1 Paul's First Journey

Key Theme

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- Acts 14:1–15, 14:19–20; 1 Corinthians 1:18

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the power God gave Paul to show his message was from God.
- Explain how the people of Lystra reacted when they saw Paul's miracle.

Lesson Overview

Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.

Activity 1: Paul's First Journey Class Notes

Students will fill out Paul's First Journey Class Notes as you study the lesson.

Studying God's Word

Paul traveled with Barnabas on his first missionary journey. Wherever Paul traveled, his purpose was to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. He did that boldly. God healed through Paul and did other signs and wonders to show that what Paul was preaching was true. Some people believed and others did not. In both Iconium and Lystra, unbelieving Jews stirred up violence, and the two moved on.

Activity 2: Pick a Point Review Game

Divide students into teams. Teams will take turns answering questions. They will earn points for correct answers by picking numbers from the cup.

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Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO	WHAT YOU WILL NEED
COME ON IN	
☐ Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.	☐ Memory Verse Poster ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY CLASS NOTES	
☐ Print one Paul's First Journey Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.	☐ Paul's First Journey Class Notes ☐ Paul's First Journey Class Notes Answer Key ☐ Pencils
STUDYING GOD'S WORD	
☐ Study the Prepare to Share section. ☐ Go Before the Throne. ☐ Bring in the Quarter 3 Lesson Theme Posters.	☐ Student Take Home Sheets ☐ Quarter 3 Lesson Theme Posters
PICK A POINT REVIEW GAME	
☐ Print one Pick a Point Questions Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM. ☐ Print and cut apart the Pick a Point Game Point Cards from the Resource DVD ROM. Put them into a cup, bag, or basket.	☐ Pick a Point Review Questions Sheet ☐ Pick a Point Game Point Cards in a cup, bag, or basket

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.

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Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

After Jesus's death, Resurrection, and ascension back to His Father, God quickly presented circumstances that allowed the gospel to spread to all nations. He used the great persecution which arose against the church at Jerusalem to scatter believers throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1). God sent an angel to the missionary Philip to preach to an Ethiopian man (Acts 8:26–27). It is very likely this man went back to his homeland of Ethiopia with the good news of Jesus Christ, the Savior (Acts 8:37).

God continued to spread the gospel through the Jew Peter who preached to the Gentile Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:24–25). Until now, Jews and Gentiles were separated. They couldn't eat together or visit each other's homes. But God was changing all that. And God showed Peter that anyone can be saved! People from every nation—whoever fears God and believes the gospel—will be accepted by God (Acts 10:35).

God's plan was that more Gentiles be exposed to the gospel. That was the mission He ordained for the Jewish leader Saul. This powerful Jew was bent on making havoc of the church, dragging off men and women of the Way and committing them to prison (Acts 8:3)—until he met the living Savior on the road to Damascus and was dramatically transformed (Acts 9:5–6).

Saul, who is also referred to as Paul in the Bible, was a means God would use to preach the gospel to the Gentiles through three remarkable missionary journeys. He was accompanied by other apostles as he traveled. The first journey included sailing to Cyprus where Paul preached in Salamis and Paphos. They then continued on by boat to Perga in Pamphylia. They departed Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. They moved on to Iconium and continued to preach. From Iconium they proceeded to Lystra and Derbe (Acts 13–14).

As Paul preached in these cities, he would first of all speak in the synagogues to the Jews, telling them that God had fulfilled the promise of a Savior made to the fathers (Acts 13:32–33). Unfortunately, many of these Jews did not believe. And often it was the Gentiles who begged to hear Paul preach and who wanted to learn the truth (Acts 13:42). As Paul preached, and the word was gladly received by many, the Jews became envious. They contradicted, blasphemed, and openly opposed the things Paul was teaching (Acts 13:45). Their own unbelief was judging them to be unworthy of eternal life. This response led Paul to turn his attention and preaching to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46).

