

Questions

Study Procedure: Read the scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God's wisdom and understanding as you study and don't be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One: Review; Read Acts 11:21-26 and Acts 13:1-3

1. Describe Paul...

(a) before his conversion. _____

(b) after his conversion. _____



2. How was Ananias' obedience to God critical in so far as it relates to Paul?

3. How did last week's lesson show the power of God to overcome a sinful or wasted past?

4. Who was the man who had defended Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 9) and who now brought him to the church in Antioch?) _____

5. How were the two missionaries selected for their first mission trip?

Day Two: Read Acts 13, 14, 15:36-41

6. Match the following words and phrases from Acts 13.

- _____ (a) blindness
- _____ (b) Sergius Paulus
- _____ (c) synagogues
- _____ (d) a lesson in Jewish history
- _____ (e) Gentiles
- _____ (f) Salamis and Paphos

- _____ (g) John
- _____ (h) Bar-Jesus or Elymas

1. He assisted Paul and Barnabas.
2. He was a proconsul who was interested in the gospel.
3. He was a sorcerer who tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.
4. This was the judgment Paul called down on the sorcerer.
5. These were cities on the island of Cyprus.
6. This is where they usually went first to preach.
7. This is what Paul gave his audience in Antioch of Pisidia.
8. These were Paul’s main audience when the Jews rejected the gospel.

7. Match these words and phrases from Acts 14.

- _____ (a) Hermes and Zeus
- _____ (b) Iconium
- _____ (c) appointed elders
- _____ (d) rose up and went back into the city
- _____ (e) Lystra
- _____ (f) stoning

1. This city at first received Paul and Barnabas but later was the scene of a violent attempt to stone them.
2. A crippled man was healed here.
3. Paul and Barnabas were mistaken for these Greek gods.
4. This happened to Paul, and they thought he was dead.
5. When the disciples gathered around him and he revived, this is what Paul did.
6. This is what Paul and Barnabas did when they established a church.

8. Read Acts 15: 36-41 and explain why Paul separated from Barnabas and took Silas as his new partner. _____

Day Three



CHALLENGE: Read Acts 15:40-18:22 which describes Paul's second missionary journey.

9. Who joined Paul and Silas? (See Acts 16:1-4.) _____
10. Who was the "seller of purple" who believed the gospel, and what was her offer to Paul? (See Acts 16:11-15.) _____

11. Give as many facts as you can about Paul and Silas' first imprisonment. (See Acts 16:22-40.)

12. What made the Bereans unique? (See Acts 17:10-12.) _____

13. When preaching to the intellectuals in Athens who did not know the Jewish Scripture, with what concept of God did Paul begin? (See Acts 17:22-34.) _____

Day Four

CHALLENGE: Read about Paul's third missionary journey described in Acts 18:23-21:16.

14. What two Jewish exiles from Rome befriended Paul? (See Acts 18:1-4.) _____

15. List the supernatural events recorded in Acts 19. (Supernatural events were common where Paul preached.) _____

16. What can you learn about Paul's character and personality from his farewell to the elders at the church of Ephesus? (See Acts 20:17-38.) _____

