

ACTS CHAPTER 18:1-22

The Gospel Reaches Corinth



16

June 26, 2005
2.ACT16

Lesson Goal

Students will not be fearful in sharing the Gospel with unbelievers.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain to the teacher the city Paul was in and what it was like.
- Explain who Paul met in Corinth and what kind of work they had in common.
- Explain who helped Paul preach and teach in Corinth.
- Explain why Paul was fearful when he arrived in Corinth.
- Explain who encouraged Paul.

Memory Verse

Acts 18:9 ~ *"One night the Lord Spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.'"*

Application

- Encourage one another to share the Gospel with unbelievers
- Pray for boldness when sharing the Gospel with unbelievers.
- Pray for those with whom you wish to share the Gospel.

TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

HOOK

Time

BOOK

Time

LOOK

Time

TOOK

Time

Materials
Needed:

ACTS CHAPTER 18:1-22

The Gospel Reaches Corinth



16

1st–3rd Grade
June 26, 2005
2.ACT16EL

MISSION MOMENT

Adopt A Missionary. Talk to your students about the missionary you have adopted, and remind them of ways they can pray for the missionary with their families. Suggest and encourage the students to:

1. Pray daily
Have a consistent time to do this.
Keep a picture in a place where it will remind you to pray for them.
Keep a list of specific requests to pray for them.
2. Give weekly (Some classes in the past have taken an offering and bought a gift for their missionary)
3. Write monthly (Please contact the church office for some suggestions that are in print for this.)
4. Send a package quarterly (but keep these small and light, to keep the expense down)
5. Care continually

Teachers please decide what is best for the class—sometimes it is not practical to try to do all the steps.

A poster is available for every class that wants to adopt a missionary, so the students can see who it is they are praying for. Please let the church office know.

SHOOK

MEMORY VERSE



“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision; “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.”

Act 18:9



Corinthian Scramble (Activity). Write each letter that forms the word “Corinth” on a card or in random order up on the board. Have the students unscramble the letters to discover what city Paul will enter in today’s Bible Adventure.

Feelings (Role-play). Invite two of your more confident students to role-play a situation where he/she is called upon to share the Gospel. One student will play the part of an unbeliever (or the teacher may want to play this role). Begin with an opening question like, “I was going to ask you for the answers on the science test, but someone said you probably wouldn’t give them to me because you are a Christian. What’s the deal?” Continue a dialogue for a few minutes. **Debrief:** Ask the “Christian” to describe how he felt when he was put on the spot. Ask students how they would feel in a real situation like that. Write some of the emotions mentioned on the board. What do we do when we feel afraid or alone in our witness? Tell them that in today’s Bible adventure they are going to see how Paul reacted when he was told to tell the people of Corinth the Gospel. Let’s see what Paul’s reaction was and see what Jesus did to help him understand his mission.

Catch Me...Please! (Activity). As students come in, tell them they have to perform a small feat before they can sit down. Line several students up facing a wall with several teachers or helpers standing directly behind them. At your signal, they are to fall straight back so that the person behind them can catch them before they hit the floor. *(Teachers, please make sure you and your helpers are strong enough to support their weight.)* You may find some are very resistant to this activity. After they have all performed this feat, discuss how they felt. Were they frightened? What part did trust play in their ability to accomplish this activity? How must we similarly trust God when we are confronted with things that are uncomfortable or cause us to fear? Listen to what God told Paul to do when he was fearful.

Tent Center (Activity). Bring in supplies to set up a tent today because Paul and Aquila were tentmakers. Bring an actual tent with support poles or bring in sheets and lightweight blankets with rope to build a tent. If you need to use tent stakes, then use painter's tape to adhere to the floor. Today we will hear that Paul's job, when he wasn't preaching, was making tents to sell.

Imaginary Friend (Role-play). As the students come in, have one of the teachers greet each of them and in turn introduce them to his or her imaginary friend, Joe (or some other easy name to remember). Elaborate on the introduction with, 'He says he's really glad to meet you' or 'He's feeling a little shy today' or 'Joe really likes your jacket and was wondering if he could borrow it sometime.' Some kids will really play along, so be prepared to "answer for Joe" by creating his personality. Ask the students if anyone can tell the class who the "Special Friend" is that anyone can have when they accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Is the Holy Spirit an imaginary friend or is He really "with us" as Acts 18:10 states? Do we act like He's right here with us or do we have a "long distance" relationship? God's Word says He is our Comforter and can give us power to live for Christ and make the right choices. **Teacher note:** *It is important for the students to understand that the Holy Spirit is living and an active part of our Christian walk. Romans 8:9, John 16:13, Acts 5:32, 2 Peter 1:21 and Romans 8:16 are some great passages that tell of the role of the Spirit and the reality of the Spirit. Use these passages to aid you in your discussion and role play. Being prepared will aid you in leading the students to a deeper discussion of this huge Biblical truth.*

Making faces (Activity). Have the students make faces that show each of the following emotions: happy, bored, surprised, sad, and afraid. Have several students model their 'afraid' faces for the class. Suggest that it may help to pretend they are really afraid, or remember a time when they were afraid. Ask: Do you think the apostle Paul was ever afraid? Tell them that in today's story they will find out that he must have been, because God told him not to be afraid.



