



Paul's Second Journey

2

Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

Key Passages

- Acts 16:13–14, 16:25–31

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how God used Paul in Lydia's life.
- Describe how God used Paul and Silas in jail to accomplish great things.



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 Second Journey Booklet

Students will fill out Paul's Second Journey Booklet as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

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



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 SECOND JOURNEY BOOKLET

- Print, cut, collate, and staple the three pages of Paul's Second Journey Booklet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Paul's Second Journey Booklet for each student
- Paul's Second Journey Booklet Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Memory Verse Poster



PAUL'S JOURNEY GAME

- Print one Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print and cut apart the ten 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
- Ten 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.

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.



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 Second Journey Booklet

MATERIALS

- Paul's Second Journey Booklet for each student
- Paul's Second Journey Booklet Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, collate, and staple the booklets for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks 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.

Today we have a booklet to fill out as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll fill them in together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we go through our booklets today, we will see what happened to Paul and Silas on Paul's second journey, especially in the city called Philippi.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Paul's first missionary journey was over. God had led him and Barnabas to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in many places. They had traveled many miles.

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

➤ If needed, print the Map Pronunciation Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 1, for help pronouncing the place names.

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

➤ 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.

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. Paul preached about Jesus in Iconium. Some people believed, and some did not. In fact, some of the people got so angry they wanted to stone him! So, he and Barnabas left that city in a hurry!

? In Lystra, God gave Paul special power to do something. What did Paul do? *He healed a crippled man.*

Yes. God gave Paul special powers. He healed a man who had never walked before! And the people wanted to worship Paul because they thought he was a god! But that didn't last long. The people very quickly changed their minds and then tried to hurt him.

? What happened to Paul? What did the people in Lystra do? *Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. The people stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead!*

Wow! It seems like wherever Paul went, he ran into trouble. But that didn't stop him. He understood that people must hear the gospel so they will know the truth about Jesus. God was using Paul to preach this good news in places where people had never heard it before!

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. That first journey was exciting for Paul and Barnabas. They went a long way and finally returned to their church in Antioch. But it wasn't long before the Lord called on Paul again—for a second journey. This journey was a lot longer, but it was also very exciting! We are going to talk about that second missionary journey today.

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Point out the path on the map as you explain the journey. Take a look up here, and I'll show you where this second journey took Paul and his friend Silas. First they passed through *Syria* and *Cilicia*. On their way, they stopped and encouraged the believers in the churches that were already started. Then they came to the cities of *Derbe* and *Lystra*.

Then God directed Paul and his friends to go to *Macedonia*—this was the very first time the gospel would be preached to this part of the world! So they got on a ship and set sail to Macedonia and ended up in the city of *Philippi*. After *Philippi*, they traveled on to *Thessalonica*, then to the city of *Berea*, then *Athens*, and *Corinth*. Then they sailed again to a city called *Ephesus*, and from there they headed back home to *Antioch*.

Now remember, all of these places are real places. And Paul and Silas were real people. And this is God's true history from the Bible! God was working in a big way to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all of these areas so people could be saved and forgiven of their sin through Jesus.

? One of the cities Paul went to on his second journey was *Philippi*. Can someone find *Philippi* on the map again? *Choose a student to point out Philippi on the map.*

Today we are going to learn about some of the things that happened in this city called Philippi! We'll start with Acts 16:13. Listen to what happened to Paul and Silas on this journey. *Read Acts 16:13 with enthusiasm.*

Acts 16:13

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What special day was this? *Re-read Acts 16:13. The Sabbath day.*
- ? And where did Paul and Silas go? *Acts 16:13. Out to the riverside.*
- ? They went to the river. People were praying there. Who did Paul and Silas meet by the river? *Re-read Acts 16:13. They met some women there.*
- ? What did they do? *Acts 16:13. Sat down and spoke to them.*

So Paul and Silas went to the river and were talking to some women. Now listen to the next verse, Acts 16:14. We will answer more questions. *Read Acts 16:14.*

- ? This verse talks about one woman in particular. What was her name? *Re-read Acts 16:14. Lydia.*
- ? What did Lydia do for a living? What did she sell? *Acts 16:14. She was a seller of purple.*

That sounds kind of funny, doesn't it? It means Lydia sold purple dye or purple cloth. Purple cloth was very expensive and was used to make clothes for rich people and royalty.