17. What warning did Paul receive, and what was his response? (See Acts 21:10-14.) _____

Day Five: Read Romans 15:18-29; Acts 23:10,11;
Acts 28:16-31



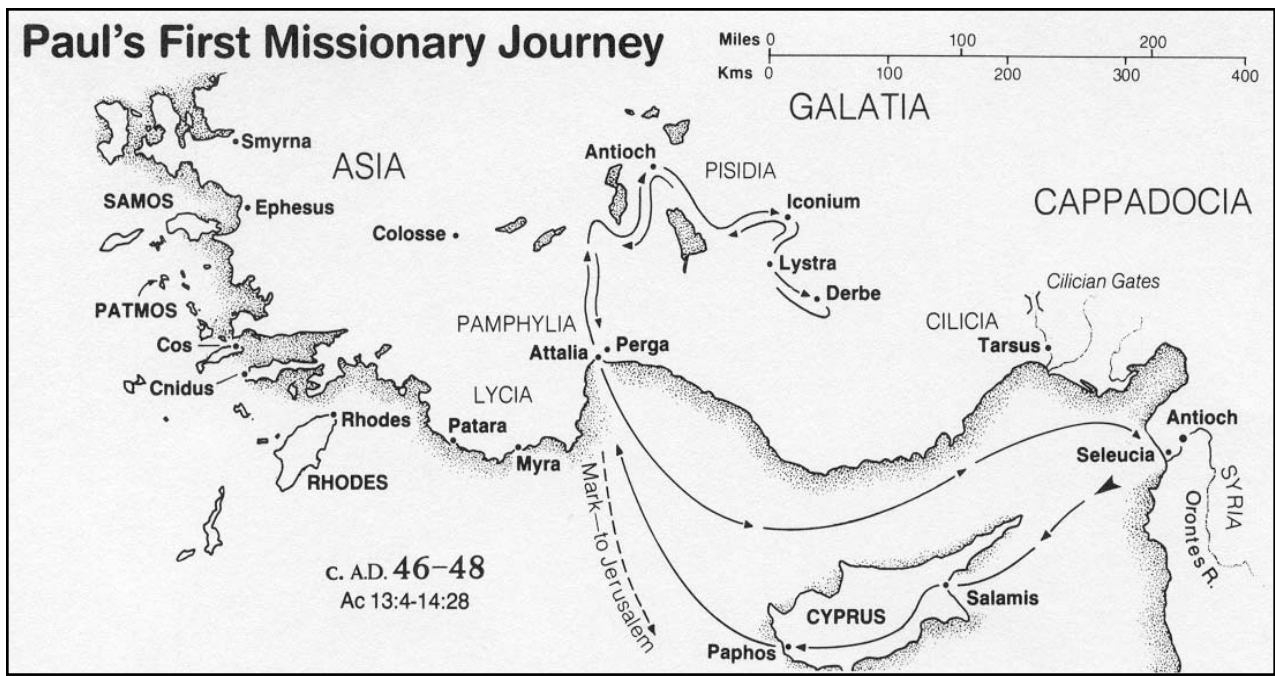
18. Why did Paul want to visit Rome? _____