Presentation Ideas

Paul, the Tentmaker (Illustration/Coloring Page). Acts 18:3, **2.ACT16EL.GF1.**

The Lord Speaks to Paul in a Vision (Illustration/Coloring Page). Acts 18:9, 10, **2.ACT16EL.GF2.**

Bible Adventure for 1st- 3rd grades

Sam had had it. He'd taken his last beating from Mike Simmons. He'd tried everything to keep that bully from picking on him, and nothing had worked—no pleading, no trying to act tougher, not even bribery. So far he'd escaped with scrapes and bruises and injured pride, but it was only a matter of time before Mike did some serious damage. From now on, his most noticeable characteristic was going to be invisibility. If he had to arrive ten minutes late to school or stay a half hour after to avoid Mike, he was going to do it.

Have you been there? Have you experienced such fear that it almost immobilized you or caused you to do things you ordinarily wouldn't? None of us are immune to fear, and the men we read about in God's Word weren't, either. Not even the Apostle Paul, who up to this point in the book of Acts has been a bold, seemingly fearless witness for Jesus Christ, was immune to fear. Acts chapter eighteen gives us a fascinating, new look at this mighty man of God.

As the chapter opens, **Paul was continuing on his second journey, spreading the Gospel. He had left Athens and traveled to Corinth.** This was an even more important city to Greece than Athens. **It was a trade center, with lots of people coming and going, and as a result, was also one of the most wicked cities of New Testament times.** It was a center of worship of the goddess Aphrodite, which centered around sexual sin of the grossest kinds.

Paul became friends with Priscilla and Aquila, a husband and wife who were tentmakers, just as Paul was. Priscilla and Aquila were Christians who had to leave Rome because the emperor wanted to get rid of all the Jews there. Soon Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, allowing Paul to share the Gospel full-time. **Paul preached in the synagogue, but when he began to share that Jesus was the Messiah, the Jews got upset, saying evil things about Christ. Paul took some of his clothing and shook it at them, showing his displeasure of their rejection of their Messiah and of his turning away from them. "Your blood be upon your *own* heads," he said. "From now on I will go to the Gentiles."** True to his word, Paul left the synagogue and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile man who loved God.

Paul may have left the synagogue, but the Word of God and the Spirit of God were still at work. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, became a believer, along with his whole household. Many other Corinthians believed and were baptized. The Jews who had spoken against Paul and against Christ were becoming angrier and angrier. I'm sure they were not quiet about it, either.

What do you suppose Paul was thinking? Up until now, it seems as though Paul was made of steel—he just kept on going no matter what. But think what Paul had been through up to this point in his effort to spread the Gospel. He had been threatened with death many times, was persecuted, stoned almost to death, and had been beaten and thrown into prison. Now the Jews in Corinth were attempting to stop the spread of the Gospel. Who knew what they might do? **Here Paul was in a very evil place, and men were angry with him because of his preaching about Jesus. Acts chapter eighteen tells us that Paul was frightened, and may have even been thinking about leaving Corinth and not sharing the Gospel there anymore.**

It's very likely that God gave us this glimpse into the inner feelings of Paul to encourage us. Paul had every reason, humanly speaking, to be afraid. **But listen to what the Lord did to encourage him. He spoke to Paul at night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."** In these few short sentences, Jesus gave Paul four assurances that can give us comfort as well.

First, He told Paul not to be afraid, but to go on speaking about Jesus Christ. God wants us to do this, too. **As we tell others about Jesus, we may meet people who are not open at all to what we are sharing. It's okay to stop talking to a person like that, but then God wants us to look for the next opportunity He gives us to share the Gospel with someone.** Too often we let Satan defeat us by becoming discouraged when people don't respond. We think, "This is definitely not my gift. Next time, I'll bring the person to someone who is better trained and let them share. I'll just foul it up." **WRONG!** The world will never be reached if most Christians pull back in fear from telling others about the Gospel. Jesus asks us to "go on speaking and do not be silent."

Second, the Lord promises Paul, "I am with you." This is where faith comes in, when we keep on going in obedience to God in spite of what the circumstances are. Jesus left so that the Holy Spirit could come to all believers. He said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses....." (Acts 1:8) You and I are never alone in the ministry of telling others about Christ.

