

Matthias Chosen

Acts 1:12-26

Let's think back to when we studied about Jesus. We studied about His life and how He taught the apostles many wonderful things. We studied about the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. We then studied about His death on the cross. Finally we studied about Him being raised from the dead. Remember how He came back to earth to show the apostles that He was alive. After that, He left the earth and went back to heaven to be with God and to prepare a place for us.

After this great event, the apostles went back to the city of Jerusalem, back to the upper room where they were staying. They spent much time praying to God while they were together with one another. Finally Peter stood up in the middle of them and spoke to them.

Peter realized that everything that had happened was to fulfill the Old Testament scriptures. Peter recalled the Old Testament scripture that told of the betrayal of Judas. He also remembered the scripture that told of Judas' death.

Peter realized it was time to move on and continue the work Jesus had given them to do. The first thing they must do is choose another apostle to take the place of Judas. The eleven apostles had two men to choose from — Joseph and Matthias.

They prayed to God about their decision and asked God to show them which one to choose. They knew that God knew the hearts of all men. God answered their prayers. A man named Matthias was chosen to take Judas' place. Matthias was now one of the twelve apostles. Can you name the others?

Notes for Parents:

- The work of God must continue. No matter how difficult the situation, nor how badly we feel, we must get on with His work. Peter put his faith in God and accepted the death of Jesus as the will of God. This allowed him to get on with the work.
- Discuss the importance of prayer regarding decisions we face. We rely too much on our own abilities and we must rely more on God.
- Explain how God answers our prayers today. This may be difficult since we don't know the exact details, but we do know He does answer prayers. If He didn't answer, there would be no need to pray.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. What had Judas done to Jesus?
a. betrayed Him b. protected Him c. forgot about Him
2. Peter finally realized that these things fulfilled _____.
a. their faith b. the scriptures c. their curiosity
3. Another _____ needed to be chosen to take Judas' place.
a. preacher b. prophet c. apostle
4. What did the apostles do before choosing another apostle?
a. just picked who they wanted
b. took a vote
c. prayed and asked God to show them the right man
5. _____ was chosen to be the next apostle.
a. Joseph b. Matthias c. Peter

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 16-20 and answer the following questions.

1. Who had foretold of these events occurring and by whose mouth?
2. What had Judas received for the work he had done?
3. Who knew about the events of Judas?
4. What was to happen to the "office" of Judas?

Memory Work:

Acts 2:38

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Day of Pentecost (Part 1)

Acts 2:1-21

The Jews had a special feast called "Pentecost." There were many Jews in Jerusalem for this feast. While the apostles were at the feast, something very special happened to them. While they were all gathered together in one place, they suddenly heard a noise from heaven. The noise sounded like a very strong rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Suddenly they all began to speak with other tongues, which meant they were speaking other languages. Each man heard in their own language, which meant that if five people of different languages were listening, each one heard the same words in their own language. This was definitely the work of God. In fact, this is when God caused the Holy Spirit to come upon the apostles.

Having the Holy Spirit meant they had special powers to do many things. As we just saw, they could speak a language they never knew before. They could heal people by just touching them. They could even raise people from the dead.

God gave the apostles these special powers. He wanted the people to know that what the apostles said was true and right. God wanted the people to believe the apostles when they preached about Jesus and God. Being able to speak these many languages also allowed them to teach anyone and everyone about Jesus. This would make their work much easier. All of these events fulfilled other Old Testament scriptures which said these things would happen.

As we will see in our next lesson, many people were taught and believe and obeyed God. This is the beginning of Christ's church.

Notes for Parents:

- God wants us to believe and obey His word. He had the apostles write these miraculous events in a book so we could see His power in action and believe just as these people did.
- We know what the apostles taught because it is written in the Bible. Since we have the Bible, we don't need these special powers any more.
- We were not privileged to start the church, but we can be very active in keeping it strong and active.

Getting the Main Points:

1. The Jews had a feast called _____.
a. Holiday b. Thanksgiving c. Pentecost
2. Many Jews went to _____ for this feast.
a. Jerusalem b. Jericho c. Galilee
3. _____ caused the Holy Spirit to come on the apostles.
a. Peter b. God c. Matthias
4. The apostles had special _____ after they received the Holy Spirit.
a. powers b. clothes c. cars
5. God wanted the people to _____ in Him and obey.
a. trust b. believe c. both a and b

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 12-16 and answer the following questions.

1. How did the people react to the apostles speaking in tongues?
2. What did those who mocked the apostles say they were doing?
3. Who stood up and addressed these mockers and the rest of the people?

Memory Work:

Acts 2:38

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Day of Pentecost (Part 2)

Acts 2:22-47

In our last lesson we learned about the special powers the apostles received on Pentecost. Remember how this allowed them to speak in different languages so everyone could understand them. In today's lesson we will see how this helped the apostles teach people about Jesus.

As Peter stood before the people gathered for the feast, he began to teach them. These people believed in God and believed the Old Testament scriptures, so Peter started there. He told them that David had spoken about Jesus a long time ago. He showed them that David had spoken of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Next, Peter told them that Jesus had been raised to the right hand of the Father and He is the one who sent the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit which was allowing them to speak in different languages. They were trying to convince these people that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

When these people heard these words, they were very upset about what they had done to Jesus. They cried out to Peter and the apostles, *"Brethren, what shall we do?"* Peter said to them, *"Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ..."*

Peter continued to tell them about Jesus and encourage them to be saved. Many people obeyed Jesus on that day and were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. They were so happy about obeying Jesus.

God was very pleased with these people. They spent time together and shared their things with others who needed help. As they were together, they spent time learning about God's word and they prayed together. The people who obeyed on this day were the first members of the Lord's church.

Notes for Parents:

- Peter had to convince these people that Jesus is the Son of God. Many times this is the hardest thing to do when teaching people. This would be a good place to go to begin.
- The Old Testament scriptures were fulfilled in every event that occurred. Jesus' resurrection was told of by David.
- We should be happy when we obey God. God knows what is best for us and knows how we will be the happiest. We must believe in His way and follow it.
- Sharing is important. Studying together is important. Praying together is important. Breaking bread together is important.
- The church is the people, not the building.
- Be sure your children know the meaning of repentance and baptism.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line to the correct answer.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Peter preached about | very upset |
| 2. Who spoke of Jesus' resurrection | Jesus |
| 3. How the people felt about Jesus' death | shared |
| 4. What people did after Peter preached | very happy |
| 5. What baptism does | forgive sins |
| 6. How people felt when they obeyed | were baptized |
| 7. How people helped others | David |

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 41 through 47 and answer the following questions.

1. How many people were baptized on the day of Pentecost?
2. What was everyone feeling at that time and why?
3. What were some of the things they were doing to help one another?
4. Who was adding to their number day by day?

Memory Work:

Acts 2:38

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Healing at the Temple

Acts 3

One day Peter and John were going to the temple. Just outside of the temple they met a man who had been crippled all of his life. This man could not walk and therefore he had to be carried everywhere he went.

Every day several people would carry this man to the temple where he would sit at the Beautiful Gate and ask people for alms or gifts. On that day, as Peter and John walked past him, the man asked them for a gift. Peter told the man that he had no silver or gold, but what he did have he would give to him. He gave him a gift that was much better than silver and gold. Peter said, "In the name of Jesus, ... walk." Peter and John lifted him up and immediately the man could walk. He jumped up and began praising God.

When the people saw this, they were amazed. They began to gather around Peter and John and ask questions, hoping to learn more about what had just happened. Peter used this as a great opportunity to preach to the people about God.