Reactions were varied and unpredictable to Paul's message of salvation. In Iconium, there were unbelieving Jews who tried to stir the Gentiles up and poison their minds against the truth. This did not dissuade the missionaries; in fact, the Bible says they remained a long time there, speaking boldly in the Lord, who allowed them to do signs and wonders as witness to God's grace and truth (Acts 14:2–3).

In the city of Lystra, the Bible records an incident that occurred where God allowed Paul supernatural power to heal a man (Acts 14:9–10). This evoked yet another reaction. The people in Lystra were so moved by the miracle that they believed their idolatrous gods had come down to them in the form of Paul and his companion, Barnabas. They even intended to make sacrifices and worship the two men (Acts 14:11–13). Paul quickly denied this to be true or acceptable. He explained these were the very useless things and customs they should turn away from as they turn to the living God (Acts 14:15).

How fickle and easily influenced these people were! It wasn't long before the Jews from Antioch and Iconium who had not believed Paul's message followed Paul to Lystra. These Jewish leaders stirred up the people of Lystra once again—this time in opposition to Paul! And they were persuaded to stone him and drag him out of the city (Acts 14:19).

God mercifully spared Paul's life, and he continued on his journey from Lystra to Derbe, where he preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples (Acts 14:21). His journey was nearing the end. But Paul could not think of ending this first missionary journey without going back to see those he had preached to—who had believed on the name of Jesus Christ. He longed to see how they were getting along. Although it surely meant more danger for him, he went back to the cities where he had preached to strengthen and encourage the converts in the truths of the gospel (Acts 14:22).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Most scholars believe that Paul, the apostle, was born around AD 5 in the city of Tarsus. Saul, as he was called then, was raised in an orthodox Jewish home, moved to Jerusalem as a child, and studied under the Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). He persecuted the church

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following the day of Pentecost in AD 33, but was saved dramatically around AD 35 on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). During Saul's meeting with the living Lord and subsequent salvation, he lost his sight (Acts 9:8). After his sight returned (Acts 9:18), Paul traveled to Arabia and then back to Damascus where he spent three years—a time in which he, no doubt, studied the Scriptures (now as a believer), solidified his new faith, and preached boldly in the name of Jesus (Galatians 1:15–24). After this, Saul came to Jerusalem but because of plots to take his life, he was sent to Tarsus where he stayed for a number of years (Acts 9:26–30). There is little known about these years. However, it is believed that this was when Paul had his heavenly visions discussed in 2 Corinthians 12:1–10.

Around the mid-40s AD, Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Paul, and brought him back to Antioch, the capital of the province of Syria. Here the prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch set apart Barnabas and Saul for a ministry to which the Holy Spirit had called them (Acts 13:1–3). And Paul's first missionary journey began about 11 years after his conversion.

The first century, when Paul was alive, was much different from our time and culture. For one thing, travel took much longer. There were no automobiles or airplanes; travel was mostly done on foot, on a donkey, or by boat. However, travel was much easier than it had been a hundred years earlier. The vast improvements made by the mighty and wealthy Roman Empire made travel far more efficient.

Historian Lionel Casson notes the conditions for travelers of the time: A traveler "could make his way from the shores of the Euphrates to the border between England and Scotland without crossing a foreign frontier. . . . He could sail through any waters without fear of pirates, thanks to the emperor's patrol squadrons. A planned network of good roads gave him access to all major centers, and the through routes were policed well enough for him to ride them with relatively little fear of bandits."

Due to the Pax Romana (Roman Peace) instituted under Emperor Augustus (27 BC–AD 14), these conditions prevailed when Paul traveled the Roman world. The philosopher Epictetus declared, "There are neither wars nor battles, nor great robberies nor piracies, but we may travel at all hours, and sail from east to west."

The Roman roads extended across the Roman Empire—a total of 63,000 miles of paved roads, connecting centers of government, culture, and power. This helped to advance the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to the known world at that time. It is clear that God had certainly ordained this time in history for His Son to come as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Even with the nice roads, traveling was often tiresome. Travelers would wear heavy shoes or sandals, had capes and broad-brimmed hats, and often carried bedding, tents, and provisions. The average traveler walked three miles per hour for about seven hours a day—or about 20 miles per day. So, for example, the 90-mile walk from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:14) would have taken about 4–5 days.