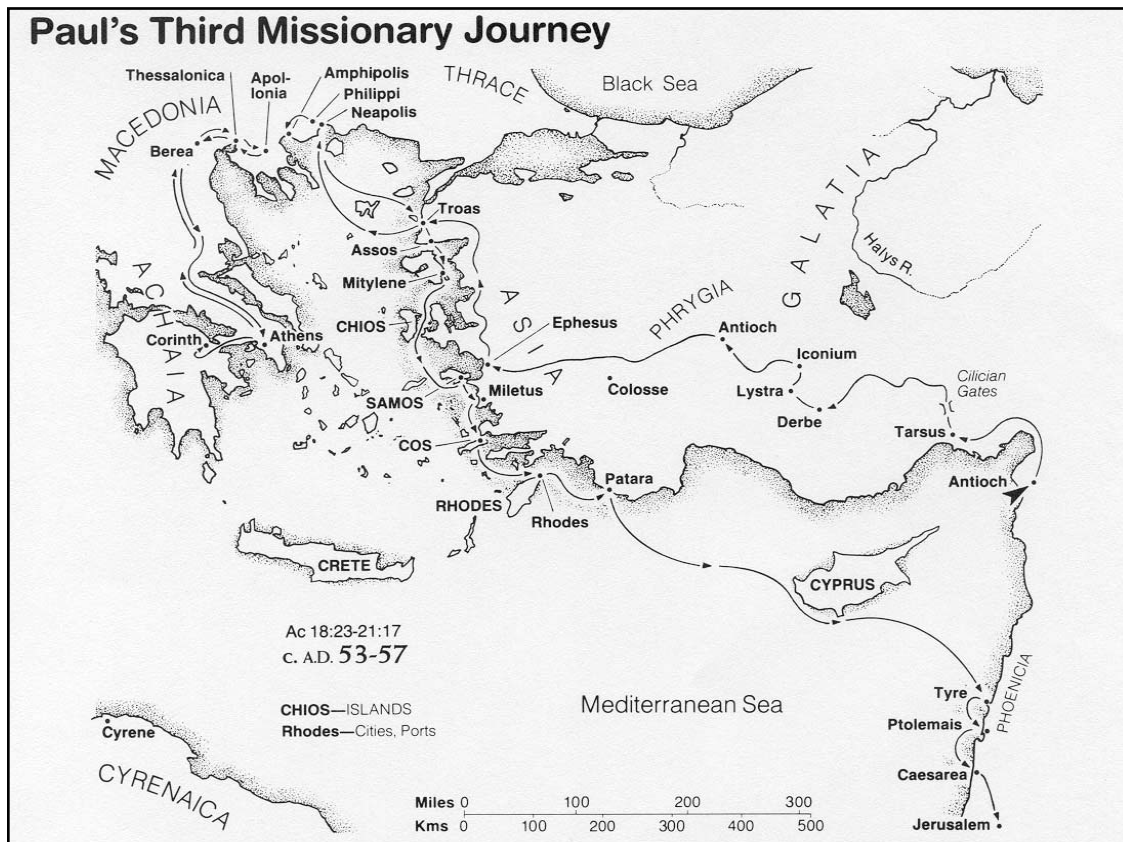
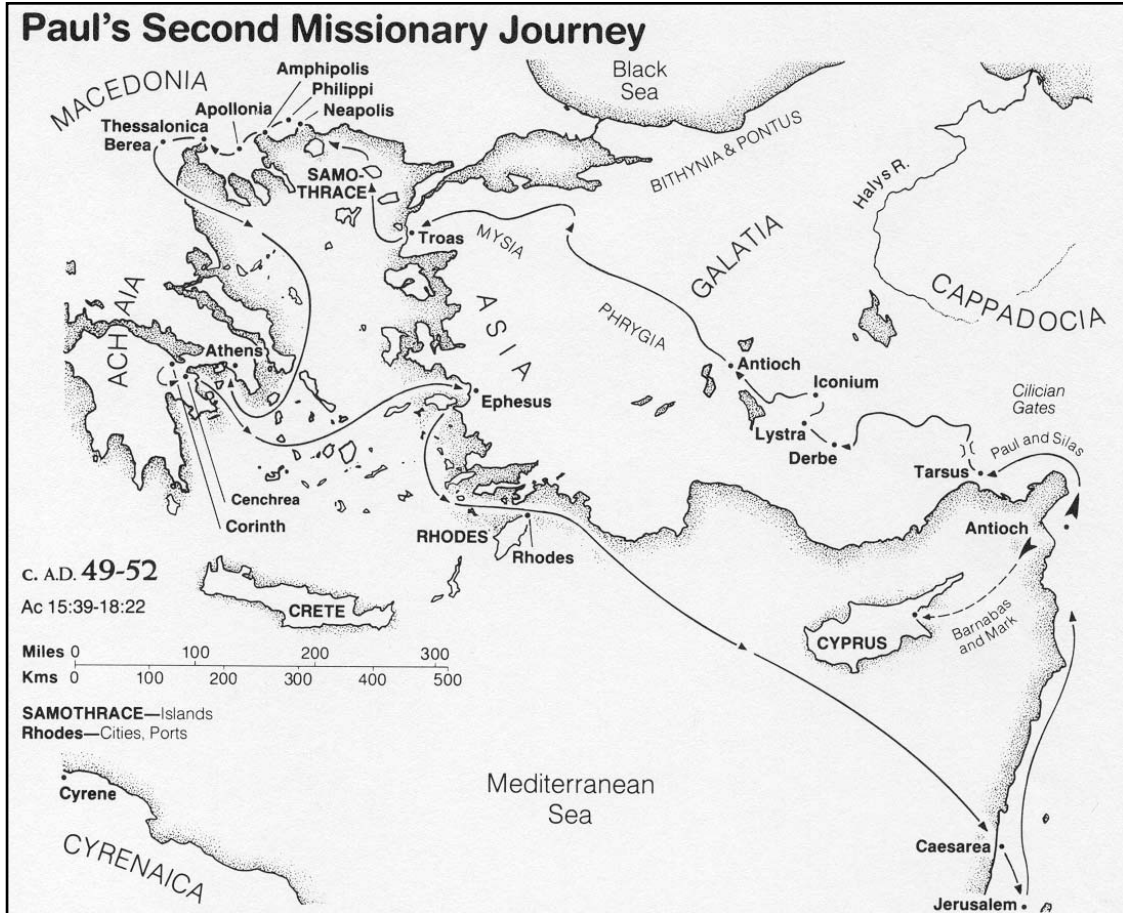
19. Where did he hope to go after that? _____
20. What was one standard he used in selecting places to visit? _____

21. Where did he have to go before he could travel to Rome? _____
22. How did Paul finally get to Rome? _____

23. How long was he there? _____
24. What response did he receive? _____

25. What have you learned about Paul's life that would make him a wise and powerful advisor to the Christians at Rome? _____





Notes

PAUL'S JOURNEYS

Barnabas

As outstanding and devoted a man as Paul was, he would have been the first to tell us that he did not serve alone. In last week's lesson we saw how the godly obedience of Ananias, who knew Paul's reputation as a persecutor of Christians, brought Paul to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. After Paul's conversion, because of his past work in violently opposing Christianity, many Christians were not convinced that he had really experienced salvation.