Third, Jesus told Paul, "No man will harm you or attack you." Now, Paul was attacked often for sharing his faith. Jesus knew, however, that Paul needed this assurance, and He gave it to him this time. The worst response you will get in America is probably rejection. **When you compare the thousands of people who have died for their faith, a little rejection is a small price to pay, don't you think?**

Finally, the Lord told Paul, "I have many people in this town." Jesus was telling the Apostle that there were many people living in Corinth who would become believers after hearing the Gospel. **If Paul had given up and left Corinth, how would those people hear?** God has people everywhere that He has already determined to bring to faith in Christ. Paul later wrote in the book of Romans, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they hear without a preacher? God desires you to be involved in the harvesting of souls. **Imagine where *you* would be if whoever shared the Gospel with you was too scared or didn't care enough to speak to you about it. Don't be content with being comfortable in your walk with Christ. Take comfort that the four assurances Jesus gave Paul are for us as well, then go after the harvest with the radical boldness the Holy Spirit can give you.**

Aim Questions:

1. **In what city do we find Paul in today's Bible lesson? What kind of city was it?** Corinth-A city full of evil and immoral behavior.
 2. **Who did Paul meet in Corinth? What did he have in common with them?** Aquila and Priscilla-they were tent makers.
 3. **Who came later, and how did they help Paul preach and teach?** Timothy and Silas.
 4. **What happened that caused Paul to end up in front of a judge?** People said he was preaching the Gospel which was against the Law.
 5. **What are the reasons why you think Paul may have been afraid when he got to Corinth. How did Jesus encourage Paul?** He had been beaten so many times. Jesus spoke to him in a vision.
 6. **How can you apply the words that Jesus said to Paul to make yourself tell others about Jesus?**
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**LOOK**

A.C.T.S. 15:36 – 16:40 (Worksheet). Who devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ? *Paul* What city was the capital of the province of Achaia and also was famed for its Temple of Aphrodite? *Corinth* What happened that caused Paul to end up in front of a judge? *He was preaching the Gospel.* Who spoke to Paul one night in a vision, and what did He say? *The Lord and He said "Don't be afraid."* **2.ACT16EL.GF3.**

Paul's Vision (Worksheet). One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision. To complete what the Lord said, have the students write the names of each picture in the squares. The letters in the darker squares spell the missing word, **2.ACT16EL.GF4.**

Who's Who in Corinth (Worksheet). Have the students use the words in the box to answer the questions, and then search for the words in the puzzle on the right, **2.ACT16EL.GF5.**

Shake, Rattle 'n Roll (Worksheet). How did Paul shake, rattle 'n roll the Jews? Have the students answer the questions by matching the correct part of Acts 18:6 with the actions of the pictures, **2.ACT16EL.GF6.**

Second Journey (Map Review). Using the map (in the resource room), Paul's Journeys Then and Now, allow the students to refer to Paul's second missionary journey. Do this review individually, in groups, or as a class with map/worksheet on overhead, **2.ACT16EL.GF7.**

Lace Up Verse Card (Craft). Since Paul, being a tentmaker, could sew, imagine that he stitched a reminder for himself of what God told him in his vision. Cut cards apart. Punch out holes where indicated with a hole-punch. Wrap tape around the ends of a piece of yarn (or knot the ends). Put the cards back to back and "sew" them together with the yarn. Make a bow with the ends of the yarn where it starts and stops. Discuss the three gentle commands God gave to Paul, **2.ACT16EL.GF8.**

NO FEAR Graffiti (Craft). Although sewing isn't just for girls (Paul's work is proof of that), boys may want to try this alternative to the sewing crafts. Each boy will need:

- one copy of **2.ACT16EL.GF9 Pgs. 1 and 2**
- markers
- scissors
- glue

Color each letter with markers. Cut the letters out. Glue them onto page 2, overlapping and under lapping graffiti style.

Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT16EL.GF10**.



TOOK

Fear (Discussion). Look in your Bibles at the introduction to Corinthians. Read with the students what Corinth was like. What are some reasons that Paul may have been afraid when he arrived in Corinth? How did the Lord encourage Paul? Are there friends or neighbors that you would like to share the Gospel with but you are afraid? What is the worst thing that could happen if you shared the Gospel with them? Don't feel rejected if you share the Gospel with someone who does not accept what you have shared. Remember that they are not rejecting you, but God. We should never give up reaching the lost for God.

Teacher Note: Some other resources for different and possibly more current stories are: www.persecution.com – Voice of the Martyrs web site; www.gfa.org – Gospel for Asia Web site; [Fox's Book of Martyrs](#) by John Foxe

Lend a Helping Hand (Craft). Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia and met up with Paul in Corinth. After their arrival, Paul was able to devote all his time to teaching and preaching because of the help they gave him. Give each student **2.ACT16EL.GF11**, scissors and glue. This is a variation of paper dolls. When finished, they will have three rows that can be glued together to form a long strip. Have them fanfold horizontally on white lines and then cut outside of the black squares. Next, cut away the black portion, leaving thumb and fingertips connected at folds. Connect helping hands together with glue. Discuss how they can help at home in simple yet very important ways each day. How might they help others to spread the Gospel? (*Being quiet during the Bible Adventure so others can hear, being kind to a visitor, helping teachers by cleaning up, etc.*)

Comfort Zone (Worksheet/Discussion). Fear can make us very uncomfortable, and most of us have our comfort zones from which we would just as soon never venture. The Lord told Paul not to be afraid but to go on speaking. Have the students gauge where their comfort zones are in regard to the ten items listed on **2.ACT16EL.GF12**. Encourage them to pray in small groups about those areas where fear or disobedience is keeping them from doing what God would have them do.

