

Unit 33: The Church Goes

Unit Description: Paul had been one of the leaders persecuting the church, but when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, all of that changed. Paul became a follower of Jesus and would spend the rest of his life on mission, telling others about the One he used to persecute. Jesus can truly save anyone.

Big Picture Question: Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.



SESSION 1: Paul Became a Christian

Acts 9



SESSION 2: Paul Became a Missionary

Acts 13-14



SESSION 3: Jesus Can Forgive Anyone

2 Corinthians 5



UNIT 33 | SESSION 2

PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

ACTS 13–14

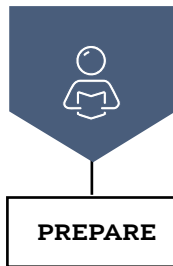
KEY PASSAGE: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17 NIV

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel spread so that people all over the world could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

The beginnings of Paul's journey as a missionary in Acts 13–14 showcased the power and providence of God, even amid harsh persecution. From being sent out and set apart by the Holy Spirit to being wrongly celebrated as gods and experiencing mistreatment and stonings, Paul remained fixed on the hope he found in Jesus. No matter the circumstances he faced, he kept proclaiming Jesus' name and paving the way for the gospel to be known around the world.

What patterns do we see in Paul's life that propelled the gospel farther? What role do hardships play in our spiritual lives as we, too, seek to live on mission for Christ and His good news of salvation?

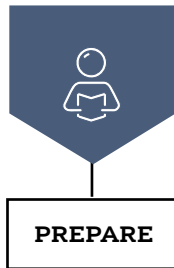
As we read of Paul's journeys, we find that he continually sought to abide in Christ through the spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, and sharing the gospel. We also see that he did not back down from difficult situations; not even false prophets and sorcerers could derail him from proclaiming God's truth! Despite the grueling hassles of life on the road and not having a place to call home, Paul chose obedience to God's calling above any earthly comfort as he trusted the glories of heaven far outweighed any momentary affliction.

While many insulted Paul, opposed him, and rejected the words of life he spoke, he shook the dust off his feet and pressed on, filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit that filled Paul and sustained him on his missionary journeys also lives in us who trust in Christ. Paul's dependence on the Spirit and his obedience to the gospel mission provide a model for us to follow as we seek to live on mission.

Encourage the kids you lead to recognize Paul's perseverance and how the love of Jesus compelled him to share the gospel no matter the difficulties he faced. Ask the Lord to assist you as you live out this conviction through teaching it to the next generation of Christ followers.

TERMS TO KNOW

Missionary: a Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the good news about Jesus



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “Missions Word Search” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ dry erase board

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ index cards, 1 per kid



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Paul Became a Missionary” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ New Testament Mediterranean Map (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 33, Session 2” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Betsey Stockton Photo” printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Through Him (John 3:17)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ circular slices of string cheese, 1 per kid
- ☐ long pieces of string cheese, 1 per kid
- ☐ thin triangular sliced kiwis, 3 per kid
- ☐ triangular pineapple slices, 5 per kid
- ☐ paper plates, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ “All about Paul” printable, 1 per kid

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Scrambled Stones” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Do you have any special tasks you’ve been assigned at home or at school? What are they? How have you been able to complete these tasks?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Missions Word Search” on the activity page.

SAY “After Saul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul’s life changed. Today, we will learn how Saul, also known as Paul, became a missionary, and even risked his life for the sake of the gospel.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MISUNDERSTOOD



Tell kids that some phrases are easily misunderstood by people who have never heard them before. Lead kids to play a game to see if they can correctly match the phrase with its meaning. Form kids into two teams and award a point to teams who answer correctly. Write the phrases below on one side of a dry erase board and the meanings on the other side. Be sure to write the meanings out of order. Consider using the phrases below or create your own:

- Spill the beans (reveal or make something known)
- Break a leg (wishing performers well)
- Piece of cake (doing a task that is easy)
- Shoot the breeze (talk for awhile about unimportant matters)

SAY “Being misunderstood can be challenging. In today’s story, we’ll see how some people misunderstood who Paul and Barnabas were. Let’s learn how Paul shared the gospel to help the men understand who they were.”