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A strong man of faith named Barnabas, known in the early Church for his generosity and Spirit-filled character, befriended and defended Paul before others (Acts 4:34-37 and Acts 9:27). Barnabas recognized the power of God in Paul and seized an opportunity, when a good teacher was needed, to bring Paul into that position (Acts 11:21-26). Barnabas, also called the son of encouragement, was a promoter and encourager of Paul. This is often the case in the Christian family. Without encouragers and promoters, those whom God has gifted for leadership would not be permitted to step up and grow in their offices.

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In the beginning of Paul's ministry, Barnabas was the "senior" partner of the relationship. In Acts 11:30, 12:25, and 13:1,2 Barnabas was named first, but from Acts 13:43 and forward, Paul **emerged** as the leader. In response to prayer and fasting at Antioch, the Holy Spirit directed that Barnabas and Saul (Paul) be sent out as missionaries of the gospel. Thus, they began their first missionary journey.

emerged - risen into view; came into existence

Since Acts 12:25, they had been accompanied by Barnabas' cousin John Mark (Colossians 4:10). He somehow proved unfaithful to the job and left them before they were finished (Acts 15:35-39). This action later brought tension to the relationship of Paul and Barnabas, when Barnabas wanted to give John Mark another chance on the second missionary journey. They could not agree about his **inclusion** and so parted company, with Paul taking Silas and Barnabas taking John Mark on separate mission trips. It is painful to realize that even great men of God cannot always see a way to settle differences. True to Barnabas's gift of encouragement, however, Barnabas allowed John Mark the opportunity to mature, and John Mark rewarded the effort by going on to write the gospel of Mark and to reconcile with Paul (Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11,

inclusion - the putting into a group

Philemon 1:24). The Christian world would have missed much if Barnabas had not been willing to befriend and promote those rejected by others.

**First
Missionary
Journey
Acts 13 & 14**

A map was provided in the questions section that showed all the stops made by Paul and Barnabas on this first missionary journey. The account of it in Acts 13 and 14 makes lively reading. On the island of Cyprus their preaching was believed by a proconsul but opposed by a sorcerer. However, God moved in supernatural ways to **authenticate** the gospel through their effort: that sorcerer was struck with temporary blindness for his interference with their work (Acts 13:11). Paul and Barnabas usually went to preach in local synagogues first, following Jesus' pattern, but when they were rejected, which they often were, they turned and preached freely to anyone who would listen. When speaking to Jews, they began by showing from the Scriptures that Jesus was the real Messiah of Israel and that the rejection of Him by his own people had been foretold in Scripture (Acts 13:13-41). At Iconium, many Jews and Greeks believed their message, but it was not long before the Jews who did not believe stirred up severe opposition against them, in spite of the signs and wonders that had been performed (Acts 14:1-5). From Iconium Paul and Barnabas were able to escape the planned stoning, but they would not always be so fortunate.

authenticate - to prove something is true or genuine

At Lystra, after a man lame from birth was healed, the people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas as Greek gods. They stopped the people and began teaching them about the one true God, the Creator of all. Those pagans would not have been impressed with a lesson on the fulfillment of Scripture, so Paul's pattern was to begin with God as Creator when speaking to non-Jews. He knew that if a person could believe that the true God was the one who made everything, he would be able to let go of all other gods. There is no concept of power bigger than the One who made it all.

Before Paul and Barnabas had finished at Lystra, the unbelieving Jews from Antioch and Iconium caught up with them and persuaded the crowds to stone Paul. Paul's enemies had the same energy to pursue him as he had had when he was a persecutor of Christians. They did stone Paul and left him for dead, but God had other plans. Believers gathered around him, and he *"rose up and went into the city."* How's that for courage? Paul went back and faced the people who had stoned him!

Paul and Barnabas started new churches, leaving appointed elders in charge, and went back and revisited the cities in which they had first preached.

atonement - the reconciliation between God and man

Salvation was by faith alone in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ. No works or ceremonies were needed in addition to faith.

escalated - intensified, increased

Paul and Barnabas started new churches, leaving appointed elders in charge, and went back and revisited the cities in which they had first preached. They finally returned to their home church in Antioch and reported *“all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”*

Paul and Silas: Second Missionary Journey
Acts 15:40-18:22

Paul and Barnabas were confronted in Antioch by Jewish Christians from Judea who taught that Gentiles had to be circumcised to be saved. Paul and Barnabas vigorously disagreed and took the matter to Jerusalem to be settled before the apostles and elders there. Their testimony was believed and their ministry to the Gentiles was approved, without the enforcement of circumcision. This was a big issue for the early church. Salvation was by faith alone in the blood **atonement** of Jesus Christ. No works or ceremonies were needed in addition to faith. Satisfied, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch where they remained *“teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also”* (Acts 15:35). However, after some time, Paul wanted to go back and revisit the churches they had started. This is when he and Barnabas disagreed over the inclusion of John Mark, and Paul took Silas and started on his second missionary journey without Barnabas. (Please refer to the map in the questions section.)