Peter began by telling them that God had done the healing of this man. He told them that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the God of their fathers has glorified His servant Jesus. He then reminded them that they were the ones who had put Jesus on the cross and killed Him. He taught them that they had been witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. He then told them that they must believe in Jesus to be saved.

He told them, "*Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ...*" Peter told them that they must change their lives and obey God if they wanted to be saved.

Peter and John used the special power God had given them to heal this man. They then used this healing as an opportunity to teach others about Jesus and about obedience and salvation. God wants everyone to be saved.

Notes for Parents:

- We should be thankful for our physical abilities (walking, seeing, hearing, etc.).
- God was the power behind the miracle.
- We should praise God for our blessings today.
- We must look for the opportunities that God provides us to teach others. Peter and John used the healing as an opportunity to convict these people that Jesus was the Son of God.
- Repentance is necessary to salvation. We cannot continue to live as people in the world if we want to be God's people.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. The name of the gate at the temple was _____.
a. Wonderful b. Beautiful c. Straight
2. What did Peter and John see at the gate? _____.
a. a woman b. a baby c. a crippled man
3. The man was asking for _____.
a. gifts (alms) b. car c. a house
4. Peter and John _____ the man through God's power.
a. healed b. ignored c. gave money to
5. The man immediately could walk and _____ God.
a. forgot b. praised c. saw
6. Peter and John used this as a chance to _____ the people.
a. help b. get money from c. teach

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 16-19 and answer the following questions.

1. What was it that had strengthened this man?
2. What gave the man perfect health in their presence?
3. How had the brethren and rulers acted when they killed Jesus?
4. Even though they acted in ignorance, what did Peter tell them to do?

Memory Work:

Acts 2:38

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Peter and John in Prison

Acts 4

Peter and John were preaching to the Jews about Jesus. In our last lesson, we saw how they healed the crippled man and allowed him to walk again. The leaders of the Jews did not like this. They did not like it when Jesus did this either, which is why they killed Him. They took Peter and John and threw them in jail.

The next day Peter and John were taken from the jail and brought before the leaders of the Jews. They asked Peter and John how they had healed the lame man. Peter and John told them it was through the name of Jesus that they had healed him. They said that no one could be saved by anyone but Jesus. They also reminded them that they had killed the Son of God.

The leaders didn't like hearing this. They knew that they could not prove that the miracle was fake and they were not sure how to stop these things from happening. They decided to tell Peter and John not to preach about Jesus anymore. Do you think Peter and John stopped preaching about Jesus? No! They knew it was the most important thing to do. Jesus had told the apostles to teach people about Him.

Not only did they not stop teaching about Jesus, they told these leaders that they would not stop teaching. The leaders were angry with them and so they threatened them some more. Finally, they let Peter and John out of jail, since they knew they had no legal reason to keep them in jail.

Peter and John then went to their friends. They all prayed that God would help them be brave and keep preaching about Jesus. All the people who believed and obeyed Jesus helped each other. They shared what they had and helped people who needed things.

Notes for Parents:

- The most important thing in life is obeying Jesus and teaching others about Him.
- Our friends can help encourage us and help us be strong or they can cause us to be lost. It is important to choose the right friends.
- Prayer can help us through very difficult times. God cares for us and will give us the strength we need.
- Sharing and helping others is very important.
- Salvation is only in Jesus — no other name.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle T for true and F for false

1. T F Peter and John were put into jail for stealing.
2. T F Peter told them they healed the lame man through Jesus' name.
3. T F The leaders liked Peter and John and wanted them to preach.
4. T F Peter and John agreed to stop preaching if they could go.
5. T F The apostles prayed that they would be brave and strong.
6. T F The people shared and helped each other.
7. T F There is nothing more important than God.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 29-32 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the apostles ask God to take note of?
2. What did they ask God to grant them?
3. What happened after the people prayed together?
4. Did God answer their prayer to give them boldness? How do you know?

Memory Work:**Acts 2:38**

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Ananias and Sapphira Lied

Acts 5

Many people heard Peter and the other apostles teach about Jesus. When they obeyed Jesus' words and were baptized, they became Christians. Many Christians in Jerusalem began to sell their homes and land to help others who had need. Some of them gave the money from the sale of the land to the apostles so they could use it to help others.

Ananias and his wife Sapphira decided to sell a piece of property. They decided to give some of the money to the apostles and keep some of the money. They also decided to lie and say they gave all of the money to the apostles. Their hearts were not right. They carried out their plan and gave some of the money to the apostles and kept the rest. They told everyone they had given all of the money from the sale of the land.

Peter knew they had lied. God also knew they had lied. Not only had Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles, more importantly, they had lied to God. Ananias and Sapphira were killed by God because of this sin. They should have told the truth about their money. It is always wrong to lie. God did not care if they kept some of the money for themselves, after all the property had been theirs. There was no reason for Ananias and Sapphira to lie.

In this same chapter, we learn about many miracles done by the apostles. These miracles caused many people to believe in the Lord and they became Christians. This made the high priest and the leaders of the Jews jealous and very angry. They decided to catch the apostles and put them in jail.

During the night, an angel opened the gates of the prison and sent the apostles back to the temple to teach. The next morning, the Jewish leaders sent someone to the prison to get the apostles. What a surprise they got! The prison was locked tightly, but it was empty. Someone told them that their prisoners, the apostles, were teaching in the temple.

The leaders sent guards to the temple to get the apostles. The apostles went calmly and quietly to stand before the leaders. When the Jews asked why they had kept teaching after being told to stop, Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must obey God rather than men." This made the Jews so angry that they wanted to kill the apostles.

A man named Gamaliel kept the angry Jewish leaders from killing the apostles. Instead, they had them beaten and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus. When they let them go, the apostles were happy that they had been able to suffer for Jesus. They spent every day teaching and preaching that Jesus was the Son of God. They obeyed God rather than men. What courage and faith!

Notes for Parents:

- Lying is sin. God always knows if we lie, even if nobody else ever knows. When we lie, we are always lying to God. Always tell the truth.
- We should give our money to the Lord generously and cheerfully. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- Just as the apostles said, we must obey God rather than man!

Getting the Main Points:

Cross out the wrong answers.

1. What did Ananias and Sapphira do that was very bad?
a. lied b. used bad words c. ran away
2. To whom did they lie?
a. Peter b. God c. both
3. What did they sell?
a. horses b. piece of property c. camels
4. Why were the apostles put in jail?
a. for stealing
b. for preaching about Jesus
c. for lying
5. Who busted the apostles out of jail?
a. an angel b. a gang c. their friends
6. If our leaders tell us not to worship God, whom do we obey?
a. leaders b. God

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 35-39 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Gamaliel tell the leaders to be careful about?
2. Who were the two men who rose up claiming to be somebody?
3. What happened to each of these two men who rose up?
4. What would the leaders be doing if the apostles really were from God?

Memory Work:**Acts 8:4**

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Seven Chosen / Stephen's Arrest

Acts 6

The people continued to obey Jesus and spread His word. Many were being baptized and the church was growing. As the church grew, there was much work to be done in teaching and helping those who were Christians. At this time, there were some widows who were not getting enough food. They needed someone to take care of them. This problem was brought to the apostles.

The apostles gathered all the people together. They told the people to choose seven men from among them to help these widows. The seven men were to be good men who loved God and could therefore be trusted with this work. These men were to have a good reputation and were to be wise. It was more important for the apostles to take care of spiritual matters and allow these matters to be handled by others.

The people chose the seven men from among them. The widows would be taken care of now. The seven men would make sure the widows had the food and other things they needed. It also allowed the work to continue and allowed the church to continue to grow.

