man and what was wrong with him (3:2-3).**
3. Peter and John stopped and looked at him (3:4-5).
4. Peter spoke to the beggar (3:6).
5. The man stood up. He was healed (3:7)! **Show Picture 5.** He jumped about and went into the temple praising God. Everyone was surprised (3:8-10).
6. Peter told the people it was through faith in the power of the living Lord Jesus that the beggar was healed (3:15-16).



## ACTIVITY

This is a very suitable story to act. Divide the whole class into groups of three. One person in the group should be the beggar, another John and the third Peter, who has to say the memory verse. Then let them change roles so that, in the end, every child will have recited today's memory verse.



# LESSON 6

## GIVING TO GOD



*Aim:* To teach the children that we must be honest and sincere when we give to God.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 5:1-11



*Memory Verse:* 2 Corinthians 9:7a  
Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Make up a story about a child whose mother sent her to buy a loaf of bread. The mother gave her Ls 5 to pay for it. The bread cost only Ls 4, so she had Ls 1 change. **(Make the price the average one in your area, and replace the currency with the one in use in your country.)** When her mother asked her what the bread had cost, she lied. She said it had cost Ls 5, and she kept the change for herself. Then her sister saw the extra money and told their mother. The mother was angry.

Why was the mother angry? Answer: 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 Sapphira were husband and wife. They had heard Peter preach and they had decided to follow Jesus. They belonged to the first church, where people shared all their belongings with one another. They saw that many people sold their possessions and gave the money to the church to give to those in need (4:32, 34-35). Then Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of their land (5:1).
2. They only gave part of the money they received for their land to the church. However, they said that it was the whole sum. They lied about keeping a portion for themselves (5:2, 8).

**Give an example, using the currency the children are familiar with:**

Land sold for	Ls 400
Sum given to the church	Ls 200
Ananias and Sapphira kept	Ls 200

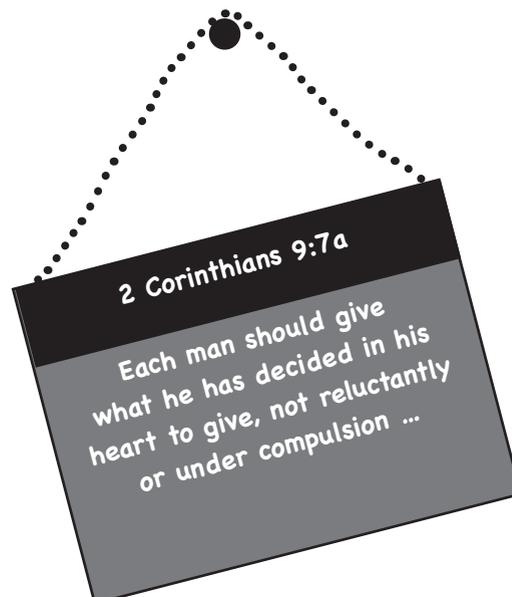


3. Peter talked to Ananias, giving him the opportunity to be honest and confess (5:3-4). However, he kept on lying. He fell down and died. Everyone who heard about it was filled with fear and respect for God's power (5:5).
4. Later on, Sapphira arrived there. She had not heard what had happened to Ananias. She also refused to be honest before God and was struck down, too (5:7-10a). **Show Picture 6.** That taught the members of the church that God expects us to be honest and sincere when we bring him an offering. To God, what goes on in our hearts is more important than what we do to impress others.

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Think of situations that test our honesty in this way. Examples: when we behave very well at school, but disobey our parents at home, or when we are friendly with people only because we want something from them. Remember: you can't deceive God. He sees inside your heart, and that is what counts for him.

### INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



## GIVING TO GOD **LESSON 6**

# LESSON 7

## STEPHEN: FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH



*Aim:* To teach the children that sometimes God asks his followers to die in his service.



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



*Memory Verse:* Philippians 1:29

[I]t has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

In recent years people in different parts of Africa have survived only because of famine relief food parcels. Many people feel they never get their fair share because most people lie about the size of their families. They say it is larger than it really is, because they are afraid that they will not get enough food.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Some members of the church in Jerusalem were short of food, too. As more people kept joining the congregation, the different groups started to quarrel about the distribution of food (6:1).
2. Therefore, the 12 apostles appointed seven special people to make sure that food was shared out fairly. They had to be wise and full of the Holy Spirit (6:2-5).
3. One of them was a man called Stephen. He was a very active servant of Jesus. Even opposition did not stop him, and no-one could win an argument with him. **Describe what Stephen did (6:8-11).**
4. Because Stephen's enemies could not stop him, they plotted against him and spread lies about him. They brought him to trial before the Jewish religious leaders, but Stephen remained faithful to Jesus (6:12-15).
5. Stephen told the Jews that they were deaf to God's message. They had not listened to any of God's messengers, the prophets. Finally, they had murdered Jesus Christ himself, who had come to bring everlasting life (7:51-53).
6. The religious leaders were so angry that they dragged Stephen outside the city and stoned him to death. **Show Picture 7. Point out the man Saul watching, and tell the class that they will hear much more of him later.** Through it all, Stephen was very courageous. He died a terrible death, but the Lord Jesus was with him all the time and was waiting for him at the end of his ordeal (7:54 - 8:1).

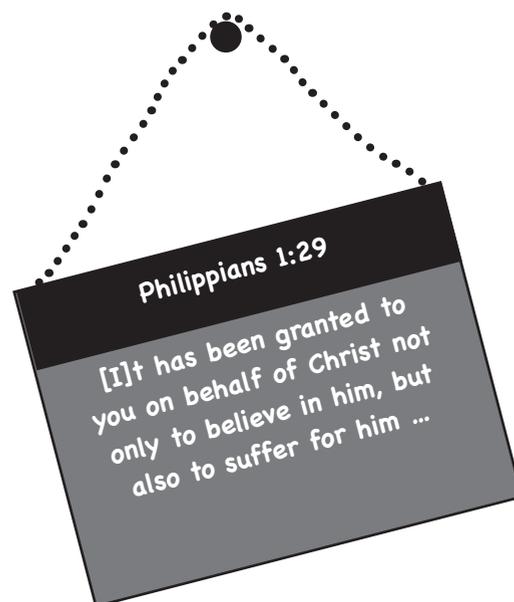


## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

In October 1963 the army accused the pastor and church members in Melut, Sudan, of helping the Anya-nya guerrilla movement. Pastor Gideon and four of his elders were taken away 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. In various parts of the world there are Christians who, like Stephen, have died because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Come, let us pray for those who are being persecuted because they are Christians.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 8