Fearful Face (Worksheet). There are two GF's (**2.ACT16EL.GF13 Pgs. 1 and 2**) for this activity. Pass out the one that best suits your students' ability level. Ask them: Are you ever afraid like the Apostle Paul? In his first letter to the believers in Corinth, Paul says, "I came to you in weakness and fear and with much trembling." Even Paul became discouraged and fearful. Have the students sketch/draw the rest of Paul's fearful face using symmetry to complete this picture. When we are afraid, what should we do?

This workbook is not available at this time.

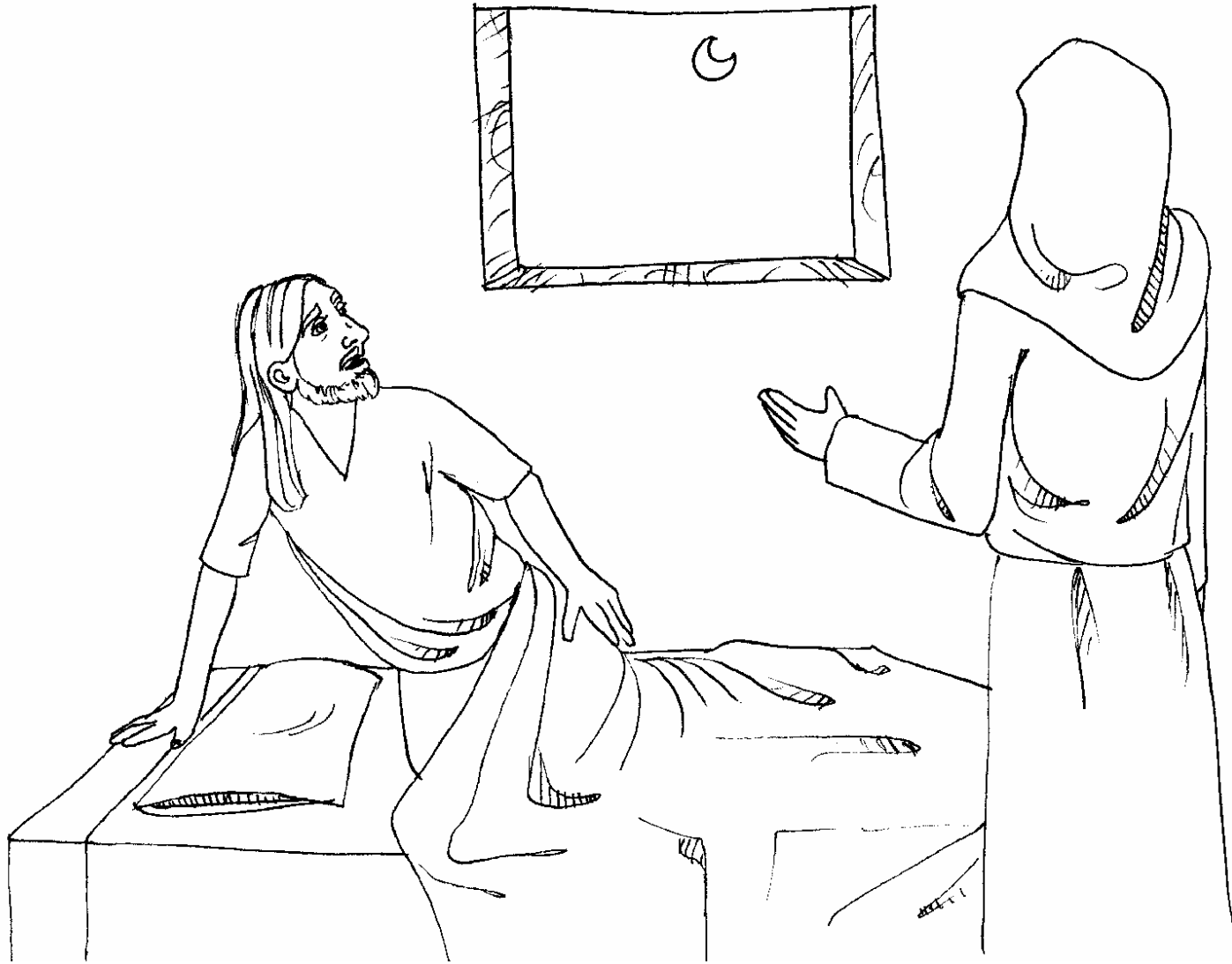
A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook). Encourage the students to continue using the Apostle action cards to memorize the significant statistics throughout the book of Acts. The main events of Acts 18:1-22 are:

- A.** Paul.
- C.** In the city of Corinth.
- T.** Jews take Paul to court.
- S.** The Lord says, "Don't be afraid."

