



# 2

## Paul's Second Journey

### Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

### Key Passages

- Acts 15:39–16:15, 16:22–34

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how Lydia came to faith in Jesus.
- Describe how God used Paul and Silas even though they were in prison.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Write on the board, “What is the relationship between the book of Acts and the New Testament epistles?”

Students will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet and recite the verse together.



### Studying God's Word

On Paul's second journey, Paul and Silas preached and taught boldly about Jesus to all those they met. In Philippi, Lydia and the jailer were transformed by the truth of the gospel and God's marvelous grace!

Study the Prepare to Share section.

Go Before the Throne.



### Activity: Letters Home

The students will identify the connection between Paul's missionary journeys and the letters written to some of those churches in the New Testament epistles.

Student Guides

Pencils



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

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

Paul's first missionary journey was over. He had answered God's call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. He and his companion Barnabas had traveled by boat and by foot to several cities in the region (Acts 13:4–14). They often went first to the synagogues in the cities (Acts 13:14). But when the Jewish people would not listen and believe (Acts 13:45), God sent them to teach the Gentiles who were happy to hear the truth (Acts 13:46–48). God even gave Paul the ability to perform signs and wonders as he preached so those who heard and saw would know that his message was truly of the Lord Most High (Acts 14:3). Still many did not believe the truth Paul taught, and he was quite often persecuted, run out of town (Acts 13:50), stoned, left for dead (Acts 14:19), and even mistaken for a pagan god (Acts 14:11–12)!

Paul and Barnabas finished their journey and returned to the church at Antioch. But it wasn't long before the Lord called on Paul again to make a second journey and preach the gospel to more people in more cities. Paul invited Barnabas to join him, but they disagreed over whether to take John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. They parted company, and Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus, while Paul chose Silas to go with him on this second missionary journey (Acts 15:36–40). This journey would take them to the regions of Syria and Cilicia where they strengthened the churches that had already been established (Acts 15:41). When they came to the cities of Derbe and Lystra, the young man, Timothy, joined their party (Acts 16:1). And then in Troas, the physician Luke (author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts) joined the party. By God's divine intervention, Paul was directed to travel to the region of Macedonia. He obeyed the Lord, and the gospel was spread to another part of the world—Greece and Europe. Their journey took them to Philippi, one of the foremost cities of that part of Macedonia (Acts 16:12).

It was in Philippi that God arranged for Paul to meet Lydia and other women. Paul told the women about Jesus Christ, and Lydia heard what he said. The Bible says that as she listened to Paul, the Lord opened her heart to heed the things she heard. Because of this providential encounter between Paul and Lydia, she and all her household believed and were baptized. She then persuaded Paul and his party to stay with her at her house (Acts 16:13–15).

Paul rarely escaped controversy, and it wasn't long before he and Silas found themselves in trouble with the authorities in Philippi. They were accused of troubling the city and teaching customs that were unlawful. The authorities demanded they be beaten with rods and thrown into prison. A guard was placed over them, and their feet were placed in the stocks (Acts 16:20–24).

But we see in this incident how God works what looks like the worst possible scenario for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). As Paul and Silas sat in prison in stocks, after being beaten, they were praying and singing hymns to God. The Bible says the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, God caused an earthquake that opened all the doors of the cells and everyone's chains were loosed. The guard awoke, saw the situation, and assumed that the prisoners had escaped. To avoid the punishment he would face for his carelessness, he was about to kill himself! But Paul stopped him and assured him the prisoners had not escaped.

These were the events that brought this jailer to his knees as he asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Paul told the jailer the truth about the Lord. The jailer was transformed by the Word of God, cared for Paul and Silas, and was baptized (Acts 16:25–33).

Paul and Silas soon departed Philippi, leaving Timothy and Luke behind to care for these new believers. But their trip was not yet over. They still took opportunity to preach in Thessalonica, on to Berea, then to Athens. After Athens they went on to Corinth, then sailed to Ephesus, and from there headed home to Caesarea and to the church at Antioch (Acts 17–18:22).