One of the seven men chosen above was named Stephen. Stephen loved God and taught people about God. Some of the Jews didn't like Stephen because he was doing some very great works for God. They decided to tell lies about him so he would get into trouble. The people, scribes, and elders became angry with Stephen and they took him away and brought him before the high priest. We will see in our next lesson what happens to Stephen.

Notes for Parents:

- God always provides for our needs. We need to be willing to help others. True religion is to help those in need, especially the widows.
- Sometimes people may say bad things about us because we serve God. We can pray for strength to keep serving Him. God will always be with us as long as we serve Him. (*"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*) Peter said he must obey God rather than men.
- The seven men were to be of good reputation and have wisdom. When there is important work to be done, entrust it to those who you know will get it done. Also be the kind of person who can be trusted to do these important works.

Getting the Main Points:

Fill in the correct circle.

- _____ people continued to obey Jesus.
☐ many ☐ few ☐ no
- The church was _____.
☐ growing ☐ shrinking ☐ fighting
- Some of the _____ were not getting enough food.
☐ apostles ☐ widows ☐ priests
- _____ men were chosen to help them.
☐ Seven ☐ Five ☐ Ten
- One of the men chosen was _____.
☐ Peter ☐ Ananias ☐ Stephen
- Stephen _____ God and taught people about Him.
☐ loved ☐ didn't know ☐ forgot

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 10-14 and answer the following questions.

1. What were the Jews unable to cope with?
2. What did they get men to say about Stephen?
3. What did they say Stephen spoke against?
4. What did they say Steven was trying to alter?

Memory Work:

Acts 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Stephen's Defense and Stoning

Acts 7

In our last lesson we learned about those who had falsely accused Stephen, lied about him, and had him arrested. After Stephen had been arrested, he was brought to the high priest. The high priest asked him if the things were true that the people said about him.

Stephen spoke to the high priest and the rest of the people about many things that had happened in the past. He talked about how God had been with the Israelites and had protected them through the years. He talked about Abraham, Joseph, Jacob, and Moses. He told them that during all the times that God tried to help His people, many of them were stubborn and would not obey Him. He told of how they did not want to follow Moses and how they killed the prophets.

Stephen then told them something that really made the people mad. He said they had not kept God's law either. He said they were no better than their fathers who would not obey. He told them that they had received the law, but they had not obeyed it. The worst part is that Stephen was right. The people had not loved and obeyed God like they should have.

This upset the people so much that they grabbed Stephen, took him out of the city, and threw stones at him until he died. Just before Stephen died, he called upon God and said, "*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!*" He then asked for one more thing. He asked the Lord to forgive the people for this sin. Stephen loved God very much and was a very good man. He was more concerned about the souls of people than he was concerned about getting revenge. He was a man after God's own heart and a great example of courage for us.

Notes for Parents:

- Even though lying has been emphasized quite a bit previously, now is a good time for children to see its effects. It caused Stephen to be arrested and eventually die.
- Children often want to retaliate when they are mistreated. Talk about how Stephen was forgiving; yet, what happened to him was far worse than the little things their playmates may do to them.
- As is appropriate for your child's age, discuss loving God enough to be persecuted for Him. (Matthew 5:10-12)
- Stephen had the courage to stand up to these people and tell them the truth. Many times when we tell the truth, we are also hated just as Stephen was hated. We need to know when we must speak and when we must be silent.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line to finish each sentence.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Stephen was brought to | Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. Joseph and Moses. |
| 2. Stephen spoke of | had not kept God's law. |
| 3. Stephen told the people they | the high Priest. |
| 4. The worst part is Stephen | forgive the people. |
| 5. The people felt | very angry. |
| 6. The people took Stephen and | was right. |
| 7. Stephen asked the Lord to | stoned him. |

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 51-54 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Stephen call these men?
2. They resisted the Holy Spirit just as who else did?
3. Who did their fathers kill?
4. They received the law but did not do what with it?

Memory Work:

Acts 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8

When Stephen was stoned, a young man named Saul was pleased to see him die. Saul began persecuting Christians on that day, which means he tried to make it very hard for them to serve God. He entered houses and took men and women to prison. Christians began leaving Jerusalem and going other places to live and they went about preaching. This caused the word to be spread to other parts of the world. Even in trying to stop them, Saul was causing the gospel to be spread.

Next we meet a man named Philip. Philip was one of the seven men chosen to serve the widows. In our lesson today, Philip is on his way to the city of Samaria, preaching and doing miracles by the power of God. Many people were baptized, including a magician named Simon. Because so many people were believing, Peter and John also came to Samaria to help in the work.

Peter and John laid their hands on people and gave them the Holy Spirit. This would allow others to know God's word so they could teach others. They could also do miracles to prove their words were from God. Simon was so excited by this power that he wanted it, too. He offered Peter and John money if they would allow him to lay his hands on others to give them the Holy Spirit. Peter told Simon that the Holy Spirit was not a gift that could be bought. They told Simon that he must repent and pray that God would forgive him. Simon asked the Peter and John to pray for the forgiveness of his sin and he repented.

An angel then sent Philip to a desert road going from Jerusalem to Gaza. There he met a man from Ethiopia who was traveling home from Jerusalem, where he had been worshipping God. As he rode along in his chariot, he was reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Philip came up to his chariot and asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The man said that he did not understand without someone to help him. Philip got in the chariot and started teaching him about Jesus. Philip told him what he needed to do to be saved.

As they went down the road, they came to some water. The man asked Philip if he could be baptized. The man said he believed Jesus is the Son of God. Then Philip took him down in the water and baptized him. His sins were washed away when he was baptized.

The Ethiopian man went on his way rejoicing. Philip was taken away by the Spirit of God. He continued preaching Jesus to others.

Notes for Parents:

- Explaining spiritual gifts to children is not easy. A review of 1 Corinthians 12 should prove helpful. It is important to emphasize that those gifts are not present today because we do not need them. We have the Bible.
- Baptism is immersion. It washes away our sins. We must believe and confess before we can be baptized.
- Spreading God's word is important.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a happy face if true and a sad face if false.

1. ____ Saul made it hard for the Christians in Jerusalem to serve God.
2. ____ Philip baptized many people, including Simon.
3. ____ Simon never sinned again after being baptized.
4. ____ The man riding in his chariot lived in Jerusalem.
5. ____ The eunuch was reading God's word.
6. ____ Philip came up to his chariot and taught him about Jesus.
7. ____ The man saw water and wanted to be baptized.
8. ____ After Philip baptized him, the man felt very sad.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 4-8 and answer the following questions.

1. What did those who were scattered go about doing?
2. Where was Philip preaching?
3. Name some of the miracles Philip was doing.
4. What was the result of all the things Philip was doing?

Memory Work:

Acts 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Paul's Conversion

Acts 9; 22:3-16; 26:1-18

One day Saul and some other men were traveling to Damascus to continue to persecute Christians. As they were traveling, something very special happened to Saul. A bright light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*" Then Saul said, "*Who art Thou, Lord?*" The voice answered, "*I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.*" Then Jesus told Saul to go into the city of Damascus and he would be told what to do.

Saul got up from the ground and though his eyes were opened, he could not see. Saul was blind. Just as Jesus had told him, he went into Damascus. He had to be led by the hand because he was blind. For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink. The Lord then sent a man named Ananias to Saul. Ananias told Saul what he needed to do to get rid of the sin in his life. After Ananias laid his hands on Saul, his sight came back. He obeyed the Lord and was baptized.