Paul, the Tentmaker



The Lord Speaks to Paul in a Vision



A.C.T.S.

18:1-22

Apostle – Who devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ?

City – What city was the capital of the province of Achaia and also was famed for its Temple of Aphrodite?

Trials/troubles – What happened that caused Paul to end up in front of a judge?

Spirit – Who spoke to Paul one night in a vision, and what did He say?

“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision:
‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.’”
Acts 18:9

Who's Who in Corinth



A Jewish tentmaker who had come to Corinth from Italy with his wife: _____

The wife of the Jewish tentmaker: _____

Two men who had come from Macedonia to be with Paul in Corinth: _____ and _____

The synagogue ruler whose entire household believed in the Lord: _____

One night this person spoke to Paul in a vision: _____

The Proconsul of Achaia: _____

The synagogue ruler who was beaten: _____

A worshiper of God who lived next door to the synagogue: _____

Natives of Corinth: _____

He ordered all the Jews to leave Rome: _____

Z	P	S	D	G	H	W	Q	C	N	C	V	B	P
E	X	M	A	B	N	Y	H	O	X	V	T	F	R
C	R	E	Q	U	V	B	E	R	F	R	I	N	M
L	L	O	U	H	N	B	N	I	W	E	M	A	T
A	R	S	I	L	A	S	R	N	X	C	O	V	I
U	T	Y	L	I	C	A	S	T	Q	W	T	D	T
D	V	F	A	D	R	U	R	H	T	D	H	V	I
I	G	A	L	L	I	O	S	I	N	S	Y	C	U
U	R	T	Y	U	S	J	K	A	K	L	N	B	S
S	Y	R	U	Z	P	X	C	N	V	F	R	E	J
Q	W	E	R	T	U	Y	U	S	I	O	P	A	U
A	D	P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	F	H	S
B	G	T	Y	H	N	M	J	U	O	W	E	T	T
T	Y	R	G	H	E	B	N	E	R	W	A	Z	U
S	O	S	T	H	E	N	E	S	D	S	E	W	S

Use the words below to answer the questions above.
Search for the words in the puzzle on the right.



SILAS
SOSTHENES
AQUILA
GALLIO
PRISCILLA
LORD

CORINTHIANS
TITIUS JUSTUS
CLAUDIUS
TIMOTHY
CRISPUS

Shake



What did Paul do to his clothes?

“From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
Acts 18:6

Rattle 'n



What did Paul say to the Jews that may have rattled their cage (made them mad)?

“But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest ...”

Roll



Where did Paul go?

“Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility.”

Answer the questions above by matching the correct part of the verse with the action of the picture.

Second Journey - Map Review

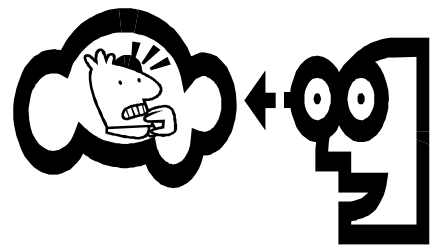
Fill in the blanks with the missing cities (and words for the memory verses).
Follow Paul's route on the map as you go.



1. Begin in the city of _____ where Paul made his headquarters. (Who did he take with him?)

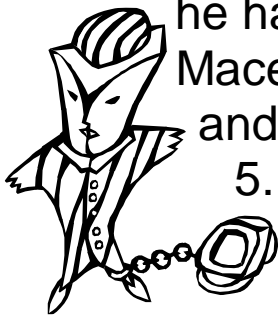
2. Go through Derbe and Lystra where Timothy joined them.

3. Travel through the regions of Phrygia, Galatia, and Mysia.

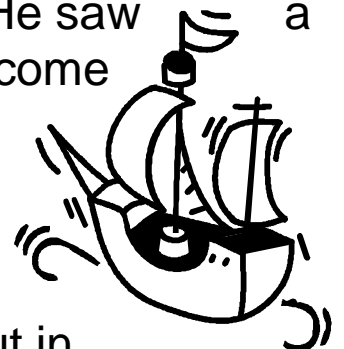


4. Paul tried to go to Bithynia, but instead,

he had a vision here in _____. He saw a Macedonian man who pleaded for him to come and "help us."

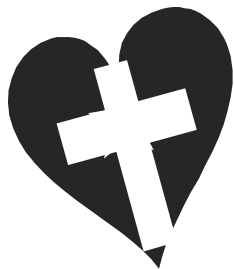


5. They sailed straight to Samothrace, came to Neapolis, and then arrived at the city of _____,



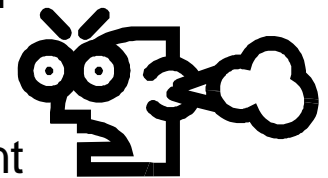
where they met Lydia. Paul and Silas were put in prison, but didn't escape when they had the chance.

6. **Acts 16:31** " _____ in the _____ and you will be _____."



