



1

Paul's First Journey

Key Theme

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- Acts 14:1–11, 14:19

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: Paul's Journey Game

Teams will take turns answering review questions to send their "Paul" on a journey around the room. First team to finish the journey, wins.

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
- ☐ Pencils



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 for each student
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Print one copy of the five Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Quarter 3 Lesson Theme Posters
- ☐ Five Lesson Illustrations
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



PAUL'S JOURNEY GAME

- ☐ Print one Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Print and cut apart the Paul's Journey Game City Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Tape the signs up in order around the room.

- ☐ Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide
- ☐ Paul's Journey Game City Signs taped up around the room
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- ☐ Print onto cardstock and cut out the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Keep the cards for use in other lessons.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Flashcards
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



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.





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

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, con-

necting 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!

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



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 boxes in the crossword puzzle as you study the lesson.

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

Our class notes are actually a crossword puzzle today. We will complete the puzzle as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll do it together as we go.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we finish the crossword puzzle and our lesson 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. Think back with me for a minute. Remember how the Christians were being persecuted because they believed in Jesus? Some of the leaders would hunt down people who believed and throw them in jail. So, many Christians moved away from their homes to other countries to escape the persecution.

SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

? Refer to Attributes of God Poster. But who was in control? Who is sovereign? God!

That's right. And He was using this persecution to do something good.

? What good thing was happening because of the persecution? What did the Christians share with others as they moved? The truth about Jesus was spreading. They shared the gospel.

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. That's right. God's Word was spreading out to other places! Wherever the Christians went, they took the good news of Jesus with them. During this time, God used Philip to preach to a man from a country called Ethiopia. The man believed and was baptized. And then he probably shared the good news of Jesus back in his homeland of Ethiopia! The gospel of Jesus was spreading out to many different lands.

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. God continued to spread the gospel through the Apostle Peter, too. Remember, there was a rule that Jews and Gentiles were not supposed to be together. They were different and 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—it didn't matter if they were Jews or Gentiles. Anyone who 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. So, He chose the Jewish leader Saul to preach to them.

? How did Saul treat the Christians at first? He persecuted them.

? Right. And how did Saul meet Jesus? What happened on the road on his way to Damascus? Jesus stopped him with a bright light.

Yes! And Saul's life was changed forever. He stopped searching for Christians to have them killed when he became a Christian himself! Instead, Saul shared the good news of Jesus to many different people!

From then on, Saul was usually called Paul in the Bible. So, when we talk about Paul, remember that we are talking about this same man, Saul, who was once mean to the Christians!

Pass out the five Lesson Illustrations to students. God had chosen Paul for special work. And today we are going to learn more about what Paul did. I'm going to give these pictures to some of you. Just keep them beside you until I tell you when to bring them up during the lesson.

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Turn to journey one. Now take a look at this map. It shows how God used Paul in an amazing way. God sent Paul on some exciting journeys to be a missionary and preach about Jesus to many different cities all over. The book of Acts in the Bible tells us all about it!

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

➤ Pass out the five Lesson Illustrations to different students before you begin this section. Call on the students to attach the illustrations to the board with poster putty or tape when you get to them during the lesson.

Point out the cities on Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Let's look at Paul's first journey. Paul had a friend named Barnabas who went with him on this journey. They headed off from the city of *Antioch*. They sailed on a ship to *Cyprus* where Paul preached in the cities there. Then they continued on by boat to a place called *Perga*. After that, Paul and Barnabas went to a different city called *Antioch* in Pisidia. They moved on to *Iconium* and continued to preach. Then from *Iconium*, they went to *Lystra* and *Derbe*. They went to a lot of places, didn't they?

- ? How many of you have ever taken a long trip somewhere? How did you get there? *Allow discussion.*

These days, it doesn't really take very long to go somewhere with cars, planes, buses, and trains. But when Paul traveled 2,000 years ago, it could take a long time to get somewhere.