Saul then began preaching about Jesus. Many Jews who did not believe in Jesus did not like it that Saul had stopped persecuting Christians and became one. They plotted to do away with him. When the disciples heard of the plan, they took Saul by night and let him down through an opening in the wall in a large basket. Saul went to Jerusalem and continued preaching. Again, the Jews tried to kill him. He had to be sent away to Tarsus.

At this time, Peter was traveling about preaching. At Lydda, he healed a man named Aeneas who had been paralyzed and in bed for eight years. In Joppa, he raised a woman named Dorcas from the dead. She was well known for her deeds of kindness, especially sewing for the widows. Because of these miracles, many people turned to the Lord.

Notes for Parents:

- Explain that Saul will later be known as Paul.
- Jesus talks to us through the Bible today, not like He did to Saul.
- We should obey Jesus' words.
- We should tell others about Jesus.
- Some people will not like it that we obey Jesus. They may persecute us as the Jews persecuted Saul.
- We should be known for the good things we do for others, especially for what we do for the widows.
- Even though Saul was to be an apostle, he still became a Christian just like us — he believed and was baptized and washed away his sins.

Getting the Main Points:

1. As Saul was traveling, what happened to him?
 - a. a light flashed from heaven and Jesus talked to him
 - b. he got lost
 - c. he fell asleep
2. What did Jesus tell Saul to do?
 - a. turn around and go home
 - b. go fishing in the sea
 - c. go to a certain city and he would be told what to do
3. Who came to Saul in the city?
 - a. Ananias
 - b. Peter
 - c. Stephen
4. After Ananias spoke to Saul about Jesus what did Saul do?
 - a. nothing
 - b. obeyed and was baptized
 - c. threw Ananias in prison
5. What did Saul do after that?
 - a. kept persecuting the church
 - b. didn't tell anybody about Jesus
 - c. taught people about Jesus
6. When the Jews tried to kill Paul, how did he escape from Damascus?
 - a. he was lowered in a large basket out of an opening in the wall
 - b. by boat
 - c. on a camel

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 9 verses 11-16 and answer the following questions.

1. Where was Saul staying while in Damascus?
2. What did Ananias know about Saul?
3. What was God going to show Saul?

Memory Work:**Acts 8:4**

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Salvation to Gentiles

Acts 10

In today's lesson we learn of a man named Cornelius. Cornelius was a very good man. He prayed to God. He helped other people who were in need and he loved God. Cornelius was not a Jew, he was a Gentile. Cornelius had not heard what Jesus wanted people to do to be saved because the apostles were only preaching the gospel to the Jews. This was about to change.

One day Cornelius had a vision. An angel of God appeared to him and said, "*Cornelius!*" Cornelius was afraid and said "What is it, Lord?" God spoke through the angel and He told Cornelius to send men to Joppa and ask for Peter. Cornelius did exactly as he was told.

At the time the messengers were traveling, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. He became hungry and was waiting for food to be prepared. Suddenly he went into a trance and he saw the sky opened and an object like a great sheet being lowered by its four corners. It was filled with unclean animals. A voice said, "*Arise, Peter, kill and eat!*" Peter said he could not because the animals were unclean. The voice told him that God was no longer making a difference between clean and unclean. He was talking about animals and people. This happened three times, and the object was taken up into the sky. This was God's way of letting Peter know that He was going to let Gentiles become Christians.

While Peter was trying to understand the meaning of the vision, the Holy Spirit told him that three men were looking for him. He should go with them. Peter obeyed and went. Six Christians from Joppa went with him. While the messengers were bringing Peter to him, Cornelius was busy inviting his relatives and close friends to come to his house. He wanted them to hear what God wanted people to do.

When Peter arrived, Cornelius tried to worship him. Peter explained that he was only a man, like Cornelius. He said that God had shown him that it was right for him to come to the home of a Gentile, even though Jews had thought that was wrong in the past. He then preached about Jesus. He talked about his death, burial, and resurrection. He explained that through the name of Jesus everyone who believes and is obedient receives forgiveness of sins.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles who were listening. This was the first time that Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit. Peter then asked if anyone would stop these Gentiles from being baptized since they received the Holy Spirit just as the Jews who had become Christians. No one did. Cornelius and his friends and relatives were the first Gentiles to become Christians.

Notes for Parents:

- Review with your child the difference in Jews and Gentiles and the superiority Jews felt as God's chosen race. The next lesson will address this in more detail.
- Being good is important, but it is not enough to save a person.
- God has a specific plan for man to be saved.
- If we love God, we will obey His commandments as Cornelius and the other Gentiles did.
- Like Cornelius, we should want our friends and relatives to be saved.

Getting the Main Points:

Write a T for True or and F for False

1. ____ Cornelius was a Gentile who loved God.
2. ____ Paul spoke to Cornelius in a vision.
3. ____ Peter's vision meant God wanted him to preach to the Gentiles.
4. ____ Cornelius wanted his relatives and friends to hear God's words.
5. ____ Peter told Cornelius and others about God's plan to be saved.
6. ____ Cornelius and the other Gentiles did not receive the Holy Spirit.
7. ____ The Gentiles did not want to obey God's plan.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 32-35 and answer the following questions.

1. Where was Peter staying at this time?
2. What did Cornelius give as the reason they were all present?
3. What did Peter certainly understand that he didn't understand before?
4. Who did Peter realize is welcome to God?

Memory Work:

Acts 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Receiving the Uncircumcised

Acts 11

Throughout the Old Testament, we know that the Jews were God's chosen people. They were the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had promised Abraham long ago that through his special family Jesus would come. When Jesus did come, He told His apostles to go out and to teach people about Him. He said to preach to the Jews first.

All people who were not Jews were called "Gentiles." The Gentiles had not heard the apostles teach about Jesus yet. When God appeared to Peter in the vision, and Peter went to the house of Cornelius, this was the beginning of preaching to the Gentiles about Jesus.

Some Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were upset that Peter had preached to Gentiles. The Jews were not supposed to have anything to do with the Gentiles. Peter explained about the vision and how he had then been told by the Spirit to go to Cornelius. He told about all the events we studied in our last lesson. When he had finished, the Christians in Jerusalem glorified God and said they understood that God wanted the Gentiles to be saved, too.

Remember that many of the first people to be baptized had left Jerusalem because they were being persecuted. As they traveled, they preached the gospel. Both Jews and Gentiles were continuing to obey the gospel.

Barnabas and Saul worked with the church in Antioch. It was there that disciples — those who followed Jesus' plan of salvation — were first called Christians. It was also in that city that a prophet named Agabus said there would be a famine over all the world. When it happened, the Christians in Antioch gave money to help the Christians in Judea who were in need.

Notes for Parents:

- Jews and Gentiles became one in Christ. The gospel truly is for all people. God is not a respecter of people.
- When people obey Jesus' plan for salvation, they become Christians.
- Christians need to keep telling others about Jesus, even when they are persecuted for doing it.
- Christians need to share with those in need.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a circle if true and a square if false.

1. _____ There were two groups of people called "Jews" and "Gentiles."
2. _____ The apostles preached to the Jews first.
3. _____ God told Peter never to preach to the Gentiles.
4. _____ Cornelius was a Gentile.
5. _____ Many Jews and Gentiles believed and obeyed Jesus.
6. _____ The disciples were called Christians first in Jerusalem.
7. _____ Christians in Antioch helped Christians who were in need because of a flood.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 22-26 and answer the following questions.

1. Who did the church at Jerusalem send to Antioch?
2. What did Barnabas do when he witnessed the grace of God at Antioch?
3. What kind of man was Barnabas?
4. What name did the church in Antioch use for their disciples?