7. They passed through Amphipolis and Appollonia, and came to the city of _____,

where the Jews got so rowdy that Paul and Silas had to be sent away by night.



8. People who heard the message in _____ received it well, searching the Scriptures to see if these things were true.



9. Then, in the city of _____, Paul debated

The Unknown God

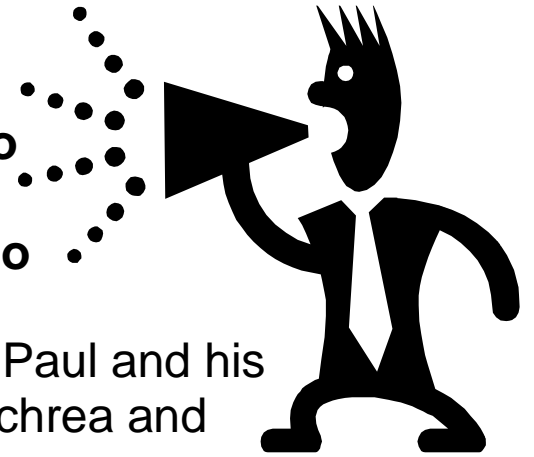
with some philosophers and was invited to the Areopagus, where he spoke about "The Unknown God."

Acts 17:24 "The _____ who made the _____ and everything in it is the _____ of _____ and _____ and does not _____ in _____ built by _____."



11. After this, Paul went to _____, where he found Aquila and Priscilla. Here he had a vision and was taken to court.

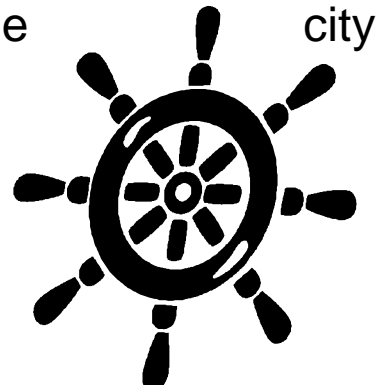
Acts 18:9 "One _____ the Lord _____ to _____ in a _____: "Do not _____; keep on _____, do not be _____."



12. After a good while, Paul and his friends stopped in Cenchrea and Ephesus.

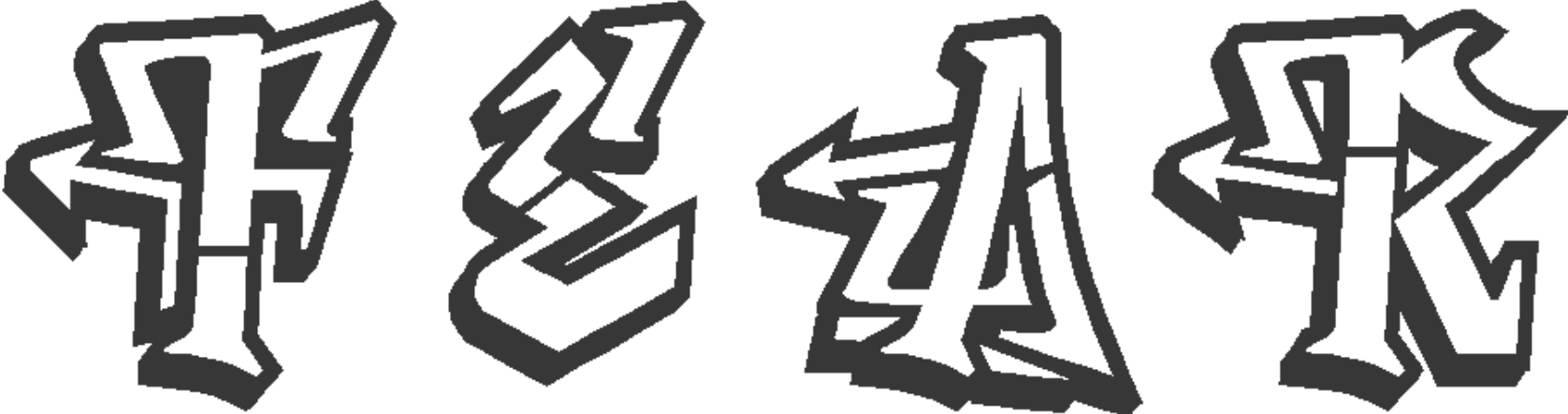
13. Then they sailed for Caesarea to greet the Church there and in Jerusalem.