## THE GOOD NEWS REACHES AFRICA



*Aim:* To teach the children how the good news of the Gospel spread, and to encourage them to be witnesses for Jesus.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 8:26-39



*Memory Verse:* Romans 10:15

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

What do you do when you read and you find many words you don't understand? Give the class time to respond. You may stop reading that particular book or you may look up the words in a dictionary, if you can find one. The easiest thing is to ask someone for help.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

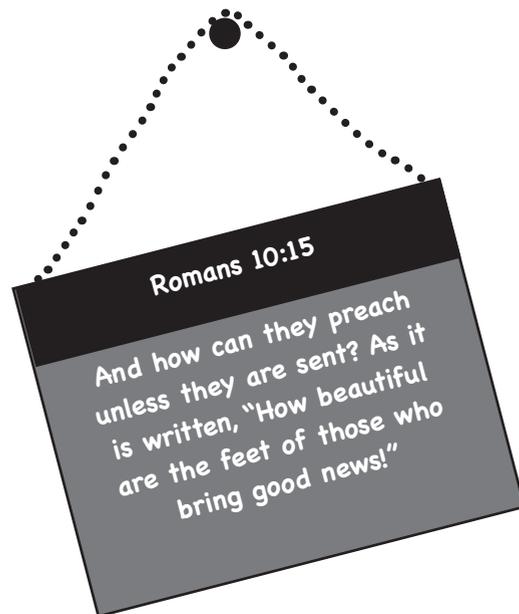
1. An apostle of Jesus named Philip once helped a man from the Sudan understand what he was reading, and so shared the Gospel with him.
2. Philip was busy preaching the Gospel in the province of Samaria when an angel told him that God wanted him to go to the road that led through the desert (8:4-5, 26).
3. Along the way, Philip met an official who had an important post at the royal court. He was a Nubian who served the queen in Meroe. He had accepted the Jewish faith and was reading from the Old Testament, when Philip caught up with his chariot (8:27-28). **Show Picture 8.**
4. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go up to the chariot (8:29). When Philip found out what the man was reading, he asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" "No," the man replied and invited Philip to explain it to him (8:30-31).
5. He was reading from the Book of Isaiah: **Read verses 32b-33 to the class.** Philip explained that that particular passage described the Lord Jesus. God the Father had sent the Son, and Jesus had died willingly for mankind's sins (8:34-35).
6. The man believed the good news about Jesus and was baptised (8:36-38).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

How can you be like Philip, who was a witness for Jesus? Philip shared the good news about Jesus Christ with that man from a far-off country, and so the Gospel was spread far and wide. You, too, can tell the story of Jesus to all who will listen. You never know where it may lead to!

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 9

## PETER'S MISSIONARY VISION



*Aim:* To teach the children that the Gospel is for all people, of every tribe and race.



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



*Memory Verse:* Acts 10:35

[God] accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Let's talk about dreams. Do you sometimes dream? **Describe a dream you have had.** Dreams often do not make sense. However, sometimes God uses a special kind of dream called a vision, to tell us something important.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. God sent Peter a vision to teach him an important truth. (Peter was one of the original disciples of Jesus.) After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he gradually became the leader of the early church. **Explain the circumstances. Peter was hungry. It was lunchtime and he went to pray while the food was being prepared.** Maybe it was hot, so that Peter went up on the flat roof of the house, where it was cooler. While Peter was alone up there, God sent him a vision (10:9-10).
2. **Show Picture 9. Using the picture, tell in your own words what happen in verses 11-14.** Peter refused to eat those animals because God's law forbade the Jews to do so.
3. Peter was twice more told to get up and eat those animals that the law called impure or unclean (10:15-16). **Tell what happened each time.** Children like some repetition in a story and learn from it.
4. After the third time, Peter woke up, wondering what the dream meant. Just then he heard someone knocking and his name being called. **Describe what happened next (10:17-18).** Perhaps Peter wondered if he was going to be taken prisoner when he saw that one visitor was a soldier!
5. God's Holy Spirit told Peter to go with those people; they needed to hear about Jesus Christ (10:19-20). But they were Gentiles. Jews never had anything to do with non-Jews. They were considered unclean, because they were not consecrated to God. Then Peter saw why God had sent him that vision. In God's eyes nothing and no-one is unclean. The Gospel is for all humankind.



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Mention certain kind of people who are unpopular or outcasts in your community. How can we take the Gospel to them?

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# PETER'S MISSIONARY VISION

## LESSON 9

# LESSON 10

## PETER VISITS CORNELIUS'S HOUSE



*Aim:* To teach the children that all people are of equal importance to God.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 10:1-48



*Memory Verse:* Galatians 3:28  
[Y]ou are all one in Christ Jesus.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Imagine an important soldier comes to visit your house – a lieutenant or even a general. How will you entertain him? Give the class the opportunity to make suggestions.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Today's story is about a retired Roman army officer called Cornelius. In those days, the Romans ruled over Palestine, the country where the Jews lived. Jesus and his disciples were Jews. The Jews call everybody who is not a Jew a "Gentile". Describe Cornelius as a person. Cornelius did not worship the false Roman idols, but followed the God of Israel, even though he was a Gentile (Acts 10:1-2).
2. **Describe Cornelius's vision.** God had heard his prayer. An angel told him that a man called Simon Peter would come to help him. He was to send messengers to Joppa to find him (10:3-6).
3. Cornelius sent his servants to find Peter. He even sent one of his personal attendants along (10:7-8).
4. They were already on their way when Peter had his vision up on the roof. **Show Picture 9 and review last week's memory verse and God's message to Peter – that the Gospel is for all people.** Peter was going to be tested. Would he remember the lesson God had taught him? Peter received the messengers. He listened to what they said, and the next day they all went to Cornelius's house (10:19-23).
5. **Describe how Cornelius welcomed Peter (10:25). Show Picture 10.** This is not the usual way a soldier greets anyone! Peter stopped Cornelius from worshipping him, as he was only a human being, like Cornelius himself (10:26).
6. Peter went into Cornelius's house. A Jew would never have entered a Gentile's house, but Peter was remembering the lesson from his vision. Many people were waiting here to hear what Peter had to say to them (10:24, 27-28).
7. Cornelius told Peter why he had sent for him (10:29-33).



8. Peter told Cornelius who Jesus of Nazareth was and what he had come to do (10:36–43). God showed that the Gentiles are part of his church, too, by sending the Holy Spirit upon all who were gathered there (10:44–48).

### **OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY**

Follow up on the thoughts mentioned under this section for last week. Have we reached out to anyone beyond our church or small community with the good news about Jesus?