Memory Work:

Acts 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Peter Freed / Herod Dies

Acts 12

During the early days of the church, there was a king named Herod who treated Christians very badly. He had James the brother of John put to death. He also arrested Peter because Peter had been preaching to the people about Jesus. When Peter was put in prison, he slept between two soldiers, and had two chains to keep him from escaping. Guards watched over the prison from in front of the door. Peter was to be taken before the people after the Passover.

On the night before the Passover, an angel of the Lord appeared to Peter in the prison. A light shone in the cell where Peter was. The angel told Peter to get up quickly. His chains then fell off his hands. The angel told Peter to follow him. Peter thought he was dreaming and did not know that this was really happening. When they came to the iron gate that led into the city, it opened by itself. They went out into the street, and the angel was gone. Peter then knew the angel had been sent from the Lord to protect him.

Many people had gathered together at a house to pray for Peter while he was in prison. They were very concerned for his life. Peter didn't know that everyone was there, but that was where he decided to go. The servant—girl named Rhoda who answered the door recognized Peter's voice. She was so happy that she left Peter standing in front of the gate and went to tell the others. They did not believe her. Peter kept knocking, and they finally opened the door. He told the people everything that had happened and asked them to tell others.

The next day, the prison guards were in big trouble with Herod. They could not understand how Peter had escaped. Later, Herod was giving a speech in front of the people. The people told him that his speech was wonderful. They even called him a god. The Lord struck Herod with worms because he did not give God the glory. Herod was eaten by the worms and he died.

"But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied." God could not be stopped by someone like Herod. The church continued to grow.

Notes for Parents:

- God watches over and cares for His children, as he did for Peter. He had promised Peter he would live a long life and he kept the promise.
- Prayer is very powerful. The church prayed fervently for Peter and their prayers were answered. We must also remember to thank God for hearing and answering our prayers.
- Even though Peter was spared, James and many others had to give their lives because of their belief in God. We are not promised a perfect life on earth, but the life to come will be worth it all.
- Remember to give God the credit for our talents. Herod was too proud and it cost him his life. It could cost us our spiritual lives too.

Getting the Main Points:

1. _____ treated the church very badly.
a. Ananias b. Peter c. Herod
2. Peter was put into prison because _____.
a. he was preaching about Jesus
b. he stole some money
c. he lied to Herod
3. God sent a(n) _____ to free Peter from prison.
a. apostle b. angel c. guard
4. Many people had been _____ for Peter.
a. praying b. crying c. singing
5. Herod died because _____.
a. he had a heart attack
b. he had cancer
c. God struck him with worms

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 2-5 and answer the following questions.

1. How did James die?
2. Why did Herod decide to arrest Peter also?
3. How many squads of soldiers were assigned to guard Peter?
4. What was the Church doing while Peter was in prison?

Memory Work:**Galatians 3:26**

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

First Missionary Journey Begun

Acts 13

The Holy Spirit wanted Saul and Barnabas to go many places and preach about Jesus. In Antioch, the brethren prayed for them and sent them off on their trip, the first missionary journey. John Mark traveled with Saul and Barnabas for part of this journey, but he came home early.

The group went to Seleucia and then sailed to the island of Cyprus. In the city of Salamis, they began preaching in the synagogues. Traveling across the island, they reached Paphos. They began to teach a Roman official called the procursul. They also met a magician named Elymas. When Elymas tried to keep the proconsul from believing, Saul used the power of the Holy Spirit to make the magician blind. The Roman official was amazed at the miracle and believed.

Luke, the writer of Acts, tells us that at this time Saul was also called Paul. From now on we will use that name. Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark sailed from Paphos to Perga. At Perga, John Mark left and went home. Paul and Barnabas went on to Pisidian Antioch. There they went to the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue officials asked Paul if they had anything to say to the people. Paul preached and reminded the people of things in their past:

1. God led the people out of the land of Egypt.
2. They won their battles in the land of Canaan.
3. They divided up the land of Canaan.
4. They appointed judges, King Saul, and King David.
5. John the Baptizer preached about Jesus.

Paul ended with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and how Jesus could forgive their sins. Many people wanted to hear more so Paul and Barnabas agreed to stay over for another week. The next Sabbath, nearly the whole city came to hear Paul and Barnabas. When the Jews saw the size of the crowd, they were very jealous. They did not like what was happening. There was a lot of people who wanted to hear about Jesus. The Jews began to say that Paul and Barnabas were not teaching the truth. Paul and Barnabas told the Jews that it was necessary that the gospel first be preached to the Jews, but since they had rejected it, they were going to turn their attention towards the Gentiles. Many believed due to their teaching.

The Jews kept on persecuting Paul and Barnabas until finally they made them leave their city. Paul and Barnabas went to another city called Iconium. The Holy Spirit was with them. They were happy to be able to suffer for Jesus.

Notes for Parents:

- Just as Paul reminded the Jews of what God had done for them, it is important to remember all that God has done for us.
- We have forgiveness of sins because of Jesus.
- We should want to hear and learn about Jesus.
- God watches over His children.
- We should be happy to follow Jesus even when persecuted.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a happy face for True or a sad face for False.

1. _____ Saul stayed in Antioch to preach for the rest of his life.
2. _____ Elymas was a magician who believed in Jesus.
3. _____ Paul reminded the Jews of all that God had done for them.
4. _____ Many people wanted Paul and Barnabas to keep preaching.
5. _____ All of the Jews loved Paul and Barnabas.
6. _____ Paul and Barnabas quit preaching when they were persecuted.
7. _____ Saul and Paul are two names for the same person.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 46-51 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the Jews judge themselves unworthy of?
2. Paul and Barnabas were to be a light to whom?
3. What did the Gentiles do when they heard this?
4. How did Paul and Barnabas display their protest against the Jews?

Memory Work:

Galatians 3:26

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

The Gospel to Asia Minor

Acts 14

In our last lesson we learned that Paul and Barnabas had been sent out of Antioch to other cities to preach about Jesus. They were persecuted in many of the places they went. They went to Iconium and preached there. When Paul and Barnabas found out that they were going to be stoned, they left and traveled to Lystra.

While they were in Lystra, they met a lame man. He had not been able to walk from the time he was born. This man was listening to Paul preach when Paul said to him, "*Stand upright on your feet.*" The man began to leap and walk. The people were amazed.

They thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. They began to offer sacrifices to them and Paul and Barnabas did everything they could to finally stop them. They told them that they were just men preaching about God and His Son, Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas tried to teach the people about the one true God. The things they were doing were possible because God had given them their power so men would believe.

Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and turned the people against Paul. The people stoned him and drug him outside of the city and left him, thinking he was dead. While the disciples stood around him, he got up and went into the city.

The next day, Paul went with Barnabas to Derbe. After many people there believed, Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They told the Christians to be strong and to keep on obeying God, even when it was hard. They also chose elders for every church.

Paul and Barnabas then continued their journey. They finally went back to Antioch to end this missionary journey at the same place where they had started it. They gathered the church in Antioch together to tell them all that had happened. One of the important things was that many Gentiles had become Christians. Paul and Barnabas spent a long time with the disciples in Antioch.

Notes for Parents:

- God watched over Paul and Barnabas. God watches over us today.
- Paul and Barnabas did not want to take credit for what God was doing. They were humble and not proud.
- There is only one true God.
- We should help others be strong.
- We should share our joy and our burdens with our brethren.
- There will be those who will try to stop the work of God. We cannot let them stop us from carrying out His work. This will take courage and patience which God will give to us if we will ask Him.

Getting the Main Points:

Color the circle in front of the right answer.