In Lystra, Paul and Silas recruited Timothy, *“the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed,”* who was *“well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium.”* They worked together to strengthen the churches. Paul had a vision in which he was called to go to Macedonia. He obeyed and sailed to Philippi, Macedonia’s foremost city. One of his first converts was a fabric merchant named Lydia who invited him to headquarter in her home (Acts 16:14,15). In that city they were bothered by a demon-possessed slave girl who made money for her owners through fortune-telling. Paul commanded the demon to leave her, and her owners were angry over her lost abilities. The situation **escalated** until Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten, and jailed. As in the episode of the stoning, God had different plans for Paul. At midnight, when Paul and Silas, with feet in stocks, were singing hymns, God opened the jail with an earthquake. The end result was the salvation of the Philippian jailer and his family. Paul asserted his rights as a Roman citizen the next day to shake up the local leaders and was urged to leave Philippi quickly.

**Third
Missionary
Journey
Acts 18:23-21:16**

Paul and Silas continued in their missionary efforts, preaching in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth. It was from Corinth that scholars think Paul wrote the epistle to the Romans; Paul preached there for two years (Acts 19:10). Unusual miracles accompanied Paul's ministry, with powerful responses of obedience from those who were saved (Acts 19:11,12, 19,20). Paul voiced his intention to go to Rome one day (Acts 19:21), but in the meantime preached in Ephesus, causing a riot. He was saved from abuse and traveled back to Macedonia, Greece, to begin his last missionary journey.

Paul soon had to face more opposition, which affected his travel plans to Syria (Acts 20:3). Paul had increased his missionary group at this time to include Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica, Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus of Asia. At this point in Acts, the narrative changed from third person "he" to first person "we." Luke, the author of Acts, must have joined him at this time, too. From Philippi, Macedonia, to Troas, Asia, the group traveled. Paul preached and continued to travel, having as his goal to be in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. His emotional farewell to the leaders at Ephesus revealed much about his compassionate spirit and pastor's heart (Acts 20:17-38). He sailed to Cyprus and then on to Caesarea, where he was warned by the prophet Agabus of coming persecution for him in Jerusalem. Paul believed the warning but refused to change his plans stating, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13). Totally devoted to the Lord who saved him, Paul was unafraid of going anywhere God directed him to go.

**The Epistle
to the
Romans**

It was this Paul, called, committed, and courageous, who was the author of the epistle to the Romans which we will study now. Dramatically saved by an encounter with the risen Jesus, privately tutored by the Holy Spirit for three years, and accepted and supported by many mature believers, Paul was a perfect choice to be a teacher of God's truth. Romans was not Paul's first epistle; yet, it was placed first in the **canon** of Scripture. One writer explained its placement: "Romans is like a **sentinel** standing first in the line of epistles to guard right teaching." Paul wrote in Romans about the nature of the true God, the God he knew personally. Every truth he taught had been tested in the real world in which he lived. Paul had never been to Rome, yet he had personal as well as spiritual reasons for writing a church he had not visited. First, he

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canon - the order and inclusion of scriptural documents established by a church council

sentinel - one that keeps guard; a sentry

"Romans is like a sentinel standing first in the line of epistles to guard right teaching."

credentials - that which entitles one to confidence, credit, or authority; proofs of qualification or authority for a job

Gentiles: those not of the Jewish faith

presented his **credentials** as an apostle so that they might accept him when he finally made a visit there. Also, he asked for their prayer support in his effort to deliver the offering he had been receiving for the suffering Christians being persecuted in Jerusalem. He really needed these prayers. Paul was hated by the Jewish leaders at Jerusalem because of his change to Christianity. Furthermore he was unpopular with the Jewish Christians because he insisted on preaching to the **Gentiles**, whom they thought unworthy of God's love. Lastly, Paul hoped that the church at Rome would help him fulfill his dream of going on from there to take the gospel to Spain, where it had not yet been preached.

A careful study of the epistle of Romans will prepare us to handle rightly all other Biblical truths.

On a spiritual level, the letter to the Romans is a masterpiece of instruction in the very basics of Christianity. We must be forever indebted to Paul for so clearly presenting the building blocks of our faith. A careful study of this epistle will prepare us to handle rightly all other Biblical truths. These lessons on the life of Paul will remind us of the cost and importance of putting God's truth into practice.