

# Missionaries of Christ

## Levels I and II Teacher's Notes

### Lesson 1 “Paul -Converted by God to Preach Christ”

Acts 9:1-9; 18-22

How do you become a missionary?

#### PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 1 “Paul - Converted by God to Preach Christ”

- Read Acts 9:1-9; 18-22.
- Read and know the **INTRODUCTION**.
- Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.
- Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- Read and know the **APPLICATION**.

**MATERIALS:-**a Bible  
-a cross or a picture of a cross

#### INTRODUCTION

*Show the picture of the cross and show the Bible each time you refer to them in the INTRODUCTION.*

- What is this a picture of? (A cross.)
- What happened to Jesus on the cross? (He died on the cross.)
- The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. What are sins? (Answers vary)
- Sins are bad things that we do that God doesn't want us to do.
- We sin when we hit our friends or brothers and sisters.
- We sin when we say “no” to our moms and dads or the people in charge of us.
- What did Jesus do with our sins? (He took them away. He forgave them.)
- Jesus took all our sins away by dying on the cross. He forgave us our sins.
- That is great news. Because our sins are forgiven, we get to go to heaven.
- We want to share that exciting news with everyone.
- Who should we tell about Jesus dying on the cross? (Answers vary)
- We can tell our moms, dads, grandpas, grandmas, friends, and everyone.
- Jesus wants us to tell all the people in the world that He died on the cross to save everyone from their sins.
- When we tell other people about Jesus, we are being a missionary.
- There are many people in the Bible that told others that Jesus died on the cross. They were missionaries.
- This week we are going to talk about five missionaries, people who told others about Jesus.

## **BACKGROUND**

Simply and briefly tell students the following background information about the conversion of Paul:

- Jesus, God's Son, came to earth to save all people from their sins.
- Jesus was arrested by a group of men that did not like Jesus.
- These men, Pharisees and priests, killed Jesus by putting Him on a cross.
- After His death, He rose from the dead and showed He was alive to His followers, the disciples.
- For forty days, over a month, He showed He was alive and told His disciples to tell others that He was alive.
- Finally Jesus went to heaven and left His disciples to tell the world that He saved all people from their sins.
- The disciples told many people that Jesus saved them from their sins.
- This made the Pharisees and priests angry because they did not want people to believe in Jesus.
- One Pharisee captured believers and threw them into jail. He even killed believers.
- This man was named Paul. (It will be confusing for this age group to try to remember both names.)
- Paul wanted to stop all people from believing that Jesus saved them from their sins.

## **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Acts 16:31 Believing in Jesus as our Savior from sin is the only way to be saved.
- John 3:5 The Holy Spirit works faith through the Word of God and baptism to save us.
- I Cor. 12:3b The Holy Spirit creates faith in our hearts to believe Jesus saved us from sin.
- Jeremiah 1:5 God chose us to believe in Him by calling us to faith through God's Word.

**God created faith in Paul's heart to believe in Jesus. God called Paul to tell others that Jesus saved all people from their sins. God created faith in our hearts to believe in Jesus. God calls us to tell others that Jesus saved all people from their sins.**

## **APPLICATION**

- How does Jesus want us to treat our moms and dads, our friends, and brothers and sisters?  
(He wants us to be nice to them.)
- At the beginning of our story, was Paul being nice to people who believed in Jesus? (No.)
- What was he doing? (He was hurting them, throwing them into jail, and killing them.)
- What did Jesus do to Paul?(He created faith in Paul's heart to believe that Jesus saved him.)
- Faith is knowing or believing that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.
- After Paul believed in Jesus, what did Paul do to other people? (He told them about Jesus.)
- Paul was a missionary.
- There are times when we are mean to people. Sometimes we hit others. Sometimes we are mad at others. Sometimes we say "no" to our parents and don't do what they tell us to do.
- What do we call all those bad things we do? (Sins)
- What did Jesus do with all those sins? (He took them all away.)
- Jesus died on the cross and forgave us of our sins.
- God also created faith in our hearts to believe this.
- God wants us to tell others that Jesus died on the cross to take away their sins also.
- God wants us to be a missionary telling others that Jesus saved them from sins.
- Let's be a missionary telling our moms, dads, brothers, sisters, friends, and everyone that Jesus died on the cross to take away everyone's sins.
- Let's pray to Jesus asking for help to be a missionary.  
*Say a prayer asking for help to be a missionary.*

# Lesson 2 “Philip - Instructed by God to Speak His Word” Acts 8:26-40

What does a missionary talk about?