How do you think Paul and Barnabas traveled? *Allow discussion. Walking or sailing.*

- ? Who has picture #1? Bring it up and put it on the board for us. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #1 to the board.*

There were no cars or planes in those days. Paul and Barnabas sailed on ships and walked when they wanted to go somewhere.

Refer to map. Paul's first journey took him and Barnabas to many different cities. In each city they told people about Jesus. Some people liked what they heard, but others did not. And that's what we will talk about today.

We won't have time to look at every city Paul went to during this first journey. So, let's look at what happened in the city of *Iconium*.

- ? Can someone find that city on the map? *Allow a student to find Iconium on the map or point it out.*

We're going to look in the Bible now at Acts chapter 14. *Show the book of Acts in your Bible.* I'll read verses 1–2. Listen carefully. Something interesting happened in this city of *Iconium*. Let's find out what it was. *Read the verses enthusiastically.*

➤ 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.

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

Acts 14:1–2

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What city are we talking about? *Iconium. Refer again to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.*
- ? That's right. And where did Paul and his friends go when they got to *Iconium*? It was a certain building where they worshipped God. *Acts 14:1. To the synagogue of the Jews.*
- ? Who has picture #2? What is that a picture of? Would you bring that up, please? *The synagogue. Have student attach Lesson Illustration #2 to the board.*
- ? And what did Paul and Barnabas do in the synagogue? *Acts 14:1. They spoke there.*

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

- ? How did the people who heard them respond? Did anybody believe what they said about Jesus? *Re-read Acts 14:1b. Yes. Both Jews and Greeks believed.*

Yes. The Bible says that many Jews and Greeks who were worshipping God in the synagogue believed what Paul was preaching.

OK. Let's read Acts 14:2 again. *Re-read the verse.*

- ? 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.

- ? Who has picture #3? What is on that picture? *People, some believed, others did not. Have student attach Lesson Illustration #3 to the board.*

- ? Some people did not believe. What did these unbelieving Jews do? *They stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.*

You see, these unbelieving Jews were jealous of Paul. They were angry that people were listening to him and believing what he said about Jesus! So they came in and tried to start trouble. The Bible says these Jews were "poisoning the people's minds." That means they were telling lies, saying that Paul's message was not true.

Acts 14:3

But this didn't stop Paul! He didn't run away from Iconium. Listen to what he did. *Read 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.

Listen to the end of Acts 14:3 again. *Re-read Acts 14:3b.*

- ? What amazing things did God do through these men? *Signs and wonders.*

Yes! God allowed Paul and Barnabas to do signs and wonders as they preached. God gave them power to do things like healing people who were sick. So when the people saw these miracles, they knew that Paul and Barnabas were speaking the truth about Jesus.

But even though God allowed these men to do miracles, and many people believed the gospel, there was still trouble in Iconium. We are going to read about that trouble now!

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

Acts 14:4-7

- ? These next verses, Acts 14:4-7, will tell us what happened. Listen to this. *Read Acts 14:4-7 enthusiastically, emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? What was happening in the city? What were the people doing? *Re-read Acts 14:4. The city was divided. Some sided with the Jews, and some sided with the apostles.*

Some of the people agreed with Paul and Barnabas, and some did not!
The people of the city were divided! Things got really bad, and many
people turned against the apostles and made plans to hurt them!

- ? How were they going to do that? Listen for the answer. *Re-read Acts 14:5. They wanted to abuse them and stone them.*

Stoning was just what it sounds like. The people would gang up on others
and throw stones at them to kill them!

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

- ? Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. They ran to the cities of Lystra and Derbe.
Can you find those cities on the map? Let's follow the path from Iconium.
Assign students to find Lystra and Derbe or point out the path to these cities.

Discover the Truth

Paul and Barnabas preached the Word of God wherever they went. In
Iconium God gave them special power to do miracles so the people
would know that what they said was really from God. The Bible says
that many people believed what the apostles were teaching and became
followers of Jesus! But many did not believe the gospel.

