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Survey of Acts & Romans

by
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Serve and Equip

Survey of Acts & Romans

**A study of the book of Acts & Romans for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

Survey of Acts and Romans

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Acts and Romans. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you have written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Acts and Romans. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course, you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses you will be reading. After each paragraph, you will usually have three questions. The questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson, there will be an opportunity to write down something you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons, three things will happen in your life:

First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.

Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses you have studied.

Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally communicated in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 1

Acts 1:1-2:47

Today, we are beginning a study of the book of Acts. During our study, we will learn the basic message of the book of Acts. In our study today, we will learn about the promise Christ gave about the Holy Spirit just before Christ returned to heaven. Then, we will learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit to live in the life of each Christian. We will also see the results when a group of Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell what Christ promised about the Holy Spirit.

Explain what requirements are given for a man to be an apostle.

Tell what happened when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Explain what Peter said about the Holy Spirit.

Tell what we learn about the beginning of the church.

As we begin the book of Acts, we see that it is written to a man by the name of Theophilus. The book of Luke was also written to Theophilus. Luke wrote both of these books to Theophilus to help him become a strong Christian. Here, we see the importance of helping other Christians grow strong so they can serve Christ better. If Luke was concerned enough about Theophilus to write two books to help him grow as a Christian, certainly we should be just as concerned about helping new Christians grow and become strong.

1. Read Acts 1:1-11 and write how many days it was from the time Christ rose from the dead until He returned to heaven.
2. Explain why Luke had such a concern to help Theophilus in his spiritual growth.
3. Explain what you learn for your own life from the example of the concern of Luke to help Theophilus in his spiritual growth.

For forty days, Christ showed that He was alive from the dead. During that time, Christ also taught the disciples many things about the kingdom of God. As a result, the disciples asked Christ if the time had come when He would return the kingdom to Israel. Here, we see that the disciples were still looking forward to Christ becoming a king. Christ told the disciples He had other things that were more important for them. Christ promised the disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power they needed to witness and tell others about Christ.

4. Read Acts 1:1-11 and write the four places where Christ told the disciples that they were to witness about Him after they received the Holy Spirit.
5. Explain why Christ instructed the disciples to be witnesses of Him first to their own people and then to the people of the rest of the world
6. Explain how the command that Christ gave to take the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth applies to you personally.

Here, we see our responsibility as Christians to witness to all people. We could think of the four groups to whom we are to witness in several different ways. Our Jerusalem is those of our tribe in our own area. This involves crossing the barrier of our own fear. Our Judea is those of our own tribe in other areas. This involves crossing the barrier of making contacts. Our Samaria is those of other tribes or races in our country. This involves crossing the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group. Finally, we see our responsibility to take the Gospel to the entire world. This involves crossing the barrier of language. As Christians, we are a part of a group whose desire is to help

people throughout the world learn about the love of Christ for them by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

7. Read Acts 1:1-11 and write what happened to Christ when He had finished speaking these things.
8. Explain why you think the last command Christ gave us before He returned to heaven was the command to take the Gospel to all the people of the world.
9. Explain what you are personally doing to take the Gospel to your world.

After Christ gave us the command to take the Gospel to all people, He returned to heaven. Then, the disciples returned to Jerusalem to pray together until the Holy Spirit came to fill their lives and give them power to witness. We read that they all continued together with one accord or purpose. Here, we see an important lesson for every church. All of the members of every church need to be working together with one purpose. We will see in the next chapter that the purpose of the early Christians was to tell others about Christ.

10. Read Acts 1:12-26 and write how many Christians were meeting together with one purpose.
11. Explain what made it possible for all of the believers to be of one accord and one purpose.
12. Explain what you can personally do to help the Christians in your church learn to work together in one accord.

As the Christians were meeting together in prayer, they felt that God wanted them to choose another apostle to take the place of Judas. Here, we see the requirements for a man to be an apostle. He must be one who had followed Christ and been a part of the group of disciples. He must have been with Christ the entire time that Christ preached. He must have seen Christ after Christ rose from the dead. The only apostle who did not meet all of those requirements was Paul. Paul tells us that Christ chose him to be an apostle, even though he had not walked with Christ for three years on the earth. Paul was the only one who was chosen to be an apostle without meeting the requirements given in this chapter. That is why we do not have apostles today.

13. Read Acts 1:12-26 and write the name of the man chosen to replace Judas.
14. Explain why the disciples felt it important to choose a person to take the place of Judas.
15. Explain how the qualifications for an apostle in these verses help you to understand why we do not have apostles today.

After the disciples had chosen Mathias to take the place of Judas, they continued to meet together, pray together and have the same purpose. Ten days after Christ went back to heaven, the prayers of the disciples were answered and the Holy Spirit came to live in the life of every Christian. Since this was the beginning of the church and the time that the Holy Spirit first came to live in the life of every Christian, several unusual things happened. There was a sound like a very strong wind. Then, tongues that looked like tongues of fire came on each of the disciples. The disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The disciples then spoke to the crowds in Jerusalem in their own languages.

16. Read Acts 2:1-13 and write who was at Jerusalem that day.
17. Explain why the Lord chose to send the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost when there were Jews gathered from every nation in Jerusalem.
18. Explain why you think the Holy Spirit gave all of the believers the opportunity to share the Gospel with others.

The Jews had been scattered and there were groups of Jews living in many different

countries. However, the Jews who lived in other countries would make an effort to come to Jerusalem for the Jewish feasts at least once or twice in their lifetimes. The Feast of Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover. Many of the Jews living in other countries would come to Jerusalem for the Passover and stay for the Feast of Pentecost. These were the Jews who were visiting Jerusalem from the other nations.

19. Read Acts 2:1-13 and count the number of different languages mentioned in these verses in which the disciples spoke on the day of Pentecost.
20. Explain why the Jews from different countries were amazed when they heard the Gospel being explained in their own languages.
21. Explain why you think the Lord gave the believers the ability to speak in all of the different languages of the people who were gathered there that day.

There are several things we need to notice about these tongues or languages. First, we see that the Holy Spirit gave the hundred and twenty disciples who had been praying together the ability to speak in at least fifteen different languages. Part of the disciples would speak in each language. The second thing we see is the fact that these tongues are known languages. Fifteen known languages are mentioned that the disciples spoke. People quickly gathered around a disciple who was speaking their language. The people were very surprised when they heard these men from Galilee speaking their languages. However, God had a special purpose that day. He wanted men from all parts of the world to hear the Gospel on the day that the church began.

22. Read Acts 2:1-13 and write what the people were hearing in their own languages.
23. Explain how this showed that God wants people of every language group to hear the Gospel in a way they can understand.
24. Explain what it means to you, in your own life, that they were sharing the wonderful works of God.

The people were very surprised when the disciples spoke to the people in various languages about Christ. Those who hated Christ said they were drunk. Then, Peter took the opportunity to speak to the crowd about Christ. As Peter spoke to the crowd, he spoke of a prophecy in the book of Joel. The prophecy in Joel speaks of the last days when the entire nation of Israel will turn to the Lord for salvation. Here, we see that Peter tells the Jews that what they were seeing was an example of what will happen to the nation of Israel in the future when the entire nation turns to God.

25. Read Acts 2:14-36 and write what Peter said would happen to those who called on the name of the Lord.
26. Explain what it means to call on the name of the Lord.
27. Explain what the Lord used in your own life to lead you to call upon the name of the Lord.

Then, Peter begins to show how the Old Testament predicted in the book of Psalms that Christ would die. Peter spoke of the fact that David had said that the grave could not hold Christ until His body began to rot. Instead, Christ had victory over death and rose from the dead. Since David had not risen from the dead, he had not been speaking of himself. Instead, he had been speaking of Christ. God also took Christ up to heaven and caused Christ to sit on His right side. Then, Peter explained the real point of his sermon. He wanted to show Israel that God had sent Christ who they had crucified on the cross.

28. Read Acts 2:14-36 and write what God had made Jesus.
29. Explain why it is very important for people to really understand the fact that God raised Christ from the dead.
30. Explain what it means to you, in your own life, to know that Christ has risen from the dead.

When Peter showed that Christ had come from God and had been raised from the dead, the Holy Spirit spoke to those who were listening. Those men realized they were sinners. Then, they asked Peter and the other disciples what they must do. Here, we see a very interesting thing about the sermon of Peter. He encouraged people to ask questions right while he was preaching. Then, Peter told them to turn from their sins and show the other people that they had decided to follow Christ by being baptized.

31. Read Acts 2:37-47 and write what Peter promised the men they would receive when they followed Christ.
32. Explain why this passage shows us that all people receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment they place their trust in Christ.
33. Explain what it means to you in your personal life that you received the Holy Spirit as a gift at the moment you placed your trust in Christ.

Here, we see a wonderful promise about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes into each one of our lives at the moment we become Christians. Today, there is much confusion about the time that the Holy Spirit comes into our lives. However, we see here and also in many other verses that the Holy Spirit comes into our lives at the time we decide to follow Christ and become Christians. We also see the results of the witness of Peter and the other disciples. We read that a large group of people followed Christ.

34. Read Acts 2:37-47 and write how many people placed their trust in Christ on the day the church began.
35. Explain how the Father draws people to place their trust in Christ as we explain to them the meaning of the resurrection of Christ.
36. Explain what it means to you to know that Christ could change so many people in one day.

We also learn some important things about the early church in these verses. Verse 42 tells us four things that were done in the early church. We will learn about other things that were done in the early church as we study the rest of the book of Acts. Here, we see that the first thing emphasized is the apostles' doctrine. This is Bible study. This should be one of the most important parts of any church. The church should be helping Christians learn the Word of God so that every Christian is prepared to witness to his/her friends, neighbors and other people that he/she meets. We also see that the Christians met to fellowship with each other. Then, they met for communion and prayer.

37. Read Acts 2:37-47 and write what these early believers were doing every day.
38. Explain why Bible study, fellowship, communion, and prayer are four of the key things to help new Christians grow in their understanding of the new life we have in Christ.
39. Explain how each of these four things has helped you in your own spiritual growth.

Although large groups of Christians met together from time to time in the temple, many of their meetings were held in small groups in homes. We even see that the Christians met together for communion in the homes. It was almost three hundred years before the Christians started building their own buildings for worship. Here, we see that the building is not the important thing. Instead, the important thing is the fact that Christians meet together with Christ in control of their meetings. A local church can meet in any kind of a building because the building is not important. Today, the people in many churches are spending more time taking care of their buildings than they are spending out witnessing to their friends and other people in the area.

40. Read Acts 2:37-47 and write how the church grew when the Christians were

concerned about telling others about Christ instead of building buildings.

41. Explain why it is important to continue to tell people about Christ whether they are ready to place their trust in Christ right now or not.
42. Explain how you have seen Christ work in the lives of others by drawing them to Himself as they have seen the changed lives of Christians and heard the Word of God explained.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In our study of the first two chapters of Acts, we have seen the final words of Christ to His disciples and to all Christians just before He returned to heaven. We have also seen what happened as the original disciples received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Lord drew three thousand people to Himself in one day. Then, the church helped the new believers begin to grow in their new spiritual life. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to share the message of the death and resurrection of Christ with at least two people.

Now, re-read Acts 1:1-2:47 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 2

Acts 3:1-4:37

Today, we will learn about the first miracle that happened after Christ returned to heaven and the church began. As a result of this miracle, several things happened. The miracle made it possible for Peter to speak to a large group of people in the temple. Since the Jewish religious leaders did not want the people to follow Christ, the religious leaders put Peter and John in jail. The next day, when the religious leaders had a trial for Peter and John, the two disciples used the opportunity to speak to the religious leaders about Christ. Then, the religious leaders told them not to speak about Christ anymore. However, Peter and John replied that they were to obey God rather than men. After the disciples were freed, they gathered together with the other disciples to pray. They were again filled with the Holy Spirit, which caused them to speak boldly for Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Peter said to the man who was crippled.
- Tell what Peter said to the people in the temple.
- Explain what Peter and John said to the religious leaders.
- Explain what happened as the disciples prayed together.
- Tell why the Christians sold the things they owned.

When the church first started, the people in Jerusalem met each afternoon at the temple at three p.m. to pray. One day, as Peter and John went to pray, they met a man who was crippled and unable to walk. He had been crippled ever since he was born. Since the government did not have a welfare program to help the sick and crippled, it was necessary for the man to sit by the side of the street and ask people to give him money or food so he could live. This is still true in many countries today. This particular man was sitting and begging near the gate of the temple.

1. Read Acts 3:1-11 and write what Peter said to the crippled man when he asked for some money (alms).
2. Explain why the early believers felt that it was important to gather for prayer daily.
3. Explain why regular prayer is very important to you in your personal life.

The crippled man immediately looked at Peter and John because he thought they were going to give him some money. Peter said they did not have any money, but they did have something better than money. Then, they healed the man in the name of Christ. Immediately, the man started walking and leaping and praising God. This man had something to shout about and he could not keep quiet. As a result, a crowd of people quickly gathered because the man spoke boldly about what Christ had done for him. We learn a wonderful lesson here. If we will speak boldly for Christ and tell others how Christ has changed our lives, there will be those who want to learn more about Christ.

4. Read Acts 3:1-11 and write where the people gathered to hear the crippled man and the disciples.
5. Explain how this miracle showed the power of Christ both to the believers and to those who were not believers.
6. Explain what you learn about the importance of giving praise to the Lord for what He has done in your life.

As we study this chapter, we learn another important lesson. Peter used every opportunity to speak to others about Christ. When the man was healed, a large crowd of

people gathered around Peter and John. Peter used the time to talk about Christ instead of trying to get people to follow him. Today, there are people who are trying to get others to follow them instead of Christ. Such people speak of the things they can do or the power they have. Instead, Peter gives us a right example of what to do in these verses. He said that Christ was the One who healed the man, not he or John. Then, Peter used the opportunity to speak to the people.

7. Read Acts 3:12-26 and write what Peter spoke about as a crowd gathered around them.
8. Explain what lessons we learn from Peter by his answer to the people.
9. Explain what these verses teach you about the importance of sharing about the death and resurrection of Christ when you have the opportunity to tell others about Him.

As Peter spoke to the people, he told them that the man had been healed through the power of Christ. Then, Peter told the people how God had used the ignorance of the religious leaders to fulfill the Old Testament. The leaders had thought they were getting rid of Christ by killing Him. Instead, they fulfilled the Old Testament. All of the prophets from the time of Moses had spoken of Christ. Now, Christ had completed all of the things that the prophets said about His birth, death and resurrection.

10. Read Acts 3:12-26 and write what will happen to every soul (person) who does not hear and follow Christ (that prophet).
11. Explain what Peter promised would happen to those who repented.
12. Explain why it is important for you to give people the opportunity to repent and turn from their sin.

The Sadducees and other religious leaders did not like what Peter was telling the people. The Sadducees were a group of religious leaders who did not believe in miracles or that people could be raised from the dead. As Peter spoke of the fact that Christ had been raised from the dead, the Sadducees were filled with anger and hate. They were grieved both that Peter was teaching the people and also that he was preaching that Christ is the One who rose from the dead and will raise those who believe in Him from the dead. While Peter was speaking, these men stopped him, took Peter and John, and put them in jail. However, many of those who heard the Word of God believed in Christ.

13. Read Acts 4:1-12 and write how many men had now become Christians.
14. Explain who the Lord was using the message of the death and resurrection of Christ to draw many people to place their trust in Christ.
15. Explain what you think would happen in the lives of each of your relatives and friends if you would share with them about the death and resurrection of Christ and ask Christ to work in their lives to draw them to Himself.

Here, we see a picture of the rapid growth of the church in the city of Jerusalem. There were the hundred and twenty disciples of Christ meeting together before the coming of the Holy Spirit. On the day the Holy Spirit came, the number of believers grew to three thousand. Here, we see that there are now five thousand men besides women and children. Here is a church that had grown from a hundred and twenty people to five thousand families in a short time. As you study the rest of the book of Acts, continue to ask yourself why the early church grew so rapidly. Then, ask yourself why most churches today are growing so slowly.

16. Read Acts 4:1-12 and write what question the religious leaders asked Peter and John the next day.
17. Explain what reasons you have seen so far in the book of Acts for the rapid growth of the early church.
18. Explain why it is important for you to pray and share about the death and

resurrection of Christ with your relatives, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and other acquaintances if you want to see them receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

The next day, Peter and John were brought in front of all of the Jewish religious leaders. The religious leaders asked Peter and John who gave them the right and power to heal the crippled man. Peter did not depend on himself to answer. We read that he was filled with the Holy Spirit as he spoke. Instead of trying to defend themselves, Peter and John took the opportunity to speak to the religious leaders about Christ. Peter told how God had raised Christ from the dead. Then, he said that it was Christ who had healed the man, not them. Peter also told the religious leaders how to be saved from their sin.

19. Read Acts 4:1-12 and write the verse that tells the only way to be saved.
20. Explain why Christ is the only One who can save people and forgive their sin so that they receive eternal life.
21. Explain why you realize that you personally need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through you as you share with others about Christ.

Here, we see again that Christ is the only one who can save a person from his sin. The religious leaders were very surprised when they heard Peter and John speak so boldly about Christ. The religious leaders felt that Peter and John were uneducated. All of the Jewish boys learned how to read the Old Testament. However, the Jewish religious leaders had also spent many years being taught by one of the important religious leaders. As a result, they felt that those who had received no special training were uneducated.

22. Read Acts 4:13-22 and write what the religious leaders realized about Peter and John.
23. Explain why Christians will also be able to speak with boldness about Christ if they are spending time with Christ each day through prayer and Bible study.
24. Explain what lessons you are learning for your own life that will help you learn to speak boldly for Christ.

Then, the religious leaders told Peter and John that they were not to teach about Christ any more. Peter and John answered that they were going to listen to God and not to men. They also answered that they could not keep quiet about what Christ had done for them. They had to tell others. The same thing should be true in our own lives. We should love Christ so much that we cannot keep quiet. Our desire should always be to tell others about Christ. Even if men would put us in jail or kill us, our desire should still be to tell others about Christ.

25. Read Acts 4:23-31 and write what Peter and John answered when the religious leaders threatened them and told them not to speak any more in the name of Christ.
26. Explain why the religious leaders threatened Peter and John and told them to keep silent, even though the religious leaders admitted that they could not deny the miracle.
27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from Peter and John in these verses.

When the religious leaders let Peter and John go, they returned to the other Christians to give them a report of what had happened. Then, the entire group of Christians who had gathered together began to pray. Here, we see the right thing to do when men try to stop us from preaching the Gospel. Instead of trying to fight them, we should pray to the Lord and let Him stop them. In the prayer of the Christians, we see they realized that there were many people who were gathered together to fight against Christ. Men have been fighting against God from the beginning of time. However, God has even used those sinful men to complete His plan. Now, sinful men were again threatening the believers in an effort to get them to stop preaching the Gospel.

28. Read Acts 4:23-31 and write what the believers asked Christ to give them.
29. Explain why Christians need to pray for boldness to speak the Word of God.
30. Explain why you have fear when you depend on yourself to share the Word of God and boldness when you pray and ask the Lord to give you His strength.

We learn an important lesson here. Instead of praying that the Lord would protect them, the believers prayed that they would be able to speak boldly for Christ. They were not concerned about themselves. Their only desire was to tell others about Christ. They also prayed that whatever they did would bring honor to Christ and not themselves. Today, we need to ask ourselves if we are doing things so men will look at us or so men will get to know Christ.

31. Read Acts 4:23-31 and write what happened after the believers prayed.
32. Explain how the Lord answered the prayer of the believers.
33. Explain how you know that you can depend on the Lord to work through your life as you pray for boldness to share about the death and resurrection of Christ.

Here, we learn some important lessons about the Holy Spirit. Already in the book of Acts, we have read several times about the disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit. From this, we see that a Christian can be filled with the Holy Spirit many times. In fact, Ephesians 5:18 commands us to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit. In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit, we must confess any sins in our lives and allow the Holy Spirit to take complete control of our lives. When we sin again, we are actually taking the control of our lives away from the Holy Spirit. We need to confess that sin so we are again filled with the Holy Spirit. The proof that you are filled with the Holy Spirit is the fact that you are able to speak boldly to others about Christ.

34. Read Acts 4:23-31 and write how the believers spoke the Word of God to others.
35. Explain what the early believers teach us about speaking boldly to others about Christ, even when those people persecute us.
36. Explain what these verses personally teach you about the way to handle opposition to your message from others.

We read that all of the Christians were of one heart and one soul. They all had the same purpose and goal. This was one reason why the church grew so fast. The purpose of every Christian was to tell others about Christ. Here, we see what will happen when we let the Holy Spirit take control of our lives. The Lord will work in our lives to develop a real unity between believers. This unity will help us to have the same purpose in our lives that the early church had as they yielded the control of their lives to the Holy Spirit.

37. Read Acts 4:32-37 and write what the apostles did with great power.
38. Explain what made it possible for all of the early believers to be of one heart and one soul.
39. Explain why the book of Acts is showing you the importance of letting the Holy Spirit work in your life if you want to see Him do exciting things through your life.

Because all of the Christians had the attitude that everything they had belonged to Christ, every Christian had enough. There were none who lacked. If we let Christ control our possessions, we will always have enough because Christ will supply our needs. God knows our needs better than we know them. God promises that He will supply all of our needs. This is one reason why we do not need to worry as Christians. Such an attitude will also give us a desire to share with others during their times of need. We also read about a man who had his name changed to Barnabas. The name Barnabas means “Son of Encouragement” or “the encourager”. Barnabas is mentioned by name because we will be learning more about him later in the book of Acts. When Barnabas

was faithful in putting Christ first, Christ was able to use Barnabas for greater things. As you are faithful in putting Christ first, Christ will be able to use your life more and more. Notice, as you go through the rest of the book of Acts, if the things that he did showed why the disciples had given him that new name.