Throughout this journey, Paul persevered through many trials. He went throughout the regions teaching and encouraging those who believed in Christ and helped to establish them in churches. He made many disciples from many different backgrounds. Paul understood the gospel. He knew that it alone is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—both Jews and Greeks. He was not ashamed to profess his allegiance to His Savior, Jesus Christ, or afraid to present the gospel to all who would listen (Romans 1:16).

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

This second missionary journey of Paul and Silas occurred sometime around AD 49–53. On this journey,

Paul and his companions traveled about 3,000 miles, by land and by sea, over a period of about three years. They visited many of the cities where they had previously started churches, and also went into new areas to preach the gospel. Information on some of the cities Paul visited follows.

## Philippi

The city of Philippi was located in northern Greece, about 10 miles from the port city of Neapolis. The Via Egnatia road (linking Italy with Asia) ran straight through the city, giving it access to travelers as well as trade. Philippi apparently had only a small number of Jewish inhabitants and, therefore, no synagogue. Consequently, Sabbath worship was held outside the city on the Gangites River. Here Paul met and preached to Lydia, likely a Gentile, and other women. Lydia believed Paul's message and was baptized with members of her household. This was the first recorded European conversion to Christianity.

Lydia was a wealthy seller of purple fabric from Thyatira, a city noted as a great center for trade and industry. The city was especially noted for its trade guilds, including the guild of dyers. Lydia seems to have represented this industry in Philippi. While most purple dye of the first century was extracted from shellfish, the dye used at Thyatira was a vegetable dye that came from the madder root, which grew in abundance in the region.

## Athens

Later on in his journey, Paul found himself in the city of Athens. A godless city given over to the worship of many false idols (Acts 17:16). The idols in Greece at the time would have included Demeter with statues of the goddess and her daughter. He would have seen statues of Poseidon hurling his trident, Athena, Zeus, Apollo, and Hermes. He may have visited the Sanctuary of the Mother of the Gods with her image. In the agora, the marketplace, the apostle would have seen the altar of Mercy and a bronze statue of Ptolemy. Other pagan sanctuaries in Athens were Sanctuary of the Dioscuri, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Sanctuary of Dionysus at the foot of the Acropolis, and many more. There was even a shrine to "the unknown god" (Acts 17:23). Wherever Paul turned, he encountered statues, temples, and shrines. It was this abundance of pagan gods that provoked his spirit (Acts 17:16).

In Athens, Paul proclaimed Christ not only in the synagogue but also in the marketplace day by day (Acts 17:17). People would meet each day in the marketplace to learn the latest news and to discuss all manner of subjects. Paul's bold preaching in the marketplace led to an invitation to speak at the Areopagus, or Mars' Hill (Acts

17:19). In Paul's day Mars' Hill was the meeting place of the main governing body of the city. It was here that Paul boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ and the gospel when he said, "God . . . commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30–31).

## Corinth

After departing Athens, Paul headed to Corinth, the capital of the province of Achaia. Paul remained in Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:9–11).

Paul's visit to Corinth came at a significant time for mission work. In AD 49, the Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome. Many found their way to Corinth. This is where Paul met the two Jewish refugees from Rome, Aquila and Priscilla. They were tentmakers like Paul. Aquila and Priscilla became key leaders of the young, Christian church in Corinth (Acts 18:1–12; 1 Corinthians 16:19).

During his time in Corinth, Paul wrote both letters to the Thessalonians—the first New Testament epistles Paul wrote. He had apparently heard of a number of serious misunderstandings and practical problems that had arisen in the Thessalonian church. So Paul wrote these letters to address these issues.