On this morning, Paul was talking to Lydia and the other women who had come down to the river to pray together. And God did something wonderful for Lydia.

- ? *Refer to Lesson Theme Poster.* What was it the Lord did for Lydia while she was listening to Paul teach about Jesus? Listen to the last part of this verse again. *Re-read Acts 16:14b. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things Paul said.*

Yes! God sent Paul to the river on the Sabbath day. Paul was happy to talk to the people there about his Savior, Jesus! And the Lord opened Lydia's heart, so she believed the things Paul said about Jesus. It must have been wonderful! Paul was preaching the message of the Cross of Jesus—and that message was NOT foolishness to Lydia. She understood it and believed it!

The Bible tells us that after she believed, she was baptized! Lydia and her family were sinners who turned away from their sins and turned to Jesus! They were now saved through the power of God and the gospel!

Discover the Truth

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map and the Lesson Theme Poster. God was spreading the gospel all over! He sent Paul to many places including the city of Philippi.

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

Acts 16:14

- You may want to take this opportunity to explain your church's position on baptism.

Paul met Lydia and some other women there. Lydia heard the truth about Jesus Christ, and God opened her heart to believe the gospel. Lydia turned away from her sins, turned to Jesus for forgiveness, and was baptized.

? OK. Will someone read page 1 of our booklets? How will you finish #1 on page 1? Where did Paul and Silas meet Lydia? *Assign a reader. Philippi. Have students complete #1.*

? And what about #2? What did Lydia believe after she heard Paul? Will someone read that? *Gospel. Assign a reader. Have students complete #2.*



READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster and Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. As always, trouble followed Paul again in Philippi. And there were people who did not believe him and got angry! So, Paul and Silas were soon thrown in jail—because they talked about Jesus!

They weren't only thrown in jail, they were beaten with rods and tied up with metal chains! This was not good. I wonder how Paul and Silas would act in prison? Would they get out? We are going to find out right now! Let's keep reading in Acts 16:25. *Read Acts 16:25 with enthusiasm!*

Acts 16:25

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

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Remember, Paul and Silas were in jail! What time was it when all this happened? *Re-read Acts 16:25. Midnight.*

Yes. It was the middle of the night—midnight!

? But what were Paul and Silas doing? Were they crying and feeling sorry for themselves because they had been beaten and put in jail? *Acts 16:25. No! They were praying and singing hymns to God.*

? Right! They were praying and singing to God! And who was listening to them? *Re-read Acts 16:25. The other prisoners.*

? What a night for Paul and Silas! Let's go back to our booklets. Look at page 2. Will someone read #3 for us? *Assign a reader. Prison. Have students complete #3.*

? And what about #4 on page 2? Who can read that for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Praying. Have students complete #4.*

Wow! So much trouble. But Paul and Silas were singing in the prison, and the other prisoners were listening to them sing.

Something even more amazing was about to happen. God was going to take care of Paul and Silas AND the guard who was watching them. Let's find out what happened! Listen to this! *Read Acts 16:26.*

Acts 16:26

? What happened right there in the middle of the night, in that dark prison? What did God cause to happen? *Acts 16:26. There was a great earthquake!*

The earth trembled and rocked! And the Bible says that all the doors of the cells in the prison were opened! And not only that, all the chains on the prisoners fell off!

Whoa! God sent the earthquake, and all the prisoners in the prison were suddenly set free!

? Will someone read #5 on page 3 of your booklets for us? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Doors. Have students complete #5.*

This could be big trouble for the guard who was watching all the prisoners! But God took care of him, too. Listen as I read Acts 16:27–29. *Read the verses.*

Acts 16:27–29

? The guard had been sleeping! What did he see when he woke up? *Acts 16:27. He saw the prison doors open.*

? He knew he would be in BIG trouble for letting all the prisoners escape. What does the Bible tell us he did when he saw that? *Re-read Acts 16:27 if necessary. He was going to kill himself with his sword!*

? But, he didn't kill himself. Who stopped him? *Re-read Acts 16:28. Paul.*

Whew! Paul stopped the guard from killing himself. None of the prisoners had even left the prison. They were all still there! The guard was really upset. He called for a light. Remember, it was the middle of the night! When he could see, he went to Paul and Silas and fell down in front of them.