40. Read Acts 4:32-37 and write the name of one who sold his land and shared the money with the other Christians and also had his name changed to Barnabas.
41. Explain why an encourager like Barnabas can have a real ministry to many Christians.
42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of Barnabas.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen how the Lord worked through the lives of Peter and John as they shared with a lame man, with a crowd in the temple, with the Jewish religious leaders, and with other believers. We see that these men had been changed from ordinary fishermen to men who had a great impact on the world because they had spent time with Christ and also learned to yield to the Holy Spirit. Christ also wants to use you to make an impact on the world around you. This week, pray that the Lord will give you boldness to speak to at least one person each day about the death and resurrection of Christ.

Now, re-read Acts 3:1-4:37 and write down the three most important lessons you learned as you studied these two chapters.

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Lesson 3

Acts 5:1-6:15

Today, we will learn about the way that the Holy Spirit took care of two problems in the early church. Since we still have both of these problems in the church today, we need to learn what to do to meet these problems. The first problem is sin in the church. We will see that God caused two people to die because of their sin. God may use sickness or even death to deal with sin in the church. The second problem is the problem of helping the poor. Today, some churches are so busy helping the poor that they no longer have time to even preach the Gospel. Today, we will learn about the instructions God gives about helping the poor.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain what God did about sin in the early church.

Tell what happened when the religious leaders put the apostles in jail.

Explain what the religious leaders decided to do with the apostles.

Tell how the early church met the needs of the poor people.

In our last lesson, we learned how the Christians sold their land and gave their money to be used for the work of the Lord. Today, we will learn about a husband and wife who decided to lie to the Holy Spirit. They sold a piece of land and decided to give part of the money to the church. However, they were only giving it so people could talk about how good they were. They agreed to tell the apostles they were giving the entire amount they had received for the land to the church. Since it was their land, it was their privilege to give only part of the money to the church. However, the sin was to tell a lie and say that was all they had received for the land.

1. Read Acts 5:1-16 and write the names of the husband and wife who lied to the Holy Spirit.
2. Explain why these verses show that God considers lying a very serious sin.
3. Explain what you learn for your own life about telling the truth.

God showed Peter that Ananias and Sapphira were telling a lie. Peter told Ananias that he was lying to God, not men. When Ananias heard that, he fell down and died. Then, some of the younger men took him out and buried him. Later in the day, Sapphira came to the place where the disciples were meeting. Peter then asked Sapphira how much they had received for the land. When Sapphira also lied, Peter told her that the young men who had buried her husband would also bury her. Then, she also fell down and died. The young men carried her out and buried her.

4. Read Acts 5:1-16 and write what happened to the church as a result of the death of Ananias and Sapphira.
5. Explain why Ananias and Sapphira were putting the Holy Spirit to the test.
6. Explain what you learn from the fact that the Holy Spirit judged their sin.

Here, we see that God may judge the sins of Christians by causing them to die. We see in 1 Corinthians 11 that sin in the church was causing many to be sick and even causing some to die. Today, Christians need to realize what could happen to them if they continue to live in sin. God still brings sickness and even death to Christians who continue to disobey the Word of God.

7. Read Acts 5:1-16 and write who the Lord was using to perform many miracles.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of separating ourselves from sin in our own lives as Christians.

9. Explain what you learn about disobedience to God from these verses.

We also see that the apostles performed many miracles. If a person was sick and the shadow of Peter fell on the sick person as Peter walked down the street, the sick person was healed. Every single person who was sick or controlled by evil spirits was healed. Today, there are some people who claim to be healers. However, these people are not able to heal many of those who come to them. The healers say that the people are not healed because the people do not have faith. However, James 5:14-16 tells us that it is the faith of those praying and not the faith of the sick person that causes the sick person to be healed. Here, we see that every single person was healed.

10. Read Acts 5:1-16 and write how the church grew during this time.

11. Explain why the Lord chose to give the apostles special power to do miracles.

12. Explain why you believe that these miracles may have been part of the signs of the apostles mentioned in Hebrews 2:3-4.

The religious leaders were very angry when they saw so many people choosing to follow Christ. As a result, the leaders put the apostles in jail. During the night, an angel let the apostles out of jail and told them to go back to the temple and preach. The next morning, the religious leaders sent men to the jail to get the apostles. When the men came to the jail, they found it empty. The guards were carefully guarding the jail but the apostles were not inside when the men opened the door of the jail.

13. Read Acts 5:17-29 and write what the apostles were doing while the religious leaders were looking for them.

14. Explain why the Lord told the apostles to go right back to the temple and begin teaching the people again.

15. Explain why you think the apostles were not afraid to go back to the temple and teach since the religious leaders had threatened them.

Suddenly, someone rushed in and told the religious leaders that the apostles were standing in the temple and teaching the people. Then, the religious leaders sent men to bring the apostles to the religious leaders. When the apostles arrived, the religious leaders asked the apostles why they had continued to talk about Christ when the religious leaders had ordered them to be quiet. The apostles gave the religious leaders a very important answer.

16. Read Acts 5:17-29 and write what the apostles told the religious leaders.

17. Explain why the apostles were so concerned to obey God, even though the religious leaders had threatened them.

18. Explain how the answer of the apostles applies to you in your own life.

Instead of trying to defend themselves, the apostles took the opportunity to speak to the religious leaders again about Christ. The apostles told how God had raised Christ and that now, Christ would forgive the sins of the leaders. The Holy Spirit convicted the religious leaders of their sins. Instead of asking Christ to forgive their sins, the religious leaders decided to kill the apostles. Then, one of the religious leaders suggested that they wait to kill the apostles. If the apostles were depending on their own strength, they would fail as other men had failed. If the apostles were depending on God, then the religious leaders would be fighting against God and could not win.

19. Read Acts 5:29-42 and write the name of the religious leader who said they should not kill the apostles.

20. Explain what made the religious leaders so angry that they were ready to kill the apostles.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to use Gamaliel to protect the apostles from the religious leaders.

The other Jewish religious leaders listened to Gamaliel. Instead of killing the apostles, the leaders had the apostles beaten and then commanded them not to speak any more about Christ. Here, we see that the devil was trying to do everything he could to stop the apostles from telling others about Christ. Today, the devil is still doing everything he can do to keep Christians from telling others about Christ. However, the beating did not even discourage the apostles.

22. Read Acts 5:29-42 and write how the apostles felt about suffering for Christ.
23. Explain why the apostles were so willing to suffer for Christ.
24. Explain why you think that the example of the willingness of the apostles to suffer encouraged the other believers to continue speaking boldly for Christ.

Today, many people complain when they have to suffer. However, the apostles were full of joy because they had the privilege of suffering for Christ. Christ only gives us the privilege of suffering for Him when He knows we are faithful servants. By suffering for Christ, we are receiving the opportunity to witness to those who hate Christ. Instead of complaining or stopping their teaching, the disciples continued to teach and preach about Christ in the temple and in every home. Suffering caused the believers to speak more boldly for Christ. They even went to the homes of those who persecuted them.

25. Read Acts 5:29-42 and write what the apostles continued to do daily.
26. Explain why the primary focus of the apostles and other believers as they taught and preached was Jesus Christ.
27. Explain why you think it is a privilege to suffer for Christ.

As the number of believers grew, another problem arose in the church. This was the problem of the poor widows whose husbands had died. The government did not have any program to help the poor and needy. These poor Christian women had no one to help them. The early church felt that it was definitely their responsibility to help the needy Christians. However, the apostles felt that they should appoint others to take the responsibility to help those with needs. That way the apostles could continue to spend all of their time praying and teaching.

28. Read Acts 6:1-8 and write how many men were chosen.
29. Explain why it was important for the apostles to continue to focus on teaching and preaching the Word of God and let others care for the widows.
30. Explain some of the ways you can personally help other Christians who are in need.

Those seven men were the first new leaders chosen by the early church. It is rather interesting to see how the early church chose the seven men to share in the leadership of the church. In the first chapter of Acts, just before the church began, the disciples picked two men to take the place of Judas and then cast lots to choose between them. This is the last time in the New Testament where it mentions that men were chosen by casting lots. Here, we see that the seven men were chosen by the whole church at Jerusalem. Instead of having an election between two groups of men, only seven men are mentioned. The whole church spent much time in prayer seeking the will of God so that when the time came to choose the men, they were all in agreement. We will see that this is the way decisions were made throughout the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit made the choice and the believers prayed until they all felt they were doing the will of the Holy Spirit. This prevented many divisions in the church, which are so common today.

31. Read Acts 6:1-8 and write what kind of men the believers were told to choose.
32. Explain why it is important for churches to pray until they know that the Lord is the One who is guiding them as they make decisions.
33. Explain what you learn are the most important things to the Lord in the selection of

additional spiritual leadership.

The men who were chosen as the first leaders show us the kind of men we need as leaders today. They were to be honest men because they would be handling money. However, this did not mean that taking care of money was their only work for the Lord. Every believer is also supposed to be witnessing and sharing the good news about Christ with others. The men who were helping the needy needed to serve Christ in other ways also. In the next two chapters, we will learn how two of these leaders witnessed to others about Christ.

34. Read Acts 6:1-8 and write what this caused to happen to the number of the disciples.
35. Explain why developing new leaders to share in the various ministries of the church is a key part of the growth of the church.
36. Explain what you think these verses teach about how a leader should serve the Lord.

Stephen was one of the seven leaders chosen to help care for the needy. However, he was also a real man of faith and did many miracles among the people. He was a real teacher of the Word of God as well. One day, a group of men tried to argue with Stephen and tell him he was wrong. Stephen answered with the knowledge and wisdom given to him by the Holy Spirit. As a result, the men could not answer him. Since the evil men could not answer Stephen, they hired men to say that Stephen had said things against God, the temple and the Word of God.

37. Read Acts 6:9-15 and write what the men are called who spoke against Stephen.
38. Explain why the Jews were so angry that they would accuse Stephen of things he had not done.
39. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that Stephen had a powerful ministry of speaking for Christ, even though he had been chosen to help care for the widows.

Today, there are also men who are false witnesses and speak against Christ. There are some who say that Christ is not God. Other men say Christ did not become a man. Both groups refuse to believe that Christ is the One who can save them from their sin. Even though men refuse to believe in Christ, that does not mean we should stop talking about Christ. Instead, we should continue to tell others about Christ and tell them how they can become Christians. This is what Stephen did as he spoke to the men.

40. Read Acts 6:9-15 and write what the face of Stephen looked like as he spoke to the men.
41. Explain when the religious leaders were amazed as they saw the face of Stephen.
42. Explain what you learn about how the Holy Spirit can use your ministry if you depend on the Holy Spirit as Stephen did.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In our study of chapters five and six of Acts, we have seen that God chose to judge sin in the church. We also saw that Christ gave the apostles great power to perform miracles. We learn about the boldness of the apostles as they spoke to the religious leaders. They were even willing to be beaten for their faith and still rejoice. We also see that the church expanded its leadership to care for new needs as the church grew. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to share with at least two others why you know that the Lord will change their lives as they put their trust in Christ.

Now, re-read Acts 5:1-6:15 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 4

Acts 7:1-8:40

Today, we will learn more about two of the men who were appointed as the first new leaders. As we learned in Acts 6, the new leaders were chosen to help care for the needy widows. Here, we see that these leaders were also concerned about telling others about Christ. Stephen spoke to the religious leaders about Christ. They refused to accept the salvation that Christ offers. Instead, they killed Stephen. We will also learn about Philip preaching to the people of Samaria. The Samaritans were half-Jewish. Because they had married people from other countries, the Jews hated them. However, Philip was a Christian and Christ had given him a love for the Samaritans. He told them about Christ and later God sent him to tell a man from Ethiopia about Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell how the Jews had rejected God for many years.

Explain why Stephen was stoned to death.

Explain what happened when the early church was persecuted.

Tell what happened when Philip spoke to the Samaritans.

Tell what happened when Philip spoke to the man from Ethiopia.

In our last lesson, we learned how Stephen was chosen as a leader. Then, we saw how he was brought before the Jewish religious leaders for preaching about Christ. Today, we will learn what Stephen said to the religious leaders. We see that Stephen showed how the Jews had rejected God many times during the years before Christ came to the earth. We see how God blessed the Jewish people right from the time God chose Abraham to be the father of their nation. However, the family of Abraham soon rebelled against God.

1. Read Acts 7:1-19 and write who the patriarchs (sons of Jacob) sold to be a slave.
2. Explain why the sons of Jacob chose to sell their brother as a slave.
3. Explain what you learn for your own family about the effects of envy in a family that is ignored.

The sons of Jacob sold their brother, Joseph, to be a slave because they hated him. They did not have the kind of love that God wanted them to have toward their brother. However, God protected Joseph and made him governor of Egypt. Then, he was able to help his brothers when there was no food where the brothers lived. Here, we see the kind of love God wants us to have for each other. We should love others even when they do bad things to us. We should repay their evil with love.

4. Read Acts 7:1-19 and write what happened to the people in Egypt.
5. Explain how the Lord can give Christians the strength to show love even to those who are doing evil to them.
6. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of Joseph.

God was taking care of His people in Egypt. When they were suffering in Egypt, God provided a leader to lead them out of Egypt. God also made it possible for that man to receive the best education a man could receive in Egypt. Then, God trained that man for forty more years out in the desert. When God had finished training that leader, God sent him to Egypt to lead the people out of Egypt. Then, for forty years, God used that man to lead the people through the desert.

7. Read Acts 7:20-44 and write the name of the man God used to lead His people out of Egypt.

8. Explain why the Lord needed to give Moses training both in Egypt and also out in the desert before he was prepared to lead the nation of Israel out of Egypt.
9. Explain why the Lord may allow you to be in some difficult situations as He prepares you to lead other Christians.

Even though God did many miracles to get the people of Israel out of Egypt, the people still rebelled against God. The people complained. The people worshipped a golden calf that they made. They offered sacrifices to the sun, moon and stars. They even sacrificed their children to the god Molech. Because of their rebellion, God gave them up to the worship of false gods. Today, men are still worshipping false gods. The false god of some is money or possessions. Others worship pleasure or a good time. Others worship many different things. However, these are all false gods and God will also give these people up one day because they refuse to worship Him.

10. Read Acts 7:20-44 and write how God called Moses to lead the people out of Egypt.
11. Explain why the Lord had to call Moses in such an unusual way to prepare him for what he was going to face as he led the nation of Israel.
12. Explain what you think it means for God to give men up.

The people of Israel continued to rebel against God throughout the Old Testament. Stephen had been reviewing the history of the Jews. Then, he turned to the religious leaders and told them that they were rebelling against the work of the Holy Spirit just as their fathers had done. Their fathers had persecuted and killed the prophets. Now, they had killed Christ. They knew the Word of God, but they refused to obey it.

13. Read Acts 7:45-60 and write how the religious leaders felt when Stephen spoke of their sins.
14. Explain why Stephen got such an angry response from the religious leaders when he told them that they were resisting the Holy Spirit just as their fathers had done.
15. Explain how you will respond if the Lord leads you to confront the rebellion of people against God.

Then, Stephen spoke of the fact that he saw Christ standing on the right side of God. Here, we see a beautiful picture. Christ was standing and waiting to welcome to heaven one who had been faithful in serving Him. The religious leaders were filled with more hate when Stephen said that Christ was in heaven with God. They dragged Stephen out of the city and began throwing stones at him. While the men were throwing stones at Stephen, a young man by the name of Saul was taking care of their coats. We will learn many more things about Saul in the rest of the New Testament. As the men were throwing stones at Stephen, he showed the love of Christ in his prayer for the men who killed him.

16. Read Acts 7:45-60 and write what Stephen prayed as he prayed for these men.
17. Explain why Stephen chose to ask God not to hold this sin against the religious leaders.
18. Explain how the example of Stephen shows you how to respond to those who turn against you for placing your trust in Christ.

Saul was glad to see Stephen die because he hated the believers. He became the leader of those who were trying to put the believers in jail and even kill them. As a result, many of the believers had to leave Jerusalem. However, the apostles stayed in Jerusalem. Saul went into the houses of the believers and took them to jail. He was trying to do everything possible to destroy the church. The more Saul tried to destroy the church, the more the church grew.

19. Read Acts 8:1-4 and write what the believers did as they fled from Jerusalem.
20. Explain why the early believers continued to preach about Christ, even though they

were being forced to flee for their lives.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of these early believers.

Here, we see that persecution was a good thing for the early church. It caused the followers of Christ to take the good news about Christ to the people who had never heard about Christ. The believers also spoke boldly about Christ as they went to other places. Since the leaders stayed in Jerusalem, this also helped other men to develop and become leaders. Men who had never led others before were now leading in the churches that they established in other towns and cities.

22. Read Acts 8:1-4 and write who buried the body of Stephen.

23. Explain why you think persecution might help your church.

24. Explain why you think that the statement of Stephen as he died caused such a strong reaction on the part of Saul.

One of those who left Jerusalem was one of the new leaders named Philip. He went to Samaria. For many years, the Samaritans had followed false religions. In one of the cities, the local medicine man was a man by the name of Simon. Simon had great control over the people because they thought Simon came from God. When the people heard Philip preach, they realized that Christ was the real one who came from God. Then, the people decided to follow Christ instead of Simon.

25. Read Acts 8:5-25 and write what Simon did then.

26. Explain why you think Simon also claimed to follow Christ as he listened to the preaching of Philip.

27. Explain why you think that many people, like Simon, do not change when they say they have believed in Christ.

When the apostles heard that many Samaritans were becoming Christians, they sent Peter and John to Samaria to help teach the new Christians. Then, Peter and John laid their hands on the Samaritans and the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit. Many people ask why the Samaritans did not receive the Holy Spirit at the moment they became Christians, since Scripture clearly teaches that we are baptized by the Holy Spirit at the moment we become Christians. However, Christ wanted to prevent the early church from having divisions. By waiting until the apostles came, the coming of the Holy Spirit showed that all Christians are one, whether they are Jews, Samaritans or some other race.

28. Read Acts 8:5-25 and write what Simon, the medicine man, wanted to buy from the apostles.

29. Explain why God chose to send the Holy Spirit on the Samaritans as a group when they believed.

30. Explain how you know you were baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment you placed your trust in Christ.

Simon thought he could buy power to give the Holy Spirit to others. Although he had believed Christ, he was still thinking like a medicine man. Then, Peter told Simon that his heart was not right with God. Peter warned Simon to repent and turn from his sin. Then, Simon asked Peter to pray for him. Here, we see something that sometimes happens to new Christians. Although they have put their trust in Christ, they are still doing some things the way they did before they became Christians. They have not yet learned to let Christ control their thoughts and their actions. This is why it is so important to do as Peter did and talk with the new Christians. Then, they will grow strong and learn to trust the Lord.

31. Read Acts 8:5-25 and write what Peter said was controlling Simon.

32. Explain how bitterness can affect believers as well as those who have not yet placed their trust in Christ.
33. Explain why you think Simon still thought the old way, even though he had claimed to believe in Christ.

Although Philip was having wonderful results in Samaria, the Lord spoke to him and told him to go down to the desert. Philip left immediately without asking any questions. Here, we learn a real lesson in obedience. When God tells us to do something, we need to obey, even though we do not understand the reason. God knew there would be a man traveling through the desert who wanted to know more about God. The man was the treasurer of the country of Ethiopia. He had been to Jerusalem to worship.

34. Read Acts 8:26-40 and write what the man was reading as he traveled home.
35. Explain why the Lord called Philip to leave Samaria when he was having a very successful ministry there.
36. Explain how this man from Ethiopia shows you that many people cannot understand when they read a part of the Bible.

The man did not understand what he was reading. He asked Philip to come and ride with him and explain what the prophet meant. Philip gladly took the opportunity to speak to the man about Christ. Here, we see that the Lord was able to use Philip to speak to a man from another country because Philip was willing to obey. Today, many people want to find out what the Bible is about. However, they are afraid to go to a church. If we will go to them and have a weekly Bible study with them in their homes, many of these people will become Christians. As they study the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will convict them of their sins.

37. Read Acts 8:26-40 and write what Philip asked the Ethiopian when the Ethiopian asked to be baptized.
38. Explain why Philip was able to use the very verses the Ethiopian was reading to explain about the death and resurrection of Christ.
39. Explain why we must be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit if we want to reach others for Christ.

As Philip spoke to the man from Ethiopia, the Holy Spirit was working in the heart of the man. Pretty soon, they came to a place where there was some water. The man from Ethiopia asked to be baptized. Philip asked the man if he believed in Christ with all his heart. When the man answered that he believed Christ was the Son of God, they stopped the wagon and Philip baptized the man. Here, we learn a lesson about baptism. We see that baptism is a testimony to others that we have followed Christ.

40. Read Acts 8:26-40 and write what happened to Philip after he baptized the man from Ethiopia.
41. Explain why people are filled with joy when they place their trust in Christ.
42. Explain what lessons you have learned from your own life about sharing about what Christ did as you explain the Word of God to those who are not Christians.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In Acts 7 and 8, we have seen that two of those who were becoming leaders in the early church were quick to share the good news about the death and resurrection of Christ with all of the people that the Lord brought into their lives. Stephen's ministry had a powerful impact on many people, especially on Saul who later became Paul. The Lord gave Philip a ministry of reaching out to people of other cultures with the message of Christ. This week, pray that Christ will give you the opportunity to share the Gospel with two people of another culture as you are obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Philip had done what God had sent him to the desert to do. Now, the Spirit took Philip to another place where the Lord wanted to use him. We read that wherever Philip went, he continued to preach about Christ. Now, re-read Acts 7:1-8:40 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 5

Acts 9:1-10:48

In our last lesson, we learned how Saul was persecuting the church. As we begin our lesson today, we will learn about Saul going to Damascus to catch any Christians that he could find there and put them in jail. However, we will see that God changed Saul's plans and he became an immediate witness for Christ. As a result, the Jews in Damascus and Jerusalem tried to kill Saul. We will also learn about the Gospel being taken to a group of people who were not Jews. God used what happened in this chapter to show the Christians that the Gospel is for all people.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how Christ saved Saul.

Tell the results of the witness of Saul.

Tell how God showed Peter that the Gospel is for all people.

Explain what happened at the house of Cornelius.

Saul was so filled with anger and hate for the believers that he went to the high priest and asked for permission to go to Damascus and put any followers of Christ that he found there in jail. On the way to Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly stopped Saul. Then, Christ asked Saul why Saul was persecuting Him. Suddenly, Saul realized that he had been fighting against God by persecuting the followers of Christ. Then, Saul asked Christ what he should do.