1. _____ and Barnabas traveled together to preach about Jesus.
☐ Paul ☐ Peter ☐ Andrew
2. In Lystra there was a _____ man.
☐ blind ☐ lame ☐ deaf
3. Paul healed that man through _____ power.
☐ God's ☐ his own ☐ Barnabas'
4. The people thought Paul and Barnabas were _____.
☐ devils ☐ magicians ☐ gods
5. Paul and Barnabas taught the people there (is, are) _____ true God(s).
☐ one ☐ two ☐ three
6. Paul and Barnabas ended their missionary journey at _____.
☐ Jerusalem ☐ Antioch ☐ Iconium

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 1-4 and answer the following questions.

1. How did the Jews and Greeks respond to Paul's preaching?
2. What did the disbelieving Jews do to the Gentiles?
3. What did they do to fight against the false teaching of the Jews?
4. What happened to the city because of the false teaching of the Jews?

Memory Work:

Galatians 3:26

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Conference at Jerusalem

Acts 15

Paul and Barnabas had finished the first missionary journey and returned to Antioch. Some men came to the Christians there and began saying that the Gentiles had to keep the Law of Moses. The brethren were very upset. It was decided that Paul and Barnabas should go to Jerusalem and speak to the elders and apostles that were there about this problem.

When Paul and Barnabas were in Jerusalem with the apostles and elders, Peter spoke and said that both the Jews and the Gentiles were saved by Jesus — not by keeping the Old Law. The apostles and elders then wrote a letter. This letter was sent to the Christians in Antioch who were upset. The letter explained that the Gentiles did not have to keep the Old Law. It did tell them some things from the Old Law that were good things to do.

Judas and Silas went from the church at Jerusalem to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas to deliver the letter. When the people received the message, they were happy. It made them feel better. It encouraged them so they grew stronger in the Lord.

Silas stayed with Paul and Barnabas in Antioch, teaching and preaching. After a while Paul and Barnabas decided to take another trip to see the people they had taught on their first missionary journey. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. Paul did not want to take him because John Mark had left them during their first trip. Paul and Barnabas could not agree. Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul took Silas and began his second missionary journey.

Notes for Parents:

- The Bible is God's word. There are those who teach error today, but we can know what is right by reading and studying the Bible. In those days it was more difficult because the word was not written down.
- We should grow stronger in the Lord by studying and obeying God's word. Through knowledge we can avoid error.
- We should say things to others that will encourage them and make them stronger in the Lord.
- We must learn to settle disagreements in an agreeable way, just as Paul and Barnabas did. They both went out and did God's work.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. False teachers said the _____ at Antioch should keep the Old Law.
a. king b. Gentiles c. elders
2. The brethren were _____.
a. happy b. pleased c. upset
3. Paul and Barnabas went to _____.
a. Jerusalem b. Lystra c. Bethlehem
4. Here they spoke to the apostles and about this problem.
a. women b. elders c. children
5. The apostles and elders wrote a _____ to the Christians in Antioch.
a. letter b. song c. book
6. The people received this letter and grew _____ in the Lord.
a. weaker b. stronger c. tired

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 7-11 and answer the following questions.

1. Who stood up and began to take charge of the discussion?
2. What had God given to both the Jews and the Gentiles?
3. How were they putting God to the test?
4. What did they believe allowed them to be saved?

Memory Work:

Galatians 3:26

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Paul's Apostleship

Galatians 1

Paul began his letter to the churches of Galatia by praising God. He wrote that men had not made him an apostle, but Jesus and God had. Do you remember the story of how Paul became an apostle on the road to Damascus?

Some of the Christians in Galatia were beginning to leave the Lord. People were teaching things that were not right, and were getting some of the Christians to believe these things. Paul said he was amazed that they were so easily taught false doctrines.

Paul wrote to them to try to stop them from leaving the church. He was concerned about these Christians remaining faithful to God. He told them that if the apostles — or even an angel from heaven — preached anything other than the true gospel, they would be punished or cut off from God.

The gospel is God's only way to salvation. It is not from man, it is from God. Therefore men cannot change it by adding to it or taking away from it. God expects us to follow it and obey it. We do this to please God, not men. Paul wanted the Galatians to know how much more important it was to please God instead of men.

Paul had been through a lot in his life. He wanted these Galatians to know that God had chosen him to be an apostle. He also wanted them to know how important it was to follow God and His gospel, not what man says. He said that through his work in preaching the gospel, many were glorifying God. That made it all worthwhile.

Notes for Parents:

- Review how Paul became an apostle. He was not chosen by man, but by Jesus Himself. We must respect his teaching since it comes from God.
- There is only one gospel, and it came from God. The apostles cannot change it, the angels cannot change it, and we cannot change it.
- We are to strive to please God, not men.
- When we preach the gospel it must be with the idea of pleasing God and not man. That attitude will allow us to always teach the truth.
- We must be strong and not easily led away from God. These Galatians were easily led away by error. Knowledge will protect us from error.

Getting the Main Points:

True or False.

1. _____ You must put God first in your life.
2. _____ You only need to believe in Jesus to be saved.
3. _____ You must hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized and keep obeying Jesus to be saved.
4. _____ You don't need to worship God very often.
5. _____ Jesus loves you and wants you to go to heaven.
6. _____ It doesn't matter what we believe.
7. _____ God wants us to know His word and follow it exactly.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 6-10 and answer the following questions.

1. Why was Paul so amazed?
2. Who is allowed to preach a gospel different than what we have?
3. If they do preach a "different" gospel, what will happen to them?
4. If we try to please men, what will we not be?

Memory Work:

Galatians 3:26

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Circumcision / Uncircumcision

Galatians 2

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul recalled the time when the false teachers were teaching that the Gentiles must obey the Old Testament law also. Remember how Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem and discussed the matter with the other apostles. They did not change their minds, but said that they only had to obey the new law and not the old. They wanted to follow God the right way.

Paul used this to remind these Galatians that the old law was taken out of the way by Jesus. They no longer had to follow it. Paul said he died to the law so he could live to God.

These are some more of the words Paul wrote to the Galatians, "*I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.*" He was letting Christ live in him. What did Paul mean? What does it mean to let Christ live in you?

When Paul said he had been crucified with Christ, he meant that he had given up his old life and given his life to Jesus. In this way he no longer lives, but Christ lives in him. He allows Jesus' words to guide him and tell him what to do. Paul said he lived his life by having faith in Jesus, the Son of God. He knew Jesus loved him and had died on the cross for him. Paul wanted to put Jesus first in his life and do everything Jesus wanted him to do.

When we live for ourselves, we are not putting Jesus first. We do what we want to do, even if it doesn't please Jesus. If we want to be selfish, we are. If we want to disobey our parents, we do. If we want to lie, we do.

When we let Christ live in us, we obey His word and do what He wants us to do. We put Christ first. Whom do you want to live for? How can you let Christ live in you?

Notes for Parents:

- There are different ways, depending on age, of letting Christ live in us. Children can begin by being kind, speaking nicely, and being respectful in a world where these qualities are lacking. Ask your child ways he/she can think of to let Christ live in him/her.
- Older children should discuss verses 20-21 in more detail, especially the thought of Paul saying he was "crucified with Christ".
- Any attempt to be justified by the old law makes the death of Jesus of no value. If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died needlessly.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the ways you can let Christ live in you. Cross out the things that show living for yourself.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Help someone else. | 7. Refuse to help anyone. |
| 2. Get your own way. | 8. Lie to someone. |
| 3. Study your bibles. | 9. Obey the elders. |
| 4. Go to church. | 10. Take someone to church. |
| 5. Keep your money for yourself. | 11. Encourage someone. |
| 6. Teach someone about Jesus. | 12. Steal something. |

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 11-14 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul do when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch?
2. Before James came, would Peter eat with the Gentiles?
3. Who else was carried away by their hypocrisy?
4. Paul asked Peter why the Gentiles should be made to live like who?