- ? Let's do a quick review before we move to the next place on our map. Let's
start on our crossword puzzle. Will someone read #1? Who was preaching
about Jesus? *Assign a reader. Paul.* Now find #1 in the puzzle and write the
letters in the boxes.

- ? What about #2? Why did God give them power to do miracles? What is
the answer there? *Assign a reader. Help.* Put the answer into the crossword
puzzle where it belongs.

- ? And #3? What did the people plan to do to Paul and
Barnabas? *Assign a reader. Stone.* Have students put the word in the
crossword puzzle.



READ THE WORD

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. So, Paul and Barnabas escaped from being
stoned and went to a city called Lystra. God was spreading His gospel.
And Paul continued to teach wherever he went! Now in Lystra things got
even more exciting! Let's read Acts 14:8–10 to see what happened next.
Read the verses to the students.*

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.*

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

The man heard Paul speaking the truth about God. He had faith that God could make him walk again!

- ? What did Paul do? What did he say to the man? Listen again. *Re-read Acts 14:10. He said, "Stand up straight on your feet!"*
- ? Yes! Paul told him to stand up. But wait a minute! This man had never walked in his whole life! Could God heal him so he could walk? *Yes!*
- ? So what did the man do? *Acts 14:10. He leaped and walked!*
- ? What does it mean that he leaped? *He jumped up.*
- ? That's right! Who has picture #4? What happened to the man? *He was healed! Have student attach Lesson Illustration #4 to the board.*

Wow! That must have been exciting to see! This man who had never been able to walk in his whole life could jump around and walk now! God gave Paul the power to heal this man so the people would believe that Paul truly was sent from God and what he taught about Jesus was the truth!

Acts 14:11

What would the people in this city do? How would they react? Let's read Acts 14:11, and we will see! *Read Acts 14:11 with enthusiasm.*

- ? When the people saw the miracle, who did they think had come down to them? *They thought the gods had come down.*
- ? Is that really what happened? Was the Apostle Paul a god? *Allow discussion.*
Of course not. There is only one true God. And He is the one who gave Paul the power to heal the crippled man. But these people didn't know about the one true God yet. They believed in many false gods! And they thought that Paul and Barnabas were two of these gods that they worshipped. In fact, the Bible tells us that the people wanted to make sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas and worship them. But Paul stopped them. He told them that they were NOT gods, but men just like them.
- ? Who has picture #5? Can you read that? It tells us what Paul told them. *We are men just like you! Have student attach Lesson Illustration #5 to the board.*

The people in Lystra needed to know about the one true God, didn't they? Paul wanted the people to turn AWAY from their false gods that weren't real and turn to the one true, living God—the Creator of all things! 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 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! We're going to read Acts 14:19. Something horrible happened to Paul. Listen carefully to what happened to Paul. *Read Acts 14:19.*

Acts 14:19

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Point out Iconium. Did you hear that? Jews from Iconium and Antioch came to Lystra. These Jews were jealous of Paul and didn't believe anything he said about Jesus. And they wanted him to stop teaching the gospel.

? What did they do to Paul? *Re-read Acts 14:19b if necessary. They stoned him!*

They stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city, and left him there because they thought he was dead! But God did not want Paul dead! Paul was still alive! In fact, he got up and headed for the city of Derbe.

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

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. This is where Paul ended up after being left for dead in the city of Lystra!

? Let's go back to the class notes. Will someone read #4 for us? What did the people in Lystra think of Paul? What is the answer there? *Assign a reader. God. Have students put the word in the crossword puzzle.*

? What about #5? The people in Lystra worshipped many false gods. What did Paul and Barnabas want the people in Lystra to know? *Assign a reader. True. Have students put the word in the crossword puzzle.*

? And what about #6? The people of Lystra quickly changed. At first they thought Paul and Barnabas were special gods and wanted to worship them. But then what did the people do? *Assign a reader. Kill. Have students put the word in the crossword puzzle.*

Discover the Truth

The people in Lystra changed their minds so quickly! First, they worshipped Paul because they thought he was a god. Then just a little while later, they hated him and tried to stone him to death! They did not believe in the one true God.