1. Read Acts 9:1-16 and write what Christ told Saul to do.
2. Explain why Paul thought he was serving God by persecuting believers.
3. Explain why you think it is possible for religious people to think that they are serving God by persecuting Christians.

When Saul got up, he was blind and could not see. For three days, he prayed to Christ and asked Christ to show him what he should do. Then, Christ sent a man by the name of Ananias to open his eyes and teach him what it meant to follow Christ. At first, Ananias was not very willing to go and help Saul. He had heard that Saul had come to put the Christians in jail. Then, Christ told Ananias that He had chosen Saul. In fact, Saul would be a witness for Christ to many people.

4. Read Acts 9:1-16 and write what Christ also said He would show Saul.
5. Explain why God would choose someone like Saul who had persecuted the followers of Christ to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.
6. Explain why you think that God can take your life and use you in a great way to help others learn about Christ, regardless of your past.

It was not very long before the suffering of Saul began. The persecution started right in the city of Damascus. As soon as Saul received his sight, he immediately began preaching in the synagogue of Damascus. At first, the other Jews were only surprised when they heard Saul speaking about Christ. Then, the Jews realized that Saul was proving that Christ is God. Suddenly, the Jews were filled with anger. They decided to kill Saul to keep him from speaking about Christ. They guarded the gates of Damascus to keep Saul from escaping.

7. Read Acts 9:17-31 and write how Saul escaped from Damascus.
8. Explain why the Jews in Damascus were so anxious to kill Saul.
9. Explain what made it possible for Paul to prove that Jesus is the Christ who came from the Father.

During this time, all of the cities had a high wall around them. The only way a person could go in or out of the city was through the gates, unless someone helped him over the wall. The believers helped Saul leave Damascus by going over the wall. Saul then went to Jerusalem. There, the Jews tried again to kill him. This time, he escaped and went to the town of Tarsus, where he had lived as a boy. We also read that the church had continued to grow and multiply in spite of the persecution. The Christians were also continuing to grow in their knowledge of Christ.

10. Read Acts 9:17-31 and write what happened when Paul tried to join the other believers in Jerusalem.
11. Explain what you learn about the ministry of Barnabas to Saul when the other followers of Christ were afraid to have anything to do with Saul.
12. Explain why you think the early church grew and multiplied so fast in spite of the persecution.

While these things were happening to Saul, other things were happening to Peter. He had gone to the towns of Lydda and Sharon. A very wonderful thing happened in those two towns. We read that everyone in both towns followed Christ. This is the first time that we read about entire towns becoming Christians. Here, we see that it is possible for entire groups of people to become Christians very close to the same time. When one person becomes a Christian, it gives us an opportunity to reach his family and friends. We need to go with that new Christian to witness to his friends and relatives immediately after that person becomes a Christian.

13. Read Acts 9:32-43 and write the name of the woman who died.
14. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the Gospel can change entire towns.
15. Explain what you think made it possible for Peter to see two entire towns place their trust in Christ.

When Dorcas died, some men went to Lydda to get Peter. Peter went to Joppa immediately. Then, the women showed him all of the things that Dorcas had made. Here, we see a real example of what our lives should be like. Dorcas was always concerned about helping others. She had done many good works for others. Today, we should be concerned about helping others as well. In this way, we are obeying the command of Christ when He told us to love each other. After Peter had seen the things Dorcas made, God used him to raise Dorcas from the dead. As a result, many people in Joppa became Christians.

16. Read Acts 9:32-43 and write whose home Peter stayed in while he was in Joppa.
17. Explain what Dorcas shows about the way that Christians can serve one another.
18. Explain some of the ways the Lord has led you to help and serve other Christians.

One day, while Peter was staying with Simon, he went up on the flat roof of the house to pray. As he was praying, God caused him to become very hungry. Then, God caused Peter to see a vision of a large blanket coming down from heaven. Inside this blanket were many unclean animals the Jews were not supposed to eat. Three times, God let the blanket down from heaven. The first time, God told Peter to kill and eat some of the animals to satisfy his hunger.

19. Read Acts 10:1-22 and write what Peter answered the Lord.
20. Explain why Peter was unwilling to eat any of the animals in the large blanket.
21. Explain what lessons you learn from Peter about his desire to continue to follow the Jewish restrictions in what he ate.

After Peter had refused to eat three times, God explained the meaning of the vision to Peter. He told Peter that there were three men waiting for him at the door of the house.

These men were Gentiles. They had been sent by a Roman soldier named Cornelius. Peter was told to go with the men and preach the Gospel in the house of Cornelius. Here, Peter learned that the Gospel was for everyone and not just the Jews. Today, we need to realize again that Christ died for all people, not just our tribe or race. We all have a responsibility to share the Gospel with those of other tribes and races.

22. Read Acts 10:1-22 and write what the voice told Peter about the animals he thought were unclean.
23. Explain what Christ was trying to teach Peter about the importance of taking the Gospel to those who were not Jews.
24. Explain what you learn about your responsibility to take the Gospel to others from these verses.

We also learn some real lessons from Cornelius in these verses. We see that he knew God, even though he was a Roman soldier from Italy. He was concerned about helping others. We also read that he was a man who spent much time praying. However, he had never heard of Christ. Here, we see that God will send someone to those who are searching for the truth. This is why it is so important for us to be obedient to God's command to witness to others. Some people are searching for the truth. As we are faithful in telling others about Christ, some will become Christians.

25. Read Acts 10:1-22 and write where Cornelius was told to send to get a man who would tell him about Christ.
26. Explain how these verses show that some people really want to know Christ, even though they may not yet know about His death and resurrection.
27. Explain what these verses teach you personally about the way the Lord may be working in the hearts of people you know are not Christians.

Peter obeyed the Lord and went with the men. He also took six other Jews along with him. When Peter reached the house of Cornelius, Cornelius was very happy to see him. Peter told Cornelius how he had received a vision from God telling him to come to the house of Cornelius, even though the Jews were not supposed to eat with men from other countries. Peter told how God had showed him that the Gospel was for all men.

28. Read Acts 10:23-33 and write who was waiting for Peter in the house of Cornelius.
29. Explain why it was difficult for Peter to be able to share the Gospel with the Gentiles.
30. Explain what you learn from the obedience of Peter by going to the house of Cornelius about the importance of you going to people and sharing the Gospel with them where they live, work, or spend their free time.

Here, we see a beautiful picture. Cornelius was concerned about his family and friends. He wanted them to learn about Christ also. Here, we learn a real lesson about the concern we should have for our friends and relatives. We also see a wonderful way to reach our friends and relatives for Christ in these verses. We need to invite them into our home for Bible study. As we study the Bible together, they will begin to understand what it means to follow Christ. It will not be long before some of them also become Christians. Many times, entire family groups will become Christians in a very short time.

31. Read Acts 10:23-33 and write the question that Peter asked Cornelius.
32. Explain what the question of Peter shows about the importance of knowing what people want you to share with them as you share with them about the death and resurrection of Christ.
33. Explain what you learn about reaching your friends and relatives for Christ from these verses.

Peter began speaking to Cornelius and the others. As we read the sermon of Peter, we see that almost the entire sermon speaks of the death and resurrection of Christ. This is the message we have today for those who are not Christians. Christ died on the cross for the sins of all men. He rose to give eternal life to all those who would follow Him. Peter said that this is the message we are commanded to preach.

34. Read Acts 10:34-48 and write what happened as Peter was preaching.
35. Explain what Peter learned about the desire of God for people of every nation and group of people.
36. Explain why you feel it is important for you to also learn how to share the message of the death and resurrection of Christ with people of other cultures.

Here, we see that an entire group of people all became Christians at the same time. This included Cornelius, his family, his relatives, and his close friends. Several times in Acts, we will read about whole families and even larger groups all becoming Christians at the same time. Today, most Christians try to reach individuals, instead of trying to reach families for Christ. Since many cultures are family or clan-centered, we are missing a great opportunity to reach entire families for Christ.

37. Read Acts 10:34-48 and write down the response of the six Jews who had come with Peter from Joppa when they saw the Holy Spirit come on the Gentiles.
38. Explain why it was important that these six Jews were with Peter and saw how the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of the Gentiles.
39. Explain what you learn from these verses about the way to reach entire families for Christ.

We see that these Gentiles all spoke in tongues when they received the Holy Spirit. A tongue is a language or dialect. Three times, possibly four, are mentioned in the book of Acts where people spoke in tongues. Each time, it was a new group of people coming to Christ. The first time tongues are mentioned in Acts is when the disciples first received the Holy Spirit. As you remember, the disciples spoke in at least fifteen different languages. That was the time the Holy Spirit first came to the Jews. It is possible the Samaritans also spoke in tongues when they first received the Holy Spirit. Here, a third group, the Gentiles, also spoke in tongues when they first received the Holy Spirit. The fourth group is mentioned in Acts 19. There, a group who had heard John the Baptist preach and received his message received the Holy Spirit. Since John the Baptist preached before Christ, those men had been followers of God but did not know about Christ.

40. Read Acts 10:34-48 and write why the Jews (circumcision) with Peter were surprised.
41. Explain why all of the people in the world would be included in one of these four groups.
42. Explain what you have learned about tongues so far as you have studied the book of Acts.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen how the Lord worked in the life of Saul to bring him to salvation, even though he had persecuted the followers of Christ. We also see how the Lord used Peter to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. We see that the Lord wants to reach people of all nations and cultures. This week, pray that the Lord will provide you the opportunity to share the Gospel with at least two people of another culture.

It was common for the members of false religions to speak in tongues and give praise to their heathen gods. Here, we see that the Jews with Peter understood what the Gentiles were saying because they knew that the men in the house of Cornelius were giving

praise to God. This meant that the Gentiles were speaking in a language that the Jews understood. Each place in the book of Acts where it speaks of tongues, it always refers to known languages.

Now, re-read Acts 9:1-10:48 and write down the two most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 6

Acts 11:1-12:25

In our last lesson, we learned about Peter preaching to the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius. When Peter returned to Jerusalem, some of the Jews spoke to Peter and told him that he should not have spoken to the Gentiles. In our lesson today, we will learn how Peter answered these men. Then, we will learn about the way that the church continued to grow. We will also learn how the new Christians showed their concern for other Christians in need. The second half of our lesson tells how Christ protected Peter when Herod tried to kill him.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Peter answered those who said he should not speak to the Gentiles.
- Tell how the church grew in Antioch.
- Tell about the concern of the Christians in Antioch for the needy.
- Explain how Christ protected Peter from Herod.
- Explain what we learn about praying with faith.

Some of the Jewish Christians thought that the Gospel was only for the Jews. They did not yet realize that Christ died for all men. They were especially concerned because Peter had eaten with men who were not Jews. Then, Peter began at the very beginning and told them how he had seen a vision as he was praying in Joppa. Peter also told the Jews how God had told him to go to the house of Cornelius. Then, Peter introduced the six men who had gone with him.

1. Read Acts 11:1-18 and write what Peter said happened to the Gentiles as he began to preach.
2. Explain what Peter meant when he said that the Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles just as He had come on the Jews at the beginning.
3. Explain why you think the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit, as a group, the first time Gentiles became believers.

Here, we see again that Peter had not even been able to finish his sermon that day. God had saved those men as he began to speak. We also see that Peter emphasizes the fact that the Holy Spirit had come to the Gentiles just as He had come to the disciples the day the church began. Then, Peter reminded the Jews of the words of Christ. Christ had said they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Finally, Peter finished by saying he could not stand against God since it was clear that God wanted to save the Gentiles.

4. Read Acts 11:1-18 and write how the Jews felt after they heard Peter.
5. Explain how the Jews showed an attitude of acceptance of the fact that Gentiles were part of the body of Christ (church) as well as Jews.
6. Explain why you think we should all give glory to God because He wants people of all nations and groups to be a part of the church.

The Gentiles were also hearing about Christ from other followers of Christ. When the believers were forced to leave Jerusalem at the time Stephen was killed, they went everywhere talking about Christ. At first, they only talked to other Jews. However, they soon began talking to people of other ethnic groups. Some of the followers of Christ went to a city named Antioch. There, a large group of people who were not Jews became believers. When the church at Jerusalem heard that many people in Antioch had become believers, they sent a teacher to help these new followers of Christ grow strong.

7. Read Acts 11:19-30 and write the name of the teacher who went to Antioch from

Jerusalem.

8. Explain why the church in Jerusalem realized the importance of sending someone to help the new believers in their spiritual growth.
9. Explain what caused you to realize that it is important to help new Christians have someone teach them and help them to grow in their new life in Christ.

As you remember from our study of chapter 4, Barnabas was one of the early Christians who had sold his land and given the money to the church. Now, he had become a leader and a teacher in the church at Jerusalem. Here, we learn an important lesson for our own lives. When we put Christ first in our lives, Christ will cause us to develop and become a leader to reach and teach others for Christ. Every Christian can become a leader for Christ if that Christian is willing to put Christ first in his life.

10. Read Acts 11:19-30 and write who Barnabas got to help him teach the new believers in Antioch.
11. Explain how the Lord worked in Antioch as the Gospel began to spread among both the Jews and the Gentiles.
12. Explain what the example of Barnabas putting the Lord first in his life shows you about the importance of putting Christ first in your life.

Barnabas quickly realized that he needed another teacher to help him because there were so many new Christians. Here, again, we see that the early church felt it was very important to help new Christians grow to become strong and mature Christians. Barnabas also wanted to help Saul develop as a teacher. This was an opportunity to help Saul get started teaching new Christians. As a result, Barnabas went to Tarsus to get Saul to help him teach. They taught the new Christians for an entire year.

13. Read Acts 11:19-30 and write what the disciples were called at Antioch.
14. Explain what these verses show about the spiritual development of the followers of Christ in the city of Antioch.
15. Explain why you think the name “Christians” was given to the followers of Christ by the rest of the people in Antioch.

The disciples were probably called Christians because they spoke so much about Christ. Today, we need more Christians who are always speaking about Christ. One day, some men came to Antioch from Jerusalem. These men were prophets and said that there was going to be a famine. This famine was going to cover the entire world.

16. Read Acts 11:19-30 and write what the Christians in Antioch decided to do when they heard about the coming famine.
17. Explain what these verses teach about the concern of these new Christians for the needs of Christians in other places.
18. Explain what you learn for your own life about having a concern for the needs of other Christians.

Here, we see a real example of Christian love. The new Christians wanted to send help to the Christians in Jerusalem in a time of need. Today, as Christians, we need to be like those early Christians. We need to be anxious to help our brothers in Christ when we realize they have a need. In this way, we are obeying the command of Christ when He told us to love one another as He loved us. We see that each of the Christians in Antioch gave as much as they could to help the needy Christians in Judea.

19. Read Acts 19:11-30 and write how the disciples in Antioch decided what to send to the believers in Jerusalem.
20. Explain why all Christians will be rewarded for sharing with others, even though some may be able to share more and others will only be able to share a small amount.

21. Explain what you learn from these verses about your privilege and responsibility to help other Christians who are in need.

While the Christians in Antioch were concerned about helping the Christians in Judea and Jerusalem, things were also happening in Jerusalem. Herod, the ruler, killed James, the brother of John. When Herod saw that the Jewish religious leaders were happy because he had killed James, he decided to kill Peter also. He put Peter in prison and planned to kill him as soon as the Jews finished celebrating the Passover. The Passover was the time that God had led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt fifteen hundred years before.

22. Read Acts 12:1-11 and write what the church was doing while Peter was in prison.
23. Explain what these verses teach us about the importance of praying for the needs of other Christians.
24. Explain what things have caused you to realize the importance of prayer in your own life.

The church was so concerned for Peter that they were praying for him day and night. On the night before Herod planned to kill Peter, we read that Peter was sleeping between two guards who were chained to him. Here, we see a real example of the peace that Christ gives to a Christian who trusts in Him. Instead of worrying about the fact that he was going to die the next morning, Peter was peacefully sleeping. He knew he could depend on Christ. Whether he lived or died, he knew Christ was with him. Peter was sleeping so soundly that an angel had to hit him in the side to wake him up.

25. Read Acts 12:1-11 and write what the angel said to Peter.
26. Explain why Christians can experience peace even during times when they are in great danger.
27. Explain how the Lord has given you peace in some situations that may have been very difficult situations.

The angel told Peter to get dressed and put on his shoes. Then, the angel told Peter to put on his coat. When Peter had his coat on, the angel led Peter out of the prison. God even caused the great iron door of the prison to open by itself. Then, the angel led Peter one block from the prison and disappeared. Suddenly, Peter realized that he was not having a dream. Instead, he knew that God had helped him to escape from Herod. Here, we see a wonderful reason why we do not need to worry. God knows our needs better than we do and He is always ready to meet our needs.

28. Read John 12:1-11 and write what Peter suddenly knew as he realized he had been brought out of the prison by an angel.
29. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the Lord can work in any situation regardless of what the world is doing.
30. Explain what you learn from these verses about why you do not need to worry.

When Peter realized he was free, he decided to go to the house of Mary, the mother of Mark. He knew many Christians would be praying there. Mary must have been a Christian who had dedicated everything, including her home, to the Lord. The Christians could always use her home as a place to meet together. Today, we need more Christians who are willing to use their homes for the Lord. Our home is always the best place to show Christian love to others. It is also a place where we can get to know other Christians better.

31. Read Acts 12:12-25 and write the name of the girl who came to answer the door when Peter knocked.
32. Explain what we learn about the way Mary used her home for the Lord.
33. Explain what lessons you learn from Mary about using your own home for the Lord.

When Rhoda heard the voice of Peter at the door, she became so excited that she forgot to open the door. Instead, she ran into the room where the Christians were praying. She probably even interrupted the person who was praying to tell them that Peter was at the door. This was good news because God had answered their prayers and Peter was out of jail. However, some of the other Christians were not as excited.

34. Read Acts 12:12-25 and write what they said to Rhoda.
35. Explain why the Christians thought Rhoda was crazy, even though they had been praying for Peter.
36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of praying with faith.

Here, we see a real example of the way many Christians pray. They do not expect God to answer their prayers. These people did not believe Peter was out of jail until someone opened the door and let him into the room. Then, they finally believed. Today, God does not answer some of our prayers because we fail to believe His promises. In Matthew 21:22, Christ promises to answer our prayers if we pray believing that He will answer our prayers.

37. Read Acts 12:12-25 and write what Peter did after he talked to the Christians that were praying.
38. Explain why the disciples were so surprised when they saw Peter was with them instead of being in jail waiting to die.
39. Explain what you learn about the power of prayer from these verses.

The next morning, when Herod heard that Peter had escaped, he was very angry. He ordered all of the prison guards killed because they had allowed Peter to escape. Then, he left Jerusalem and went to Caesarea. Herod had also been angry with the people of the towns of Tyre and Sidon. The people decided that they better make peace with Herod because he could stop the food that was being sent to their towns. They arranged to meet with him one day. When the people came, Herod gave a speech. Then, the people shouted that Herod spoke like a god and not a man. Immediately, God killed him because he accepted the praise of the people instead of giving praise to God.

40. Read Acts 12:12-25 and write how Herod died.
41. Explain why the Lord chose to judge Herod with death for his sin.
42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the danger of pride from the judgment of Herod.

Here, we see that Herod died a terrible death because he refused to recognize God. This should be a real warning to those who continue to rebel against God. Although the church was suffering from persecution by Herod and the Jews, the church continued to grow and multiply. God will always cause the church to grow when we are faithful in witnessing to others. Now, re-read Acts 11:1-12:25 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 7

Acts 13:1-14:28

Today, we will be studying the first missionary journey of Barnabas and Saul. We will see that Saul has his name changed to Paul. Saul was the name of the first king of Israel. He had been a big and powerful man. Before Saul followed Christ, he had been a proud Pharisee. He thought of himself as being a strong and powerful man. Now, he was following Christ. It did not matter to him if he had power anymore. Instead, he wanted others to see Christ through his life. In addition, Saul is a Hebrew name. Paul is a Roman name, and he was now going to the Gentiles.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain God's way of choosing missionaries.

Tell what happened in Antioch of Pisidia.

Explain why Paul and Barnabas were called gods.

Tell what Paul and Barnabas did as they visited various cities.

As we begin chapter 13, we see that there are now five teachers at Antioch instead of two. This means that three more teachers had developed from among the Christians at Antioch. Since Saul and Barnabas had trained men to take the leadership of the church at Antioch, they were no longer needed there. One day, as the leaders of the church were praying and fasting, the Holy Spirit told the leaders to send Saul and Barnabas to another place where God wanted them to take the Gospel. Here, we see that God worked through the leaders of the church to choose men to be missionaries.

1. Read Acts 13:1-13 and write what the leaders of the church did when the Holy Spirit told them to send away Saul and Barnabas.
2. Explain what these verses teach about the way the Lord chooses and sends out people to take the Gospel to other areas.
3. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about praying for the Lord to guide you as you serve Him.

Here, we see that when the Holy Spirit said go, Barnabas and Saul prepared to leave immediately. They did not spend many months or years trying to raise enough money to take care of them. Instead, they left immediately and depended on God to supply their needs. Today, we need more men who have this kind of faith. There is a great job to be done for the Lord. However, there seem to be very few people who will step out in faith and follow the leading of the Lord. Truly, one of the most exciting experiences a Christian can have is seeing God supply his/her needs day-by-day as he/she serves the Lord.

4. Read Acts 13:1-13 and write who Saul and Barnabas took with them as they sailed to Cyprus.
5. Explain what these verses teach about the work of the Holy Spirit in the spread of the church.
6. Explain why you realize that you need to depend on the Holy Spirit working in your life as you work to spread the Gospel.

The first place that Barnabas and Saul went was to the island of Cyprus. Barnabas had grown up on the island of Cyprus and was probably very concerned about the people there. This is also the place where we read Saul had his name changed to Paul. As Paul and Barnabas preached, the governor of the island became interested. Then, a sorcerer (one who practices witchcraft) tried to stop the governor from listening to Paul. As a

result, Paul prayed that the sorcerer would become blind for a time. Immediately, God struck the sorcerer with blindness.