☐ OPTION 2: GO!

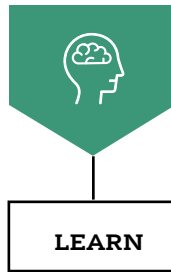
Before the session, write an instruction for each kid to go and do on index cards. For example, on one card you may write go find a pencil or on another card you may write go bring me a Bible.

Distribute an index card to each kid face down. Tell kids not to look at what’s written on their card. On your start, direct kids to read their card and go do the assigned task. Tell kids the first three to complete the task will be awarded points. Redistribute cards and play as time allows, making sure kids do not get the same card. Award the kid with the most points as the winner.

SAY “Each of you received a task and then were sent to complete that task. Similarly, today’s Bible story teaches us that the Holy Spirit chose Paul and Barnabas for a special task. They were obedient to go and do the job they were chosen for. Let’s get ready to learn more about their special task.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome! My name is [your name]. I am glad you are here as we uncover more truths from God’s Word and learn how Paul became a missionary. If you have your Bible, please take it out. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The Bible is made up of 66 books and of those, 27 are found in the New Testament. Paul is the author of at least 13 of the 27 New Testament books. As we’ll later learn, Paul wrote many of these books to churches or people he had met with on his missionary journeys. Paul’s writings were always centered on the gospel as he encouraged churches to stay true to Jesus. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

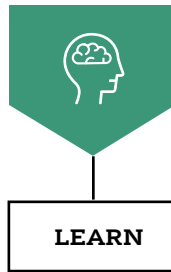
SAY “We learned last week that Paul had an amazing encounter with Jesus that changed him from being someone who persecuted Christians to being someone who boldly proclaimed the gospel. Our big picture question is, **Who can be saved?** Paul is a great example of the answer we learned to this question. Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.**

Paul’s encounter with Jesus not only saved him from his sins, but changed his life so much that he desired to tell everyone the good news. In today’s Bible story, we’ll learn how Paul dedicated his life to being a missionary throughout the world. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Just as Jesus had said it would, the church began in Jerusalem, grew into Judea, and expanded into Samaria. The apostles like Peter and Philip were faithful witnesses of the gospel, proclaiming the good news to both Jews and Gentiles. When God saved Paul, God had a plan to use him to send the church further into the world—to the ends of the earth. Today, we will learn that Paul and Barnabas were set apart for the work God had called them to. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 13–14. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Paul Became a Missionary.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

“ After Saul left Damascus, he first traveled to Jerusalem and then to Tarsus. Later, Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch. **Saul, who was also known by his Roman name, Paul, was with the church in Antioch. The Holy Spirit chose Paul and another believer, Barnabas, for a special work. So they obeyed and left Antioch. God led Paul and Barnabas to tell the good news about Jesus to not only the Jews, but the Gentiles—or people who were not Jews.**

Paul and Barnabas traveled to Lystra (LISS truh). Paul healed a man there who had never been able to walk. The people saw what Paul had done, and they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! They began to worship them, but Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and shouted, “No! We are not gods. We are men just like you! We want to tell you the good news of God.”

Then some people showed up from Antioch and Iconium (igh KOH nih uhm), cities where Paul and Barnabas had preached about Jesus. These people caused trouble so that the people in Lystra turned against Paul and Barnabas, too. They threw stones at Paul and dragged him out of the city. They thought he was dead, but the believers in Lystra gathered around Paul, and he got up.

The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe (DUHR bih). They told people there about Jesus, and many people believed. Then Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra and to Iconium. They encouraged the believers there to continue in the faith. They told the believers that they would face suffering because they believed in Jesus. Paul and Barnabas also chose leaders for the churches.

Christ Connection: God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel spread so that people all over the world could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Point to a map: Display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Point to the cities of Antioch (E9), Antioch of Pisidia (D8), Lystra (E8), Iconium (D8), and Derbe (D8) when you tell about them in the story.