Travel during the winter was difficult due to the snow that sometimes blocked high passes, and the heavy rains in the fall and spring caused the rivers to swell making them difficult to cross. When in remote areas, travelers might face dangers from robbers, as well as from wild animals such as bears, wolves, and boars. It's likely that Paul had some of these difficulties in mind when he wrote to the Corinthians: "I have been . . . in perils of waters, in perils of robbers . . . in perils in the wilderness" (2 Corinthians 11:25–26).

This first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas occurred sometime between AD 46–50. Paul and his companions traveled between 1,300 and 1,500 miles, by land and by sea, over a period of about two years. They boldly preached the gospel of the risen Christ and made many disciples. Elders were appointed for the newly established churches, and then the missionary party returned to Antioch and reported all that God had done through them (Acts 14:21–26).

BEFORE THE THRONE

Father, you filled Paul with faith, love, courage, and devotion to you. Thank you for the example of his boldness in sharing the gospel. I pray, Lord, that you will empower me and my students with the same power and strength that we may proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. And for those students who do not know you, save them Lord by your grace. Use this message to turn their hearts and minds to you and away from the world and its desires. To you be the glory!

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COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.

After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.

Paul's First Journey Class Notes

MATERIALS

- ☐ Paul's First Journey Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Paul's First Journey Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete them together during class.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what happened to Paul and Barnabas as they preached the gospel in the cities of Iconium and Lystra.

Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 9 Lesson Theme Poster. God's Word was spreading! The Christians and the apostles were being hunted down and thrown in jail, tortured, and even killed for their faith.

But God was using the persecution to do something good—to spread the truth about Jesus Christ.

➤ Use Paul's Missionary Journeys Map to follow Paul's travels as you teach the lesson.

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During this time, God used Philip to preach to a man from Ethiopia. The man believed, was baptized, and it is very likely he returned to his homeland of Ethiopia with the good news of Jesus Christ, the Savior. The word about Jesus was spreading to many different lands.

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. God continued to spread the gospel through the Jew Peter, who preached to the Gentile Cornelius. Until then, Jews and Gentiles were separated. They couldn't eat together or visit each other's homes. But God was changing all that. And God showed Peter that people from every nation can be saved. Everyone who fears God and believes the gospel will be accepted by Him!

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster. But God wanted more Gentiles to know the gospel. He chose the Jewish leader Saul to preach to them. Remember, Saul met the living Lord on the road to Damascus, where his life was changed forever. He stopped having Christians killed when he became one! He shared the good news of Jesus to many different people!

From then on, Saul was usually called Paul. So, when we talk about Paul in the New Testament—writing letters, and teaching about Jesus—we are talking about the Jew Saul who had wanted to kill Christians!

➤ Print the Map Pronunciation Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM for help pronouncing the place names.

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Turn to front of map. We are going to learn more about Paul today. Take a look at this map. It shows how God used Paul in an amazing way. God sent Paul on these two exciting missionary journeys to different towns and regions. *Turn to back of map.* Then God sent Paul on a third journey, and finally God sent him to Rome. This is all recorded in the book of Acts in the Bible.

➤ You can have students find each city on the map as you discuss Paul's first journey, or point out where each city is as you discuss it.

Point out the cities or have students find them on the Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Today we will talk about the first journey. Paul had a friend, Barnabas, with him on this journey. They headed off from the city of *Antioch*. This journey included sailing to *Cyprus* where Paul preached in *Salamis* and *Paphos*. They then continued on by boat to *Perga* in Pamphylia. They departed Perga and came to *Antioch* in Pisidia. *Refer to the first Antioch on the map.* (This is a different Antioch from the one where they started their journey.) They moved on to *Iconium* and continued to preach. From Iconium they proceeded to *Lystra* and *Derbe*. They were on the move!