7. Read Acts 13:1-13 and write what the governor (deputy) did when he saw the sorcerer blinded.
8. Explain what these verses teach you about the fact that those who get involved in satanic activity will oppose the spread of the Gospel.
9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about satanic opposition to the spread of the Gospel.

When Paul and Barnabas left Cyprus, they went to the area that is now called Turkey. Many Jews had moved to that area. When they reached the city of Antioch, Paul and Barnabas went to the Jewish synagogue. Since they were visitors, they were invited to speak to the people. The sermon of Paul is very interesting. Since he was speaking in a Jewish synagogue, he began with a short review of Jewish history. Then, he showed that the coming of Christ was the most important event in the history of the Jews because the men of the Old Testament looked forward to the coming of Christ. With this introduction, Paul then went on to speak of the death and resurrection of Christ.

10. Read Acts 13:14-43 and write what the Gentiles asked Paul.
11. Explain what Paul taught the people in the synagogue about the resurrection of Christ.
12. Explain why the message of Paul shows you the need to share the message of the resurrection every time you have an opportunity to share the Gospel with those who are not yet Christians.

Many Gentiles also wanted to hear the message of salvation. However, there were also those who did not want to hear about Christ. The next week, almost the entire city came together to hear Paul. As a result, the Jewish religious leaders were filled with envy and began to speak against Paul. They did not want to receive everlasting life and they were going to do their best to keep others from receiving life.

13. Read Acts 13:42-52 and write who Paul said they would turn to since the Jews refused eternal life.
14. Explain how the Gentiles felt when they heard that Paul and Barnabas were going to share the Gospel with them.
15. Explain why you realize that you need to be ready to share the Gospel with any who want to hear.

When God first called Paul, God said He would send Paul to the Gentiles. We will see that most of the rest of the book of Acts tells about Paul taking the Gospel to those who were not Jews. When the Gentiles heard that Paul was going to bring the Gospel to them, they were glad. Here, we see again that Christ wants us to take the Gospel to people of all tribes and races, not just our own tribe or race.

16. Read Acts 13:42-52 and write where the Gospel was shared in that area.
17. Explain why Christians need to focus on sharing the Gospel throughout a whole region and not just in their own town.
18. Explain what these verses teach about your responsibility to take the Gospel to those of other tribes and races as well as your own tribe.

The Jews were still angry, so they finally chased Paul and Barnabas out of the city. However, a large group of Christians were left behind who were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Meanwhile, Paul and Barnabas went on to the next city, which was named Iconium. There, a large number of both Jews and Greeks became Christians. Again, a group of Jews were filled with envy and hate. They were not able to do anything for a long time, so Paul and Barnabas had a long time to teach in that city. The day came,

though, when those who hated the Gospel decided to stone the apostles.

19. Read Acts 14:1-20 and write the names of the cities where they fled.

20. Explain why the Jews were so eager to kill Paul and Barnabas.

21. Explain what you learn about the fact that you may face opposition as you share with others about the death and resurrection of Christ.

The Jews in Asia were now doing everything they could to get rid of Paul. They hated him because many people were becoming Christians instead of following the Jewish religion. Here, we see that organized religions will often do everything possible to stop Christians from preaching about Christ. However, we should never stop preaching and allow Satan to gain a victory. Instead, we should continue to tell others about Christ, even if we have to go to another place to tell men about Christ.

22. Read Acts 14:1-20 and write what kind of a man Paul and Barnabas found in Lystra.

23. Explain what misunderstanding the people had when they saw Paul heal the man who was crippled.

24. Explain why you need to be prepared for the fact that there may be misunderstandings when you explain the Gospel to people of another language or culture.

When Paul and Barnabas saw that the man had faith, they prayed and healed him in the name of Christ. At once, the crippled man walked and leaped. The people immediately said in their own language that the gods had become men. They called Barnabas “Jupiter”, and called Paul “Mercury”. Then, the people got ready to offer sacrifices to them. Paul and Barnabas did not understand the language of the people, so they did not realize what the people were doing until they got ready to offer sacrifices. When they realized what was happening, Paul and Barnabas stopped the people and told them that they were also men. However, they had a very hard time stopping the people from offering sacrifices. We see, though, that people change very quickly.

25. Read Acts 14:1-20 and write what the people did to Paul a few days later.

26. Explain what this shows about the fact that people can be very changeable if they focus on miracles instead of listening to the Word of God.

27. Explain why you think that Paul was ready to get up and go to the next town to share the Gospel, even though he had been stoned.

Here, again, we see the desire of the Jews to get rid of the Christians. They thought that if they could kill Paul, they would get rid of the Christians. However, no one is able to stop the work of God. Even if they would have killed Paul, God would have trained someone else to take his place. This is the reason why we do not need to worry about suffering and persecution. God is going to accomplish His plan and purpose in the world. If that plan includes suffering for us, we can thank God for the privilege of suffering for Him.

28. Read Acts 14:21-28 and what Paul and Barnabas did when they came to the city of Derbe.

29. Explain why Paul told the people of Lystra that they needed to serve the living God instead of trying to worship men.

30. Explain why you think religious people want to stop those who preach about Christ.

This chapter also gives us a picture of the work of every pastor and missionary. First, we see that Paul preached the Gospel. Sometimes he talked to one person at a time. At other times, he talked to large groups of people. We see that wherever he went, there was a group of people who became Christians. These people became Christians as a result of faithful witnessing. Today, God commands every Christian to be a faithful witness.

31. Read Acts 14:21-28 and write the thing we are told Paul did after he preached the Gospel.
32. Explain what these verses show about the power of the Gospel to change the lives of those who hear and place their trust in Christ.
33. Explain why you think the preaching of the Gospel must be the first thing we do in order to plant churches.

Next, we see the second important responsibility of every pastor and missionary. That responsibility is to teach every person who becomes a Christian, so every Christian can witness to others about Christ. We see that the teaching included strengthening the Christians and helping them to realize the privilege of suffering for Christ. One of the reasons why many Christians have problems living for Christ is the fact that they have never learned that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ.

34. Read Acts 14:21-28 and write what Paul and Barnabas did in every church.
35. Explain why we need to teach every Christian and help each one grow in their understanding and obedience to the Word of God in order for strong churches to be established.
36. Explain why you think it is important to strengthen Christians, encourage them to continue in the faith, and prepare them for opposition once they become Christians.

Elders are the group of men who are the spiritual leaders of the church. In some churches, they may be given different titles. Regardless of what title they are given, the leaders are to be godly men who can lead the other Christians. Here, we see that the third responsibility of every pastor and missionary is to develop leaders and establish churches. The way to measure the effectiveness of any church is to see how many new leaders and additional churches that church has established. Missionary work is not complete unless churches are established with their own trained leadership and then become reproducing churches.

37. Read Acts 14:21-28 and write to whom Paul and Barnabas entrusted these leaders.
38. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of trusting the Lord to work through the new spiritual leaders to lead the church.
39. Explain what you think are the main things that a pastor or a missionary should be doing to develop godly reproducing Christians and churches.

Now that you have explained what a missionary should be doing, you should read what you wrote again. What you have just read tells you what you should be doing, because God has called every Christian to be a missionary. Every Christian has a responsibility to witness. Every Christian should be teaching and training new Christians. Every Christian should be working to establish new churches. We also see that Paul and Barnabas trusted the new Christians who God had chosen to lead the new churches. Because Paul and Barnabas had been faithful in teaching the Christians who would be leading these new churches, they knew they could continue to trust the Holy Spirit to guide these new Christians.

40. Read Acts 14:21-28 and write what Paul and Barnabas did when they returned to the church at Antioch.
41. Explain why Paul and Barnabas reviewed with the church what God had done among the Gentiles.
42. Explain why you think God chose to use you as well as other Christians to share the Gospel, teach those who become Christians, and take them with you to train them to serve the Lord.

Lessons are learned best when they are put into practice. In these chapters, we have seen how the Gospel began to spread to other parts of the world. We have seen that the

Holy Spirit sent out Paul and Silas. The Lord worked through these men to reach out to entire regions with the Gospel. We also saw that the planting of churches involves preaching the Gospel, teaching those who become Christians, and training them to become reproducing Christians and then establishing the churches. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to share the Gospel with at least one person of another culture.

Now, re-read Acts 13:1-14:28 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 8

Acts 15:1-16:40

Today, in our lesson, we will learn how the early church settled the problem of what things the Christians who were not Jews should do. There were some Jews who felt that a person who was not a Jew had to follow the Jewish laws in order to become a Christian. Others felt that a person did not need to follow the Jewish laws in order to become a Christian. We learn something about the right way to make decisions in a church from the way that the church in Jerusalem settled this problem. Our lesson today will also teach us about the way God guides us day by day. We will also learn a lesson about what to do when men persecute us because we are Christians.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what the Jews decided about the Gentiles having to obey the Jewish law.
- Explain how the church at Jerusalem reached a decision.
- Explain how God leads us day by day.
- Tell what Paul and Silas did when they were persecuted.

One day, a group of men came to Antioch from the area around Jerusalem. These men were teaching that a person had to obey the Jewish laws in order to become a Christian. This caused some of the new Christians to become confused. Paul and Barnabas told these men that the Gentiles did not need to keep the Jewish laws. Since the teachers who were causing the confusion had come from Jerusalem, the church at Antioch decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to talk to the leaders there about the problem.

1. Read Acts 15:1-22 and write what group of people taught that the Gentiles had to keep the Jewish laws to become Christians.
2. Explain what the Pharisees who had become Christians tried to teach the Gentiles believers about the Jewish law.
3. Explain why you think these Pharisees who had become Christians felt that the Gentile Christians had to obey the Jewish law.

Here, we see that when some people become Christians, they do not realize that they are to depend completely on Christ instead of the old religion. We also see that the early church met to discuss the problem instead of just kicking out those who did not believe exactly as they did. As a result, these Christians who had been teaching false things realized clearly what it meant to follow Christ. The church discussed the problem for a long time. Then, Peter told again how he had taken the Gospel to those in the house of Cornelius. Paul and Barnabas also spoke about what had happened as they took the Gospel to the Gentiles. God had sent the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles and worked great miracles among them, just as He had done among the Jews. All these things happened without the Gentiles following the Jewish laws.

4. Read Acts 15:1-22 and write the name of the man who spoke next.
5. Explain why the church spent a long time discussing this question before making any decision.
6. Explain what you think Peter meant when he said in Acts 15:10, "Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"

The church had talked about the problem for a long time. Peter, Paul and Barnabas had all given their testimony about what had happened as they preached to the Gentiles.

Now, James stood up to see if all of the Christians had reached agreement. We read that the apostles, elders, and the entire church were now in agreement. They had reached a decision to which all agreed.

7. Read Acts 15:1-22 and write the names of the two men the church at Jerusalem decided to send back to Antioch to report the decision of the church.
8. Explain why James said that the Gentiles should not be troubled by being told they had to keep the Jewish law.
9. Explain why you think a requirement to obey the Jewish law would have made it more difficult for many Gentiles to become Christians.

Here, we learn an important lesson about making decisions in a church. The church could have voted and made a decision immediately. This is the way most churches make decisions today. However, this would have caused the church to be divided into parts with Christians fighting against each other. Instead, the church discussed the problem until they were all in agreement. Those who had been wrong realized they were wrong and now agreed that they had been wrong. Instead of dividing the church, the decision caused them to become closer to each other. They had allowed the Holy Spirit to make the decision instead of trying to make it themselves.

10. Read Acts 15:1-22 and write what James said was read in the Jewish synagogues every sabbath.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the right way to make a decision in a church.
12. Explain why you think it is important to give each person the opportunity to express his opinions and then apply Biblical principles before making a decision.

When the church at Jerusalem had reached agreement, they sent a letter to the church at Antioch. In that letter, they mentioned four things that the Gentile Christians should not do. They were not to eat things that had been offered to idols. Otherwise, people who were not Christians would have thought that they still worshipped idols. They were not to eat or drink blood. They were not to eat animals that had been strangled because those animals would still have their blood in them. They were not to do any sexual sin or have immoral relationships. The church at Antioch was very happy because the church at Jerusalem had agreed with the things they were teaching. Now, they could tell the false teachers from Jerusalem to be quiet.

13. Read Acts 15:23-41 and write the verse that tells who was teaching in the church at Antioch.
14. Explain why the church at Jerusalem only mentioned these four things as things that the Gentiles should avoid and told them nothing that they had to do.
15. Explain why you think it is important for Christians to learn to be guided by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God and prayer rather than giving a series of rules or laws to obey.

In Acts 11, we saw that there were two teachers in Antioch. This number had grown to five by chapter 13. Now, we read that there were many teachers at Antioch. Here, we see that every church should be teaching its men to teach and preach. An effective church is continually training other men to teach and preach. We read also that two teams were sent from the church at Antioch to take the Gospel to other places. John Mark went with Barnabas, and Silas went with Paul. Here, we see an experienced missionary took a new missionary with him so he could teach him to establish churches.

16. Read Acts 15:23-41 and write what Paul and Silas were doing as they went through Syria and Cilicia.
17. Explain how the ministry of Judas and Silas strengthened the Christians who were in the church at Antioch.
18. Explain why you think it should be a high priority in every church to continue to

train additional leaders.

As Paul and Silas traveled, they came to the area where Paul had been stoned on his first trip. There they found a young man named Timothy who had been helping the churches in the surrounding areas. They invited Timothy to travel with them. Timothy was a Jew, so they had him circumcised. Here, we see that a Jew obeyed the Jewish law so that he could reach Jews for Christ. We also read that the number of churches was increasing every day. In the first part of Acts, we saw that the number of Christians was increasing every day. Here, we see that there were entire new churches being started every day. This is what could happen today if we would allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives and let Him really lead our churches.

19. Read Acts 16:1-15 and write the ethnic background of the father of Timothy.
20. Explain why Paul had Timothy circumcised but did not have Titus circumcised according to Galatians 2:3.
21. Explain what you think made it possible for new churches to be started every day.

We also learn something about the way that the Holy Spirit guides us in these verses. We are to go with the Gospel to those who are lost. Wherever we see a need, we are to go. If the Holy Spirit wants us to go somewhere else instead, the Lord will make it impossible to go where we had planned to go. Then, we are to go to another place where we see a need. Three times, the Holy Spirit told Paul not to go to a particular place. Each time, he tried another place. As a result, the Lord led him to the place where the Lord wanted him to go and preach. When Paul reached the city of Troas, he had a vision one night.

22. Read Acts 16:1-15 and write what the man in the vision said to Paul.
23. Explain what we learn about the way the Holy Spirit guides us as we make decisions.
24. Explain why you know it is important in your life to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the decisions you make.

Here, we see another way the Holy Spirit guides us. Luke was the writer of the book of Acts. He was a Greek who probably had lived in Macedonia. By comparing verses 8 and 10, we see he joined Paul here at Troas. Luke had probably told Paul many things about the need of the people in Macedonia. They needed to know Christ. Then, the Holy Spirit used the words of Luke to help Paul see a vision of the need in Macedonia.

25. Read Acts 16:1-15 and write what they did as soon as Paul had seen the vision.
26. Explain why it is important to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as He leads us.
27. Explain what these verses teach you about how God will work through your life as you are obedient to Him.

Paul and the others went to the city of Philippi, which was one of the main cities of Macedonia. There, a woman by the name of Lydia believed in Christ along with her entire family. She invited them to stay at her house. One day, a girl who told fortunes started following Paul and Silas. She had a demon in her. When Paul cast the demon out of the girl, the men who owned her were very angry because they realized they would make no more money from her fortune-telling. The men had the rulers beat Paul and Silas and put them in jail.

28. Read Acts 16:16-34 and write what Paul and Silas were doing at midnight in the jail.
29. Explain what these verses teach about demon possession and fortune telling.
30. Explain why you think it is important for Christians to avoid those things that involve demonic activity.

The rulers had given Paul and Silas a terrible beating. Their backs were covered with

large, open cuts. Then, they put their feet in pieces of wood called stocks. However, the suffering did not stop Paul and Silas from witnessing. They sang and prayed. The other prisoners heard them. The other prisoners and the jailer realized that these men were different from any other prisoners who had been in jail before.

31. Read Acts 16:16-34 and write what happened at midnight as they prayed.
32. Explain what made it possible for Paul and Silas to pray and sing praises, even though they were in great suffering due to the beating.
33. Explain what you personally learn about the way God answers prayer from what happened that night.

The earthquake opened all the doors of the prison. The chains that held the prisoners were broken. When the man in charge of the jail saw the doors of the prison open, he decided to kill himself. Roman law said that if a prisoner escaped, the jailer would be killed instead. Just as the man was ready to kill himself, Paul told the man not to kill himself. The prisoners were still there. Then, the man rushed in and asked how to be saved.

34. Read Acts 16:16-34 and write what Paul and Silas told the man in charge of the jail.
35. Explain how the Lord used the beating of Paul and Silas for His glory.
36. Explain how the Lord is able to bring glory and blessing from the difficult things that happen in your life.

Then, the man in charge of the jail took Paul and Silas to his house. He washed their cuts and gave them food to eat. That night, as Paul and Silas spoke to the man, his family, and his servants, the entire group became Christians. In this chapter, we again see that Paul worked to reach entire families for Christ. We saw that Lydia and her entire family became Christians in the first part of the chapter. Here, another entire family trusted in Christ.

37. Read Acts 16:16-34 and write what happened after the jailer washed the wounds of Paul and Silas.
38. Explain how placing their trust in Christ changed the jailer and his family.
39. Explain why you think that reaching entire families for Christ is emphasized so often in the New Testament.

The next morning, the city rulers sent men to let Paul and Silas out of jail. Then, Paul told the men that he would not leave the jail until the city rulers came because he was a Roman citizen. Here, Paul was opening the door to make it much easier for others to preach in the city of Philippi. The Roman rulers had to admit publicly that Paul was not guilty. This made it possible for others to preach about Christ and not be put in jail.

40. Read Acts 16:35-40 and write where Paul and Silas went when they left the jail.
41. Explain why it was important that Paul refused to leave the jail until the Roman rulers publicly freed him.
42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about sharing the Gospel with others at every opportunity.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have learned from the early church how to make important decisions in the church. We have also seen that the Gentiles were not placed under the Jewish law. We have seen how the Holy Spirit guides us to take the Gospel to people in other areas. Then, we saw that the Lord can even work through suffering to draw others to Himself. This week, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to at least two people who need to hear how to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Pray also that the Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak as you talk with these individuals.

Now, re-read Acts 15:1-16:40 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 9

Acts 17:1-18:28

Today, we will learn about churches being established in the country that is now called Greece. In our last lesson, we studied about Macedonia, which is the northern part of Greece. When Paul left Philippi, he traveled west and south and visited several other cities in Greece. Paul left Luke in Philippi to continue to teach and preach there while the rest of the group went to other cities. In every city that Paul visited, there was a group that believed and a church was established.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how the people received the Word of God in the cities of Thessalonica and Berea.

Tell what the people of Athens were like.

Tell how Paul supported himself in Corinth.

Explain what Apollos did not understand.

When Paul, Silas and Timothy left Philippi, they went to the city of Thessalonica. There, they went to the Jewish synagogue and began teaching about the resurrection of Christ. For three weeks, they taught in the synagogue. Some of the Jews believed in Christ. A large group of devout Greek people also believed in Christ. However, some of the Jews were filled with envy. They tried to find Paul. When they could not find Paul, they took Jason and some of the other new Christians to the rulers of the city.

1. Read Acts 17:1-15 and write what the Jews said to the rulers of the city about the Christians.
2. Explain what the Lord was doing among the Greeks and among the chief women in the area of Thessalonica.
3. Explain what lessons you learn about envy from the reaction of the Jews when many Greeks turned to Christ.

Here, we see a little picture of the way the Gospel was spreading. The Christians were accused of turning the world upside down with their teaching. We see that the Christians were not afraid to tell everyone about Christ. Even though Paul and Silas had been beaten or put in jail many times, they continued to speak about Christ. As a result, people all over the region were hearing about Christ. Today, we need more Christians who are willing to speak for Christ wherever they go. Because of the trouble in Thessalonica, the Christians thought it would be best to send Paul and Silas away so they would not be hurt or killed. They left that night and went to the city of Berea.

4. Read Acts 17:1-15 and write how the Jews of Berea received the Word of God.
5. Explain why the Christians were accused of turning the world upside down.
6. Explain how the response of the Greeks and chief women in Thessalonica show that people will respond to the message of the death and resurrection of Christ if you pray and then share that message with others.

The Jews in Berea listened to Paul. Instead of rejecting the good news about Christ, they wanted to find out more. Every day, they studied the Word of God so they could see whether the things that Paul was saying were true. Here, we learn an important lesson. We need to be studying the Word of God daily so that when we hear another person teach or preach, we know whether that person is teaching the Word of God or only giving his own ideas.

7. Read Acts 17:1-15 and write what happened among the Jews as a result of them

studying the Scriptures daily.

8. Explain why it is important to encourage people to study the Scripture to know whether a man is teaching the Word of God or only his own ideas.
9. Explain how Bible study has affected you in your own life.

Because the Jews and Greeks of Berea studied the Word of God daily, many of them believed in Christ. Here, we see that if we get people to study the Word of God, many of them will become Christians. This is why it is good when possible to have a weekly Bible study with a family that is interested to learn what the Bible teaches. As you study the Bible with that family regularly, that family will often follow Christ. The Jews in Thessalonica were unhappy when they heard that many people in Berea were becoming Christians. As a result, some Jews from Thessalonica came to Berea and started making trouble for Paul. Then, the Christians sent Paul away, but Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea.

10. Read Acts 17:1-15 and write the name of the city where Paul went.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of getting those who are not yet Christians to study the Bible so they can see what it teaches about Christ.
12. Explain what results you have seen when people who are not Christians get into a Bible study to learn what the Bible teaches about the death and resurrection of Christ.

Athens was a place where the people liked to talk about the different ideas or philosophies that men had about life. Two of their philosophies were the ideas of the Epicureans and the ideas of the Stoics. The Epicureans taught that men should go after pleasures and have a good time. The Stoics taught that God was everywhere and lived in everything. As a result, they felt that men were also gods. These men loved to talk about their ideas and the ideas of others.