### **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**



## **PETER VISITS CORNELIUS'S HOUSE**

## **LESSON 10**

# LESSON 11

## PETER IN PRISON



*Aim:* To teach the children that the Lord protected and cared for Peter in prison.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 12:1-11



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 32:7

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

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Have you ever noticed what a mother hen does with her chicks when she sees a big bird of prey, like a hawk, flying overhead? She spreads out her wings and gathers her chicks underneath them. In this way, she protects and hides them from danger.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Jesus' first disciples, who now were the leaders of the early church, faced many dangers and persecution from the authorities. Some were put to death because of their faith (Acts 12:1-2).
2. Peter was one of those who were arrested. He was put in prison and guarded very carefully by four soldiers. The guards were changed regularly, so that they would not become tired and could always watch Peter closely (12:3-4).
3. The Christians in Jerusalem prayed continually for Peter (12:5).
4. The night before Peter was to go to court he slept well, even though he was chained to his guards (12:6). He must have known that he was safe in God's hands, if he could sleep under those circumstances!
5. Suddenly an angel came into the prison. He had to shake Peter to wake him up (12:7a). **Show Picture 11.**
6. The angel gave Peter instructions. **Explain what they were (12:7b-8).** Peter thought he was still dreaming, that he was having another vision (12:9).
7. But it was really happening. The angel led Peter out of prison, past all the guards and through all the different gates. When they were safely among the city streets, the angel left Peter just as suddenly as he had appeared (12:10).
8. Only then did Peter realise that God had rescued him with a miracle (12:11).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

**Refer to the introductory story again.** As a mother hen protects her chicks, so God cares for and protects his children.

During the shelling of her hometown a woman named 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 we will see the proof that God cares for us.**" God's promises are not just words. He kept Mary and her children safe.

We have to remember, however, that God's children are not automatically protected against all bad things like an umbrella protects a person against the sun or rain. God saved Peter from prison that time, but later in his life Peter was put to death for his faith. Like Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before he died, we can only pray for God's will to be done.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE

Today's verse says what Peter learnt about God.



# PETER IN PRISON **LESSON 11**

# LESSON 12

## POWER THROUGH PRAYER



*Aim:* To teach the children the power of prayer.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 12:12-18



*Memory Verse:* 1 John 3:22

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

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Tell the class how a prayer of yours was answered. Perhaps the answer was not exactly what you had prayed for. God often answers our prayers in a different way from what we expected, but it still is an answer. Whether God replied "Yes" or "No" or "Later", God wills what is best for us.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. **Show Picture 11. Ask questions that refer to it. For example:** Who is the man between the soldiers? What is the angel telling him to do?  
With these kinds of questions you can review the memory verse of Lesson 11, Psalm 32:7.
2. When the angel left Peter on the city street and he realised that God had freed him from prison, he went to a house where he knew the Christians met regularly. They were praying when he knocked on the door (12:12-13).
3. Rhoda, who came to answer the door, was so happy to hear Peter's voice that she forgot to let him in. She ran off to tell the others that he was safe and free (12:14)!
4. Most of the Christians gathered there did not believe Rhoda's good news, even though Peter's release from prison was exactly what they had been praying for (12:15). Peter had to keep on knocking for some time before they came to open the door (12:16).  
**Show Picture 12. Point out the surprise on their faces.** Do you see the man with the stick in his hand? He probably thought it could not be Peter at the door, but someone who wanted to play a trick on them.
5. Peter told the congregation what had happened and asked them to tell the other apostles that he was safe. Then he left the house. If he had stayed, he might have put everybody there in danger, as the authorities would come looking for him (12:17).



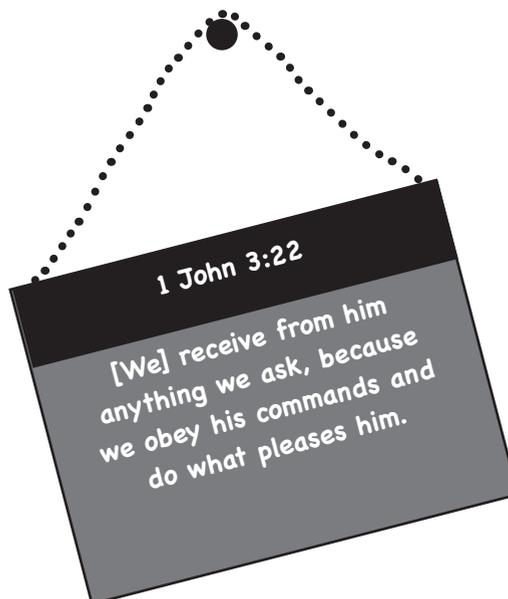
## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Our prayers are answered if we pray according to God's will. Therefore, the power of prayer depends on our obeying and following Jesus. Sometimes the answer is greater than we dared to expect, as was the case with those Christians who prayed for Peter.

What would you like to pray for? Possible answer: the healing of a sick relative.

Include their requests in your closing prayer and encourage the children to go on praying for these things at home in the coming week.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 13

## PAUL BECOMES A NEW PERSON



*Aim:* To teach the children how Paul came to meet the Lord Jesus and believe in him.



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



*Memory Verse:* 1 Timothy 1:15  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

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

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

Before telling the story, explain to the class that Saul is the Hebrew version of Paul's name. After he became an apostle of Jesus he wasn't called Saul anymore, because he was working among foreigners, not among Hebrew speakers. **In order not to confuse the children, use only one version of his name: Paul.**

1. A man named Paul went on a journey to the town Damascus. He was a clever man, one who knew the law. He was one of those Jews who hated the followers of Jesus Christ. He was carrying a special letter from the high priest in Jerusalem, giving him permission to put all the Christians in Damascus in prison (Acts 9:1-2).
2. Paul and his companions had nearly reached Damascus when, suddenly, a very bright light from heaven shone on him (9:3).
3. **Show Picture 13.** As Paul and his companions shielded themselves, he heard a voice speaking to him. It was Jesus himself. As a very religious Jew, Paul had refused to believe that Jesus was alive, but now Jesus was speaking to him!  
**Describe the conversation between Jesus and Paul (12:4-6).**
4. The people who were with Paul could not understand what was going on. When the voice stopped talking, they had to lead him into Damascus. The bright light had blinded him (12:7-8).
5. For three days Paul waited in Damascus for Jesus to tell him what to do. He did not eat or drink a thing, but he was ready to listen to the Lord (12:9).