You should know that traveling 2,000 years ago wasn't speedy. When they weren't on ships, these men walked! As you can see, Paul's journey took them to many different cities. Each time they shared the gospel, the people who heard them responded in different ways. We will talk about those different responses today.

We won't have time to talk about every city they visited during this first journey. But we will talk about what happened in Iconium.

? Can someone find that city on the map? *Allow a student to find Iconium on the map.*

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Paul had already been to several cities before he got to Iconium. And in each of those cities he preached the gospel and told the people about Jesus Christ.

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 14. We are going to read verses 1–2. We will find out what happened in the city of Iconium. *Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 14:1–2

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? What city are we talking about? Where did this occur? *Iconium. Refer again to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.*

? That's right. And where did Paul and his companions go when they got to Iconium? *Acts 14:1. To the synagogue of the Jews.*

? And what did they do there? *Acts 14:1. They spoke there.*

? How did the people who heard them respond? Look in Acts 14:1. *Both Jews and Greeks believed.*

Yes. The Bible says that many Jews and Greeks believed Paul and what he was preaching. The Greeks were not Jews, but some had become believers in God and were worshipping with the Jews in the synagogue. Paul preached to both Jews and Greeks.

? Someone read Acts 14:2 again. *Choose a student to read.*

? What kind of Jews is this verse talking about? *Unbelieving Jews.*

That's right. Some Jews believed, but there were also many Jews who did not believe what Paul was preaching about Jesus.

? What did these unbelieving Jews do? It is in Acts 14:2. *They stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.*

Let me explain. These unbelieving Jews were jealous of Paul. They were angry that people were listening to him and believing every word he was telling them about Jesus! So, they came in and tried to start trouble. The Bible says these unbelieving Jews were "poisoning their minds." They were telling lies, trying to convince the people that what Paul was saying was not true.

? But this didn't stop Paul! He didn't run away from Iconium. Someone read Acts 14:3 for us. *Acts 14:3. Assign a reader.*

Acts 14:3

? What did Paul and Barnabas do instead of running? *They stayed there a long time.*

? And what did they continue to speak about? *They spoke boldly about the Lord.*

Paul and Barnabas were speaking boldly about the Lord. And God wanted the people to believe and trust them. So, God did something very special for Paul and Barnabas.

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? Look at the end of Acts 14:3. Can you tell me what amazing things God was doing through these men? *He granted them to do signs and wonders.*

God allowed Paul and Barnabas to do signs and wonders as they preached. This probably included healing people who were sick. When the people saw these signs and wonders many of them knew that they were speaking the truth about Jesus. But even though God allowed Paul and Barnabas to do signs and wonders, and many people believed the gospel, there was trouble in Iconium. And it was all because people were jealous of the apostles and did not believe what they were teaching. We are going to read about that trouble now!

Acts 14:4–7

? Look at Acts 14:4–7. Will someone read that for us? *Acts 14:4–7. Choose students to read the verses.*

? What was happening in the city? What were the people doing? Look back at Acts 14:4. *The city was divided. Some sided with the Jews and some sided with the apostles.*

There were powerful Jews who did not want Paul and Barnabas preaching about Jesus. And so some people in the city agreed with the powerful Jews and others agreed with the apostles. The people of the city were divided!

? Things were so bad that many in the city came against the apostles. They planned to harm them! How were they going to do that? It is in Acts 14:5. *They wanted to abuse them and stone them.*

Yes! Stoning was just what it sounds like. This was a way the people would kill someone!

? So, what did Paul and Barnabas do when they heard of this plot? *Acts 14:6. They fled to Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding areas.*

? *Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* Can you find the cities of Lystra and Derbe on the map? *Assign students to find Lystra and Derbe.*

Discover the Truth

Paul and Barnabas preached the Word of God wherever they went. In Iconium, God granted them special power to do signs and wonders so the people would know that what they said was truly from God. But there were different reactions to the truth. The Bible says that many Jews and Greeks believed what the apostles were teaching and became Christians and followers of Jesus! But many did not believe the gospel.