13. Read Acts 17:16-34 and write what these men spent all of their time doing.
14. Explain why Paul divided his time between teaching in the synagogue and teaching in the marketplace in Athens.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about sharing the Gospel with people where they live, work, and spend their free time and not just in the church.

The people of Athens were also very religious. They invited Paul to come to a building called the Areopagus on Mars Hill and tell them about the things he was teaching. On the way to the hill, Paul saw an altar "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD". Paul said that he had come to tell them about the God they did not know. He came to tell them about a God who was not made with human hands. Instead, Paul told them that God was the one who created everything, including men. It is only God who can give life. Now, God speaks to all men and tells them to repent and turn from their sins.

16. Read Acts 17:16-34 and write what Paul said that caused some of the men to mock and make fun of his message.
17. Explain why Paul began with the creation as he talked to the people on Mars Hill.
18. Explain why you think it may be important to begin with the Creator and the creation when you are talking to people that have never studied the Bible.

Today, many men still mock and make fun when they hear about Christ being raised from the dead. There are even many churches today that no longer teach that Christ rose from the dead. They deny that the Bible is true. They deny that Christ is alive. They deny that Christ can save us from our sins. Although there were many who made fun of the resurrection of Christ, there were some who believed. There will always be men who believe in Christ if we are faithful in teaching others about His death and resurrection.

19. Read Acts 17:16-34 and write what Paul said God now calls all people to do.
20. Explain why we should keep telling others about the death and resurrection of Christ, even though many people make fun of our message.
21. Explain why the fact that some wanted to hear more about the death and resurrection of Christ helps you to realize that some people in every culture are searching for truth.

Paul then went from Athens to Corinth. Before Paul had become a leader of the Jewish religion, he had earned his living by making tents. In Corinth, Paul found another Jew who also made tents. Since he did the same kind of work that Paul had done, Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, invited Paul to stay with them. Each Sabbath, Paul would teach in the synagogue. However, the Jews in the synagogue refused to believe the message that Paul was preaching. Instead, they spoke against Paul.

22. Read Acts 18:1-17 and write to whom Paul said he was going since the Jews refused to believe.
23. Explain why Paul gave the Jews the first opportunity to believe in Christ before he started speaking to the Gentiles.
24. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that the chief ruler of the synagogue later believed, even though most of the Jews had rejected the message of Paul

Paul always spoke to the Jews first and gave them an opportunity to become Christians. When they would no longer listen, he would start speaking to the people who were not Jews. Since Paul could no longer teach in the Jewish synagogue, he started teaching in a house next to the synagogue. This house was the house of a man who had become a Christian.

25. Read Acts 18:1-17 and write the name of the man whose house they used.
26. Explain why losing the synagogue as a meeting place did not hinder the spread of the message of the Gospel.
27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about using your home as a place to minister for Christ.

Here, we see a man who wanted to use his house to serve the Lord. We find that the early church met in homes for many years before any buildings were ever built. This made it possible for the early church to grow very rapidly because it did not need to spend any time or money building a building or taking care of a building. Instead, the early Christians could spend all of their time teaching others about Christ. When a group grew too large to meet in one home, it was easy to divide into two groups and meet in two homes.

28. Read Acts 18:1-17 and write how long Paul continued to teach in Corinth before he faced major opposition.
29. Explain how meeting in homes made it easier for the early church to grow quickly.
30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the encouragement that Paul received from an angel.

While Paul was in Corinth, God spoke to him in a vision at night and told him to speak boldly because God was with him. No man would be able to hurt him because God was going to save many people in that city. Then, Paul had a year and a half when no one bothered him. Finally, a group of Jews tried to stop Paul. They took him to the Roman ruler. However, the Roman ruler would not even listen to the Jews.

31. Read Acts 18:1-17 and write what the Roman ruler did to the Jews.
32. Explain how God used Paul and those with him to share the Gospel freely in one of the largest cities of the Roman Empire.
33. Explain what you personally learn from the fact that people placed their trust in

Christ when they had the opportunity to hear the word of God.

Paul stayed in Corinth for a while longer. Then, he took Priscilla and Aquila with him and sailed toward Jerusalem. When the boat stopped near the city of Ephesus, Priscilla and Aquila got off the boat and started working to establish a church in that city. One day, they met a man named Apollos. Apollos was a man who really loved God. However, he had never heard of Christ. He had only heard John the Baptist preach that men should turn from their sins.

34. Read Acts 18:18-28 and write what Aquila and Priscilla did when they heard Apollos speaking in the Jewish synagogue.
35. Explain how the ministry of Aquila and Priscilla to Apollos gives a model for ministry to those who have an incomplete understanding.
36. Explain some of the ways you have personally been able to help Christians who have an incomplete understanding of the Scriptures.

Here, we learn an important lesson for our own lives. Today, there are many men who love Christ and are teaching others about Him. However, they do not know the Word of God very well, so they are teaching things that are not completely true. Instead of condemning such people, we should take the opportunity to teach them the Word of God so they will be teaching the truth. In this way, the work of God will be going forward. Christians will be helping each other instead of condemning each other. Christ tells us in 2 Timothy 2:2 that we are to teach others so that they can teach others.

37. Read Acts 18:18-28 and write who Paul took with him when he left Corinth.
38. Explain what these verses teach about our responsibility to teach others.
39. Explain why you think Apollos was encouraged by the ministry of Aquila and Priscilla.

We see that the teaching of Aquila and Priscilla had good results in the life of Apollos. He became a very effective teacher who was eager to serve Christ. Here, we see what happened because Aquila and Priscilla listened to the leading of the Lord and took time to teach Apollos. Today, there are many Christians who could become very good teachers and serve Christ better if we will take the time to teach them. God has given every Christian gifts so they can serve Him. It is our responsibility to help every Christian develop their gifts so that every Christian is serving Christ.

40. Now, read Acts 18:18-28 and write what happened when Apollos preached to the Jews.
41. Explain why Apollos was able to have a powerful impact as he preached to the Jews.
42. Explain why you think it is important for you to use the Scriptures to present Jesus Christ.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have learned that Paul and the team with him were accused of turning the world upside down. We have also seen that when people studied the Word of God, a great number believed. The Lord also showed us that Paul was able to enjoy an extended time of ministry in the city of Corinth. The Lord showed Paul that he was going to lead a large number of people in that city to place their trust in Christ. Finally, we saw that Aquila and Priscilla had a great ministry as they helped Apollos grow in his understanding. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to help two others Christians grow in their understanding of the ministry of Christ as you help them to clarify their understanding.

Now, re-read Acts 17:1-18:28 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 10

Acts 19:1-20:38

Today, we will be studying about the way the church, in the city of Ephesus, grew and reached many people for Christ. Ephesus was a large city and the center of an area called Asia, which included many other towns and cities. As a result of the work of the Lord in the city of Ephesus, many of those who had been sorcerers or witches burned their books of magic. We will also read about the last night of Paul at the city of Troas. There, he spent the entire night teaching them before he left. We will also study about the final instructions that Paul gave to the leaders of the church at Ephesus.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how all of Asia was reached with the Gospel in two years.

Tell what happened in Ephesus because the Gospel was preached there.

Explain what happened the night before Paul left Troas.

Tell what instructions Paul gave the elders at Ephesus.

When Paul came to Ephesus, he found twelve men who had followed John the Baptist. When Paul spoke to them, he found out that they had never heard of the Holy Spirit. They had turned from their sins, but they did not know that Christ had died to pay the penalty for their sins. They did not know Christ had been raised from the dead. They did not know the fact that the Holy Spirit had come to live in the life of every Christian. The reason they did not know was due to the fact that they had heard John the Baptist preach before any of these things happened.

1. Read Acts 19:1-10 and write what happened to these men when Paul laid his hands on them.
2. Explain why these twelve men were actually like Old Testament saints rather than Christians.
3. Explain why you think these Old Testament saints had a lack of understanding similar to Apollos in chapter 18.

We see the Holy Spirit coming on another group of people. We have already seen the Holy Spirit coming on the Jews, the Samaritans, and the Gentiles. Here, we see the Holy Spirit coming on those who had worshipped God before the time of Christ. Each group received the Holy Spirit as a group the first time. Now, we each receive the Holy Spirit individually, at the moment we become Christians. God also showed that each group had received the Holy Spirit by causing them to speak in other languages. Notice that the only times tongues (other languages) are mentioned in the book of Acts is when a new group of people first became Christians. This is the final group since all peoples of the world are included in one of these four groups.

4. Read Acts 19:1-10 and write how many heard how to become Christians in the next two years.
5. Explain why the Holy Spirit came on each of the groups of people as a group when that group first received the Gospel.
6. Explain why you think these twelve men were rebaptized in the name of the Lord Jesus since John the Baptist had previously baptized them.

When Paul first came to Ephesus, there was only a small group of Christians in that city. For three months, Paul taught in the Jewish synagogue. However, when a group of Jews opposed Paul, he moved out of the synagogue and began teaching in a school. Here, we see again that a church can meet in any type of a building. They met in the temple, in

Jewish synagogues, in homes, in a school, down by a river, in a room on the third floor of a building, and probably in many other places. The place where the church meets is not important because the church is the people, not the building.

7. Read Acts 9:1-10 and write how many people in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus.
8. Explain why Paul focused for the next two years on teaching every day in the school of Tyrannus.
9. Explain what you think made it possible for every single person in Asia to hear how to become a Christian in only two years.

As Paul was teaching in Ephesus, God used him to do many miracles. Even handkerchiefs, which he sent to those who were sick or demon-possessed caused the people to be healed. This was one of the special signs of an apostle. One day, a group of Jews decided to use the power that Paul had to get rich. Seven of these men were the sons of a man named Sceva. They tried to command an evil spirit to come out of a man in the name of Jesus that Paul preaches. The evil spirit said he knew Jesus and he knew Paul, but he did not know them. Then, the man with the evil spirit jumped on the men and fought all seven of them. They all had to run out of the house naked and hurt.

10. Read Acts 19:11-22 and write what happened in Ephesus as a result.
11. Explain why the seven sons of Sceva had no power over the man with the evil spirit.
12. Explain why you think the apostles were given these special signs.

Many of those who had been sorcerers or fortunetellers believed in Christ when they saw the power of God. They also told about the things that they had done before. These men brought their books of magic and the other things they had used when they were practicing sorcery. They counted the price that all of the things were worth. Then, they burned them in front of all men to show that they had decided to follow Christ instead of worshipping the old way.

13. Read Acts 19:11-22 and write how much their books were worth.
14. Explain why what happened to the seven sons of Sceva brought fear to the people and caused the name of the Lord Jesus to be magnified.
15. Explain what you personally learn about what happens to demonic power when we yield to the Lord and ask the Lord to use His power to deal with the demonic power.

Because so many people had become Christians, those who worshipped false gods began to be concerned. Ephesus was the city where many of the people worshipped an idol they called Diana. They claimed that Diana had fallen from the sky. They had built a very large and beautiful temple for Diana. Many men of the city of Ephesus earned their living by making little silver images of their idol Diana. These men became afraid that so many people would become Christians, there would be no one left to worship Diana. Then, they would have no work. As a result, they started a riot and shouted for two hours.

16. Read Acts 19:23-41 and write what they shouted.
17. Explain why the men who made silver images of Diana became fearful as they saw so many people turning to Christ.
18. Explain what you think was the real reason why the silversmiths did not want people to turn to Christ.

One of the city rulers finally stopped the riot by telling the people that if they had a problem, it should be settled in the courts and not by a riot. As we think about this riot, we see again the power of the Gospel. The message of Jesus Christ is the most powerful message in the entire world. It will change the life of every person who will follow Christ. This is why we do not need to be afraid to speak about Christ. We have a

message that people need. This message will change their lives.

19. Read Acts 19:23-41 and write what most of the people did not even know as they shouted and rioted.
20. Explain why the people got so involved in the shouting when they did not even know what had happened.
21. Explain why the Gospel will sometimes cause people to riot as the people of Ephesus did.

After the riot in Ephesus, Paul went to Greece and Macedonia. We read of the men who were traveling with Paul. Here, we see that Paul always had a group of young men who he was training as he traveled. Paul stopped in Troas for a week. The night before Paul left, the Christians met for communion and Bible study. Since it was the last time Paul would meet with that church, they had a long service. We read that the church was meeting in a large room on the third story. There was a large group, so people were sitting in the windows.

22. Read Acts 20:1-17 and write what happened at midnight.
23. Explain why Paul always had a group of younger men traveling with him as he took the Gospel to different places.
24. Explain what this teaches you about the importance of developing other spiritual leaders by taking them with you as you share the Word of God and not just telling them what to do.

We read that they stopped the service and went down where he was laying. Paul told the people not to worry. Then, the young man was given life again. The people went back up to the room and continued the meeting. They had communion and remembered the death and resurrection of Christ. Then, they talked until the sun came up the next morning. The Christians probably had many questions that they wanted to ask Paul before he left. Paul was willing to answer questions all night in order to teach and strengthen the Christians. Helping other Christians was more important to Paul than sleep.

25. Read Acts 20:1-17 and write who Paul invited to meet him at the city of Miletus.
26. Explain what Paul teaches us about the importance of helping other Christians by encouraging them and helping them get their questions answered.
27. Explain why you think Paul was willing to miss a night of sleep in order to help and encourage these Christians one more time.

As Paul spoke to the leaders of the church at Ephesus, he took a look at the past and a look at the future. As Paul looked at the past, he spoke of the way he had served the Lord. He said that he had many tears and trials. These were not tears of sorrow. They were tears of concern for people who were lost in their sin. Paul was so concerned about the men who did not know Christ that he spent many hours praying and crying to God for them. Those hours were not wasted. As a result of those hours of prayer, there were now many Christians in the city of Ephesus.

28. Read Acts 20:17-27 and write how Paul taught the people in the city of Ephesus.
29. Explain why Paul felt it was necessary to take the leaders of the church at Ephesus with him as he visited from house to house so he could show them how to minister to people in their homes.
30. Explain what you learn for your own ministry from the things that Paul focused on as he took the leaders with him as he ministered.

Here, we see one reason why the church in Ephesus grew so rapidly. Paul taught the people in groups. He also went from house to house and taught them in their homes. Many people would never think of going to a church. However, many of these people

do want to know what the Bible teaches. They are happy to have someone study the Bible with them in their homes. Of course, when people study the Bible, many of them become Christians. As a result the church grows rapidly. The other Christians also learned to go house to house from watching Paul. As a result, there were many Christians witnessing in homes every day.

31. Read Acts 20:17-27 and write what Paul was able to testify that he was pure from.
32. Explain why Paul felt it was important to teach the leaders the whole counsel of God.
33. Explain why you think teaching the Word of God to people in their homes will help a church to grow rapidly.

Paul also gave the elders some instructions about the future. He said their responsibility was to care for and feed the church of God. Here, we see that feeding or teaching the Christians is one of the main responsibilities of the leaders of a church. In this way, the Christians are trained to witness for Christ in their homes, in the homes of others, on the job or wherever they go. Today, most churches and missions spend their time preaching to the few who are not Christians instead of feeding the Christians. As a result, the Christians are weak and afraid to witness.

34. Read Acts 20:28-38 and write who Paul said would try to enter the church after he left.
35. Explain why Paul warned the leaders that there would be false teachers who would be like wolves.
36. Explain what you think it means for the spiritual leaders to take the oversight of the church.

Paul warns of two dangers the church would face. The first is false teachers (wolves) who come in and try to destroy the Christians. Today, there are many false teachers who deny that the Word of God is true. They no longer teach that the only way a person can be saved is through the blood of Christ. The second group that Paul warns about is men in the church who try to get people to follow them. Today, there are many men who are trying to build big churches instead of trying to start many new churches. Starting new churches nearly always reaches more people for Christ than one large church can ever reach. Men often want large churches because of pride.

37. Read Acts 20:28-38 and write what Paul told them that God and His Word would do for them.
38. Explain why God will build people up and help them to understand the eternal inheritance He has given them.
39. Explain why you think Paul warns us to watch out for men who become proud and try to get men to follow them instead of Christ.

Paul also shows a picture of his trust in God in these verses. He tells the leaders that he has taught them day and night for three years. Now, he can leave them because he knows he can depend on God to continue to work in their lives. Today, there are some Christian leaders who feel they cannot trust the Christians in their churches. This means that the leaders either failed to teach properly or that the leaders do not have much faith in God to guide those they have taught. When leaders say they cannot trust the people in their church, it means the leaders have failed and not the people. The final instruction Paul gave to the elders was to remember the weak.

40. Read Acts 20:28-38 and write what Paul said will bring blessing.
41. Explain why the leaders were filled sorrow because Paul was leaving.
42. Explain why you have found that there is great blessing in sharing with those in physical need, spiritual need, or both.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen how the Gospel spread through the whole region of Asia from the city of Ephesus. We have also seen that the Gospel had a powerful effect on the old religion in the city of Ephesus. When Paul made his final visit to the leaders of the church of Ephesus, we saw that he took a look at the past and also the future. He concluded by telling the leaders how to experience great blessing.

The fact that we receive great blessings when we give to others is one reason why we should teach every Christian that the Holy Spirit has given them gifts to serve Christ better. As a result, every Christian will receive blessings because they are serving Christ. Now, re-read Acts 19:1-20:38 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 11

Acts 21:1-22:30

Today, we will read about Paul being put in jail. The Jews were filled with envy and hate. They did not like the way that the number of Christians was growing. They did not like the fact that many people who were not Jews were becoming Christians instead of becoming followers of the Jewish religion. As a result, the Jews in Jerusalem almost killed Paul. The leader of the Roman soldiers rescued Paul and put him in jail.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how God warned Paul that he would be put in prison.

Explain why Paul took a Jewish vow.

Tell what Paul said to the Jews from the prison steps.

Explain what happened to Paul in prison.

When Paul left Ephesus, he sailed toward Jerusalem. He wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit first came on the Christians. As Paul went toward Jerusalem, he was warned at every stop that he would be put in jail if he went to Jerusalem. One of the places where Paul stopped was at the city of Caesarea. There, he stayed with a man who had four daughters. We met this man as we studied the first part of the book of Acts.

1. Read Acts 21:1-16 and write the name of the man with whom Paul stayed.
2. Explain why Paul received many warnings that he would be put in prison if he went to Jerusalem.
3. Explain why you think Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem even if it meant he would be put in prison.

Philip was one of the original seven chosen by the church in Jerusalem to care for the needs of the widows. Later, the Lord used Philip to bring the Gospel to the people of Samaria. Then, Philip took the Gospel to the treasurer of the country of Ethiopia. Now, we see that the Lord has brought Philip to the area of Caesarea to establish churches in that area. Here, we learn a real lesson in obedience. Philip was ready to go wherever the Lord sent him and do whatever the Lord told him to do. A man named Agabus came from Jerusalem to the house of Philip and warned Paul that he would be bound and put in jail if he went to Jerusalem.

4. Read Acts 21:1-16 and write the answer of Paul.
5. Philip is called an evangelist. Explain what it means to be an evangelist.
6. Since Philip stayed in the city of Caesarea for at least twenty years, explain what you think is the work of an evangelist.

Here, we see the attitude that every Christian should have about life. Christ gave us our lives so we could serve Him. When we have completed the work Christ has given us to do, we have the privilege of being taken to heaven. Whether we live or die, our desire should be to do what the Lord wants us to do. This was the attitude of Paul. He was ready to live or die for Christ. It did not matter to him if he died.

7. Read Acts 21:1-16 and write what the Christians said when they could not persuade Paul to change his mind about going to Jerusalem.
8. Explain what caused Paul to have that attitude that he was willing to die for Christ.
9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the attitude you should have about serving the Lord.

When Paul came to Jerusalem, the leaders of the church gathered together to hear how the church was growing in other parts of the world. The elders were full of joy when they heard how thousands of Gentiles, in many parts of the world, were becoming Christians. Here, we learn a lesson for our lives. We should be full of joy when we hear how the church is growing in other parts of the world. We should also be praying for the work of the Lord in other parts of the world. In this way, we are sharing in the work of the Lord in many places. We should also be prepared to go and take the Gospel to other parts of the world if that is what the Lord tells us to do.

10. Read Acts 21:17-30 and write the false report the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem had heard about Paul.
11. Explain why it tells us that the Jewish Christians were all zealous of the law.
12. Explain what you learn for your own life about the fact that some Christians will place a stronger emphasis on the law than others will.

The Christian Jews obeyed the Old Testament laws that God had given to the Jews many years before. The Jews in Jerusalem had heard that Paul was telling the Jews who lived in other places not to obey the Old Testament law any more. Of course Paul was not teaching the Jews to disobey the Old Testament. In order to show the Jews that he still obeyed the Jewish law, the elders suggested that Paul shave his head and take a Jewish vow. Then, the leaders of the church explained again that the Gentiles did not need to keep the Jewish law. They were free from the law. However, because Paul was a Jew, he wanted to obey the Jewish law so he could reach Jews for Christ.

13. Read Acts 21:17-30 and write how many men kept the Jewish vow with Paul.
14. Explain why Paul was willing to take a Jewish vow, even though he had been teaching the Gentiles that they were not under the law.
15. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that Gentiles are not under the Old Testament law.

When the men had been in the temple about seven days, some Jews from Asia recognized Paul. The Jews from Asia said that Paul had made the temple an unclean place by bringing people who were not Jews into the temple. These men also shouted that Paul taught men to disobey the law of God. Because of this shouting, a large crowd of people quickly gathered. Then, they dragged Paul out of the temple and shut the door. When the people started a riot, someone quickly ran and told the leader of the Roman soldiers. He immediately came with hundreds of soldiers to stop the riot before it spread.

16. Read Acts 21:27-40 and write what the people were doing to Paul when the soldiers arrived.
17. Explain why the Jews from Asia chose to say that Paul taught people to disobey the law.
18. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that the Jews in many of the cities all had the same attitude toward Paul.

Then, the captain of the soldiers put chains on the wrists of Paul and asked the people what Paul had done. The people immediately began shouting many things. As a result, the captain of the soldiers could not tell what Paul had done. He ordered the soldiers to take Paul back to their barracks and put him in the prison. A great crowd of people followed the soldiers to the barracks. They shouted for Paul to be killed. Then, Paul spoke to the captain of the soldiers in Greek and asked for permission to speak to the people. Here, we see a real picture of love. The people wanted to kill Paul. However, Paul loved the Lord and the people so much that he wanted to speak to the people and tell them about Christ.