During this second missionary journey, Paul was violently resisted in many of the cities he visited. However, by God's grace he survived, and many church communities were established to the glory of God and the gospel.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, help us to learn from the four redeemed lives revealed in this lesson. Lydia had an open heart and eager faith. The jailer had a desperate need. Paul persevered through trial. And Silas was your faithful disciple. Teach us lessons from what happened in Philippi. For believers, help us see that when we are weak, you are strong. And for unbelievers, open hearts to know that there is no greater joy than the joy that comes through the gospel of Jesus Christ! Please move in the hearts of my students that they will one day experience the joy that only Jesus can bring. Open their hearts to see the truth and to respond to the gospel in repentance and faith.

## Review

Last week we traced the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas as they spread the gospel, in the face of much persecution, throughout Cyprus and the regions of Pisidia and Pamphylia. We saw the Spirit sending them as ambassadors, and His power to speak and work through these men revealed the glories of Christ to Jews and Gentiles. Although they were chased out of several towns and constantly harassed by the Jews and others who rejected Christ, they persevered and doubled back to strengthen the fledgling churches by appointing elders in each town and praying with them, encouraging them to continue following the Lord they had believed in for salvation.

*Refer to the New Testament History Poster to relate the timing of these events.*

After returning to the church at Antioch in Syria around the year AD 50, Paul and Barnabas shared all that had happened with them and how the Gentiles had received the gospel along with the Jews. But this stirred up a controversy—should the Gentiles be circumcised and follow the customs of

Moses? The people gathered at Antioch could not agree, so they sent representatives from each camp to Jerusalem to seek wisdom from the elders and apostles. All of this is described in Acts 15, which I will leave you to read on your own. It sets the stage for the second journey Paul took to spread the gospel and establish more churches. *Read Acts 15:30–35 if time allows.*

*Use Paul's Missionary Journeys Map for reference.*

After teaching in Antioch for a time, Paul and Barnabas were ready to return to the churches they had planted and see how they were doing. But Paul and Barnabas had a falling out over taking John Mark with them since he had abandoned them on the first journey. So, Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas and headed by land through Cilicia to strengthen the churches (Acts 15:36–41). We will pick up the action as Paul and Silas enter Derbe and Lystra and follow them to see exactly how God works in them and through them to bring more people to faith in Jesus Christ.



➤ Write on the board, “What is the relationship between the book of Acts and the New Testament epistles?”

**Acts 15:39–16:15**



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

Let's read Acts 15:39–16:15 together and look particularly at what happened to a woman named Lydia. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

### EXAMINE THE WORD

#### Observe the Text

? **Who accompanied Paul on this journey?** *Paul was accompanied by Silas, a leader among the brethren in Jerusalem (15:22) and a prophet (15:32) who stayed in Antioch after delivering*

the decree from the council of Jerusalem (15:34). Also, we know that Luke, the author of Acts was present as he uses “we” to describe the actions of the group in places like 16:10 and “us” in 16:15.

- ? **Who sent them on their journey?** They were commended by the brethren at Antioch, so it is the church in Antioch that sent them out, just as they had done on the first journey (13:1–3).
- ? **What regions did they go through first?** Syria and Cilicia (a region of Galatia), indicating that they went north and then west by land.
- ? **What cities are mentioned first?** Derbe and Lystra.
- ? **What is significant about these cities?** Paul had visited these cities on his first journey.
- ? **What does the phrase “by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium” tell us about those cities?** The churches Paul had established there were still in place since “the brethren” refers to other Christians.
- ? **Who did Paul meet in Lystra?** Timothy.
- ? **What do we learn about Timothy’s character?** He was esteemed by the brethren in the churches.
- ? **What did Paul want to do with Timothy?** He wanted Timothy to accompany them on their journey.
- ? **What was Timothy’s heritage?** His father was a Greek and his mother was a Jew. 2 Timothy 1:3–7 describes how Timothy’s mother and grandmother had trained him in the Scriptures and that he had a genuine faith in Christ. This passage also mentions Paul laying hands on Timothy, which probably occurred as Timothy was set apart as a missionary (16:3).
- ? **What cities are in mind in verse 4?** The cities in the region of Lycaonia and Pisidia that Paul had visited previously, especially Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.
- ? **What did they do in those cities?** They delivered the decrees from the Jerusalem Council (15:23–29), strengthening the churches there. It would also seem there was more preaching since the number of people in the church was growing daily.
- ? **What were the men not allowed to do after preaching in Phrygia and Galatia?** They were forbidden to preach in Asia.
- ? **Who forbade them from preaching in Asia?** The Holy Spirit.
- ? **Where else were they forbidden to preach?** Bithynia.
- ? **What happened to Paul in Troas?** He had a vision of a man from Macedonia calling him to help them.
- ? **How did Paul respond to the vision?** He led the group to Macedonia since he understood that to be the Lord’s directing.
- ? **What was their route to Philippi?** They sailed from Troas to the island of Samothrace and then to Neapolis, arriving at Philippi after a short journey over land.