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 2 “Philip - Instructed by God to Speak His Word”

- Read Acts 8:26-40.
- Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.
- Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

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| <b>MATERIALS:</b> -a cup of water |
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## INTRODUCTION

*Show the cup of water.*

- What is this? (Water)
  - What do you do with water? (Drink it, water plants with it, swim in it, wash hands with it, answers vary.)
  - Water is very important. We need water to live. Without water we would die. We also wash and clean with water.
  - If I am playing outside and get my hands dirty, what can I do with water? (You can wash your hands.)
  - Water will wash away the dirt and make my hands clean.
  - When do we use water in church? (The students may not know, but lead them to baptism.)
  - We use water in church to baptize babies, children, and adults.
  - Who usually baptizes people? (Pastor)
  - What does the pastor do when he baptizes someone? (Answers vary)
  - The pastor takes regular water and puts it on the person’s head and says, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
  - We baptize to wash people. Not to wash away dirt, but we use baptism to wash away sins.
  - God wants us to baptize people so their sins can be washed away.
  - Baptism forgives sins and gives us a new life in Jesus.
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- In yesterday’s story we heard how God called Paul to be a missionary to tell others about Jesus.
  - In today’s story we are going to hear how God calls another missionary named Philip to preach God’s Word and to baptize.

## BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about Philip and the Ethiopian:

- Jesus had already died, rose, and ascended into heaven.
- Many of the Pharisees and priests that put Jesus to death wanted to put the disciples to death also.
- The disciples kept telling others that Jesus died for them.
- Many people believed that Jesus was their Savior.

- The disciples needed help preaching God's Word and taking care of the people.
- God chose seven men to help preach and take care of the believers.
- Two of these men were Philip and Stephen.
- God would use Philip to preach God's Word and baptize a man from a country in Africa (Ethiopia).

### **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Ps. 119:105 God's Word lights up our path and shows us the way to heaven.
- II Tim. 3:15 God's Word makes us wise for salvation.
- Is. 55:1-11 God invites us to hear His Word and preach it to others. God will cause the increase.
- Rom. 10:8-18 God calls us to use the Word of God to preach to others.

**God used Philip to tell the Ethiopian that Jesus died on the cross for his sins.  
God uses us to tell others that Jesus died on the cross for their sins.**

### **APPLICATION**

- Have you ever heard something that you didn't understand? (Yes)
  - What was it? (Answers vary, but limit the discussion to just a few responses.)
  - Did you ever figure out what it meant? (Yes)
  - How did you figure it out? (Someone told me.)
  - Your parents, teachers, friends, or a family member probably told you what it meant.
  - Sometimes when we hear things we have never heard before, we don't understand them.
  - In our story today, what did the Ethiopian man not understand? (He didn't understand what he read in the Bible.)
  - What did God do to help the Ethiopian man understand? (God sent Philip to help him.)
  - Yes, God sent a missionary named Philip to explain the Bible to the Ethiopian man.
  - Philip told the Ethiopian man that Jesus died on the cross to take away his sins.
  - When Philip told the man this, what did the Ethiopian do? (He believed in Jesus.)
  - What else did Philip do for the Ethiopian man? (Philip baptized the Ethiopian.)
  - There are many people in the world who do not understand the Bible or who don't know about Jesus.
  - What can we do for them just like Philip did? (We can tell them about Jesus.)
  - We can be missionaries just like Philip by telling others that Jesus died on the cross to take away their sins. God will create faith in those people's hearts just like God created faith for the Ethiopian.
  - Let's be missionaries telling our family and friends that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.
  - Let's pray to God asking for help to tell others about Jesus dying on the cross.
- Say a prayer asking God for help to tell others about Jesus.*

# Lesson 3 “Stephen - Strengthened by God to Confess unto Death”

Being a missionary may not be easy.

Acts 6:8; 7:51-60

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 3 “Stephen - Strengthened by God to Confess unto Death”

- Read Acts 6:8; 7:51-60.
- Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION** and **APPLICATION**.
- Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

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| <b>MATERIALS:</b> -a stone |
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## INTRODUCTION:

*Show the stone.*

- What is this?** (A stone.)
- Should you throw stones at people?** (No)
- Why not?** (Jesus wants us to be nice, someone might get hurt, answers vary.)
- Jesus does not want us to throw stones at people. He wants us to be kind to each other.**
- How would you feel if someone threw a stone at you?** (Answers vary)
- How would you feel if someone tried to hit you so hard with a stone that you would die?** (Answers vary)
- Why might someone want to throw a stone at you to try to kill you?** (Answers vary)
- In our story today we will talk about another missionary named Stephen. He was telling people that Jesus was the Son of God who died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. There were people who did not want to hear this.**
- They threw stones at Stephen to kill him.**
- Let’s listen to our story today to see what God did for Stephen and how Stephen acted toward the people throwing stones at him.**

## BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about “Stephen - Strengthened by God to Confess unto Death.” The first three lessons have similar background information. Use this opportunity to review the last few lessons to tie Stephen, Paul, and Philip together:

- Jesus, God’s Son, came to earth to save all people from their sins.
- Jesus was arrested by a group of men that did not like Jesus.
- These men, Pharisees and priests, killed Jesus by putting Him on a cross.
- After His death, He rose from the dead and showed He was alive to His followers, the disciples.
- For forty days, over a month, He showed He was alive and told His disciples to tell others that He was alive.
- Finally Jesus went to heaven and left His disciples to tell the world that He saved all people from their sins.
- The disciples told many people that Jesus saved them from their sins.
- This made the Pharisees and priests angry because they did not want people to believe in Jesus.
- Many of the Pharisees and priests that put Jesus to death wanted to put the disciples to death also.
- The disciples kept telling others that Jesus died for them.
- Many people believed that Jesus was their Savior.
- The disciples needed help preaching God’s Word and taking care of the people.

- God chose seven men to help preach and take care of the believers.
- Two of these men were Philip and Stephen. (Review Philip from the last lesson.)
- God kept Stephen's faith strong to the end of his life.

### **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Matt. 5:44-45 We should love all people even those who want to hurt us or be mean to us.
- Rev. 2:10 We pray the Lord keeps us faithful until we die. God graciously gives us heaven.
- John 15:5 We need to stay connected to Jesus so our faith can be strengthened to overcome the troubles that will come our way because of telling others about Jesus.
- II Tim. 4:18 The Lord will protect and preserve us while we tell others about Jesus. (Talk about how even though it didn't seem like God protected Stephen because he was killed, God graciously gave him something better than saving his life. God gave him eternal life in heaven.)
- Ps. 91:11 The Lord sends His angels to watch and keep us as we tell others about Jesus.

**God strengthened Stephen's faith to keep telling about Jesus even though others wanted to kill Stephen.  
God strengthens our faith to keep telling about Jesus even though others may not want to hear it.**

**MATERIALS:-a picture of a cross  
-a nail**

### **APPLICATION**

*Show the stone.*

- Do you remember the stone that I showed you at the beginning of the lesson? (Yes)
- What did some of you say it would feel like to get a stone thrown at you? (Answer vary)
- If someone threw the stone at you, how would you feel towards that person? (Mad)
- We would feel mad. We might even want to throw the stone back at them to hurt them.
- Is that what Jesus wants us to do? (No)
- What was Stephen doing to the Pharisees and priests so that they would throw stones at him? (Telling them about Jesus.)
- Stephen was being a missionary telling them that Jesus loved them and died on the cross to take away their sins. Those people didn't want to hear that.
- They threw stones at Stephen.
- Sometimes people might not want to hear us tell them that Jesus died on the cross to take away their sins.
- Sometimes they might laugh at us when we tell them about Jesus.
- Sometimes they might not want to talk to us anymore when we tell them about Jesus.
- Sometimes they might even try to hurt us when we tell them about Jesus.
- What did Stephen say when they were throwing stones at him and trying to kill him? (He asked Jesus to forgive them.)
- Stephen didn't get mad at them for throwing stones at him.
- Stephen didn't try to throw stones back at them.
- Stephen prayed to God and asked that God would take away their sin.
- Stephen wanted them to be forgiven.

*Show picture of the cross.*

**-When Jesus was dying on the cross, He said the same thing.**

*Show the nail.*

**-The Pharisees and priests put nails into Jesus' hands and feet. They wanted Jesus dead so they had Jesus nailed to a cross.**

**-What did Jesus say to the Pharisees and the priests when they did this?** (He asked His Father to forgive them.)

**-Jesus wants us to do the same thing for others.**

**-When other people are being mean to us, Jesus wants us to forgive them.**

**-Let's pray to Jesus asking for help to tell others about Him and for a heart that is willing to forgive others even when they are mean to us.**

*Say a prayer to Jesus asking for help to tell others about Him and for a forgiving heart.*

# Lesson 4 “Peter – Sent by God to Witness unto All”

Why a missionary talks to people.

Acts 10:9-16; 34-40; 42-43

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 4 “Peter – Sent by God to Witness unto All”

- Read Acts 10:9-16; 34-40; 42-43.
- Read and know the INTRODUCTION.
- Gather the materials for the INTRODUCTION.
- Familiarize yourself with the BACKGROUND information.
- Study the lesson so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- Read the passages in the KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT and study the key thoughts.
- Read and know the APPLICATION.