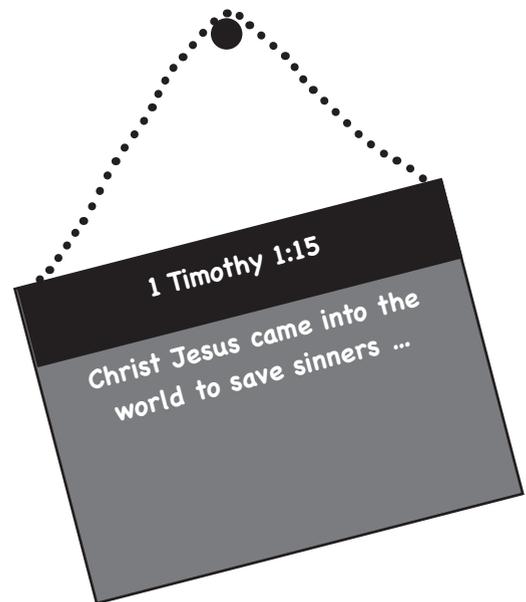
6. Paul had been a cruel man. He had thought he was defending God's honour by persecuting the Christians. That was why he did not prevent Stephen from being stoned (7:58; 8:1). **Remind the class of that story by showing Picture 7 again. Point out Paul guarding the clothes.** Paul had thought he was following God, but he was spiritually blind and on the wrong path. Meeting Jesus changed Paul into a new person. However, he would never forget that he was a sinner or stop praising the Lord for saving him. He wrote the words of today's memory verse.

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

No-one is so wicked that Jesus can't change them if they come to him as repentant sinners. **The best way to end this lesson would be to say how you, the teacher, met the Lord Jesus.**

**Note:** This lesson opens up an opportunity to invite the children to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. Most children like to please the teacher. If you say, "Put up your hand if you want to accept Jesus as your Saviour," many will do it even though they may not really mean it, or are not ready to do so. It is better for you to say that anyone who wants to talk more about accepting Jesus as their Saviour should come and talk to you after the class, or at any other time that you can arrange.

### INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 14

## ANANIAS VISITS PAUL



*Aim:* To teach the children that obedience to God brings blessings, even if it comes in surprising ways.



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



*Memory Verse:* 1 John 3:24

Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Make up a story about a parent who told a child to take a message to someone. The child did not want to go, because he or she was rather frightened of that person. Perhaps you can remember something like this really happening in your family or circle of friends. If you can, use that real-life story instead of making one up.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. As we said last week, Paul was on his way to Damascus when he met the Lord Jesus. A man named Ananias, who was a follower of Jesus, lived in Damascus. A few days after Paul's arrival in the city, Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision. **Recount Acts 9:10 in your own words.**
2. **Explain what task Jesus asked Ananias to do (9:11-12).**
3. Ananias wanted to obey the Lord, but he was afraid. He had heard from other people how Paul hunted the Christians and had them thrown in prison (9:13-14).
4. But Jesus commanded Ananias to go and visit Paul. He told him something very surprising: Paul would become one of the greatest servants of Jesus Christ and suffer for his faith, too (9:15-16).
5. Then Ananias obeyed. When he met Paul he called him "brother", even though Paul had persecuted the Christians and had set out for Damascus for the same purpose (9:17). **Show Picture 14.** Ananias is reaching out to lay his hands on Paul, see? By the power of the Holy Spirit working through Ananias, Paul's sight was restored immediately. Afterwards, he baptised Paul as a follower of Jesus Christ (9:18-19).
6. Because Ananias obeyed God even when he was faced with a difficult task that made him afraid, God used Ananias to do something great. He took God's blessing to Paul.



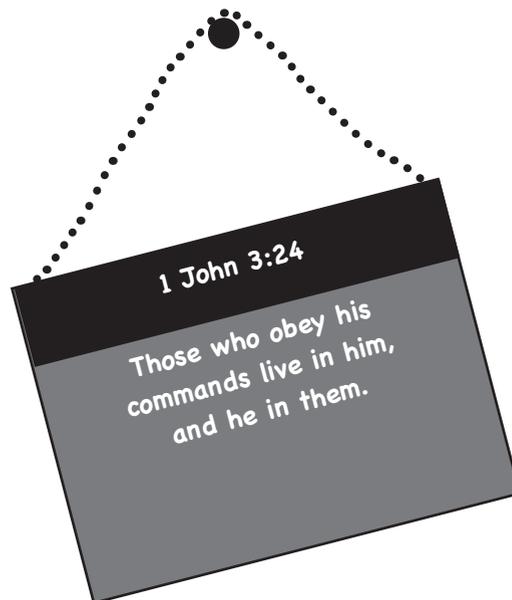
## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Anyone can do easy things. Difficult things we can do for God only when he asks us to, because then we know God himself will give us the strength to carry it out. This is what happened with Ananias.

Can you think of other people in the Bible who obeyed God when he asked them to do something difficult? Examples: Noah built a huge boat when everybody laughed at him. David fought Goliath when every soldier in Israel was too afraid to do it. Abraham left his homeland and set out on a journey to a place he did not know. Do you notice something all of these people have in common? When they trusted God enough to obey him, they received unexpected blessings!

So next time you want to do God's will, but are afraid of the task, remember Ananias of Damascus.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# ANANIAS VISITS PAUL

## LESSON 14

# LESSON 15

## THE CHURCH SENDS OUT MISSIONARIES



*Aim:* To teach the children that the church sent out Paul and Barnabas as messengers of the Gospel, and that this task has not been completed yet.



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



*Memory Verse:* 1 Corinthians 9:16a  
... I am compelled to preach.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Have you ever felt that your heart was telling you you just had to do something, even though nobody else was forcing you to do it? Give an example from your own experience or make up a story to illustrate the driving force of an inner conviction. Example: A boy was playing with his friends when he saw an old woman struggling to carry a bundle of firewood. He stood up and went to help the woman, because he just knew he would feel bad if he ignored the prompting of his heart.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. When Paul accepted Jesus as his Saviour, the Lord told him he was to become an apostle who would take the Gospel to many different nations. Paul began to teach a new group of believers in a city called Antioch. Another Christian, called Barnabas, helped Paul to establish the church there.
2. The church in Antioch had members of different nationalities (eg Jews and Gentiles), of different races (eg black and white), as well as from different levels of society (eg rich and poor) (Acts 10:1).
3. The teachers of the church fasted and prayed together, and the Holy Spirit directed them to send Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. This means they were to be sent to people who had never heard the Gospel (10:2).
4. **Show Picture 15.** The Christians in Antioch obeyed (9:3). When the church leaders laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas, they were blessing them for their task as messengers of the good news. They would support them in prayer.
5. Today, the church still sends missionaries to people who have not heard the good news of Jesus.



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Pastor Peter Mualuko from Kenya heard God calling him to take the Gospel to the Taposa people. It took him many years to get permission to preach to them, but eventually he was allowed to do so for a short time. In order to fulfil his task he had to learn a new language and leave behind his wife and children. His reward was that many people heard the Gospel.