## 2 Timothy 1:3–7

► **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.



- ? **How is Philippi described?** *It was the foremost (leading) city of that part of Macedonia and a Roman colony.*
- ? **Did Paul go to the synagogue in Philippi?** *No, a synagogue is not mentioned.*
- ? **How long had they been in town before the Sabbath?** *It had been a few days since they arrived.*
- ? **Where did they go on the Sabbath?** *To the river; the Gangites River flowed near Philippi, and the Via Egnatia (a major Roman road) passed through the city and crossed the river.*
- ? **What was significant about this place at the river?** *The Jewish community met there on the Sabbath to pray.*
- ? **What can we conclude about the number of Jews in the city based on this?** *Since there was no synagogue, there must have been only a small Jewish community. There were to be 10 men to form a local synagogue, so there must have been fewer than that, and only women are mentioned as meeting to pray.*
- ? **What did Paul do at the meeting place?** *He spoke to the women who gathered there. This seems to be a very condensed explanation of what happened based on the rest of the passage.*
- ? **Based on the rest of the passage, what did Paul speak about?** *Based on the context of this passage and the general theme of Paul's teaching to other Jewish communities, he must have preached the gospel and Jesus as the Messiah from the Old Testament passages. Since Lydia came to faith in Christ, she must have heard and responded to the gospel.*
- ? **Which lady is identified by name?** *Lydia.*
- ? **How is she described?** *She was a seller of purple (fabrics or dyes) from Thyatira (in Asia) who worshipped God. We can also conclude she had some Jewish background, but she may not have been Jewish by birth.*
- ? **How did Lydia respond to what she heard from Paul?** *She took heed to the things spoken by Paul.*
- ? **Why did she respond this way?** *The Lord opened her heart to respond positively to the gospel.*
- ? **What does this tell us about God's role in salvation?** *He opens hearts to respond. This is similar to the idea of taking out a heart of stone and putting in a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26–27; Jeremiah 31:33–34) and salvation being a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:3–6).*
- ? **Which member of the Godhead is actively involved in this change of heart?** *The Holy Spirit, as affirmed in John 16:8–11.*
- ? **What actions followed her conversion?** *She and her household were baptized.*
- ? **What is meant by "her household"?** *This would have included those in her household such as children and slaves. Some would argue that this is limited to only those who actively believed in the gospel while others would suggest that everyone under her authority was baptized whether they actively believed or not. The same will be evident in the account of the jailer and his household (Acts 16:25–34).*
- ? **What did Lydia beg of the apostles?** *She begged that they would stay at her house.*

? **How did they respond to her offer?** *They stayed with her, having judged her to be faithful to the Lord.*

## Discover the Truth

Just as he had done on his first journey, Paul continued to engage the Jews and Gentiles he encountered with the message of the gospel, trusting that God would use the message to open the hearts of those who would respond. Responding to the call of God to go to Macedonia, he selected a key city of the region from which he would preach and see converts carry the gospel along the Roman roads.