19. Read Acts 21:27-40 and write who the captain thought Paul was at first.

20. Explain why the captain listened to Paul and gave him permission to speak to the Jews.
21. Explain what you think caused Paul to love people so much even when they wanted to kill him.

Then, Paul spoke to the people in the Hebrew language. Immediately, the people all became very quiet. Paul began to tell about his early life. He told how he had received his training in the Jewish religion from Gamaliel, one of the best known Jewish teachers in their entire history. Paul told how he had put the early Christians in jail and even killed them. He thought he was serving God by trying to stop the Christians. Then, Paul said that the Jewish leaders could also tell how he had persecuted the Christians.

22. Read Acts 22:1-16 and write what the Jewish religious leaders had written in letters that he had permission to do.
23. Explain why Paul began by telling the Jews about his early opposition to Christ and those who believed in Christ.
24. Explain why you think Paul thought he was serving God by trying to stop the Christians.

Paul had been such an eager Jew that he wanted to punish Christians in other cities as well. Paul went on to tell what had happened on the road to Damascus. Suddenly, a great light from heaven blinded his eyes. A voice spoke to him and asked why he was persecuting the one who spoke. For the first time, Paul realized that Jesus was God and had come down from heaven to do the will of God. Then, Jesus told him to go into Damascus and he would find out what to do. God sent a man by the name of Ananias to show him what to do.

25. Read Acts 22:1-16 and write the first thing that Ananias said to Paul.
26. Explain how the life of Paul was immediately changed when he learned that Jesus is God.
27. Explain how your own life was changed when you placed your trust in Christ.

Here, we see a picture of one of the wonderful blessings we receive when we become Christians. We become brothers and sisters in Christ. We are now a part of the family of God and all other Christians are our brothers and sisters. We no longer need to feel that we are lonely and have no friends. It may be that when you became a Christian, it was the first time in your life that you became a part of a family where there is love and concern for each other. This is a wonderful privilege to be a part of the family of God.

28. Read Acts 22:1-16 and write the three things Ananias told Paul God said He wanted Paul to learn.
29. Explain why God wanted Paul to know His will.
30. Explain what it means to you in your life to be a member of the family of God.

We also see in these verses that Christ told Paul why He had chosen Paul. Christ chooses us for the same purposes so we will see why God has chosen us. First of all, we see that God has chosen us to know His will. It should be the desire of every Christian to know the will of God for your life. The second thing God wants us to see is the Just One. The Just One is Jesus Christ. We need to see and realize that Christ died for our sins and rose again to give us eternal life. The third thing God wants us to do is hear the voice of Christ. We can know the Will of God. We can know Christ. However, our lives will not be full of joy unless we hear and obey the voice of Christ.

31. Read Acts 22:1-16 and write what Ananias said Paul would be as a result of hearing His voice.
32. Explain why it is important for every Christian to really get to know Christ.
33. Explain why you know that hearing and obeying the voice of Christ will bring joy to

your life.

Here, we see that the normal result of knowing the will of God, seeing Christ change our lives, and obeying His voice will be a desire to tell others what we have seen and heard. The change that happens in our lives is so wonderful that it is impossible for us to keep quiet. The people listened to Paul until he said that God had sent him to the Gentiles. Then, the people shouted for Paul to be killed. The captain of the soldiers ordered Paul to be beaten to find out what he had done wrong.

34. Read Acts 22:17-30 and write what Paul said as the soldiers were getting ready to beat (scourge) him.
35. Explain why the Jews began shouting for Paul to be killed as soon as he mentioned that God had sent him to the Gentiles.
36. Explain why you think that most of the Jews would not place their trust in Christ and at the same time were so angry that Paul shared with the Gentiles about Christ.

A Roman soldier rushed to the captain and told him that Paul was a Roman citizen. The captain came immediately to ask Paul if he was a Roman citizen. When Paul said he was, the captain said he had paid a large sum of money to become a Roman citizen. Paul answered that he had been free born. This meant that his father was a Roman citizen, so Paul was a citizen of Rome by birth and not by paying money. Here, we see a beautiful picture. Many people are trying to buy their way to heaven. However, that is impossible because all of the money in the world would not be enough to pay our way to heaven. Instead, we must be born of God. Then, we receive eternal life as a free gift.

37. Read Acts 22:17-30 and write what happened to the captain when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen.
38. Explain how we as Christians can know that we have been free born spiritually.
39. Explain why you are thankful for the freedom that you received when you placed your trust in Christ.

When the captain of the Roman soldiers heard that Paul was a Roman citizen, he was afraid. It was against the law for a soldier to put chains on a Roman citizen before that person was convicted of a crime. Paul could have caused the captain to lose his job. The captain wanted to know what Paul had done wrong. As a result, the Roman captain ordered the Jewish religious leaders to meet together so he could find out what Paul had done wrong.

40. Read Acts 22:17-30 and write what the captain did with Paul the next day when the Jewish religious leaders met together.
41. Explain why the Roman captain had a totally different attitude toward Paul when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen.
42. Explain why the fact that you became a citizen of heaven at the moment you placed your trust in Christ has also changed your attitude toward life.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen that Paul was willing to go to Jerusalem, even though it might mean going to prison or even being put to death. He had such a great love for the Jews that he was willing to do whatever was necessary to give the Jews the opportunity to hear about Christ. He even took the opportunity to speak to the Jews about how he became a Christian while he was being taken to prison. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to speak to at least two of your relatives or friends who are not Christians so you can share with them how Christ can change their lives.

Now, re-read Acts 21:1-22:30 and then write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 12

Acts 23:1-24:27

In our last lesson, we learned about Paul being put in prison. The head of the Roman soldiers did not know what Paul had done. He decided to call a meeting of the Jewish religious leaders to find out what Paul had done wrong. This almost started a second riot, so the soldiers took Paul back to prison. A group of more than forty Jews made an agreement not to eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul. The nephew of Paul told Paul. Then, Paul had his nephew tell the Roman captain. The captain decided to send Paul to the city of Caesarea where the Roman governor lived.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell what Paul said to the Jewish religious leaders.

Explain why Paul was sent to the city of Caesarea at night.

Explain what Paul said to Felix, the Roman governor.

When Paul was brought in front of the religious leaders, he started to speak. He told them he knew he had lived the way God wanted him to live. Then, the high priest ordered Paul to be hit across the face. After Paul had been hit across the face, he turned to the high priest and told him that God would judge him. He was trying a man according to the law but was breaking the law by hitting a man who had not been condemned. Someone told Paul that he was speaking against the high priest. Then, Paul said he was sorry because he did not realize he was speaking against the high priest.

1. Read Acts 23:1-11 and write what Paul said when he realized that part of the group were Pharisees.
2. Explain why Paul said he was a Pharisee to these leaders as he spoke to them.
3. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that Paul was able to teach about the resurrection as he spoke to the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The Sadducees did not believe all of the Bible and did not believe in the resurrection. The Pharisees claimed to believe in the Bible and the resurrection. Until men believe in the death and resurrection of Christ, they are not willing to recognize Christ as Savior and Lord. Paul wanted to witness to those who believed what the Old Testament taught about the resurrection. The Pharisees immediately stood up and said that they found nothing wrong with Paul. This started a fight between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. When the captain of the Roman soldiers saw that the religious leaders were going to have a great argument, he took Paul back to the barracks so the religious leaders would not pull him apart.

4. Read Acts 23:1-11 and write who stood by Paul in the night.
5. Explain how the message of the Lord helped Paul to know the plan that God had for his life for the next period of time.
6. Explain why you think that focusing on the resurrection may have caused some of the Pharisees to really think about what the resurrection meant for their own lives.

The Lord had a message for Paul. It was a message of good news. The Lord told Paul he would speak in Rome just as he had spoken in Jerusalem. This was good news to Paul because it meant he would have another opportunity to speak for Christ. Today, the Lord has also given us the opportunity to speak to others and tell them how they can become Christians. We do not know how much longer we will have to speak for Christ, so we need to use every opportunity we have while there is still time to tell others about

Christ.

7. Read Acts 23:1-11 and write what the Lord told Paul as He spoke to him that night.
8. Explain why Paul could be filled with cheer because of the fact that he knew he would have more opportunities to speak for Christ.
9. Explain why you think it is good news that you still have an opportunity to tell others about Christ.

The next day a group of more than forty Jews met together and decided to kill Paul. They agreed that they would not eat or drink anything until they killed Paul. Then, they went and told the religious leaders to ask the Roman captain to have Paul come down and speak to them again. They told the religious leaders that they would kill Paul as he was coming to the temple.

10. Read Acts 23:12-22 and write who heard about the plan of these men and came and told Paul.
11. Explain how the Lord worked through the nephew of Paul to protect the life of Paul.
12. Explain why the way the Lord protected Paul shows you that the Lord will work to carry out His plan for your life, even if someone might try to stop your ministry.

When the nephew of Paul told Paul about the plan to kill him, Paul asked a soldier to take his nephew to the captain. The nephew told the captain about the plans of the men. Here, we see again that evil men cannot stop the plan of God. God allowed the nephew to hear the plan of the evil men so the nephew could warn Paul. As Christians, we know that God is going to take care of us and complete His plan. It may mean that we might suffer or even die, but we have seen already that it is a privilege to share in the sufferings of Christ.

13. Read Acts 23:12-22 and write what the nephew told the captain.
14. Explain how the Lord defeated the plot of the men who wanted to kill Paul.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

As soon as the captain heard about the plan to kill Paul, he ordered soldiers to get ready to take Paul to Felix, the governor. In order to protect Paul, the captain sent a total of four hundred and seventy soldiers with him. These men left at nine in the evening and traveled all night so that the men who wanted to kill Paul would not have time to wait along the road. He also wrote a letter to the governor telling him why he was sending Paul to him.

16. Read Acts 23:23-35 and write the name of the city where the Roman soldiers took Paul.
17. Explain what the captain told the governor he recognized about the charges that the Jews brought against Paul.
18. Explain what you learn for your own life about how the Lord will be with you regardless of what things you face in your own life.

The soldiers traveled during the night with Paul. In the morning, the soldiers who were walking returned to Jerusalem. The seventy soldiers on horses rode the rest of the way to Caesarea with Paul. When they arrived, they gave the letter from the Roman captain to the governor. After the governor read the letter, he asked Paul from what country he came. Paul told the governor he had grown up in the area called Cilicia.

19. Read Acts 23:23-35 and write where the Roman governor kept Paul.
20. Explain how the Lord was fulfilling His promise, made at the time Paul turned to Christ, that Paul would speak to kings.
21. Explain how you know that Christ will keep the promises He has made to each of us as Christians.

Five days later, the Jewish religious leaders came down to Caesarea to speak against Paul. They brought a lawyer with them named Tertullus. He was a very good speaker. They thought he would be the best speaker to convince the governor that Paul had done wrong. Tertullus began by saying many good things about the governor. This is a trick which men who are not Christians often use. They try to praise men and make men think they are good. After the words of praise to the governor, the lawyer began speaking against Paul.

22. Read Acts 24:1-9 and write what Tertullus called Paul.

23. Explain what Tertullus was trying to do by speaking words of praise to the governor about his leadership of the country.

24. Explain why you know that we can be honest in the words we speak, rather than speaking things that are not true in order to get what we want.

The religious leaders wanted to convince the Roman governor that Paul was trying to start a rebellion against the Roman government. They wanted to show that Paul was dangerous and should be put to death immediately. Of course, it is easy to see that the religious leaders were not telling the truth. However, they were willing to lie, kill, or do something else to get rid of Paul. As Tertullus spoke, he tried to make it sound as though the Jews were trying to help the Roman government by getting rid of Paul.

25. Read Acts 24:1-9 and write what the other Jews said.

26. Explain why the religious leaders thought they could deceive the Romans governor by accusing Paul of trying to lead rebellion against the Romans.

27. Explain why you think the Jews thought they could deceive the Roman governor.

When the Jews had finished speaking, Felix asked Paul to speak. Paul pointed out that the things said about him could not be true because he had only come to Jerusalem twelve days before. During the time Paul was in Jerusalem, he had not argued with a single person. The Jews could not prove a single thing they said against Paul. Then, Paul said that he had been teaching about the resurrection. Here, we see that Paul took every opportunity to speak about the resurrection.

28. Read Acts 24:10-27 and write what the Jews had not seen him do anywhere.

29. Explain why Paul was happy to make his defense before the Roman governor.

30. Explain why you think Paul always spoke of the resurrection at every opportunity.

Paul also said he worshipped the God the early Jews worshipped. Then, Paul said he believed the entire Old Testament. The New Testament had not yet been written. Today, we need more Christians who are not afraid to say they believe that the entire Bible is the Word of God. When men begin to teach that any part of the Bible is not true, they have started down a road that will quickly lead them further and further away from Christ.

31. Read Acts 24:10-27 and write who the Bible says will be raised in the resurrection.

32. Explain what Paul meant when he said that there would be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.

33. Explain why you think Paul said the real reason he was in the court that day was because he believed and taught the resurrection.

Paul said that one of the reasons he had come to Jerusalem was to bring a gift to his nation. When Paul went into the temple, he had followed all of the instructions of the law and had done it quietly. Then, Felix said that he would hear more from Paul later when Lysias, the captain of the Roman soldiers, came to Caesarea. Felix told a soldier to take care of Paul. The soldier was told to let all of the friends of Paul visit him and help him. Later, Felix asked Paul to come and speak to him about Christ. As Paul began to speak to Felix, the Holy Spirit was working in his life. Felix began to shake

when he heard about the fact that judgment is coming.

34. Read Acts 24:10-27 and write what Felix said to Paul.

35. Explain what caused Felix to begin to shake when he heard about the fact that a future judgment was coming.

36. Explain why you believe it is important to warn those who have not placed their trust in Christ about the fact that judgment is coming in the future.

Today, there are many people who are just like Felix. They realize that they are sinners. They are afraid and shake when they hear about the fact that judgment is coming. However, they say that they will become Christians at another time when it is more convenient. Felix felt that he wanted to wait until later to become a Christian. We never read that the time ever came when Felix became a Christian. He waited too long and then it was too late. The same thing still happens today. Many people wait until it is too late.

37. Read Acts 24:10-27 and write who was with Felix when he began to tremble.

38. Explain why Paul reasoned with Felix and his wife about righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come.

39. Explain how you would warn a person about the danger of waiting too long.

There was also another reason why Felix kept Paul in jail. Felix hoped that Paul would pay money to him in exchange for letting Paul go free. For this reason, he called for Paul many times so Paul could come and speak to him. Here, we see that Paul could have chosen his own plan instead of the plan of God for his life at that time. Paul was willing to stay in jail if that was a part of the plan of God. There were probably many people who would have given him the money he needed to buy his way out of jail. We need to be like Paul. Our desire should be to do the will of God, instead of choosing to do the things we want to do.

40. Read Acts 24:24-27 and write what Felix did with Paul when a new governor was appointed to take the place of Felix.

41. Explain why Felix often called for Paul to come and talk with him.

42. Explain why you think Felix had let his own desires control his life instead of doing what he knew was right.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have learned how Paul took the opportunity to speak both to the Jews and to the Roman governor about the message of the resurrection. We also saw how the Lord used the nephew of Paul to protect him from a plot by the Jews to kill him. We see that the Jewish leaders tried to accuse him of rebellion against the Roman government. Again, the Lord gave him the opportunity to speak of the resurrection. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to share with at least two people the importance of the resurrection.

Now, re-read Acts 23:1-24:27 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 13

Acts 25:1-26:32

In our last lesson, we learned that the Roman governor, Felix, tried Paul and found nothing that Paul had done wrong. We also saw that he left Paul in jail for two years because he hoped that Paul would give him money in order to go free. Today, we will read about Paul speaking to two more Roman governors. Neither one of them could find anything that Paul had done wrong. Here, we see that God is completing the promise that Paul would speak to governors about Christ. That promise was made to Paul when he first became a Christian.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell what Paul said to Festus.

Tell why Paul asked to be tried by Caesar, the emperor in Rome.

Tell what Paul said to King Agrippa.

Explain what Agrippa said about Paul.

Soon after the new governor, Festus, arrived in Caesarea, he went to Jerusalem for a visit. Immediately, the Jewish religious leaders came and asked Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem for a trial. They planned to kill Paul as he was traveling from Caesarea to Jerusalem. Festus told the religious leaders that if they were so anxious to condemn Paul, they would have to come down to Caesarea to do it. Ten days later, Festus and the Jews returned to Caesarea.

1. Read Acts 25:1-12 and write what the Jews said about Paul.
2. Explain why, even though Paul had been in jail in Caesarea for two years, the Jews were still so anxious to kill him.
3. Explain what lessons you learn from this about the hatred of the religious leaders toward both Christ and Paul.

Here, we see that the religious leaders were willing to do anything in order to get rid of Paul. They told many lies about Paul. Since they were lies, it was impossible for them to prove what they were saying. Then, Paul spoke and told how he had not done anything wrong to either Caesar or the Jews. We see that Festus decided to try and please the Jews instead of doing what he knew was right. Festus asked Paul if he was willing to go to Jerusalem to be judged.

4. Read Acts 25:1-12 and write the answer of Paul to Festus.
5. Explain why Paul waited until this time to appeal his case to Caesar.
6. Explain why you think Festus wanted Paul to go to Jerusalem for trial, even though he knew Paul had done nothing wrong.

Paul was a Roman citizen. This gave him the right to appeal his case to Caesar, the Roman emperor. Paul said that he would be willing to die if he had done something wrong. However, he had done nothing wrong. Paul knew the Jews would try to kill him on the way to Jerusalem. As a result, Paul appealed his case to Caesar. Then, Festus said he would send Paul to Caesar. Here, we see that God was completing the promise He had given when Paul first followed Christ. Christ had said that Paul would speak to kings and governors.

7. Read Acts 25:1-12 and write what Festus said after he had talked to the council.
8. Explain how this passage shows us that God will always keep His word and complete His promises.
9. Explain why you think Christ wanted the Gospel to be explained to Caesar by Paul.

A few days later, King Agrippa and his wife came to visit Festus. Agrippa was a member of the Herod family. His relatives had been the rulers for the Roman government in Jerusalem and the surrounding area for many years. As a result, they were very familiar with the Jewish religion. Festus told how the Jews had tried to get Paul put to death. Festus said he had told the Jews that the Romans did not put anyone to death before that person received a fair trial.

10. Read Acts 25:13-27 and write what Festus said Paul was teaching about Jesus.
11. Explain why the fact that Festus said Paul was teaching that Jesus was alive shows that Festus understood what Paul had said but chose to reject Jesus.
12. Explain why you think that the focus of every message spoken to those who were not Christians, in Acts, was the resurrection of Christ.

The next day, Festus brought Paul out of prison so Agrippa could hear what Paul would say. Festus told again how the Jews had wanted to kill Paul. Festus said he had agreed to send Paul to Caesar Augustus. However, Festus did not have any charges against Paul. It would not be right to send a prisoner to Caesar who had no charges against him. Here, we see that Festus was admitting that he had no charges against Paul. It should have been his duty to let Paul go free, but he was more concerned about pleasing the Jews than doing what he knew was right.

13. Read Acts 25:13-27 and write what Festus thought was an unreasonable thing to do.
14. Explain what Festus showed about his own spiritual condition by the things he explained to Agrippa.
15. Explain why you think many people choose to reject the message about Christ and the life that He offers, even when those people know they have heard the truth.

Paul began to speak to King Agrippa. He mentioned that he knew King Agrippa was very familiar with the Jews and their religion. He knew that Agrippa would understand the things he was saying. Then, Paul began to talk about his past life before he met Christ. He had been a Pharisee and followed the teachings of the Pharisees from the time he was a young man. The Pharisees had claimed to follow the promises of God. These promises were in the Old Testament. It was those very promises that had caused him to be put in jail.

16. Read Acts 26:1-16 and write for what Paul said he was being judged.
17. Explain why Paul told Agrippa that he was being judged for believing the promises God had made to the nation of Israel.
18. Explain why you think the religious leaders put Paul in jail instead of believing those Old Testament promises.

As Paul spoke to Agrippa, Paul asked him a question. He asked why it was surprising to Agrippa that God should raise the dead. Here, we see that Paul is using the opportunity to cause Agrippa to begin thinking about the resurrection of Christ. Paul was always more concerned about getting men to think about Christ than he was about himself. Then, Paul began to speak about the way he had persecuted the followers of Christ. He had put many of the followers of Christ in prison. He had voted to put some Christians to death. He had persecuted them many times in the synagogues. Paul had even punished Christians in foreign cities.

19. Read Acts 26:1-16 and write who had given Paul permission to persecute the Christians.
20. Explain why Paul chose to begin his message to Agrippa with the resurrection.
21. Since Agrippa and his family had lived in the area for several generations, explain why you think Agrippa had probably heard about the resurrection many times.

As Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians, God stopped him at noon with a very bright light. Paul told how Jesus had spoken to him and asked him why he was persecuting Jesus. Here, we see that when a person persecutes a Christian, he/she is actually persecuting Christ. This is the reason why we do not need to get even with a person who does bad things to us. We can let Christ take care of him/her instead.

22. Read Acts 26:1-16 and write why Christ appeared to Paul.

23. Explain how the fact that Paul shared about the way he had persecuted the Christians showed that he was not afraid to be honest about his past.

24. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from Paul about the importance of being honest about your past.

Here, we see some reasons why Christ saves every one of us. First, we see that Christ has chosen us to be His ministers or servants. We are to serve the Lord by serving each other. Second, Christ calls every Christian to be a witness to others about Him. We are to witness and tell of the change that happened in our lives. Third, we are also told to witness about the things we learn from Christ through studying His Word. These are things that every Christian should remember. Christ saved us and called us to serve Him and tell others about Him.

25. Read Acts 26:1-16 and write of what things Paul was to be a witness.

26. Explain what these verses show about the fact that it was Christ who changed Paul from a persecutor of Christ to a minister and a witness of Christ.