Portray emotion: Use facial expressions and changes in the tone of your voice to portray the emotions of the different characters.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Last week, we learned how Saul, also called Paul, became a Christian. Once an enemy of Christians, Paul now proclaimed the gospel. In our story today, we heard that Paul was now to be set apart for the work God called him to. What was this work and who went with Paul? Look at Acts 13:2-5. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 13:2-5.]** Paul and Barnabas were set apart to become missionaries who would tell others about Jesus. A missionary is a Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the good news about Jesus.

As Paul and Barnabas traveled to different cities, sharing the good news, they faced trouble. What were some challenging circumstances they faced? Look at Acts 14:11,14-15,19. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 14:11,14-15,19.]** Paul and Barnabas were mistaken for gods by the people of Lystra. Then after some Jews from Antioch and Iconium stirred up trouble, Paul was stoned and left for dead. Sharing the gospel will sometimes be met with rejection and even persecution. Jesus had taught His followers that the world will hate them because it hated Him. (John 15:18) Paul knew that sharing the gospel was worth it because even if he lost his life in this world, he would receive eternal life.

Even though Paul and Barnabas faced troubles, God did bless their faithfulness to share the good news of Jesus. How did God bless their efforts? Look at Acts 14:20-27. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 14:20-27.]** God saved many people in the towns of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia because Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel. Each town had a church and Paul and Barnabas appointed elders or leaders in the churches. They also encouraged the churches to remember that believers will endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God. Paul and Barnabas sought to make disciples, men and women who would be faithful to Jesus and share the good news no matter what troubles they faced. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel spread so that people all over the world could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 33, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why is the gospel called “good news” if Jesus had to die?
2. Who can you share the good news of Jesus with this week?



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Betsey Stockton Photo” as you tell the kids about the missionary.

SAY “ Betsey Stockton left for Hawaii with a team of missionaries. After a little over five months at sea, they arrived in Hawaii in April 1823. Betsey became the first unmarried American woman to travel overseas as a missionary and the first African American woman to arrive in Hawaii.

Betsey was soon assigned to a mission in Lahaina (lah-HIGH-nah), Maui. She received permission to start a school for the Maka’ainana (MAH-kah ay-NAH-nah) people. Betsey learned the Hawaiian native language. She taught history, English, Latin, and algebra at the school. ”

Tell kids the missionaries believed that Betsey’s work of helping the people to read and write was important for the people to understand the Bible. Share how Betsey also helped train the native Hawaiian teachers, who continued her work after she left Hawaii. Explain that although Betsey was only in Hawaii for two years, her work improved her skills as a teacher, had an impact on the native Hawaiian children, and helped the Hawaiian people see the importance of education. Pray, thanking God for Betsey’s willingness to travel to Hawaii to share the gospel. Ask God to call more missionaries who will take the gospel to more people groups.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 3:17 together.

SAY “ Paul shared the good news of Jesus, even when it was hard! He knew that everyone needs to hear the gospel because Jesus can save anyone who trusts in Him. ”

Write a word from the key passage on separate index cards or sticky notes. Hide the cards around the room. Explain that the kids have three minutes to find all the cards and put them in order of the key passage. Once completed, invite the kids to read the key passage together. For larger groups, considering creating more than one set of cards.

Lead kids to sing “Through Him (John 3:17).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

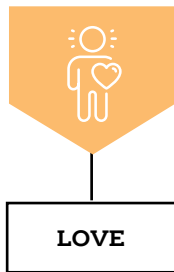
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, Lord, for how You called Paul to share the gospel with all people. Give us courage and strength to share the good news, knowing You will save anyone who trusts in Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 14. Spend some time mapping out Paul's first missionary journey, reminding kids that God had called Paul to places the gospel had not yet reached. Point out Antioch (E9), Cyprus (E9), Perga (E8), Antioch of Pisidia (D8), Lystra (E8), Iconium (D8), and Derbe (D8). Tell kids that the churches in Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe were in the region of Galatia. Explain that Paul would later write the letter of Galatians to these churches.

Consider comparing the New Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Turkey.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 14:26-28.