? What do you think he said to them? What would you say if you were the guard? *Allow discussion.*

Well, the Bible tells us what he said. I'm going to read Acts 16:30. *Read Acts 16:30.*

Acts 16:30

? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. What did the guard say? *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

Yes! The guard wanted to know how he could be saved through Jesus Christ! Paul had an answer for the man. He knew how the guard could be saved. Listen to what Paul said. *Read Acts 16:31.*

Acts 16:31

? Who did Paul tell the guard to believe in? *Acts 16:31. Jesus!*

? Look at your booklets again. What is the answer for #6 on page 4? Who can read it? *Assign a reader. Saved. Have students complete #6.*

? And what about #7? What did Paul answer him? Who can read that? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #7.*

Discover the Truth

Wow! Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. But God was in control. He used this terrible thing to do something wonderful! Paul and

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

Silas were praying and singing hymns in the middle of the night in prison. And God caused an earthquake that opened all the prison doors! The guard was afraid that all of the prisoners had escaped and was about to kill himself! But Paul stopped him. And then Paul told him about Jesus!

This guard believed in Jesus and was saved! He turned away from his sins. And now he would spend eternity with God. What seemed like a horrible situation turned out to be a joyful time! The guard had been saved by God's grace.



Paul's Journey Game

MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS

Teacher 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 second journey took him. Ask the first team a question. If the students answer correctly, their "Paul" should move to the next city sign. If the students answer incorrectly, their "Paul" may not move. Ask the other team the same question. If the students 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 teach "travel" together as they answer the questions.

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 "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 its "Paul" complete the 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 its "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

On Paul's second journey, Paul and Silas boldly preached and taught about Jesus to all those they met. Those who believed, like Lydia and the prison guard, were changed by the truth of the gospel and God's grace!





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, preferably onto cardstock. 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

? **Guess who wrote this verse!** Allow guesses. Paul.

The Apostle Paul—the same man we've been talking about—wrote this verse in a letter to one of the churches about 2,000 years ago!

? **Why does he say "the message of the cross"? What cross is he talking about?** The Cross Jesus died on.

That's right. Jesus died on the Cross and took the punishment for sins. Everyone who believes in Him can be forgiven. This is what Paul told the people he talked to. This is the message of the Cross—the gospel of Jesus!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. God used Paul to change many people's lives with the good news about Jesus. He and Silas traveled to many different cities on his second missionary journey. One of the cities they went to was Philippi. They met Lydia and some other women by the river. Paul told them about Jesus, and God opened Lydia's heart to understand the truth. She believed in Jesus and was baptized.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Later, while they were still in Philippi, things got bad for Paul and Silas. They were beaten and thrown into prison for teaching about Jesus. But in the middle of the night, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God in the prison. Suddenly, God sent an earthquake that opened the cell doors and set the prisoners free! Instead

of escaping when he had the chance, Paul preached the gospel to the guard, and he and his family believed and were baptized!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Let's talk for a minute about what happened to Paul and Silas. They were beaten with rods. That's a serious beating. And then they were taken to a dark, cold, prison cell and put in stocks, which means they were chained up.

? Why were they treated like that? Did they murder someone or steal something? *No!*

No. Of course not. This was their punishment for speaking out for the Lord Jesus. But instead of feeling sorry for themselves, they sang hymns and prayed to God. They didn't have any idea what was going to happen to them. But they trusted God. And even though they were stuck there in prison, and in pain from the beatings, they still had joy and peace. They knew that God was in control over everything.

God promises in His Word that He will always give grace to believers to help them when things get difficult. We can trust God and look to Him for hope and strength when we are afraid or when something bad happens. He will help us. We might not understand what's going on, or why things are happening, but we can trust Jesus—just like Paul and Silas trusted Him.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind children 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

- Pray that God will open the hearts of your students to His truth like He did for Lydia and for the guard.
- Praise God because He is with believers all the time and promises to give His grace and strength when we are suffering or hurting.
- Ask God to give us the grace to react to persecution and difficulties with hope, joy, prayer, and even singing.