27. Explain what these verses teach about the reason that Christ chose you to be a Christian.

Christ also promised that He would take care of Paul and keep both the Jews and the Gentiles from killing him until he completed the work God had given him to do. Then, God told Paul what would happen as he witnessed to the people. We read that the first result would be that men would have their eyes opened. Sin makes it impossible for men to see. They think they can see, but it is only the devil tricking them. Christ also promises that He will turn people from darkness to light. Christ is the One who is the Light of the world. He offers light to those who are lost in the darkness of sin.

28. Read Acts 26:17-32 and write the third thing Christ said He would do as we witness.

29. Explain how the Lord used Paul to open the spiritual eyes of many people.

30. Explain what it meant to you, in your own life, when Christ turned you from spiritual darkness to spiritual light.

Satan has great power. Today, we see his power in many places. He is using all of his power to keep people from becoming Christians. Many things are happening in the world which show that many people are beginning to turn more and more to the power of Satan. Many people are letting the power of Satan take control of their lives. However, the power of God is much greater than the power of Satan because God has all power. Satan can use his power only as long as God allows him to use it. We also see that God promises He will give an inheritance to those who follow Him. That inheritance is eternal life.

31. Read Acts 26:17-32 and write what Paul said about the vision he had received from God.

32. Explain why the most important need of every person in the world is to receive forgiveness of sins.

33. Explain why you think it is important to tell those who become Christians that they have been sanctified (set apart to God) by faith.

Paul gives us a wonderful lesson for our own lives. We need to be obedient to God and witness as He has told us to do. Paul obeyed the command of God completely. He

began telling others about Christ right there in Damascus. Then, he spoke in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. Finally, Paul took the Word of God to the Gentiles. His message everywhere was the same. He preached that men should turn from their sins and turn to God. Everywhere he went, he preached about the death and resurrection of Christ. This is the same message we are to share wherever we go.

34. Read Acts 26:17-32 and write what Festus said as Paul was speaking.

35. Explain how the Lord worked through the life of Paul as he was obedient and told others about Christ.

36. Explain why you believe that it is also important for you to obey God and tell others about Christ.

Today, there are some people who are just like Festus. They think people are crazy to believe in Christ. Since Festus refused to listen, Paul turned to King Agrippa and began to talk about his need to follow Christ. Here, we learn an important lesson about witnessing. When a person shows an interest in learning more about Christ, we should take every opportunity to talk to that person about Christ. The reason why the person wants to learn more about Christ is due to the fact that the Holy Spirit is working in his life and convicting him of sin.

37. Read Acts 26:17-32 and tell why Paul talked to Agrippa instead of Festus.

38. Explain why it is important to continue sharing the Gospel with those who are interested, even though there are some who reject.

39. Explain why you think that Paul said that he knew that Agrippa knew and believed the writings of the Old Testament.

As Paul talked to Agrippa, Agrippa said, "You almost persuade me to be a Christian." Paul answered that almost was not enough. His desire was to see Agrippa and all of the others who were gathered there actually become Christians. Today, there are people who are just like Agrippa. They think about becoming Christians. However, they never make the decision to follow Christ instead of the devil. A person may think about becoming a Christian, but he/she is still lost and on his/her way to hell until he/she makes that decision to follow Christ. We never read that Agrippa did make the decision to become a Christian.

40. Read Acts 26:17-32 and write what the men decided about the guilt of Paul.

41. Explain why people are making a dangerous decision when they think about becoming a Christian and decide to put it off until later.

42. Explain why we are to invite people to act on the knowledge that they have received and encourage them to place their trust in Christ.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen how Festus was ready to please the Jews, even though it would have meant that Paul would have been killed. We saw that Festus knew Paul was innocent, but wanted to gain the favor of the Jews. We have seen how Paul also had the opportunity to share the message of the resurrection of Christ with Agrippa. We have seen that Paul took every opportunity to speak for Christ. This week, pray that the Lord will give you boldness to share about the resurrection Christ with at least two people and not let fear keep you from speaking about the resurrection of Christ. The men realized there was no reason to put Paul to death. In fact, there was no reason for him to be in jail. However, he had appealed to Caesar and so they would send him to Caesar.

Now, re-read Acts 25:1-26:32 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 14

Acts 27:1-28:31

In our last lesson, we learned that Paul asked to be tried by Caesar, the Roman emperor. Today, we will read about him being sent to Rome. We will see that he had many opportunities to serve the Lord, even though he was a prisoner. He had an opportunity to speak to everyone on the ship about the way Christ was going to take care of them. The men were ready to listen because they were afraid they were going to die. God also gave Paul the opportunity to witness on the island of Melita (Malta) for three months. When Paul arrived in Rome, he was allowed to rent a house and teach all who came to him.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell how God used a storm to give Paul an opportunity to witness.

Tell how God used a snake to give Paul an opportunity to witness.

Explain the opportunities that Paul had to witness in Rome.

The Roman governor prepared to send Paul to Rome. A Roman soldier was put in charge of Paul and some other prisoners. He arranged for them to go by boat to Rome. The soldier was kind to Paul and allowed him to visit some of his friends when they stopped at Sidon. At Myra, they got on a different boat. During the winter, they often have terrible storms on the Mediterranean Sea. Paul warned the soldier that it was dangerous to sail because it was late in the fall. However, the soldier listened to the captain of the boat and sailed anyway.

1. Read Acts 27:1-20 and write what happened as they traveled.
2. Explain why the Roman centurion was not ready to listen to Paul when he warned about the danger of sailing.
3. Explain what this shows you about the lack of influence that Paul had with the soldiers when he first began the trip to Rome.

The terrible storm was very dangerous. The sailors even threw part of the load off the boat so the boat would not be wrecked. The wind blew the boat so hard that the sailors could not even control the boat. They just had to let the boat go the way it wanted to go. The boat is a real picture of what men are like when they do not have Christ in their hearts. Such people do not control their own lives. The devil drives them where he wants them to go. As a result, their lives are unhappy and out of control.

4. Read Acts 27:1-20 and write how long the sun and the stars could not be seen because of the storm.
5. Explain what this storm caused the men on the ship to feel after the storm had continued for many days.
6. Explain why you realize that there are many people around you do not really have any hope.

After the boat had been driven by the wind for many days, Paul stood up and spoke to the men on the boat. He told them that an angel had spoken to him in the night. The angel told Paul they did not need to worry. In fact, they should be full of joy because God was going to protect all of the men who were on the boat. God had promised Paul that he would speak to Caesar, so God was going to keep all of the men alive for the sake of Paul. Paul told the men to be full of joy because he believed God would keep His promise. This is a wonderful lesson for us today. When things around us look bad, we can be full of joy because we know God will keep His promises.

7. Read Acts 27:21-44 and write who Paul said had stood by him that night.
8. Explain why Paul knew that the men on the ship did not need to be afraid.
9. Explain why you know you can have joy even when you are going through some very difficult things.

After the storm had driven the boat for fourteen days, the sailors realized that the boat was coming close to some land. When the boat got close to land, the sailors tried to leave the boat in a little boat. Paul told the soldiers what would happen if the sailors left the ship, so the soldiers cut off the ropes that held the little boat. Then, Paul encouraged the men to eat. They had not eaten for many days because they were afraid of the storm. Again, the men listened to Paul and ate. They were also happy because Paul said that their lives would be spared.

10. Read Acts 27:21-44 and write how many men were on the boat.
11. Explain how these verses show that Paul was having a real opportunity to influence all of those who were on the ship.
12. Explain why you think Paul went from having no influence to the place where he was able to influence everyone on the ship.

The next morning, the sailors saw the island. They also saw a creek, so they decided to try to steer the boat into the creek. However, the boat got stuck on a piece of land that was just under the water. Then, the soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so they could not escape. The centurion who was in charge would not allow the prisoners to be killed because he wanted to save Paul. The boat broke in half, so the men had to swim or ride on pieces of board to the land.

13. Read Acts 27:21-44 and write how many made it to the land.
14. Explain why the centurion was now willing to risk his own life by protecting the prisoners from death.
15. Explain how you think this trip with Paul to Rome changed the life of this centurion.

When they reached the land, they found that it was an island called Melita (Malta). It was raining when they reached the island. The people of the island built a fire so the men from the boat could get dry. Paul started gathering sticks to put on the fire. As he was putting the wood on the fire, a poisonous snake came out of the fire and bit Paul. The people immediately thought that Paul must be a terrible murderer because the snake bit him.

16. Read Acts 28:1-10 and write what Paul did with the snake.
17. Explain how these verses show that people are quick to judge, even though they know nothing about a person.
18. Explain what this teaches you for your own life about the danger of judging someone else.

The people thought Paul would die. However, they watched him for a while and nothing happened to him. Then, they began to think that Paul was a god. Here, we see that God caused a miracle to happen to protect the life of Paul. God also used this miracle to give Paul a real opportunity to witness to the people of the island. Here, we see that God is using the things that happen to Christians to complete His plan. Some Christians complain when bad things happen to them. They fail to realize that whatever happens can bring glory to God. When things do not go the way we plan, we should ask God to show us His plan instead of complaining.

19. Read Acts 28:1-10 and write the name of the man with whom Paul stayed while they were on the island.
20. Explain how the Lord used the snake biting Paul to give Paul a real opportunity to speak to the people of the island.

21. Explain why we should be joyful even when things seem to go wrong in our lives as we serve the Lord.

As a result of the miracle, Paul was invited to stay at the house of the leading citizen on the island whose name was Publius. This gave Paul a wonderful opportunity to tell the people of the island about Christ. The father of Publius was sick. This gave Paul another opportunity to show the power of God. Paul healed the father of Publius and also many other people on the island who were sick. Paul was faithful in taking every opportunity to serve the Lord.

22. Read Acts 28:1-16 and write how long they were on the island before they took another boat to Rome.
23. Explain how the Lord encouraged Paul as he was getting close to the city of Rome.
24. Explain what you learn about the fact that Christ uses everything that happens in our lives to help us become more like Christ.

Paul had an opportunity to encourage the Christians in Puteoli for seven days on the way to Rome. When Paul reached Rome, he was allowed to live in a house and have a soldier chained to him instead of having to live in a Roman prison. This made it possible for Paul to teach and serve the Lord while he was waiting for Caesar to set the time for his trial. Three days after Paul reached Rome, he invited the Jewish leaders in Rome to come and visit him. Paul told the leaders why he had been sent to Rome. Then, the Jews told Paul that they had received no word about him from the Jews in Jerusalem.

25. Read Acts 28:11-24 and write why the Jews said they wanted to hear Paul.
26. Since Paul had a soldier continually chained to him, explain why that made it possible for Paul to have a continual ministry, even though he was a prisoner.
27. Explain what you learn for your own life by the fact that the Lord provided many opportunities for Paul to speak about Christ, even though he could not leave the house.

People in all parts of the Roman Empire had heard about Christ. Many had become Christians. However, there were many more who spoke against Christ. Even the fact that people spoke against Christ caused others to want to hear about Christ. Today, many people have hardly heard of Christ. The reason is that many Christians are not speaking about Christ. We do not have very many more years to tell others about Christ. Christ is coming soon to take the Christians to heaven. It is our privilege and responsibility to tell others about Christ before He comes again.

28. Read Acts 28:17-24 and write what happened on the day the Jews had made an appointment to hear Paul.
29. Explain how these verses show us that we may even have the opportunity to set times to share the Gospel with people who are not Christians if we are willing to answer their questions and help them understand.
30. Explain some of the ways the Lord has opened the door for you to answer the questions of those who are not Christians.

The Jews arranged to have Paul speak to them on a certain day. That day, many Jews came to the house where Paul was living. They talked together from morning until evening. Paul spoke to them from the entire Old Testament, showing them the promises about Christ. Here, again, we see the importance of using the Word of God when we speak to others about Christ. It is the Word of God, not our words, that will change other people.

31. Read Acts 28:17-24 and write what the Jews did when they learned what the Word of God said about Christ.

32. Explain why it is important to use the Bible to answer the questions of those who are not Christians.
33. Explain how these verses help you to realize that if you will explain the Word of God to answer the questions of those who are not Christians, some people will believe, even though others will not believe.

When many of the Jews did not believe, Paul said they were doing exactly what Isaiah said their fathers had done when he preached to them. They had heard the Word of God, but they did not understand it. They had seen the works of God, but they did not accept them. They were like people with their eyes and their ears closed to the Word of God. Then, Paul told the Jews that since they would not receive the Word of God, he would take the Word to the Gentiles. As the Jews left the house of Paul, there was much arguing between them about whether Paul was right or wrong.

34. Read Acts 28:25-31 and write how long Paul lived in his own hired house in Rome.
35. Explain why discussing the Word of God will often cause disagreement with those who fail to place their trust in Christ.
36. Explain why Paul knew the Gentiles would listen to the message of the death and resurrection of Christ, even though the Jews as a whole rejected that message.

Paul had a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord in Rome. Anyone who wanted to visit Paul was allowed to visit him. This gave Paul the opportunity to spend many hours each day teaching Christians the Word of God so they could serve Christ better. Since Paul was chained to the Roman soldiers who guarded him, the soldiers had to listen to Paul speak about Christ. This gave Paul the opportunity to speak to many men who were not Christians. Those men could not even get away from Paul because they were chained to him. They had to listen to Paul as he spoke about Christ.

37. Read Acts 28:25-31 and write what Paul preached about for two years in Rome.
38. Explain how living in his own hired house gave Paul the opportunity to help many Christians grow in their understanding of the Word of God.
39. Explain why you think the Lord provided many opportunities for Paul to share the Gospel with those who were not Christians during the two years he was waiting for trial in Rome.

Paul never wasted an opportunity to serve Christ. Today, you also have many opportunities to serve Christ. Are you using these opportunities to serve the Lord or are you wasting them? You have a great privilege given to you. Christ chose you to be a witness for Him. We have just finished studying a book where we saw the church grow from a group of a hundred and twenty people to hundreds of churches with thousands of Christians. The early church grew very quickly because every Christian was faithfully telling others about Christ.

40. Read Acts 28:25-31 and write what Paul was teaching.
41. Explain what the book of Acts teaches about the importance of learning to yield our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment so He can work through our lives.
42. Explain how the study of the book of Acts has caused you to look at the opportunities you have to serve the Lord in a new way.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen how the Lord gave Paul many opportunities to share with others as he traveled to Rome. The Lord used a storm that lasted two weeks in order to give Paul these opportunities. When Paul arrived in Rome, the Lord opened new opportunities for Paul to speak about Christ. This week, pray that the Lord will use the lessons you have learned from the study of this book to open your eyes to even more opportunities that

the Lord is giving you to tell others about Christ.

Now, re-read Acts 27:1-28:31 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 15
Romans 1:1-2:29

Today, we are beginning a study of the letters that were written to the churches that were started in various parts of the world. These letters help us to know the answers to the problems we face in our churches today. The book of Romans was written to the Christians in the city of Rome before Paul visited that city. In the book, Paul speaks of his desire to visit the Christians in the city of Rome. In our study today, we will learn about the sinfulness of man. Paul begins by telling of his desire to preach the Gospel to all men. Then, he speaks of the sinfulness of the Gentiles. A picture of the sinfulness of the Jews follows this.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Paul wanted to preach the Gospel.
- Tell how the Gentiles have rejected God.
- Tell how the Jews have rejected God.

As we begin the letter of Paul to the Romans, we notice several wonderful things. First, we see that each Christian has the privilege of being a servant of Christ. Second, we see that the letter is about Christ, the Son of God. As Christians, we are those who are called and chosen of God. Third, we see that we are saints. As we see all of these things, we realize that Christ has given us every one of these things as a free gift. There is nothing we could do to earn them. Then, Paul goes on to tell why he is thankful for the church in Rome.

1. Read Romans 1:1-17 and write the first reason why Paul was thankful for the church in Rome.
2. Explain what caused the faith of the Christians in Rome to be spoken of by others throughout the world.
3. Explain why you think it would be a great privilege to be known by others for your faith.

Here, we see a church that had real faith in God. Their faith was so great that people were speaking about it all over the world. Although Paul had never visited Rome, he prayed daily for the Christians there. Paul also prayed that the Lord would make it possible for him to visit Rome so he could share with them by teaching the Word of God. He wanted to encourage them as they encouraged him. Paul had wanted to visit them many times but had not been able to visit them yet because God had other work for him to do.

4. Read Romans 1:1-17 and write what Paul said he was not ashamed of.
5. Explain why the Christians in Rome were such an encouragement to Paul.
6. Explain why you think Paul was so anxious to preach the Gospel to all people.

Here, we see that Paul speaks of his attitude toward the Gospel. He is not afraid or embarrassed to tell anyone about Christ. He knows he has a message that all men need. The message is so powerful it can completely change the life of every person who follows Christ. It is for all the Jews and all those who are not Jews. It is a free gift to men, which they receive by faith. Then, they continue to live their lives by faith.

7. Read Romans 1:1-17 and write what Paul said the Gospel of Christ is.
8. Explain why Paul realized that the Gospel was so powerful.
9. Explain what you believe these verses teach about the Gospel.

After Paul finished speaking about the power of the Gospel, he went on to tell why the

world needed the Gospel. He begins by showing the terrible sinfulness of all men in the world. The wrath or judgment of God is promised to all those who reject the Gospel and continue to live in their sinful ways. Even those who have not heard about God have seen the power of God in creation. As a result, even those who have never heard of God are without any excuse. They will be judged and condemned.

10. Read Romans 1:18-32 and write what men did when they knew God.

11. Explain what happened to the people when they refused to glorify and recognize God.

12. Explain why you think that people turned from God and chose to live lives filled with darkness rather than turning to God.

The stories of every group of people show that those people knew about God at one time. However, they failed to worship God or teach their children about God. They were not thankful to God. Instead, their thoughts became sinful and they only thought of evil things. They started depending on their own knowledge, instead of the knowledge God gives. As a result, they became fools. Instead of worshipping God and all of His glory, they made idols to worship. These idols looked like men, birds, animals, or even things that creep on the ground, such as snakes or bugs.

13. Read Romans 1:18-32 and write what God did as a result of their turning to idols.

14. Explain why people find other things to worship when they turn away from God.

15. Explain what lessons you learn about the fact that mankind will find something to worship, even when they turn away from God.

When men turn from God to worship other things, their lives become worse and worse. Here, we see that men began to use their bodies for sinful things. They chose to believe a lie instead of the truth of God. They began to worship their own bodies instead of God. As a result, God gave them up and allowed them to use their bodies for sin. Both men and women turned from the plan God had for their bodies. Men committed sexual sins with other men. God promises that such men will receive the penalty for their sins.

16. Read Romans 1:18-32 and write what God did when men refused to keep God in their thoughts any more.

17. Explain why God says that He gave men over to a reprobate mind (a mind completely controlled by sin) to do those things which are not right.

18. Explain how this helps you to understand why a study of the Old Testament shows you that people became more and more sinful.

God allowed the minds of men to go their own sinful ways completely. Then, God gives a list of the sins men do when they are completely controlled by sin. We have already seen that men commit various kinds of sexual sins. We also see that several sins are mentioned which are related to hate and murder. Then, we see sins that are related to what people say. These include such things as speaking against others, gossiping, and fighting with words. They hate God which causes them to be proud and boast about the things that they can do. They disobey parents. They cannot understand. They do not keep their word. They have no love or concern for others. They know that such things will bring death. However, they enjoy doing those things anyway.

19. Read Romans 1:18-32 and read what gives such people pleasure.

20. Explain how these verses show that people continue to get more sinful as they turn from God and follow their own evil desires.

21. Explain what you learn about the sinfulness of men from these verses.

Paul goes on to speak about men who judge others. After reading about the sinfulness of man in chapter one, some men might think that they are better than other men. However, Paul says that men who judge others are guilty of doing the same things. God

will judge men according to what is true because He knows the hearts of men. God will judge those who judge others. They will not escape His judgment. God has shown great love and waited a long time before judging men. However, that judgment will come one day.

22. Read Romans 2:1-16 and write how God will deal with men when He judges them.
23. Explain why each person who has rejected the forgiveness that Christ offers will be judged by his own actions.
24. Explain why you know that the actions of every single person will bring great judgment on all those who have failed to place their trust in Christ.

Those who follow Christ will be rewarded with eternal life. However, those who do not receive the truth and obey it will be judged. These people do the things that are not right. They are filled with hate and anger. The result will be that they will receive judgment and great sorrow. It will not matter whether a person is a Jew or a Gentile. Every man and woman will be judged who fails to follow Christ. People will be rewarded with glory, honor, and peace if they follow Christ. This is true whether those men are Jews or Gentiles. God will reward them equally.

25. Read Romans 2:1-16 and write why God judges or rewards all men the same way.
26. Explain how God has chosen to reward each Christian for the things that Christian has done to serve Him.
27. Explain why you can look forward to the rewards that God will give if you have trusted Christ and served Him.

Paul then shows how all men are condemned whether they have the law or not. Those who have the law of God are condemned by the law. Although the Gentiles did not know the law of God, they made their own laws, which showed them that they were breaking the law of God. God has given every man a conscience that tells him whether he is doing right or wrong. This inner law condemns him so he knows he is guilty and without excuse as he stands before God. This is the reason why God does not show respect to men when He judges them by the same law. They all stand condemned.

28. Read Romans 2:1-16 and write where God has written the law for all people whether they have ever seen a Bible.
29. Explain why it is important to know that people have the law written in their hearts, even though they may not have the Word of God.
30. Explain how you know that God judges all men fairly without respect for any man.

Paul now begins to speak of the sin and guilt of the Jews. The Jews were proud and boasted that they lived by the law of God. They claimed to know the will of God. They claimed they did the things that were right and good. They even felt that they were able to lead those who had been blinded by Satan. Since they had received the law of God, they also felt that they could teach others. Here, we see that the Jews had the truth. They were even teaching it to others. However, they were not obeying what they were teaching others. Today, many Christians are guilty of doing the same thing. They know the Word of God. They are teaching it to others. Their problem is not living what they are teaching.

31. Read Romans 2:17-29 and write who the Jews were not teaching.
32. Explain why it is important for all people whether they are Jews or Gentiles to obey what they are teaching to others.
33. Explain what these verses show you about the importance of your life being an example of what you teach.