Pastor Sirisio is a Sudanese who knows God has called him to take the Gospel to the Boya people. He has prepared for this by going to Bible school and missionary training college. He is ready to leave his own people and go live amongst the Boya in order to win them for Christ.

There are still many tribes in the world who have not heard the Gospel. **Do some research beforehand so that you are able to name at least one such tribe.** Let us pray for missionaries to go there, and for those people to accept the message of salvation.

Is there an unreached tribe or some people belonging to such a tribe living in your area?

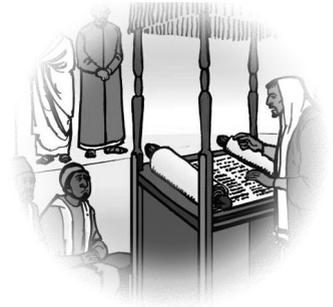
## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# THE CHURCH SENDS OUT MISSIONARIES **LESSON 15**

# LESSON 16

## THE MISSIONARY MESSAGE



*Aim:* To teach the children how Paul and Barnabas witnessed about Jesus Christ.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 13:14-52



*Memory Verse:* Acts 13:38

... I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

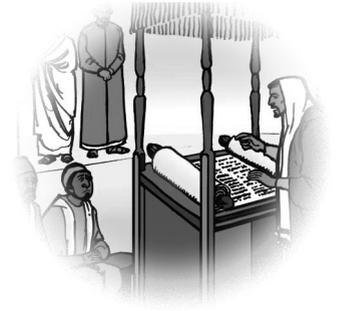
### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Sometimes when people talk to us we are so eager to hear what they say, that we listen very carefully. At other times we are not interested, so we shut our ears to their words; we hear them, but we do not really listen.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. **Show Picture 16.** Paul and Barnabas were sent by their local church to travel all over and tell people about Jesus. Whenever they arrived in a new town, they would first of all go to the synagogue (13:14). A synagogue is the place of worship and prayer for people of the Jewish faith, remember?
2. One of the cities they reached was also called Antioch, but it was in another part of the world from the Antioch from which they had set out on their missionary journey. As a visitor, Paul was invited to speak to the people who had come to the weekly meeting at the synagogue. There were Jews as well as Gentiles who had accepted the Jewish faith (13:15-16).
3. Paul taught the people like this: The God of Israel chose our fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) and made them into a great people. The prophets and teachers among them spoke for many years about someone who would come and save them. The wait is over, the Saviour has come. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. But the Jews did not recognise who Jesus is (13:17-27).
4. Paul then told the good news about Jesus. Jesus had done no wrong, but he was killed. However, God raised him from the dead. He is alive and will never die again. All who put their trust in Jesus Christ are declared innocent before God, but those who laugh at this truth will bear the punishment of their sins (13:28, 30, 37-41).
5. **Look at Picture 16 again.** Some people accepted Paul's message. Others were angry. **Point out the different attitudes in the picture.**



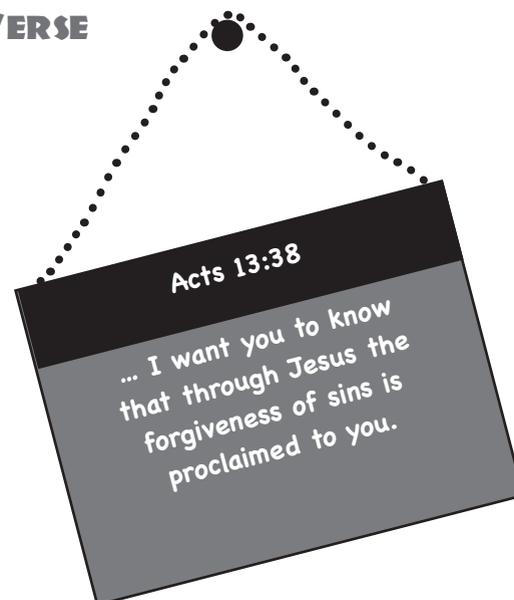
6. Paul and Barnabas were invited back to speak again the next week. Some people went home with them, as they could not wait to hear more (13:42-43).
7. The next week the synagogue was full. Many Jews were angry that people from so many different races had come. They wanted to keep on thinking that God loved only the people of Israel. They were also jealous of Paul and Barnabas because almost everyone in the city had come to hear them speak. They did not want to share or hear the Gospel (13:44-46).
8. Those who accepted the Christian faith formed a church in Antioch, too (13:48-49). Unfortunately, Paul and Barnabas were forced to leave because of the Jews' anger. They took the Gospel to more places (13:50-52).

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

God asks us to take the Gospel to people who have not heard the message. Not everybody will listen and believe, but everybody must be given the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Let us continue to pray for the unreached tribes or people we spoke about at the end of lesson 15.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# THE MISSIONARY MESSAGE **LESSON 16**

# LESSON 17

## GOD GUIDES PAUL



*Aim:* To teach the children that God guided Paul. He told him where to preach the Gospel.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 16:6-10



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 48:14  
[T]his God is our God for  
ever and ever;  
he will be our guide even  
to the end.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

When you come to a place you do not know, you need a guide to show you the way. **Describe a time when you or someone you know needed guidance.**

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Paul made many journeys to different towns and countries to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. On one journey he did not know where to go next. He had thought of several places, but in some way or another God stopped him from going there (Acts 16:6-8). What was Paul to do? He knew God would guide him.
2. **Describe how Paul had a vision one night (16:9).** He saw a man from Macedonia (the country we now call Greece). Paul knew from the man's clothes that he was from that region. **Show Picture 17.** The Macedonian was asking Paul to come and help them. The Bible uses a very strong word here for "ask"; it says the man begged Paul.
3. Paul knew it was God telling him that he had to take the Gospel to Greece. That is exactly what he and his companions did next (16:10).

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

God still guides us today. He may give us guidance in dreams or through our church and Christian friends. God most often speaks to us through his Word, the Bible. When we pray, God 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.



## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# GOD GUIDES PAUL **LESSON 17**

# LESSON 18

## PAUL AND SILAS IN TROUBLE IN PHILIPPI



*Aim:* To teach the children that, because God was with Paul and Silas, a hard time in prison became a time of great joy.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 16:12-34



*Memory Verse:* 1 Peter 4:16

[I]f you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

**Make up a story about a bad day in a person's life. Suggestion:** Maria got up late because it was dark and she did not wake up. That made her late for work, and so her boss was cross with her. Then she realised she had left home in such a hurry that she had not brought her lunch. And so it continued; everything went wrong.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. When Paul and his companion Silas arrived in Philippi they had a very good time at first, as people wanted to listen to the Gospel (Acts 16:13-15).
2. Then things became difficult. By the power of Jesus Christ, Paul drove an evil spirit out of a slave girl. This made her owners angry, for they had been using the evil spirit inside the girl to make money for themselves (16:16-19).
3. Paul and Silas were treated badly and put in prison (16:20-24).
4. They could have felt sorry for themselves and complained that God had not protected them, while they had only been doing his will. Instead, Paul and Silas sang songs of praise to God in their cell (16:25)!
5. **Describe the earthquake and its consequences (16:26-27).** All the doors opened and all the prisoners were free to escape. **Show Picture 18.**
6. The jailer was about to kill himself, because if the prisoners escaped he would pay for it with his life. But Paul stopped him (16:27-28).
7. The jailer realised that Paul and Silas knew the way to a life of peace and truth, so he asked, "What must I do to be saved?" They told him the good news of Jesus (16:29-31).
8. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and took care of them. He and his whole household accepted the Lord Jesus. Everybody was filled with joy (16:32-34).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The following story really happened.

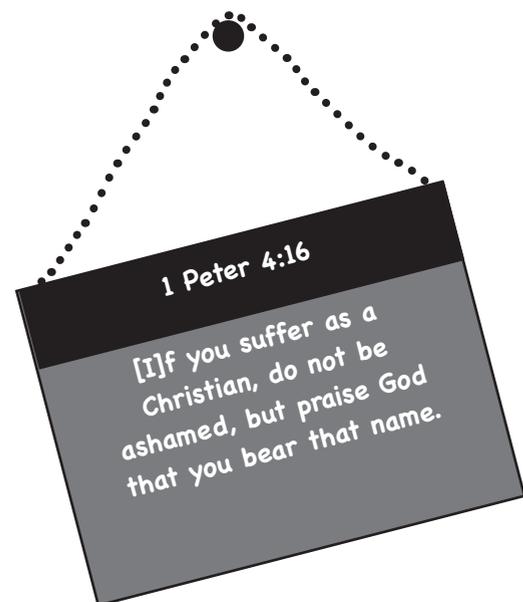
A certain woman became a Christian, but her husband did not. As she followed Jesus, her husband began to hate her. One day he decided to kill her and their two children. He needed an excuse for killing her, so he decided he would say she had lost some very important keys. As he crossed the River Nile he dropped the keys in the water.

Later that day his wife bought a big fish at the market. When she cut it open she was surprised to find some keys inside. She was even more surprised when she recognised them as her husband's keys. The fish had swallowed them when he had dropped them into the river!

That evening her husband came home very drunk and ready to kill her. He shouted, "Woman, where are my keys?" When his wife handed him the keys he had dropped into the river, the man had such a fright that he became sober at once. He asked his wife's forgiveness and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

That woman had continued to be a Christian even when her husband had made her life so difficult. She had the joy of seeing her husband become a Christian, too. We should not give up when living our faith makes life difficult. Paul and Silas kept on hoping and rejoicing even in prison.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# PAUL AND SILAS IN TROUBLE IN PHILIPPI **LESSON 18**

# LESSON 19

## PAUL AND THE UNKNOWN GOD



*Aim:* To teach the children how Paul preached to people who had never heard of Jesus.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 17:16-34



*Memory Verse:* Acts 17:30  
[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

What do you do on a visit to a place you have never been before? It can be another town or region, or just someone else's house. Yes, you take a good look around, because it is all new to you.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. That is just what Paul did when he visited the city of Athens for the first time. It was a big and important city, with many beautiful buildings. As he walked around he noticed that many of those buildings were places of worship. But the inhabitants worshipped idols, false gods they made from metal or stone. Paul was very sad when he saw that (17:16). The statues of those gods may have been beautiful works of art, but they were dead. They had no power to help anyone.
2. Every day Paul preached to the people in the synagogue, in the market-place and in other public places. The Athenians loved to discuss ideas and were always interested in new ones, so they asked Paul to explain his teachings before the city council (17:17-21).
3. Paul did not want to hurt or offend the people of Athens. He wanted to win them for the Lord, not drive them away. Therefore, he did not say how foolish they were to worship gods they had made with their own hands. Instead, he said all the objects of worship showed him that they were very religious. He said that he even found an altar named "to an unknown God". Paul declared that he could tell them about that God (17:22-23). **Show Picture 19.**
4. Paul taught them: God is Creator of the whole world and all mankind. God has a plan for this world and cares about us. The true God is alive, not some dead idol made of gold or silver or stone. God will judge those who do not turn their backs on sin and follow him. God wants us to know him personally, so he sent Jesus as our Saviour. He raised Jesus from the dead (17:24-31).
5. Some laughed at what Paul said, but a few Athenians did believe (17:32-34).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

A man from an African island was converted to Christianity. His wife's parents were the caretakers of a temple for idols. The old father was partly paralysed; it took him two hours just to peel a banana. When the young men witnessed to them about the Lord Jesus, they were converted, too. Within two weeks' time, the father had grown so much better that he was able to use his hands to smash the idols he used to worship.

Our God is alive, not dead like an idol. God wants us to know him personally and receive his help according to his will.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# PAUL AND THE UNKNOWN GOD **LESSON 19**

# LESSON 20

## CONFLICT IN CORINTH



*Aim:* To encourage the children to keep on witnessing for Jesus even when they meet with opposition.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 18:1-17



*Memory Verse:* Acts 18:9-10a

“Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you ...”

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

What do you like to talk about when you meet with your friends? **Have some suggestions ready to get them thinking if they do not offer some answers straight away.** Do you ever talk about Jesus at home or among your friends, or tell the stories you hear at Sunday school?

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Paul liked to talk about Jesus. He often talked about Jesus to his friends with whom he worked in the city of Corinth (18:2-3).
2. He discussed his faith with the people of his own tribe, the Jews. However, most of them did not want to hear about Jesus the Messiah. (Messiah is a Hebrew word meaning “Saviour”.) So, Paul left their synagogue and went to share the good news with the Gentiles in Corinth. He even went to live in the house of a Gentile, something no religious Jew would have done (18:5-7).
3. The Jews not only rejected Paul’s message; they actively opposed him and even abused him. However, some did accept Jesus as their Saviour. Among those who became Christians were their most important religious leader and his whole household. That made the other Jews even angrier at Paul (18:8).
4. One night Paul had a vision in which Jesus spoke to him, encouraging him to keep on witnessing. **Read the memory verse out loud (18:9-10).**
5. Paul stayed in Corinth for over a year and kept on telling people about Jesus, even though he met with opposition (18:11).
6. The Jews became so angry that they took Paul before the Roman ruler of the province of which Corinth was the capital city. **Show Picture 20.** They accused Paul of teaching the people ways of worship that were against Jewish law (18:12-13).
7. The ruler of the province refused to listen to such a case and sent them away, so Paul was not harmed. However, the Jews attacked their former religious leader who had become a Christian and beat him (18:14-17).
8. Paul obeyed the Lord Jesus and did not remain silent about him. **Read the memory verse again.** The Lord was indeed with Paul.