14. They then returned to the _____ where the journey began.



DO NOT BE AFRAID
KEEP ON SPEAKING
DO NOT BE SILENT







"ONE NIGHT THE LORD SPOKE TO PAUL IN A VISION:
'DO NOT BE AFRAID; KEEP ON SPEAKING, DO NOT BE SILENT.'"
ACTS 18:9

Aim Questions

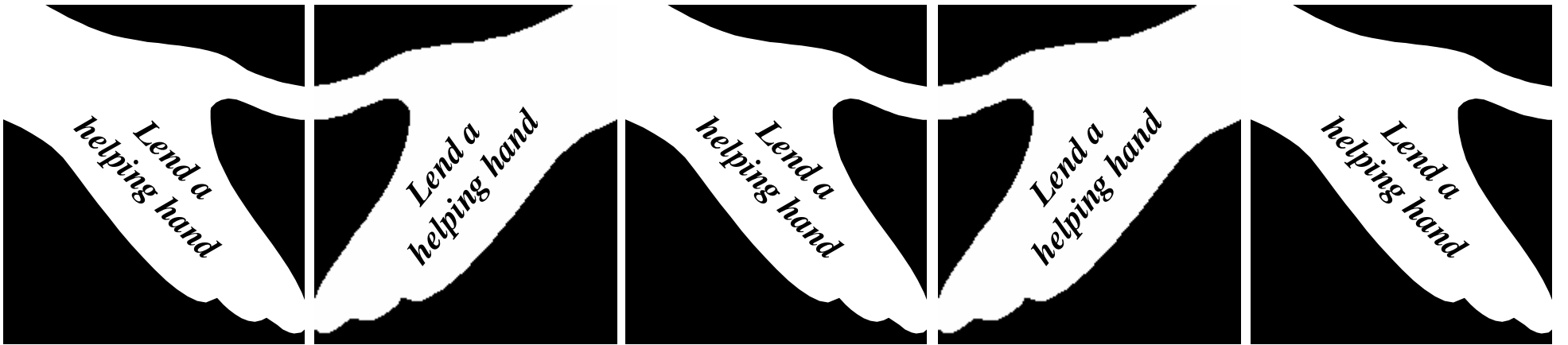
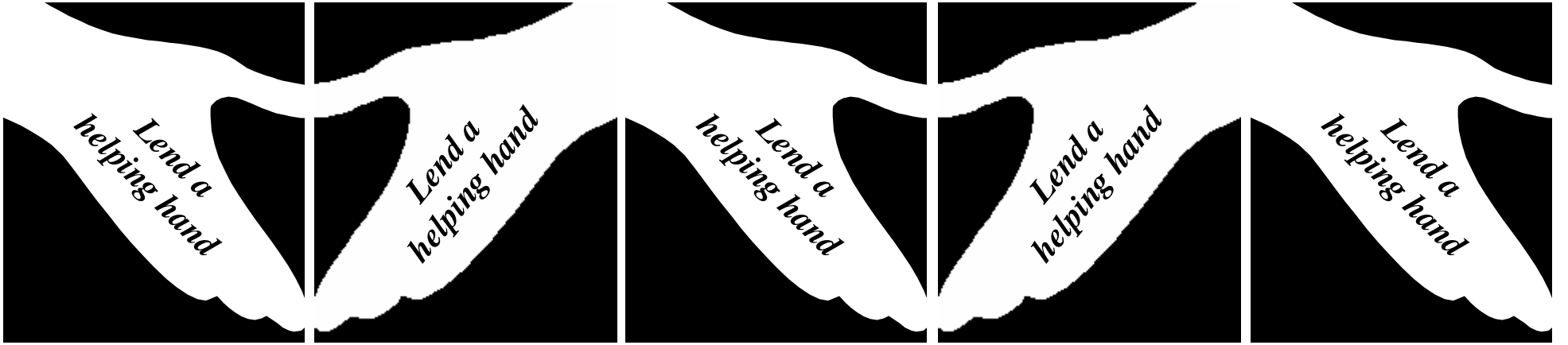
Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

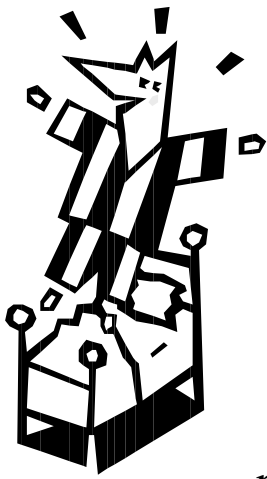
1. In what city do we find Paul in today's Bible lesson? What kind of city was it?
2. Who did Paul meet in Corinth? What did he have in common with them?
3. Who came later, and how did they help Paul preach and teach?
4. What happened that caused Paul to end up in front of a judge?
5. What are the reasons why you think Paul may have been afraid when he got to Corinth. How did Jesus encourage Paul?
6. How can you apply the words that Jesus said to Paul to make yourself tell others about Jesus?

Acts
Chapter
18:1-22

Even though we might get discouraged as we try to share Jesus with others, we must remember that Jesus gives us the words to say and the strength to endure!

*"One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision:
"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."
Acts 18:9*



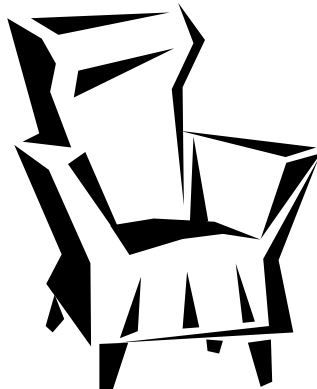


Comfort Zone

In the ten items listed below, which things are pretty comfortable for you to do? Which things make your skin prickle? Which ones aren't so bad? Draw a line from each of the items to your comfort level. Be honest! Color in the things on which you may need to work.