### **MATERIALS:**

**4 or more noticeably different lemons.**

## INTRODUCTION

*Show the lemons to students. Let them see, feel, touch, and smell them. After each child has looked at each lemon collect the lemons.*

**-What lemon was the best? Why do you think so?** (Answers may include it was the biggest, the prettiest, had the best or brightest color, had a good shape, had less spots or dents than the other etc.)

*Have each student pick their favorite lemon. Peel the lemons and show the peeled lemons to the students and ask them if they can tell which lemon was their favorite? (Most won't be able to tell because on the inside lemons are all the same, communicate this truth to the students)*

**-Sometimes we treat people like lemons. We compare people and think some people are better than others maybe because they have more money, are prettier, are “cooler”, are funnier, or are better dressed.**

**- For example, who do you think is better?**

- 1. A rich person or a poor person?**
- 2. A dark skinned person or a light skinned person?**
- 3. A boy or a girl?**
- 4. A thief or a pastor?**

(Student answers will vary. However, the point of the questions is to get the students to think about whether they have any prejudices and think that some people are better than others.)

**-No one is better than anyone else. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, a boy or girl, light skinned or dark skinned we are all the same. Why?** (Because we are all the same on the inside, we are all full of sin)



**-In the Bible God tells us “There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23. So no one is better than anyone else, for we are all sinful, it doesn’t matter what we look like on the outside.**

**-If we are all sinful, then what do we all need? (We need a Savior to take away our sin.)**

**-Who did that for us? (Jesus) -Who did Jesus love and die for? (Everyone)**

**-That Gospel message everyone needs to hear. God wants everyone to hear that message no matter who they are or what they look like.**

**-In our lesson today God taught his disciple Peter this same lesson – not with lemons, but through a dream with animals. Listen to hear what God wanted Peter to do.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Simply and briefly tell students the following background information:

- Cornelius was a Gentile in charge of the Roman Fortress at Caesarea. *Explain to the students the difference between a Jew and a Gentile.*
- Cornelius had over 600 men under his command and he believed in the One True God and rejected the pagan gods of the Romans.
- Because of his belief in God, many Jews respected him.
- Although he believed in God, he did not yet understand that Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- Therefore, God sent Peter to him to teach him about his Savior Jesus.
- Peter thought that the Jews were better than the Gentiles and God needed to teach people that we are all equal in Christ.

## **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE LESSON**

- Col. 2:16-17 God taught Peter through his dream that all animals are clean. The Jews no longer had to follow the Old Testament laws that forbid them to eat certain animals. The law was fulfilled in Christ and we are now set free from the demands of the law.
- Gal. 3:28 God also was teaching Peter that the Gentiles were part of God’s salvation.
- Rev. 14:7, Luke 2, Rom. 3-5, John 6:40 To Fear God means to give all glory to Him, to believe that Jesus saved us from our sins, that He is the only way to salvation, not by our works, and that we will want to do our Father’s will.
- Rom. 3:23-24 All people are the same. They are all sinful, they all need a Savior, they all have been redeemed by Jesus, and they all need to hear the Gospel message.
- Acts 10:34-43 Peter told the Gentiles of “the good news of peace through Jesus Christ.” We will want to spread this message to all.

**Peter was sent by God to witness to all people. I am sent by God to spread the Gospel message to all.**

## **APPLICATION**

**-Which people did Peter think were better than other people? (Jews)**

**-What dream did God send to Peter? (A dream telling Peter that all animals were the same)**

**-What did Peter think of those animals? (That they were bad, unclean and that he shouldn’t eat them)**

- What was God trying to tell Peter through the dream?** (That all people are the same, they are all sinful and they all need a Savior)
- Who does God love?** (All people)
- For whom did Jesus die on the cross and live a perfect life?** (All people)
- Are rich people better than poor people?** (No)
- Are girls better than boys?** (No)
- Are white people better than black people?** (No)
- Does Jesus love you?** (Yes!)
- Did He take your sins away?** (Yes!)
- What does He want you to do?** (Tell others about Jesus)
- Should we only tell the people we like about Jesus?** (No)
- Who should we tell about Jesus?** (All people)

*Close with a prayer thanking Jesus for loving all people and taking away all their sins. Ask Him to help us love all people and help us to tell others about Jesus.*

# Lesson 5 “Lydia – Prepared by God to Live His Word”

What does a missionary do?