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

We should not remain silent about Jesus, but share the good news. The Lord has promised to be with us, too. Those who believe in him are filled with his Holy Spirit. **This lesson would have more meaning if you have a contemporary real-life story to share about someone who continued to witness for Jesus even when he or she had to face opposition.**

John is an evangelist. One day he and some other people were captured by armed men and made to carry loads for them. After a few kilometres they stopped. They now had to listen to the propaganda talk of one of the armed men. At the end, the leader asked the captured men if they had anything to say. Everyone kept quiet, as they were too frightened to say anything – everyone, except for John. He told their captors, "You have told us what you want to do about the future of this country, but have you thought about your personal future? Do you know where you are going when you die?" The armed men listened and said they would think about what John had said. John could speak out because the power of Jesus strengthened him. If he had kept silent, those men would not have heard the Gospel.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# CONFLICT IN CORINTH **LESSON 20**

# LESSON 21

## PAUL FACES DEATH



*Aim:* To teach the children that Paul was not afraid of death since he was a Christian.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 21:10-14, 17-40; 22:1-24



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through  
the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

What are you frightened of? The children may not be willing to say they are frightened of anything, so have some suggestions ready, for example: Are you frightened of the dark? Are you frightened of snakes?

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Paul experienced many difficulties and problems on his journeys as a missionary. Sometimes he was thrown into prison or taken to court because of his preaching. **Show Pictures 18 and 20 again, and remind the children of the circumstances.**  
Paul wanted to return to Jerusalem, the headquarters of the early church. Some of the Christians pleaded with him not to go there. They were afraid that the Jews in Jerusalem would kill him. The Jewish religious leaders were still very angry that Paul, who had been such a hater of Jesus' followers, had turned into one himself. Paul said that he was not afraid to die for the good news about Jesus (Acts 21:12-13).
2. The Christians in Jerusalem welcomed Paul warmly, but the Jews tried to kill him in the street outside the temple. That caused a riot (21:17, 27-28, 31).
3. Roman soldiers arrived to stop the riot. They saved Paul from the crowd, but arrested him for causing a riot. **Describe the scene in 21:31-36 in your own words.**
4. Before they locked him up, Paul got permission to make a speech to the people (21:37, 39-40). **Show Picture 21.** He was not afraid to say what God wanted him to say, even though he had to be surrounded by soldiers to keep him safe from the angry Jews.
5. Paul gave his testimony: He had been a very religious Jew who had persecuted Christians until Jesus met him and changed his whole life (22:3-16). Show Picture 13.
6. When Paul said he was obeying God's own command by sharing the Gospel with the Gentiles, the crowd refused to listen anymore. They demanded that Paul be put to death (22:21-23).
7. Paul was not afraid to die for the message of salvation in Jesus. However, the Roman soldiers put him in prison to save him from the people (22:23-24a).

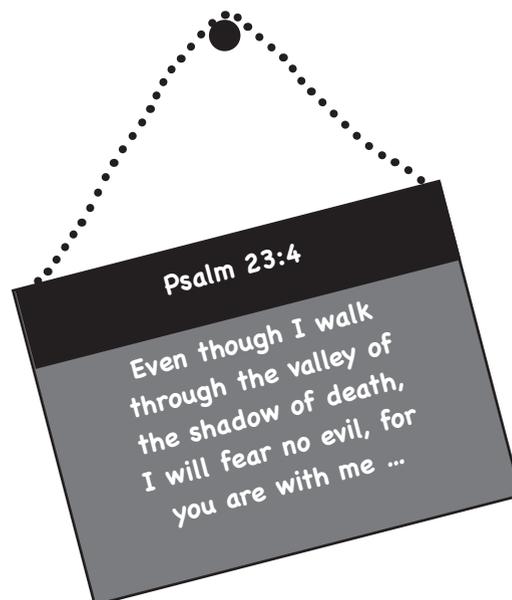


## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Paul was not afraid to die because he knew that for the faithful death is not the end, but the beginning of a new life with the Lord. No suffering in this life is greater than the reward of spending eternity with Jesus Christ (2 Tim 4:8).

A young man in Uganda was arrested by rebels. He, and several other men, were about to be killed by a firing squad. He asked the man next to him if it was too late now to accept Jesus as his Saviour and ask for forgiveness of his sins. No, he was told. So he gave himself to Jesus while the soldiers were preparing to shoot. He was not afraid to die anymore. Jesus takes away our fears when we put our trust in him. However, when the soldiers fired, that young man was not killed! He lived to follow Jesus and share his witness with others.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# PAUL FACES DEATH **LESSON 21**

# LESSON 22

## A MESSAGE FOR KINGS



*Aim:* To teach the children that Paul did not hesitate to witness about the Lord Jesus to powerful rulers.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 25:13-27; 26:1-32



*Memory Verse:* Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

How would you feel if you were told you were going to meet a very important person like the governor or the president? How would you prepare yourself?

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. After Paul had spent two years in prison without being put on trial, a new Roman governor took over from the one who had put Paul in prison. The new governor, Festus, wanted to know why the Jews wanted Paul killed. He found out it was because Paul taught that Jesus, whom they had killed, was alive again (Acts 25:19). However, under Roman law, a person could not be put to death for his or her religious beliefs.
2. Festus did not know what to do with Paul. Then Agrippa, whom the Romans had made king of the Jews, and his wife Bernice came to visit Festus. Festus asked Agrippa's advice about Paul. Agrippa replied that he first wanted to hear what Paul had to say for himself (25:14-22).
3. It was a grand occasion when Paul was brought before King Agrippa. **Show Picture 22. Describe who was present (25:23). Point out the different people and Paul in his chains.**
4. The governor, Festus, introduced Paul to the king (25:24-27).
5. Paul was not afraid of anyone. He was polite to the king, but he spoke freely about Jesus Christ. **Read the memory verse out loud.** No-one would frighten Paul into remaining silent about the good news that Jesus had come to save all who would believe in him.
6. Paul gave his testimony to the king. Agrippa was a Jew, so he knew about the expected Messiah, the Saviour God had promised he would send into the world (26:2-18).
7. Paul spoke about his work and witnessed to people everywhere (26:19-23).
8. Paul's testimony offered everybody the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ, but Festus thought Paul was mad. Agrippa did show some interest, but let it go in the end. The result