But let's stop and think about Lydia's conversion for a moment. She was a worshipper of God who knew of Him through the Jews she had encountered. As Paul, a Jew himself, presented the truths about the Messiah and Redeemer, many Jews and Gentiles refused to believe what he said. Their hearts were hard to those truths to the point that many wanted to kill him. But Lydia's response was different. She had the same sinful nature that those who rejected the gospel had, but the Lord acted in a supernatural way to open her heart to receive the things spoken by Paul as truths. Rather than running from Jesus as her Redeemer, she turned to Him, seeking to be faithful to the one she knew had died for her sins. And as an immediate demonstration of this change of heart, she extended hospitality and love toward those who were now her brothers in Christ, inviting to care for them while they stayed in Philippi.

? **What attributes of God are demonstrated by opening Lydia's heart?**  
*Sovereignty in opening her heart and not others'; Mercy in showing kindness to her in her sin, even as a Gentile.*

After Lydia's salvation, Paul and his companions stayed with Lydia, receiving her hospitality to sustain their ministry. As they moved about the city and engaged various people, a certain girl followed them around proclaiming, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." She didn't do this on her own, but by the power of a demonic spirit who also worked through her to earn money for her masters by fortune-telling. In short, Paul was annoyed by this, casting out the demon in the name of Jesus Christ. As you can imagine her masters were angry at losing their means of making money, so they convinced the authorities to throw Paul and Silas in jail. That is where we will continue our study.



SOVEREIGN

MERCIFUL

## READ THE WORD

As we look at Acts 16:22–34, we are stepping in at the sentencing of the two men who were accused of teaching things that were unlawful for

Acts 16:22–34

Romans to believe and live by (16:20–21). Have someone read the passage aloud. If time allows, you can read 16:16–21 as well.

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? **What punishment was delivered to Paul and Silas?** *They were stripped and beaten with rods.*
- ? **Where did they place Paul and Silas?** *In the inner prison.*
- ? **What additional security measure was used on them?** *Their feet were placed in stocks.*
- ? **Who was not involved in the punishment?** *Neither Luke nor Timothy were punished.*
- ? **Why did these two avoid the punishment?** *The text does not say directly, but it seems that Paul and Silas were the main speakers, and the mob may not have recognized Luke and Timothy, both Gentiles, as the Jews (16:20) who were stirring up the trouble.*
- ? **How were Paul and Silas responding to their circumstances?** *They were praying and singing hymns to God.*
- ? **What time was this happening?** *At midnight.*
- ? **Did they start singing at midnight?** *The mention of midnight is the timing of the earthquake, not the beginning of their praying and singing. It would seem that they had been praying and singing up until midnight when the earthquake occurred.*
- ? **Who was listening?** *The other prisoners.*
- ? **What happened at midnight?** *There was an earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison. Also, the doors were all opened and the chains of the prisoners were loosed.*
- ? **Had the jailer been listening to the singing and praying?** *No, he was awakened from his sleep at the earthquake. He may have been listening earlier, but he was asleep at this point.*
- ? **What did the jailer see?** *He saw all of the doors open.*
- ? **What did he suppose had happened?** *He supposed all of the prisoners had escaped.*
- ? **What did he plan to do?** *He intended to kill himself with his sword.*
- ? **Why did he plan to kill himself?** *If a Roman official (soldier or jailer) allowed a prisoner to escape, he was to be put to death for his negligence. Acts 12:19 gives an example of this punishment.*
- ? **Why did the jailer not carry out his plan?** *He heard Paul call to him and tell him all of the prisoners were still there.*
- ? **After entering the jail with a light, how did the jailer respond?** *He fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas.*
- ? **If he fell at their feet, what were Paul and Silas doing?** *They must have been standing and free from the stocks that had bound them.*
- ? **What question did the jailer ask them?** *He asked them what he must do to be saved.*

➤ If not already in the margin notes, Acts 12:19 would be a helpful cross reference to mark.