SAY “ Paul and Barnabas had been sent out from the church in Antioch, and after visiting the cities God had called them to, they returned to Antioch. They told the church in Antioch all God had done—how He had saved many Gentiles. What an encouraging report this must have been for the church! Even in places and with people groups who had never heard about Jesus, the gospel was understood and believed. God truly can save anyone, and He used His people to help others trust in Jesus for salvation. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why does God call missionaries? ”

Remind kids that a missionary is a Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the good news about Jesus. Discuss how missionaries are called to share the gospel because there may not be another Christian presence. Remind kids that all people need to hear the gospel to have an opportunity to trust in Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 15:20-21.)

SAY “ Do you know any missionaries from your church or from the past? Who? ”

Answers will vary. Tell kids that churches send out missionaries just as the church in Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas. Encourage kids to pray for missionaries and learn about those who have served in the past.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Thess. 3:1-2.)

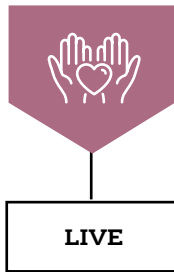
SAY “ Do you think being a missionary can be challenging? Why? ”

Discuss how missionaries can sometimes be in places where Christians are killed or persecuted. Tell kids that it can also be hard to be away from your home church, family, and your hometown. Remind kids that sharing the gospel is always worth it, no matter what troubles we face or things we give up, because Jesus is made known and glorified.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 12:10.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: EDIBLE PICTURES**



Provide each kid with one circular slice of string cheese, a long piece of string cheese, three thinly triangular sliced kiwis, five triangular pineapple slices, and a paper plate. Tell kids the state flower of Hawaii is the Pua Aloalo (POO-wah AH-low-AH-low), or yellow hibiscus. Lead kids to make an edible picture of the yellow hibiscus using their foods. Direct kids to place the circular slice of cheese in the center of their plate and arrange the triangular pineapple slices around the cheese to create the petals of the flower. Next, make the leaves by placing the kiwis outside the petals. Finally, place the long piece of string cheese extending from the center of the flower outward. Invite kids to eat their edible picture.

SAY “Hawaii has a beautiful state flower! Betsey Stockton followed God’s call to tell the people of Hawaii about Jesus. Like Paul, she was willing to go to a far away place so people could hear the good news and be saved from their sin.”

☐ **OPTION 2: ALL ABOUT PAUL**



Provide each kid with an “All about Paul” printable. Lead kids to use their Bibles to fill in the information and draw pictures. Offer assistance finding the Bible passages as needed. Once kids have completed Paul’s biography, invite kids to share what they learned about him and how his missionary journeys encourage them in their faith.

SAY “Paul’s life is a testimony to the grace of God and how God can save anyone. Though he was a Pharisee who persecuted Christians, Jesus saved Paul and used him to take the gospel further into the world. Like Paul, we can be encouraged to remember that God can use anyone to tell others about Jesus and that following Jesus is always worth any hardships we may face.”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for sending Paul to share the gospel with the Gentiles. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Scrambled Stones” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FOLD



Unit 33 • Session 2

PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

Acts 13-14

WHO CAN BE SAVED?

**ANYONE WHO TRUSTS IN JESUS CAN BE FORGIVEN OF THEIR SINS
AND BE RIGHT WITH GOD.**

Saul, who was also known by his Roman name, Paul, was with the church in Antioch. The Holy Spirit chose Paul and another believer, Barnabas, for a special work. So they obeyed and left Antioch. God led Paul and Barnabas to tell the good news about Jesus to not only the Jews, but the Gentiles—or people who were not Jews.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to Lystra (LISS truh). Paul healed a man there who had never been able to walk. The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! Paul and Barnabas shouted, “No! We are not gods. We are men just like you! We want to tell you the good news of God.”

Then some people showed up from Antioch and Iconium (igh KOH nih uhm). These people caused trouble so that the people in Lystra turned against Paul and Barnabas, too. They threw stones at Paul and dragged him out of the city. They thought he was dead, but the believers in Lystra gathered around Paul, and he got up.