? Let's do a quick review before we move on from Iconium. Will someone read #1 on your class notes? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Believed.*

? And what about #2? What is the answer there? *Assign a reader. Jesus.*

? And #3? How did the people plan to kill Paul and Barnabas? *Assign a reader. Stoning.*

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READ THE WORD

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Paul and Barnabas moved on to Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding areas. God was spreading His gospel. And Paul continued to teach wherever he went! In Lystra things got even more exciting! Let's read Acts 14:8–10 next to see what happened there. *Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 14:8–10

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Paul met a man in Lystra. What was wrong with this man? *Acts 14:8. He was crippled. He had never walked.*

? The man heard Paul speaking. Paul looked at him and saw something. What did Paul see? *Acts 14:9. The man had faith to be healed.*

The man believed that Paul was from God. He had faith that he could be healed and that Paul, by the power of God, could make him walk!

? What did God's apostle, Paul, do? What did he say? Look in Acts 14:10. *He said in a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!"*

? And what did the man, who had been crippled since he was born, do? *Acts 14:10. He leaped and walked!*

What a sight that must have been! God gave Paul the power to heal this lame man so the people would believe that Paul was truly sent from God and that what he taught about Jesus Christ, the Savior, was the truth from God! God gave Paul the power to do signs and wonders here like he had done in the city of Iconium!

? What would the people in these cities do? How would they react? Turn to Acts 14:11–13, and we will see! *Acts 14:11–13. Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 14:11–13

? The people saw the miracle! What did they think? Who did they think had come down to them in the likeness of men? *Acts 14:11. They thought the gods had come down.*

? Is that what had happened? Was the apostle Paul a god? *Allow discussion.*

Of course not. There is only one God. The one true God gave Paul the power to heal the crippled man, but the people didn't know about the one true God yet. The people in Lystra believed in many gods! The Bible tells us that the people wanted to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas and worship these men as though they were gods. The people in Lystra needed to know about the one true God, didn't they? Let's see what Paul and Barnabas did about this situation.

? Turn to Acts 14:14–15. Will someone read that? *Acts 14:14–15. Choose a student to read.*

Acts 14:14–15

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? When the apostles heard what the people thought, they got very upset. What did they say to the people? Look in Acts 14:15. *Why are you doing these things? We are men just like you!*

? Paul said he was just a man. And he had a message to preach. What was that message? *Acts 14:15. They should turn from useless things to the living God!*

Yes! Paul wanted the people to turn AWAY from their false gods and turn to the one, true living God—the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things in them! Paul did NOT want the people to worship him! He wanted the people to worship God! It was God who gave Paul the power to heal the man. And it was God—not any man—who deserved all the glory.

? Would the people ever understand the gospel of Jesus Christ? That's what Paul wanted them to know. But that is not what happened! Look now at Acts 14:19–20. Will someone read that? *Acts 14:19–20. Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 14:19–20

This is NOT good news!

? *Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* Some of the powerful Jews showed up in the city of Lystra. Where were these Jews from? Look in Acts 14:19. *Jews from Antioch and Iconium.*

These were some of the Jews who hated Paul, were jealous of him, and wanted him to stop teaching the truth about Jesus. Paul was in big trouble!

? What did they do in Lystra? *Acts 14:19. They persuaded the people, and the people stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city. They thought he was dead.*

Many Jews did not believe Paul or anything he said about Jesus. These men wanted to stop Paul from preaching the gospel. So, they convinced the people in Lystra that Paul was evil! And the people in that city turned against Paul, stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him there because they thought he was dead!

? Was he dead? *Acts 14:20. No.*

? He was not dead! He was alive. And what did Paul do after he was stoned and left for dead? *Acts 14:20. He went on to Derbe.*

? Who will come up here and find the city of Derbe on the map? *Assign a student to find the city.*

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Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Paul was left for dead in Iconium. But that didn't stop him. He got up and moved on. He would preach the gospel in another city!