- ? **How did he know to ask this question?** *This question clearly indicates that he knew what message Paul and Silas were preaching. He must have known he was condemned in order to ask what he needed to do to be saved from that condemnation. He may have heard them preaching in the marketplace, or he may have heard the charges against them at the sentencing or when they were delivered to him, or Paul and Silas may have preached to him from their prison cell, but the jailer must have heard them to know to seek after salvation.*
- ? **What was he told to do to receive salvation?** *He was told to believe on the Lord Jesus.*
- ? **Who else is mentioned in verse 31?** *The jailer's household.*
- ? **Does the answer from Paul in verse 31 mean that all of the jailer's household will be saved if he believes?** *No, but each person in his household could also be saved if they believed in Jesus.*
- ? **Was "believe in Jesus" the only thing the jailer and his household heard?** *No, Paul and Silas "spoke the word of the Lord" to the jailer and his household. We should understand this to mean that they explained the gospel message to them more fully than just telling them to believe in Jesus.*
- ? **What does it mean to "believe in Jesus"?** *We see this similar phrasing in many places, and we must look at all of these together to understand what is meant here, especially since we don't know what else Paul spoke about on this occasion. Based on texts like John 3, Mark 1:15, Romans 10:9–11, and others, to "believe" is to acknowledge who Jesus is and what He has done for sinners, and to place one's trust in Jesus for salvation. It cannot mean just a simple acknowledgement of His existence or just a knowledge of the "facts" of His life, because many people knew Jesus was a real person (and still do today), but did not acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior. Even the demons know there is a God (James 2:19).*
- ? **How did the jailer and those in his household respond to the gospel?** *They believed and were baptized.*
- ? **What emotional response did this elicit?** *He rejoiced, having believed in God.*
- ? **How does the jailer's response compare to Lydia's response?** *He took them into his home and cared for them, providing food for them and treating their wounds. Both responded to the gospel by believing in Christ, and that change of heart worked by God was evident in their actions toward the brethren.*
- ? **What happened to the rest of the prisoners?** *We do not know because the text skips that detail, focusing on the jailer and his household.*

➤ Remind the students of the principle of using Scripture to interpret Scripture.

## Discover the Truth

Paul and Silas had been preaching in the city for a while, and in a matter of hours they found themselves taken from the comforts of Lydia's home to a public beating and then the dark belly of a prison—with their feet in the stocks. But rather than responding in despair, they were praying and singing hymns to God.

- ? **Why do you think they were able to respond to their imprisonment in this manner?** *This is evidence that they were fully trusting in God's character. They knew God knew about their condition (omniscient), that He had the power to free them (omnipotent) if He saw fit (wise, sovereign), and they were praising Him for His righteousness and holiness.*

➤ The practice of “telescoping” in historical narratives leaves out some details and focuses on the important aspects of the narrative.

As they sang and prayed, their actions were a witness of their trust in their God to all who were around them. Not running away from the prison as the doors were opened was a witness to their desire to share the truth more than escape persecution. In all of these actions, they were living a life that was consistent with the message they were preaching.

There is a bit of a pattern as we read about the conversion of many people in Acts—we don’t get a lot of detail about what they heard, but only see their response. This is a common device in historical writings. Since the Gospels and Acts are written as historical narrative, we should expect this. We don’t get all the details, but the previous context allows us to fill in those blanks and understand what must have happened in the “gaps” of the record.

We don’t know exactly what the jailer and his household heard when Paul and Silas “spoke the word of the Lord” to them, but we know how he responded. And because we know how he responded, we can determine what he heard based on previous accounts of Paul’s preaching and the core ideas of the gospel that must be acknowledged to lead to salvation.





# Letters Home

## MATERIALS

- Student Guides
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

We have been following Paul's journeys through many regions and cities, and we will continue to do so for the next two lessons. I am sure that you have recognized some of these cities and people as represented in the New Testament epistles. In our activity today, you are going to make these connections a bit more explicit by examining the people and places Paul sent these letters to.