Acts 6:9-15

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 5 “Lydia – Prepared by God to Live His Word”

- Read Acts 6:9-15
- Read and know the INTRODUCTION.
- Gather the materials for the INTRODUCTION.
- Familiarize yourself with the BACKGROUND information.
- Study the lesson so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- Read the passages in the KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT and study the key thoughts.
- Read and know the APPLICATION.

## **MATERIALS:**

Map of Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journeys. (*For use in the Background information*)

## INTRODUCTION

**-I’m going to tell you something in 2 different ways; first with words, then with actions.**

*Do the following with words first and then actions*

**-“Hi” and then wave**

**-“I’m happy” and then smile**

**-“Great Job!” and then give a thumbs up.**

*Explain to the children how these both mean the same things.*

**-Now I’m going to just say the words and you show me the action that means the same thing.** (They can do all together or you can call on individuals)

**-“I’m sad”** (Students will show a sad face or frown)

**-“OK”** (Students will show the ok hand sign)

**-“I’m excited”** (Students will show excitement by facial expression, jumping up and down etc)

**-“I don’t know?”** (Students will shrug their shoulders)

**-Now we are going to do it the other way. See if you can figure out what I’m saying by my actions.**

**-Yawn and stretch** (“I’m tired”)

**-Fan yourself and breath loudly** (“I’m hot”)

**-Clutch your arm and make a pained expression** (“I’m in pain”)

**-We can communicate (share information) by our words and by our actions.**

**-In our lesson today we are going to hear about 2 people, one told others about Jesus with his words, the other showed she loved Jesus by her actions. We are going to learn that we can tell other people about Jesus by our words, but also we can show them we love Jesus by our actions- the way we live our lives.**

## BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following background information:

*Show students Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journeys on a map as you tell the students the background information.*

- This event in our lesson occurred 20 years after Paul's conversion.
- Paul established congregations in Cypress and Asia Minor in his 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary journey.
- On Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary trip he went to Tarsus and then on to strengthen the congregations he had visited in Asia Minor.
- Silas, Timothy, and Luke accompanied Paul on this missionary journey.
- At Troas the Lord sent Paul a vision of a man asking Paul to preach the saving Gospel in Macedonia.  
*Show where Macedonia is on the map.*
- They traveled to Philippi (*show on map*); stayed several days there and met Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth.

## **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE LESSON**

- II Tim. 4:2 After Paul's vision of the man from Macedonia asking for help they immediately looked for a way to get to Macedonia. Mission work is urgent. We need to be ready to respond to opportunities to share the Gospel.
- Eph. 6:8 Paul carefully looked over and prayed over the mission field at Philippi before he began his work. Prayer is an essential part of a Christian's life and work.
- Rom. 10:17 Lydia was one of the women listening to Paul preach. God opened her heart to believe that Jesus was her Savior and she and her household were baptized.
- 1 Peter 4:9 Lydia then showed the fruit of her faith by opening her home to Paul and the other missionaries.
- Phil. 1:6 The Lord starts and completes the good work in the lives of believers.

**Lydia was prepared by God to live His Word. We also are prepared by God to live His Word by the way we live our life in our words and actions.**

## **APPLICATION**

- Who did God make as a missionary? (Paul)
- What did God want Paul to do? (Go into all the world and tell people about Jesus)
- Who heard Paul preach? (Lydia)
- What did God do for Lydia? (Opened her heart to believe in Jesus, He created faith in her heart and made her a Christian)
- Who did Lydia love? (Jesus)
- How did she show her love for Jesus? (1. She loved hearing God's Word 2. She gave her money to Jesus 3. She took care of the missionaries and gave them food and a home)
- Missionaries can tell other people about Jesus by their words and their actions.
- Which way did Lydia tell others about Jesus? (actions)
- We are missionaries of Jesus when in kindness and love we share with others what God has given us.

**-What has Jesus given and done for you?** (created faith in your heart, forgiven your sins, blessed you with gifts and talents etc)

**-Paul shared the Good News of Jesus. Lydia shared her house and home. What can we share with others?** (our money, our time, our help, our things, our food, our clothing etc)

**-When can we do these things?** (everyday, whenever we see someone in need)

**-We can also help others spread the Gospel like Lydia did when she shared her food and home with Paul and the other missionaries. What are some ways we can help and encourage our pastors, teachers, parents, friends, and family in spreading the Word of God?** (By our prayers, words of support, money and food, etc)

*Close with a prayer thanking God for all he has done for you and your students and pray that God help you and your students support others as they preach God's Word and to help us all be missionaries of Christ by our lives and actions.*