Very Comfortable



Not Too Bad!



Prickly, Ouch!

Being obedient

Being a bold witness

Being kind

Being careful of what I say

Putting others first

Praying out loud

Telling the truth

Sharing Christ with others

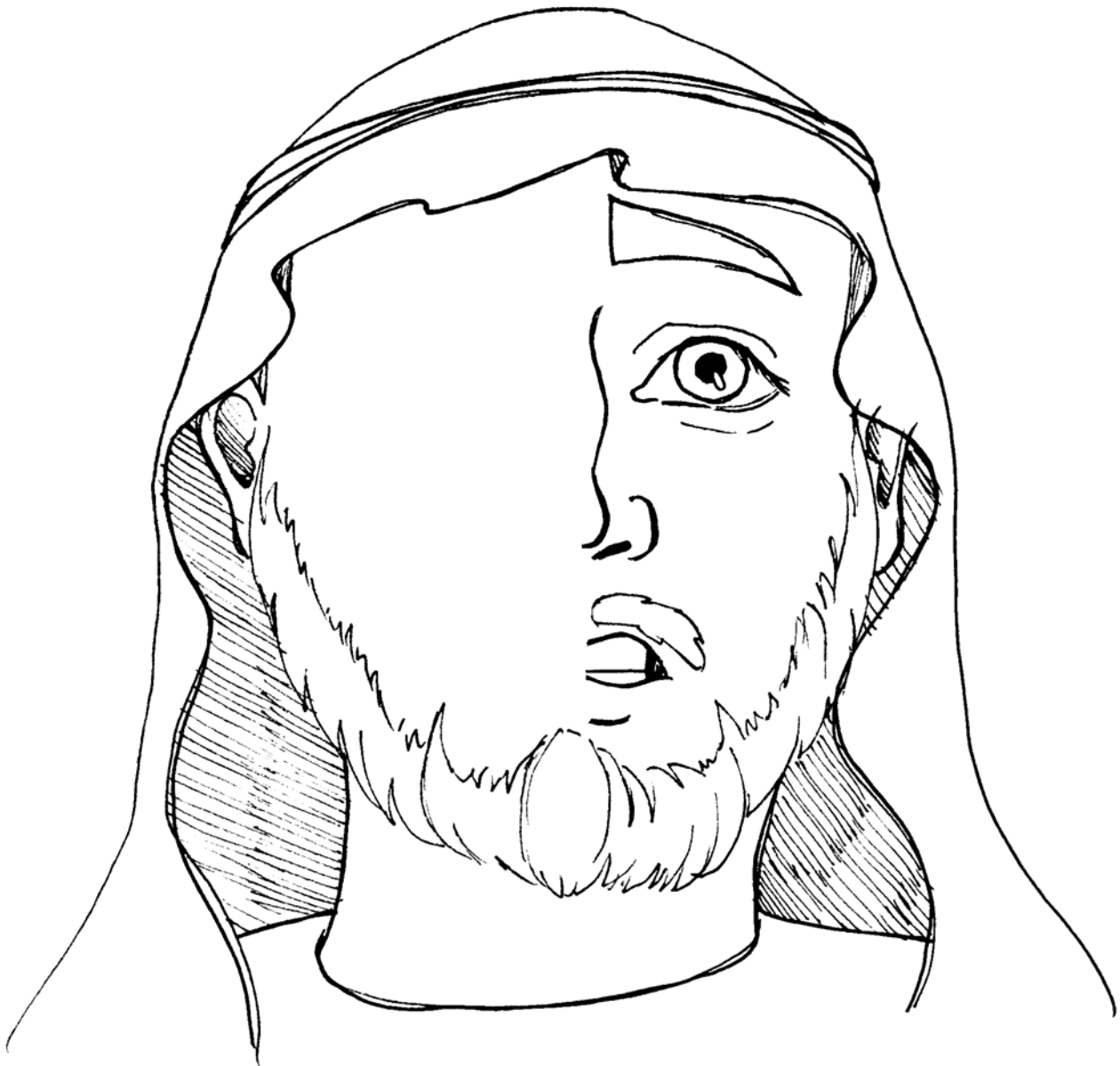
Reading my Bible

Inviting others to church

Fearful Face 1



Are you ever afraid like the Apostle Paul? In his first letter to the believers in Corinth, Paul says, "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling." Even Paul became discouraged and fearful. **Draw Paul's fearful face to complete this picture. Make a fearful face for each other as models for drawing Paul's features.** When we are afraid, what should we do?



Fearful Face 2

Are you ever afraid like the Apostle Paul? In his first letter to the believers in Corinth, Paul says, "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling." Even Paul became discouraged and fearful. **Draw Paul's fearful face to complete this picture. Make a fearful face for each other as models for drawing Paul's features.** When we are afraid, what should we do?