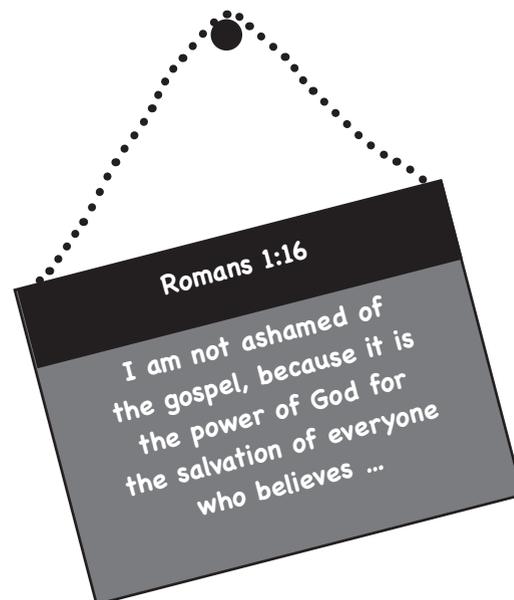
of the hearing was that Paul would go to Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire, to be tried by the emperor himself. That meant that he would take the Gospel to the most important city in the world (26:24-32)!

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Gospel is meant for all people, whoever they are.

Let us now spend some time praying for everyone in our country who holds a powerful position. Let us pray that there will be opportunities for Christians to witness to those leaders who have not accepted Jesus Christ. Pray, too, for those who are suffering because of their Christian beliefs.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# A MESSAGE FOR KINGS **LESSON 22**

# LESSON 23

## WITH GOD IN DANGER



*Aim:* To teach the children that God was with Paul when he was in great danger. God is with us, too, every step of the way.



*Scripture Reading:* Acts 27:1-44



*Memory Verse:* Romans 8:38-39

... I am convinced that neither death nor life ... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Most of us have been in danger at some time in our lives. Give an example from your own life. We become frightened, but the Lord has promised to be with us always and in every situation.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Paul was going to be in great danger. He had to make a long journey by sea from the town of Caesarea in Palestine to Rome in Italy. He was going to Rome to go on trial before the emperor.  
The ship's captain wanted to continue with the journey, even though the weather was bad. He ignored Paul's warning and set out (27:9-12).  
**Note:** The story of the storm is told very clearly in the Bible. **Read 27:13-44 several times beforehand so that you are able to tell it to the class in your own words.**
2. At first everything went well. Then the winds became very strong. It was impossible to steer the ship in that storm (27:13-15).
3. First, the sailors passed some ropes under and over the ship, and fastened them tightly. In that way, they hoped to strengthen the ship (27:17).
4. Next, they threw the cargo into the sea in order to make the ship lighter. Then followed the ship's tackle (27:18-19). That shows how desperate they were, because the tackle is the equipment used to move the ship's sails into position.
5. When several days of darkness came, everyone became convinced that they were all going to die (27:20).
6. However, Paul told them to keep their courage. He had received a message from God that they had nothing to fear. Not one of them was going to die, although they would lose the ship (27:21-26).
7. After 14 days they came near land, and the sailors tried to escape. Paul stopped them (27:27-32). Paul urged them to eat some food to build up their strength, and did so himself. They followed his example (27:33-38).

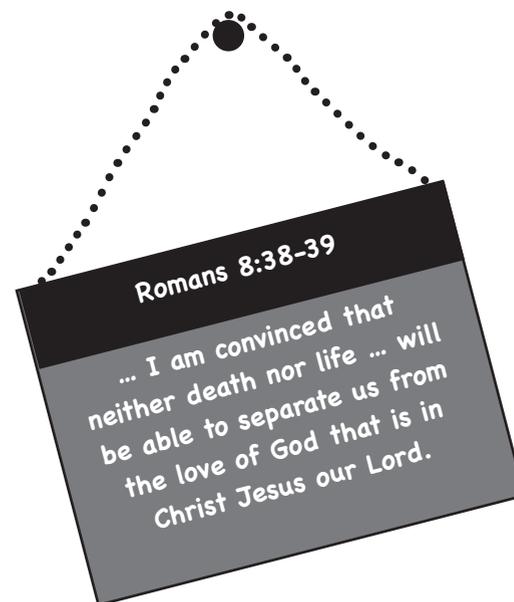


8. When the ship came close to the land, it began to break up. **Show Picture 23.** People jumped into the sea, even some who could not swim. Some held on to pieces that had broken off the ship. In one way or another all arrived on land safely, just as God had promised (27:39-44).

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

God did not remove the danger in which Paul found himself, but God was right there by his side. Sometimes God does remove the danger, but at other times he does not. However, God is always with us, no matter what the situation. Nothing can take God's love away from those who trust in him, as the memory verse says.

### INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 24

## PAUL IN ROME



*Aim:* To teach the children that, even when Paul was in prison, he continued to serve God by sharing the Gospel and by caring for other Christians.



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



*Memory Verse:* Philippians 4:13  
I can do everything through  
him who gives me strength.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Even a small cut on your hand makes it difficult for you to write or do your tasks. You are handicapped and can't do your work until it is healed.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. **Show Picture 24.** Do you have an idea what it must be like to be a prisoner? It must be terrible not to be free to move about. You would have thought that Paul would stop talking about Jesus Christ, now that he had ended up a prisoner in Rome because of his faith. He did not, though! Even though he was guarded very closely, Paul kept on talking about Jesus. He used the opportunity to witness to the emperor's guards. Many soldiers had to take turns guarding Paul, and they all heard about Jesus. Some of them became Christians (Phil 1:12-13).
2. Paul was not in prison, but under house arrest. Therefore he could receive visitors (Acts 28:16). Many visitors came to see Paul - Jews as well as Gentiles. Some accepted the Gospel. Others rejected it (28:23-24, 30-31).
3. Paul also wrote letters from prison to the Christian churches. The Bible books Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are all letters Paul wrote while he was a prisoner in Rome. Today, these writings are very important to Christians all over the world.
4. Paul suffered many hardships for the sake of the Gospel, but he experienced for himself that nothing can separate us from the love of the Lord. **Let the whole class repeat the memory verse for Lesson 23.** After Paul had spent about two years under house arrest in Rome, the Christians were persecuted. Paul was one of those who lost their lives. As a faithful servant of God, he knew he would live for ever with his Lord Jesus.



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Everybody who accepts the Lord Jesus as his or her Saviour, who serves God faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit, receives the gift of eternal life and can rejoice in all circumstances, like Paul.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# PAUL IN ROME **LESSON 24**