The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe (DUHR bih). They told people there about Jesus, and many people believed. Then Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra and to Iconium. They encouraged the believers there to continue in the faith.

Christ Connection: God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel spread so that people all over the world could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus.

Missions Word Search

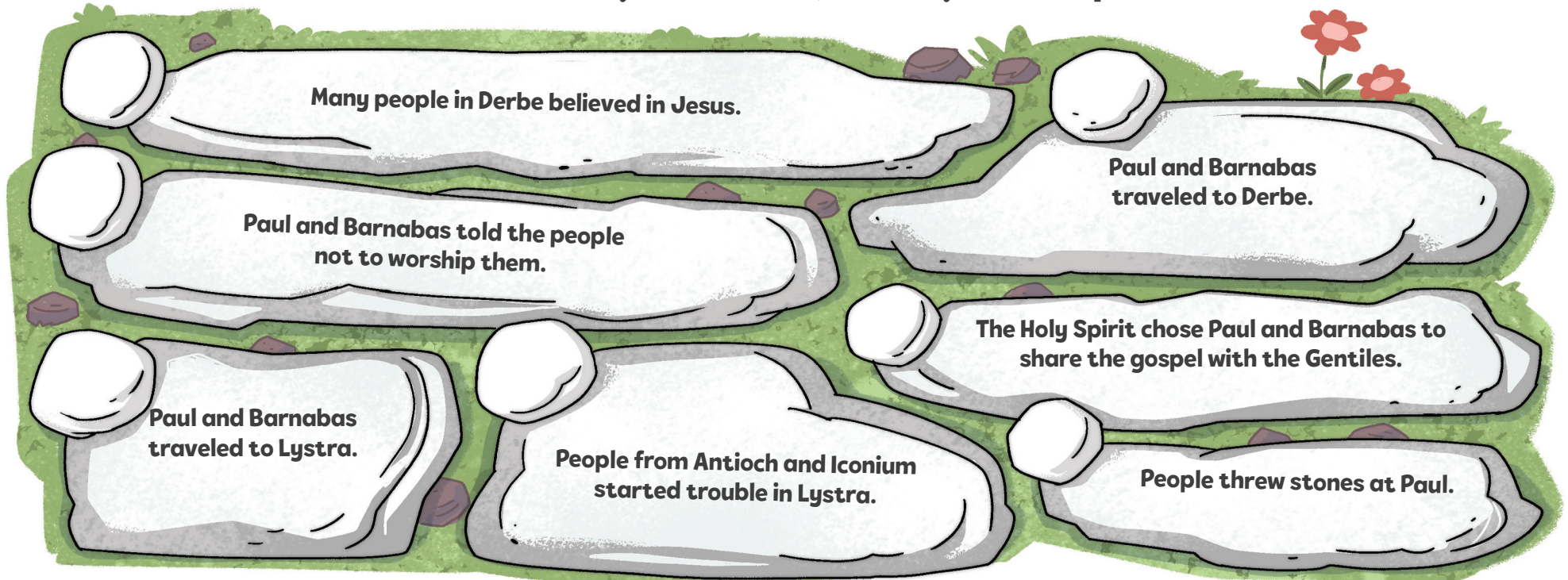
God sent Paul to share the gospel with Jews and Gentiles. Find and circle the terms from the word bank.

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

ANTIOCH
JEWS
GENTILES
ICONIUM
LYSTRA
DERBE
PAUL
BARNABAS
GOSPEL
JESUS



Scrambled Stones | Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel. Number the stones in the correct order of the Bible story. Read Acts 13:2; 14:6-21 if you need help.



NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

Paul Became a Missionary

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- The Holy Spirit chose Paul and another believer, Barnabas, to share the good news about Jesus to Jews and Gentiles.
- They traveled to Lystra and preached the gospel. In Lystra, they faced trouble from Jews who came from Antioch and Iconium. They turned the people in Lystra against Paul.
- Then Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe and shared the gospel. Many people believed, and churches were started.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel spread so that people all over the world could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.