

## Teaching the Gospel in Other Countries



**Theme:** Love — Teaching the gospel to all people

### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Sailing Through the Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work to be successful. Continue the display, such as the sample on page 10 of this Guide, that will eventually feature all three Memory Verses for the quarter. Use colored stars to represent each verse. Allow students to place a colored star, corresponding with the verse they recited, on their girl or boy of the display.

#### Prayer

#### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Acts 16:25-34. Have reading students find and mark Acts 16:25 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Philippi, the island of Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* as described on page 9 in this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Gospel is for All Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a piece of purple cloth, chains, and toy handcuffs.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:

- The Holy Spirit guided the apostles to help people understand that being either a Jew or Gentile doesn't matter. Being a Christian is what matters.
  - Paul went on another long trip to preach the gospel. Paul and Silas brought the gospel to Philippi, and some people listened, learned, and obeyed.
  - Bad things sometimes happened to Paul when he preached the gospel, but God was with him and he kept on preaching.
  - The gospel was growing and more and more people learned about and decided to follow Jesus.
8. This lesson features Paul's second preaching trip through Philippi (Acts 15:36-16:40). To help students understand something about the trip, it is effective to use maps. Both labeled maps and blank maps of Paul's preaching trips are available in the *Shaping Hearts for God New Testament Map Set*, which may be purchased separately. This set also includes reproducible maps suitable for worksheets. In teaching, use the labeled map to trace the course of Paul's trip. Talk about who was with him and what they did at each place. Using the blank map that has been laminated and a dry erase marker, put a star by key locations that you are emphasizing in class. In connection with the key locations, discuss people and events.
-  9. Copy the "letter" on a scroll found on page 76 of this Guide onto ivory colored paper. Show the students the letter from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem to Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Give each student his or her own copy (Acts 15:23-29). Read the letter aloud and discuss it.

**Things to Get or Do  
for Sunday Morning**

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## Teaching the Gospel in Other Countries



**Theme:** Love — Teaching the gospel to all people

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Sailing Through the Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Repeat the Sunday morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with the students about what the Memory Verse tells us about God.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

People from different places have different traditions and customs. In the United States, we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to remember our nation's independence. But the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is not a special day to people in other countries. Men and women in American culture usually greet each other with a handshake, but in other cultures people greet by touching the sides of their faces, touching their noses, or with a kiss. Traditions and customs are not right or wrong; they are simply the way people do things and should be respected.

Though people have different nationalities, cultures, and traditions, God saves all people from sin the same way. This means the same gospel is for all. And when people obey the gospel, they are Christians. They may have different skin color or different cultural practices, but in Christ they are all God's people. And God's people must love each other and work together. Jews and Gentiles had to learn this lesson when they were brought together in Christ.

#### Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Acts 16:25-34.

#### Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** To help students understand the value of influence

Choose two or three students who know how to do something about which other students are not familiar. Examples are: baking cookies, playing football, playing a video game, using a computer, roller-blading.

Have them discuss with the class what they do, how it's done, and the enjoyment it gives them. Then ask the rest of the class if they learned anything from listening to the discussion — how to do the activity and how much fun it is. Discuss how our conversations and activities may influence others to appreciate what we are talking about or doing. Talk about how enthusiasm spreads, but so does a negative attitude. Discuss how we can use our influence to help others know and follow Jesus.

 2. *Objective: Demonstrate how God directed the preaching of the gospel*

Re-enact the account of Paul's receiving the Macedonian call (Acts 16:6-12). Show on a map or globe where Paul intended to go and where God sent him. Show how the Macedonia call resulted in the gospel being taken to a new continent. Which one is it? Sing the song *Send the Light* which mentions the "Macedonia call." Discuss that Jesus wants us to "go into all the world" with the gospel (Mark 16:15).

3. *Objective: To discover how songs teach*

Paul and Silas sang and prayed in prison. It is reasonable to think that their songs influenced the jailor. Bring song books to class and look at the words to some of the songs. Discuss what the songs teach. Sing some of the songs.

4. *Objective: To trace Paul's first preaching trip, where he went and what he did*

Using the reproducible map including in the *Shaping Hearts for God New Testament Map Set*, provide a map as a worksheet for each student. Have students trace the preaching trip from city to city with a pencil as you call out the locations. When you come to key locations have the students tell you what they know about related people and events. Supplement what the students tell you as needed.

### **Journeys for Jesus Journal**

I am Silas. I traveled with Paul on his second preaching trip. In Philippi we were thrown into jail because of our preaching, but something both scary and wonderful happened. Let me tell you a little about it ...