Memory Work:**Galatians 3:26**

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Abraham Justified by Faith

Galatians 3:1-14

Paul continues to teach the Galatians that they do not need to follow the Old Testament law. He says they are foolish for listening to the false teachers. They had seen and heard about the crucifixion of Jesus, so what is so important about these false teachings that caused them to believe a lie?

Paul asked them if they received the Spirit through the works of the law or by hearing with faith. Do they work the miracles through the old law or are they worked through faith? He tells them that the new law is a law of faith. He used Abraham as an example of great faith. Many years earlier God had promised Abraham that "*all the nations shall be blessed in you.*" He also promised Abraham a son. Abraham had the faith to believe God and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Paul asked the Galatians if they wanted to be under a law that puts them under a curse. He told them that Jesus died for them on the cross to become the curse for them, so they would not have to live by the old law, but by the new law of faith. Even the Gentiles would receive the blessings of Jesus through faith in Jesus Christ. This could not happen in the old law.

God blessed Abraham because of his great faith. God wants us to have the same kind of faith today. Paul said that Christians are sons of God through their faith in Jesus. Jews, Gentiles, slaves, free men, women, and men become the same thing when they are baptized. They are all Christians — "*one in Christ Jesus.*" We cannot have this if we serve any other law.

Notes for Parents:

- Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
- Although not under the law of Moses or the new law, Abraham had the same kind of faith in God that is required of us today.
- We receive the benefits of God's promise to Abraham — salvation through Jesus.
- Jesus became the curse for us by dying on a cross and being ridiculed in place of us. We now have freedom from a law that required us to keep it perfectly. Nobody but Jesus was ever able to keep the law perfectly. We are lucky to be living under the new law of faith.
- We can do the same thing as the Galatians if we try to go back and live in the world. There is no salvation in the world. There is no hope in the world either. We must stay with Jesus!

Getting the Main Points:

Circle T for True or a F for false.

1. T F Paul told them to follow the Old Testament law.
2. T F Paul called them foolish.
3. T F The new law is a law of faith.
4. T F The old law is a law of faith.
5. T F Jesus became the curse for us.
6. T F We can be saved by the Old Testament law.
7. T F We must have faith today.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 10-13 and answer the following questions.

1. Who are those under a curse?
2. Who is justified by the law now?
3. What defines a righteous man's life?
4. Christ redeemed us from what?

Memory Work:**Galatians 6:10**

*"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

Believers Free From the Law

Galatians 3:15-29

Paul continues to teach the Galatians about the new law versus the old law. He tells them that a promise was made to Abraham that in his seed all nations will be blessed. That seed was Jesus and He would bless all nations. The fact that the Old Testament law was given until the time Christ would come does not make Christ's coming of no value.

So why was the Old Testament law given? Paul says it was a tutor to teach us about Christ and lead us to Him. It was to show man that he is sinful and is need of salvation in Jesus our Lord. But, Paul tells them that the Old Testament law could not save them and therefore it was necessary for Jesus to come to provide salvation.

Now that we have Jesus and the New Testament law, we no longer need the Old Testament law. We have that which was promised to Abraham a long time ago. We are all sons of God through faith in Jesus. All of us who have baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. You can think about this like you are putting on your physical clothes. They protect you, they are close to your body, and they are very important to you.

When we put on Christ, we are giving ourselves to Him. We become like Him. We live for Him. We belong to Him and we are Abraham's relatives, and we will receive the promises of God. We have everything we need from Jesus. He protects us and is everything to us. Without Jesus Christ, we would not be able to be with God someday in heaven.

Notes for Parents:

- Jesus left heaven to come to earth to live, suffer, and die for us. He knows what heaven is like and He knows what it is like to be on earth. The only way to God is through Jesus.
- Baptism washes away sins. It puts us into Christ and clothes us with Christ.
- When we clothe ourselves with Christ, we should take on His qualities. Talk about the qualities of Jesus we should have.
- The old law was a tutor to teach us about sin and righteousness. It also led us to Jesus. Now that faith came, we no longer need the tutor, we have that which is perfect.
- God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed. This promise was not nullified when the law was put in place. The law was there to span the time before Jesus would come. Once that which was promised is here, there is no longer any need for the law.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line from the words that describe Jesus.



Selfish

Loving

Unkind

Gentle

Caring

Unselfish

Devoted to God

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 19-22 and answer the following questions.

1. Why was the law added?
2. For what was the law waiting to come?
3. Is a mediator for just one party only?
4. Is the law contrary to the promises of God?

Memory Work:

Galatians 6:10

*"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

Law and Grace Compared

Galatians 4

Paul continues to teach them that they must not follow the Old Testament law, but they must follow Jesus. He compares this to someone who is to inherit something. If a person is to inherit a great gift and they are a child, they must wait until they are old enough to have it. Until then, they do not have the gift. They are under guardians and managers until the day that they are old enough. When they reach that age, they finally receive the great gift.

It is the same with the old law. While man was not able to handle the gift of God, he was given guardians and managers to watch over him. This was the old law which taught man about sin and prepared Him for Jesus. He did not have the gift and could not have it until he became mature enough to handle it. When mankind was ready, God gave the gift of His Son to the world to save them from his sins. After that the guardians and managers are no longer needed, so the law was taken out of the way. This showed the Galatians that the old law was no longer needed by the world because the great gift is here.

Paul then talked to them about Abraham. He reminded them that Abraham had two sons — Ishmael and Isaac. Abraham and Sarah had waited so long for the son God promised them that Sarah thought she should help God to keep his promise. She gave Abraham her maiden Hagar. Abraham and Hagar had a son named Ishmael. Later God did keep his promise and gave Abraham and Sarah a son that they named Isaac.

Paul used Ishmael and Isaac to compare the old and the new laws. He said Ishmael was like the old law. Isaac was like the new law. Ishmael was given no promises and was a slave. Isaac was given the promises and he was free. The promises of the whole world would come through Isaac. The new law would bring about all of the promises of God. The old law could only make them slaves. The new law would make them free. Paul was trying to get the Galatians to see how much better that new law was.

God still wants us to serve the new law. We read and learn about the old law, but we do not serve it. We serve the new law. It is the law that will save us. If we serve the old law we will be cast out just as Ishmael was cast out. If we serve the new law, we will receive all of the promises just as Isaac was the son of promise.

Notes for Parents:

- This is a very difficult chapter to relate effectively to children. The comparison of Hagar and Sarah is very valuable but too deep for our youngest classes. This lesson was intended only to introduce the subject.
- The new law that we serve is better than the old law.
- Studying the old law is important because it is "for our learning." It could be compared to studying history in school. We learn from the experiences of others. The old law tells us how God dealt with his people in times past.
- The comparison to being an heir can also be a very powerful lesson. You may need to teach the children about inheriting something.

Getting the Main Points:

Mark a "T" for True or an "F" for False.

1. _____ A child cannot inherit something.
2. _____ When mankind was ready, God gave the gift of His Son.
3. _____ Abraham had two sons, Elijah and Isaac.
4. _____ Isaac was the son God promised Abraham.
5. _____ The Galatians wanted to serve the old law.
6. _____ Paul said they should serve the old law.
7. _____ We are to serve the new law today.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 12-16 and answer the following questions.