You will find the Letters Home activity in your Student Guide along with the instructions.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Let's look at what you found about each of these letters. Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map* as you discuss each letter.

1 & 2 Corinthians (Acts 18:1–17, 20:1–3)  
*SMJ, TMJ.*

- Which city's church were these letters written to (1 Corinthians 1:2)? *Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2, 2 Cor. 1:1).*
- Which region was also included in 2 Corinthians 1:1? *Achaia.*

Galatians (Acts 14:1–28, 16:1–6) *FMJ, SMJ.*

- Which region was this letter addressed to? *Galatia (1:2).*
- Which cities would this include? *Antioch, Lystra, Iconium, Derbe.*

Ephesians (Acts 19:1–41, 20:17–38) *TMJ.*

- Which city's church was Paul addressing? *Ephesus (1:1).*

Philippians (Acts 16:11–40, 20:6) *SMJ, TMJ.*

- Which city's church was Paul addressing? *Philippi (1:1).*

Colossians (Acts 19) *TMJ.*

*Paul never visited Colosse, but passed through that area. The church was established while he was in Ephesus for three years, likely by Epaphras (Colossians 1:5–7).*

1 & 2 Thessalonians (Acts 17:1–9, 20:1–3)  
*SMJ, TMJ.*

- Which city's church was Paul addressing? *Thessalonica (1:1).*

Think about this for a minute—the Philippian jailer would have been sitting in the gathering as the letter we know as Philippians was read to the congregation. He would have been reminded of what Paul suffered to bring the gospel to him and his household. I hope this gives you a new way to think about the epistles as letters written back to places where Paul had actually planted churches and invested his life in the people there.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* While we only talked about a few stops on Paul's second missionary journey, the pattern of his ministry continued through the cities of Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth before he returned to Antioch in Syria. In all, this journey lasted about two years and resulted in churches being established in these cities. From these centers, the gospel continued to spread, and God was pleased to open the hearts of many more people, just as He had done for Lydia.

Despite continued persecutions, Paul and Silas faithfully proclaimed the gospel to Jews and Gentiles alike and trained up Timothy and others as they went so that the gospel could continue to move forward with the next generation. They were fulfilling the command of Jesus to go and make disciples, and God was using their efforts to bring salvation and new life in Christ to His people in the far reaches of the region. Let us all pray that we can be faithful to do the same that God may be glorified through us.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? As we read these accounts of Paul and others sharing the gospel, what do you find to encourage you in your faith? *Discuss various answers.*
- ? As you consider the conversion of Lydia and the jailer, which was more of a miracle? *While we often think that the salvation of a "bad" person is more miraculous than someone who is "good," both involve God opening the person's heart to the truth. While Lydia was a worshipper of God and the jailer was not, neither salvation was more miraculous. Both have a testimony of God's grace bringing them into His kingdom.*

- ? With this in mind, is it pointless to share the gospel with an atheist you know who is antagonistic toward God? *Allow for discussion.*
- ? How does your own conversion compare to that of Lydia and the jailer? How can you use this to share the good news of Christ with others? *Discuss various answers reminding the students that there are no testimonies of salvation that are "better" than others, but all are a way to showcase God's amazing grace.*
- ? What can we learn from the example of Paul and Silas singing and praying in the prison? *We are called to rejoice in all things and pray without ceasing, so these two men give us an example of doing that in a time that would be most difficult. They were imprisoned for doing what they knew was right and honoring to God, but they fought back the feelings of defeat and shame and rejoiced in God and lifted up their prayers and praises to Him.*
- ? Considering the different obstacles Paul faced to sharing the gospel, what obstacles do we face today? How can we overcome those obstacles? *Discuss various answers relating them to the travel barriers, language, and hostility Paul faced.*



### 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

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for opening the hearts of sinners to His amazing grace.
- Praise God for His kindness to men in sending Christ to die for us.
- Ask God for hearts that offer Him praise and thanksgiving even in difficulty.