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. The things that happened in Iconium and Lystra explain our new memory verse. Let's look at it.

? Follow along while I read the verse from the poster. *Read and have students repeat 1 Corinthians 1:18 together.*

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. They think the Bible is silly and stupid! Those people who think the gospel is foolish do not believe in Jesus, and they will perish forever when they die unless they repent and believe in Jesus!

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

1 Corinthians 1:18

➤ As you explain the memory verse, point out the words on the poster.

people will be forgiven, saved, and will one day spend eternity with God in heaven.

➤ If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.

? Let's finish our class notes now! The memory verse will help answer these questions. Will someone read #7 for us? What is the gospel of Jesus about?
Assign a reader. Cross. Have students put the word in the crossword puzzle.

? And what about #8? What happens to those who believe the message of the Cross? *Assign a reader. Saved. Have students put the word in the crossword puzzle.*



Paul's Journey Game

MATERIALS

- ☐ Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide
- ☐ Paul's Journey Game City Signs
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Place the ten Paul's Journey Game City Signs around the room. Divide the class into two or more teams depending on the class size. Each team will select one person to be "Paul" for that team. The "Pauls" will stand by the #1 Start sign. Read the names on the signs reminding the students where Paul's first journey took him. Ask the first team a question. If they answer correctly, their "Paul" should move to the next city sign. If the team answers incorrectly, their "Paul" may not move. Ask the other team the same question. If they answer it correctly their "Paul" may move AND that same team will also get a new question. The first team to reach the #10 Finish sign AND answer the question correctly at the Finish sign, wins. If there is extra time, you may want to switch teams and "Pauls" and play again. Or, have the entire team move from city to city together.

OK. Now we are going to get into teams and play the "Paul's Journey Game." Each team needs to pick one person to be their "Paul." It can be a boy or a girl. The "Pauls"

will all stand by the Start sign with the #1 on it. Each team needs to help their "Paul" move on his/her journey around the room by correctly answering the questions I ask. Whenever your team gets an answer right, your "Paul" can move to the next city sign. But if your team doesn't answer a question right, the other team will get a chance to answer it. The first team to get their "Paul" all the way to the Finish sign, #10, AND can answer the last question, wins. Let's get started! *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job, everyone! Wherever Paul traveled, he boldly preached the good news about Jesus. God did signs and wonders through Paul to show that what Paul was preaching was true. Some people believed, and others did not. In both Iconium and Lystra, unbelievers got upset and wanted to stone Paul, but Paul moved on and kept on preaching.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

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.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards, (use cardstock if possible). Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse between each one.

Let's say it first. Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat. **Good job!** But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to

come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll have to say the verse without that card! **Are you ready?** Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Continue until the cards are gone and the whole verse is recited from memory.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

There are some who think the message of the Cross—the gospel—is foolishness. They think it's not true or that it's silly. But the Bible says that those people will perish. They will not be able to live in heaven if they do not turn away from their sins and turn to Jesus for salvation!

But those who do believe—those who have repented of their sin and trust Jesus as Savior—will be saved. They know that the gospel, the message of the Cross, is the power of God that saves!



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 with Jews and Gentiles 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. God gave Paul power to do signs and wonders so the people would know that his message was true. But it was hard to know exactly how the people would react when they heard the gospel.

In Lystra when Paul healed a man, the people were so amazed by the miracle that they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods, and they tried to worship them! But the Jews who hated Paul talked the people into stoning Paul instead. God gave Paul strength, and he and Barnabas moved on to another city to preach again.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

In each town where Paul preached, some believed, but others did not. But Paul never gave up—he knew the gospel message was important. Like Paul, we should not give up even if people think what we tell them about Jesus is foolishness!

We can pray for those who don't believe and keep on trusting God and talking about Jesus.



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 with others.