? Let's go back to the class notes. Someone read #4 for us. What is the answer there? *Assign a reader. Paul.*

? What about #5? Paul and Barnabas were not gods. What or whom did they want the people in Lystra to know? *Assign a reader. God.*

? And what about #6? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Dead.*

Discover the Truth

The people in Lystra changed so quickly! They went from worshipping Paul and thinking he was a god to hating him and wanting to stone him to death! They did not believe in the one true God.

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. What happened here, in Iconium and Lystra, explains our new memory verse.

1 Corinthians 1:18

? Will someone read the verse from the poster? *Assign a reader. 1 Corinthians 1:18.*

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster as you explain. Do you see? Some people believed what Paul was preaching. Others did not. That is because the message Paul was teaching—the message of the Cross and the gospel—was foolishness to some. Those people who think the gospel is foolish will perish forever when they die!

But others believe the message of the Cross—the gospel. To those people who believe, the message is the power of God for salvation. And those people will be forgiven, saved, and will one day spend eternity with God in heaven.

? Let's finish our class notes before playing Pick a Point! The memory verse will help answer these questions. Will someone read #7 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Cross.*

? And what about #8. What is the message of the Cross to those who believe? *Assign a reader. Power.*

➤ If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.

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Pick a Point Review Game

MATERIALS

- ☐ Pick a Point Questions Sheet
- ☐ Pick a Point Game Point Cards in cup, bag or basket

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the students into teams. Have each team take turns answering a question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a number card from the basket. If no one can answer the question, you may want to allow teams to look the answers up in their Bibles. Allow the first team to get the answer to draw a point!

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. The effort to earn points will keep the students tuned into the game. Keep a list of the team's points to determine the "winner" for the day. If time allows, repeat the questions!

OK. Now you are going to get into teams. We are going to play "Pick a Point." Each team will take turns answering questions from the lesson. If you get the answer right, you will draw a point card for your team. I'll keep score here on the board.

Get together with your team, and let's get started. *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job, everyone! Wherever Paul traveled his purpose was to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. He did that boldly. God healed through Paul and did other signs and wonders to show that what Paul was preaching was true. Some people believed and others did not. In both Iconium and Lystra, unbelievers got violent, and Paul moved on.

Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. God used Paul on his first journey to share the gospel in many cities. And what an exciting journey it was! Paul's message was always the same—Jesus is the one way to eternal life. But the people's reactions to it were unpredictable.

Paul preached to the Jews and to the Gentiles in each town. God was with Paul, granting him signs and wonders so the people would know that Paul's message was true. In Iconium when Paul preached, many people believed. Then some unbelieving Jews poisoned the minds of the people. They wanted to stone Paul. So Paul went to Lystra.

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In Lystra Paul's message of hope through Jesus was the same. When Paul healed a man, the people were amazed by the miracle and wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. Paul pleaded with the people to stop worshipping them and to turn to the one true God. Later, many of them were persuaded by the Jews to stone Paul. Paul was left for dead, but God spared him, and he and Barnabas were able to leave the city.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

As Paul traveled and taught about Jesus, some believed his message and some didn't believe. That is exactly what our memory verse is about this quarter. Let's read it again together from our Memory Verse Poster.
1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Those sinners who are being saved—who know Jesus and have repented of their sin and trusted Him as Lord—know that the gospel is the power of God to save! It brings hope and eternal life.

But there are some who think the message of the Cross—the gospel—is foolishness. Those people will perish in their sins if they do not repent of their sins and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation!

In each town Paul preached, some believed, and others did not believe. But Paul never gave up. He knew his message was important. He did not get discouraged!

Like Paul, we should not get discouraged even if people think what we tell them about Jesus is foolishness! We need to continue to trust God and boldly speak about Jesus.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because His Word is true, and He gives the power and hope of eternal life to those who receive and believe in Jesus.
- Pray for God's help for courage to share the good news of Jesus to those we know.

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Notes

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