1. Who did Paul want the Galatians to become like?
2. What caused Paul to preach to them the first time?
3. How had the Galatians received Paul the first time?
4. Paul was concerned he had become what for telling them the truth?

Memory Work:**Galatians 6:10**

*"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

Liberty in Christ

Galatians 5:1-15

There were some false teachers trying to get the Galatians to keep serving the old law. Paul told the Galatians that they should not listen to those people. They should serve the new law. Only the new law could make them free — free from sin. Under the new law their sins could be forgiven. Under the old law their sins had been remembered each year. The old law was a yoke of bondage.

Paul reminded them that if they try to keep the old law, they must keep it all and keep it perfectly. This would also make Christ of no value to them. They would have fallen from grace. We need grace to be saved.

Paul then tells them to beware of these false teachers. These people were stopping them from running the good race as a Christian. They were causing sin to spread like wild fire throughout the church. Paul tells them that the false teacher will receive his punishment from God.

Paul encouraged the Galatians to keep following God. He said they should turn their freedom into an opportunity to serve one another through love. Paul reminded them that the whole law is fulfilled in one statement — "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Think about how you like to be treated. You should treat others the same way. You like others to be kind to you, so you should be kind to them. You want others to be friendly to you, so you should be friendly to them. Can you think of other ways to show love to your neighbor? When you do those things, you are serving with love. Most importantly, never be a false teacher to anyone, but teach the truth in love to everyone who will listen.

Notes for Parents:

- Under the old law there was a yearly reminder of past sins. The new law gives us complete forgiveness, and God never reminds us of forgiven sins. What a blessing!
- Loving your neighbor as yourself is a very important lesson. We all know how we like to be treated. When we treat others the same way, we feel better and they do, too.
- We have freedom under the new law. We must use this freedom properly or we will place ourselves under bondage to sin.
- Paul dealt harshly with the false teacher. He even wishes that the false teachers would mutilate themselves. God hates false teachers!

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. We can be free from sin under the:
a. old law b. new law c. both
2. Paul encouraged the Galatians to:
a. listen to God b. listen to others c. do what they wanted
3. We should serve one another:
a. only when we want to
b. so they will give us something
c. through love
4. God said: "Love your _____ as yourself."
a. parents b. neighbor c. pets
5. We should treat others:
a. the way we like to be treated
b. kindly
c. both

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 10-13 and answer the following questions.

1. Paul was confident that they would adopt what?
2. Who will bear his judgment?
3. What did Paul hope the one who was troubling them would do?
4. Paul did not want them to turn their freedom into what?

Memory Work:

Galatians 6:10

*"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

Spirit and Flesh Compared

Galatians 5:16-26

Paul told the Galatians that if they only followed what their bodies wanted, they would live a life of sin. If they followed the word of God as commanded by the Holy Spirit, they would "bear fruit". When a fruit tree is healthy, it gives fruit. When a Christian is spiritually healthy, that person bears spiritual fruit. Let's look at the fruit a Christian bears.

- **Love:** Because of his love, a Christian wants very much to please God and to do good to others.
- **Joy:** Knowing that a home in heaven is waiting makes a Christian happy.
- **Peace:** A Christian does not have to worry because he knows his sins are forgiven. When he has problems, he tells them to God and lets God help him. He gets along well with other people and does not fight with them.
- **Patience:** Being nice even when things are not going his way or people are not doing what he wants shows that a person has patience. Being able to wait on someone or wait for someone also shows patience.
- **Kindness:** Doing things for others, especially those in need, is something a Christian enjoys.
- **Goodness:** A Christian does what is right in all parts of his life. They are seen as being a good person.
- **Faithfulness:** It is important to come to all the services when Christians are together to worship God. Doing what God says every day is also part of being faithful. Believing everything God says is also an example of faithfulness.
- **Gentleness:** Gentleness is very much the same as kindness. A gentle person is easy to get along with and never wants to hurt anyone or anything.
- **Self-Control:** Being able to say "No" when he is tempted shows that a Christian can control himself.

Christians need to study the Bible and pray to God that He will help them to bear this fruit. Paul tells the Galatians to live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit.

Notes for Parents:

- Have the children memorize the fruit of the Spirit. They will serve them well throughout their lives.
- These fruit tend to build one on the other. Learning them is easy but putting them into our lives can be difficult. The first step in adding anything to our lives is to know what it is we are to add.
- This lesson also talks about the deeds of the flesh. These fight against the fruit of the Spirit.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line to the unscrambled word.

ELSF-LOTRCNO

VOLE

SSENELTNEG

OJY

NESSLUFAIFTH

EEACP

CTPNAIEE

EKSINDNS

OSOEDNGS

GENTLENESS

GOODNESS

PEACE

FAITHFULNESS

SELF-CONTROL

PATIENCE

JOY

LOVE

KINDNESS

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 16-21 and answer the following questions.

1. If you walk by the Spirit what will you not carry out?
2. How do the flesh and the spirit relate to each other?
3. List four of the deeds of the flesh.
4. What will happen to those that practice these things?

Memory Work:

Galatians 6:10

*"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

Bearing One Another's Burdens

Galatians 6

If there was something very heavy you wanted to move, but you couldn't lift it by yourself, what would you do? You would get someone to help you, right? It would be easier to lift and then you could move it. In this example, the very heavy object is called a burden. The person who helps you lift the burden is helping you bear your burden.

God knows that sometimes we have things that really bother us a lot on the inside. These problems are also called burdens. They make us feel sad. Sometimes we need help with these burdens so we will not feel so sad. Paul told the Galatians to help bear one another's burdens. We should do that today too — be ready to share our burdens and help others with burdens. The problems could be sickness, being poor, being treated badly or many other things.

God's people should always pray for God's help with burdens. He is always there to listen and help. He still wants us to share our burdens with others. It helps to talk with someone else about our feelings. It is good to talk to mothers and fathers. Special friends can also help. They can help us decide what to do about the problem that bothers us. Having help with our burdens makes us feel better on the inside.

Paul tells the Galatians to never lose heart in doing good for in due time they will reap if they do not grow weary. If we will never stop doing good, we will be blessed with the blessing of heaven. While we have the chance, we should do good to all people, especially those in the church. This is the will of God.

Paul closes his letter to the Galatians by encouraging them to keep doing good and serving God. God would bless them and be with them. He also tells them to follow the new law and not the old law. He prayed that the grace of Jesus would be with their spirit.

Notes for Parents:

- Two main responsibilities are being taught here: sharing our burdens with others and bearing the burdens of others. Consider these points and make applications with your child as appropriate to his/her level of understanding.
- The words to "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" are worth our reading. God should be the first one to whom we go with our burdens, but sometimes God works through other people. We need to have those in our lives with whom we can share our burdens. David and Jonathan are good examples of sharing this bond.
- We should do good to all people. We should never grow weary in doing good — especially to Christians. Remember, we will reap what we sow.
- Follow God's law only. It is what will give us His grace.

Getting the Main Points:

Write a + for True or an X for False.

1. _____ A "burden" can be something that bothers you on the inside.
2. _____ God can help us with our burdens.
3. _____ We should never ask a friend to help us.
4. _____ Mothers and fathers care about what we feel.
5. _____ We should stop doing good and serving God.
6. _____ We should do good to all men especially those in the church.
7. _____ God wants to bless us with heaven if we will not grow weary.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 1-6 and answer the following questions.

1. What should we do if we catch someone doing something wrong?
2. Can we be tempted also?
3. What are we doing when we think we are something?
4. What should the one do who is being taught?

Memory Work:**Galatians 6:10**

*"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*