The Jews would teach other men that they should not steal. They would teach others that it was against the law of God to commit immorality and other sexual sins. They

would teach other men to hate idols. However, the Jews were doing all of these sins. Some of the Jews committed these sins openly. Others only thought about doing them. Throughout the Word of God, we see that we are as guilty of sin when we think evil thoughts as when we actually do the things we are thinking about doing.

34. Read Romans 2:17-29 and write how the Gentiles spoke about God because the Jews said one thing and did the opposite.
35. Explain why people who are not Christians will also blaspheme the name of Christ if Christians do not live what they teach.
36. Explain why you want your life to be an example that others can follow and not a life that would cause them to blaspheme Christ.

Here, we see a real warning to each of us as Christians. If we do not live the way the Bible tells us to live, others will speak against God because of us. A Christian who is not living as Christ tells him to live will soon find that others will not listen to him when he/she speaks about Christ. This is one reason why many people do not want to become Christians. They have seen Christians who are always complaining, gossiping, hating, or committing other sins. As a result, such people do not want to become Christians. They have never seen the love of Christ in other Christians.

37. Read Romans 2:17-29 and write what kind of circumcision God wants in people.
38. Explain why godly character is so important for a Christian to have an effective witness for Christ.
39. Explain why we must live for Christ if we want people to listen when we witness for Christ.

The Jews said that they followed God by circumcising their boys when they were eight days old. Many Jews thought that this act made them right with God. They felt that now they could live as they wanted to live. Paul points out the fact that a man who obeyed God, even though he was not circumcised, was right with God. A Jew who was circumcised but did not obey God was lost in his sin. It is the inner attitude of a man, not his outward actions, that makes a man right with God.

40. Read Romans 2:17-29 and write whose praise we will want if our heart is right with God.
41. Explain why the attitudes of the heart will be shown by the actions of the person.
42. Explain why you personally want to receive the praise of God, instead of seeking the praise of men.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have learned a little about the concern of Paul for the Romans although he had not yet been to Rome at the time the letter was written. We also saw how mankind in its rebellion against God became more and more involved in sin. We saw that there were some Gentiles who tried to follow their conscience. Some of the Jews claimed to keep the law but did not follow the law in their hearts. This week, pray that the Lord will help you to examine and remove any wrong attitudes that may be in your heart.

Now, re-read Romans 1:1-2:29 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 16
Romans 3:1-4:25

In our last lesson, we learned how both the Gentiles and the Jews have rejected God and turned away from Him. In the verses we will study today, we see that those who have heard more about Christ will receive greater judgment if they reject Christ. We go on to read that there is not a single person in the entire world who is not guilty. The law has condemned every person. Paul begins to show how our salvation is a free gift, which is given to us by Christ because of His great love for us. Paul also shows that men in the Old Testament were made right with God by faith. The law can never save a man. It only shows men that they are lost.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the Bible teaches about the fact that all men have sinned.
- Explain the meaning of justification.
- Tell how men in the Old Testament were saved.
- Explain what we learn about the faith of Abraham.

In the last two chapters, we have seen that all men have sinned and are guilty. Since the Jews are as guilty as the Gentiles, some may wonder if God has given the Jews a special privilege. God has given them a great privilege. It was through the Jews we received the Word of God. They were given this privilege, even though many of them did not obey God. God is faithful, even though men are not faithful. There are some people who say that God is not fair to judge men for their sins.

1. Read Romans 3:1-20 and write what Paul says when men say that God is unfair.
2. Explain why it was a great privilege for the Jews to have the Old Testament, even though most of them did not follow God.
3. Explain how having the Word of God has personally benefited you in your own life.

God is a holy God and cannot look on sin. As a result, He must judge sin. If we do evil, then our judgment is just and right. After Paul had pointed out the fact that the Jews had a great advantage, he began to point out the fact that all men have sinned and are guilty. In this section, several verses from the Old Testament are quoted which show that the Old Testament also says that all men have sinned. We see that there is not even a single person who is right with God. All men are without understanding. Not a single man is looking for God. Today, we see that men are running from God instead of looking for Him.

4. Read Romans 3:1-20 and write what men have become.
5. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that all men have sinned and as a result are guilty before God.
6. Explain how you would help a person who thinks he/she has lived a good life to understand that God says he/she has sinned.

No man does the things that are good and right. The things men speak are very bad. In fact, God says that their mouths are like open graves. They love to do evil things. They do not know what it means to have peace. They have no respect or fear for God. As we read these things, we get a real picture of what people are like today. We see that the law does not make a single man right with God. We read that the law does give men knowledge of sin, but it does not stop that sin.

7. Read Romans 3:1-20 and write what kind of knowledge we receive from the law.
8. Explain why writing laws does not make people do what is right.

9. Explain why you think the purpose of the law is to show all people that they are guilty before God and cannot make themselves righteous.

We have seen that every man in the world has sinned and stands guilty before God. Now, we begin to learn how a person is made right with God. God has shown that no one can be saved by keeping the law. Every man has sinned and come short of eternal life. If a man were jumping across a deep canyon and did not make it, he would fall to the bottom of the canyon. It would not matter whether he missed the other side by a few inches or many feet. He has come short and missed the other side. One sin causes a man to come short and miss eternal life.

10. Read Romans 3:21-31 and write what people have come short of because of sin.
11. Explain what it means to say that people receive the righteousness of God by faith when they believe in Jesus Christ.
12. Tell how you would explain Romans 3:23 to a person who is not yet a Christian.

We also see in these verses that God demands righteousness because He is a holy God. "Righteousness" means *to be holy and without sin*. However, we have just seen that every person has sinned and cannot be righteous on his own. There is One who is righteous who has shown Himself. That One who is righteous is Christ. He is holy and without sin. Now, Christ offers to give us His righteousness. We receive the righteousness of Christ by faith. Christ makes a person right with God at the moment a person becomes a Christian.

13. Read Romans 3:21-31 and write how these verses tell us we are justified.
14. Explain what it means for Christ to place His righteousness on us.
15. Tell how you would explain to a person who is not a Christian that his/her sin was placed on Christ on the cross and that when he/she places his trust in Christ, Christ will place His righteousness on him/her.

To be "justified" means *to be made right with God*. Because of the loving favor of Christ, we are made right with God at the moment we place our trust in Christ. We are made right with God as a free gift. It is a free gift because Christ paid the price with His own blood. We are sinners, but Christ covers and takes away our sin with His blood. When God looks at us, He looks at us through the blood of Christ. Since the blood of Christ has removed our sin, God sees us as being people who are holy and without sin. As a result, we are right with God. This is true because Christ paid for our sins with His own blood. Christ satisfied the holy requirements of God.

16. Read Romans 3:21-31 and write how a man is justified and made right with God.
17. Explain why it was necessary for us to be made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ and not by keeping the law.
18. Explain how you would tell a person who is not a Christian how to place his/her faith in Christ.

Since we are made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, that leaves no room for us to boast. Christ has done everything. He even gave us the faith to believe in Him. We will see in chapter 10 that Christ gave us that faith as we heard the Word of God. Since we could not keep the law, that faith could only come from Christ. Now, Christ offers every man the opportunity to be right with God. It does not matter whether a person is a Jew or a Gentile. We can all be justified by Christ.

19. Read Romans 3:21-31 and write on what basis God justifies people whether they are Jews or Gentiles.
20. Explain how a person is justified (made right with God).
21. Explain how you would answer a person who says that he/she is trying to be right with God by keeping the law.

In order to answer questions people might have about people in the Old Testament, Paul goes on to tell how Abraham was made right with God. This is done to show that no man has ever been saved by works. If Abraham would have been made right with God by his works, he would have had a reason to boast. However, we see that the reason Abraham was made right with God was due to the fact that he believed God. He did not work to be made right with God.

22. Read Romans 4:1-12 and write who spoke of this in the Old Testament when he spoke of the fact that we are blessed when God covers our sins so He does not remember them any more.
23. Explain why people in the Old Testament were saved by faith just as we are saved by faith.
24. Explain how you would help a person to understand that God put righteousness of the account of Abraham because Abraham believed God.

Then, Paul went on to point out the fact that, in the Old Testament, all men were saved by faith, whether they were Jews or Gentiles. We have already seen that the Jews showed they were Jews by circumcising all of their boys. However, Abraham had faith in God for many years before he and the men of his house were circumcised. Faith came before circumcision. Circumcision showed that the Jews were the chosen people of God. However, all others who put their faith in God received His righteousness, even though they had not been circumcised. As a result, Abraham is the father of many who are not circumcised.

25. Read Romans 4:1-12 and write who those people are.
26. Explain why these verses teach that Abraham is the father of all those who place their faith in the promises of God whether they are Jews or Gentiles.
27. Tell how you would explain to someone that God will take away sin and place the righteousness of Christ on him/her at the moment he/she turns from his/her sin of unbelief and places his/her faith in Christ.

Here, we see that the Jews were to be the messengers of God to tell others how to have faith in God during the time of the Old Testament. Later in this book, we will see that God has set the Jews aside for a time because they failed to obey God and tell others about Him. Now, He has given each of us who are Christians the privilege and responsibility of being His messengers. It is our responsibility to tell men how they can have faith in God.

28. Read Romans 4:1-12 and write why righteousness was put to the account of Abraham.
29. Explain why righteousness is also put the account of every person who places his (her) faith in Christ.
30. Tell how you would explain to another person what it means to have faith in God.

God made a promise to Abraham. This promise was not based on the law. The law was not given until several hundred years after Abraham received the promise that he would receive a great blessing. God promised to give the world to Abraham because Abraham had faith in God. This promise has come true. Through the family of Abraham, the world received the message of Jesus Christ. By trusting in Christ, people throughout the world have become a part of one spiritual family.

31. Read Romans 4:13-25 and write what the law works.
32. Explain why the law can only produce wrath and judgment and cannot provide forgiveness.
33. Tell how you would explain to someone that the only thing the law does is show a person when he/she is guilty of breaking the law.

Since men disobey the law, they will be punished by God. God will show His wrath and judgment against sin. However, God shares His love and favor with all those who have faith in Him. Because of the faith of Abraham, God made him the father of many nations. We read that Abraham showed his faith by believing the promise that God would give him a son. He believed the promise of God, even though his wife was past the time when she could have children. We see that Abraham had a strong faith in God.

34. Read Romans 4:13-25 and write how Abraham felt about the promise of God.
35. Explain why Abraham is such a great example of the meaning of faith.
36. Tell how you would explain the meaning of faith to a person who is not yet a Christian.

Here, we see a real lesson about the kind of faith we should have. Abraham expected God to do something that was completely impossible as far as men were concerned. However, with God, all things are possible. We need to believe without any doubts that God is going to keep His promises. Our faith should not be limited because something looks impossible. God will do those things that He has promised to do. That is what Abraham believed and that is why God put righteousness to the account of Abraham.

37. Read Romans 4:13-23 and write for whose sake in addition to Abraham God put that righteousness to the account of Abraham.
38. Explain why God chose to do things in the Old Testament that would help us to understand and believe.
39. Explain how Romans 4:21 applies to you in your life.

Abraham was made right with God because he trusted and had faith in the promises of God. God does not speak of the faith of Abraham just to record it as history. God speaks of the faith of Abraham because He wants us to have the same kind of faith. Then, we will have the kind of life that brings great joy and happiness because we see the power of God working in our lives. We can have this kind of faith if we believe in the One who raised Christ from the dead. Here, we see again that Christ died on the cross for our sins.

40. Read Romans 4:13-25 and write the reason why God raised Christ from the dead.
41. Explain why a person must believe in the One who raised Christ from the dead in order to receive eternal life.
42. Tell how you would explain the meaning of justification to a person who is not yet a Christian.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have learned that every person has sinned and stands guilty before God. We saw that the Law can never make a person right before God because the Law only shows people when they are guilty. This means that forgiveness of sins comes apart from the Law. We also learned that Abraham was saved by faith in the promises of God because he believed God would do exactly what He had promised. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to explain to at least two people how they can be made right with God and have forgiveness of sins.

Now, re-read Romans 3:1-4:25 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 17
Romans 5:1-6:23

In our last lesson, we learned the meaning of justification. In our lesson today, we will learn the results of justification or being made right with God. We will also see a comparison between being right with God and trying to live by the law. Today, many men are trying to earn their way to heaven by following certain laws. However, their laws only condemn them. We will also learn what Christ wants us to do about the sin in our lives. Some Christians are living a defeated Christian life because they have never given Christ the control of their lives. They are still trying to do things their own way.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the results of being made right with God.
- Explain the results of sin coming into the world.
- Tell how we should live as Christians.
- Explain who we should serve as Christians.

As we begin chapter five, we see the results of being justified (being made right with God). The first result is peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, the world is looking for peace. There will not be peace between different nations because men have sin in their hearts that causes them to hate each other. However, it is possible for men to have inner peace because their sins are forgiven. The second result is the fact that we have direct access to God through Christ. We no longer have to bring animals to sacrifice for our sins. Instead, we can pray directly to God through Christ.

1. Read Romans 5:1-11 and write what causes us to rejoice.
2. Explain what it means to have inner peace.
3. Explain what it means to you to be able to pray directly to God through Christ and not have to offer a sacrifice or go through some other person.

As Christians, we have a real reason to be full of joy. God has promised us many wonderful things, including eternal life. In addition to rejoicing because God has promised us eternal life, we also rejoice because God gives us the privilege of suffering for Him. This suffering causes us to become more patient. This patience when we are suffering causes us to develop into the kind of person God wants us to be. This causes us to have great joy both now and forever. We have great joy now because the love of God fills our lives and we are then able to share this love with others. We also have great joy because we have eternal life.

4. Read Romans 5:1-11 and write the two things these verses say we were like when Christ died for us.
5. Explain what it means to have the love of God shed abroad in our hearts.
6. Explain what you have personally learned from the fact that God has used tribulation to develop patience in your life.

Without Christ, every person is a sinner who has no strength to help himself. However, that is just the kind of person Christ died to help. Here, we also see a real picture of the love of Christ for us. We might be willing to die for our family or even some of our best friends. We might find it hard to die for people we do not know. Without the love of Christ in our lives, we would never think of dying for someone who did not like us. Yet Christ showed His love for us by dying for us, even though we hated Him. That is a love beyond our understanding.

7. Read Romans 5:1-11 and write what God did while we were still enemies.

8. Explain why God showed His love for us by sending Christ to die for our sins while we were still sinners.
9. Explain why you think the Father and Christ loved you so much that Christ came and died for your sins.

The death of Christ made it possible for men to be made right (reconciled) with God again. Before Adam sinned, he used to talk with God in the garden each evening. As soon as Adam sinned, he ran and hid from God. He had turned his back on God and could no longer face God. As a result of our sin, we all have our backs turned toward God. However, the death of Jesus Christ makes it possible for us to be reconciled (brought back together with God). We can now come directly to God because of the blood of Jesus Christ. We were reconciled by the death of Christ.

10. Read Romans 5:1-11 and write how we are saved.
11. Explain what it means to be reconciled with God.
12. Explain why it is important to you that Christ died for you so you could be brought back to God and enjoy fellowship with Him.

We read that sin came into the world as the result of the sin of one man. This sin brought death. As a result, all men die because all have sinned. Here, we see that sin came long before the law. However, all men died from the time of Adam to the time that Moses gave the law. They died, even though they did not commit the same sin that Adam committed. We see that just as the sin of one caused all to die, the grace (undeserved kindness shown to us by God) of another causes many to live.

13. Read Romans 5:12-21 and write the name of the one who made this grace available to each of us.
14. Explain why Christ chose to die so He could give us eternal life as a free gift.
15. Tell how you would explain the results of the sin of Adam to someone who is not a Christian.

We go on to see a real picture of the difference between Adam and Christ. The sin of Adam brought death on all men. The grace of Christ makes possible the offer of life to all men. Adam brought judgment that caused all men to be condemned. Christ brought life that caused men to be made right with God. Adam was disobedient and caused men to become sinners. Christ was obedient and made it possible for us to receive the righteousness of God.

16. Read Romans 5:12-21 and write what the free gift of Christ produces.
17. Explain why the gift of Christ means that we receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
18. Explain how you would help a new Christian to understand how trust in Christ has made him or her right with God.

When the law came, it only showed the sinfulness of man in an even greater way. We see that a law does not make a person do right. It only shows him/her that he/she has done wrong. The government of a country could pass a million laws. However, those laws would not make the people better. Those laws only make it easier to show that people have done wrong. We can be thankful that although we have broken many laws and committed many sins, the love of Christ is so great that He will forgive every one of those sins if we will ask Him to forgive them. The sin nature of man brings death.

19. Read Romans 5:12-21 and write what the grace of God brings.
 20. Explain what you learn about the results of the obedience of Christ from these verses.
 21. Explain how your life was changed by the obedience of Christ.
- Since the grace of Christ is shown to sinful men, some men might ask whether they

should sin more so that the grace of Christ might be shown in an even greater way. Paul answers this question with a very strong No! As Christians we have a new nature. We are dead to the old sin nature. That old sin nature no longer controls our life. There is no reason to obey it any more. Baptism is a real picture of the fact that we are dead as far as the commands of Satan are concerned. We no longer need to obey him any more. Christ has raised us from the dead and given us a new life.

22. Read Romans 6:1-13 and write how we should walk because of this great change.

23. Explain what makes it possible for Christians to walk in newness of life.

24. Tell how you would explain to a new Christian that he/she has been set free from the control of the old sin nature.

God wants us to know that we are dead to the old sin nature. We are free from its control. We are to walk in the new life that Christ has given us. Just as Christ has been raised from the dead and given new life, we have been raised from spiritual death. Since we know that we have new life, we are able to live as God wants us to live. We are able to walk as God wants us to walk.

25. Read Romans 6:1-13 and write what happened because our old man is crucified with Christ.

26. Explain what it means to walk in this new life that Christ has given us.

27. Explain what it means to you, in your own life, to live unto God.

In addition to knowing that we have new life, we are to reckon or recognize that we are dead to our old sin nature. There are many Christians who are still letting sin control them. They have never recognized and accepted as true the fact that sin no longer has control over them. We will see in chapter 7 what happens when a Christian allows sin to control. Then, we will see what happens in chapter 8 when a Christian realizes that the old sin nature no longer controls him. We have been seen free from that control. We now have a choice to whom we yield ourselves.

28. Read Romans 6:1-13 and write to whom Christians are to yield themselves.

29. Explain what it means to us as Christians to yield ourselves to God.

30. Explain why it is important to you in your life that you have been set free from the control of sin.

We are not to continue to let sin control our lives because we are no longer under the law. Instead, we are to yield control of ourselves to God. This involves presenting our lives to God. Once a person gives something as a present to another person, it is stealing to take that present back again. Here, we see that we are to give our lives as a present to God. Each time we then take the control of our lives and yield to sin, we are actually stealing from Him what we have given to Him. We need to realize that we are stealing from God each time we sin. We are told to yield our lives to God and let Him use our lives to complete His plan in the world.

31. Read Romans 6:11-23 and write whose servants we are.

32. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that Christians have been set free from the law so they are no longer under the law.

33. Explain how you see the power of God work in your life and through your life when you are yielding to Him.

Here, we see the fourth step needed to have a life that is full of joy and peace. We have already seen that we are to know that our old sin nature is dead. Then, we are to realize that we have new life in Christ. The third step is to yield control of our lives to God. Now, we see that we are to obey God because we are His servants and we have given Him control of our lives. Today, many Christians do not have lives that are full of joy and happiness. The reason why they do not have joyful and happy lives is due to the

fact that they are not obeying God.

34. Read Romans 6:11-23 and write why Paul said God was to be thanked.

35. Explain how a Christian can experience a joyful life instead of living a life that is miserable.

36. Explain why you experience joy in your personal life when you yield your life to the Lord and are obedient to Him.

We can thank God that He has changed us. No longer are we the servants of sin. Instead, we are the servants of God. As long as we were servants of sin, we had nothing ahead of us except death. The things we did before we followed Christ are things that caused us to experience fear, guilt, and shame. Since we are now free from the control of sin, we want our lives to be holy lives that produce fruit for God. Today, we need more Christians who will live the kind of life that God makes it possible for us to live. Many Christians are missing the abundant life that Christ wants to give them if they will yield to Him and be obedient to Him.

37. Read Romans 6:11-23 and write what kind of wages men receive for their sin.

38. Explain what kind of fruit Christians begin to produce in their lives as they are learning to yield their lives to God.

39. Explain why you think many Christians do things in their own strength, instead of yielding to God, even though it causes them to be miserable.

Men expect to get paid when they work. They would soon quit their job if their boss stopped paying them. Sin also pays certain wages. The wage is death. This does not just talk about the death we will die when we get old and die. All men die that kind of death whether they are Christians or not. When we are born, we are spiritually dead because we are born with the old sin nature. If we follow Christ, we receive new life and become spiritually alive. Those who never receive the life that Christ offers will die without Christ. Then, they will be judged and sent to the lake of fire and brimstone where the fire will burn forever. This is called the second death and is the wages that are paid for sin.

40. Read Romans 6:14-23 and write what gift God offers instead.

41. Explain what makes it possible for Christians to have a fruitful life on this earth as well as eternal life for the future.

42. Tell how you could use Romans 6:23 to explain to a person who is not a Christian the choices that result in eternal life or death.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In these two chapters, we have seen the results of justification. Our lives were changed and we were brought back into fellowship with God. We have been set free from the control of sin. We are now free to make a choice each time we are tempted. We can choose to yield to sin or we can choose to yield to God. When we choose to yield to God, we experience joy and peace in our lives. This week, pray that the Lord will help you explain to two new Christians how they have the choice to yield to God and experience the peace and joy that Christ gives.

Now, re-read Romans 5:1-6:23 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 18
Romans 7:1-8:17

Today, we will be learning the results of what happens when a Christian tries to live for Christ in his own strength. We will see that the result is failure every time. Such people try to do what he/she knows is right. Instead, he/she does the things he/she knows are wrong because he/she does not have the strength to stand by himself/ herself. When we come to chapter eight, we will see a complete change. There, we will learn what it means to live in the strength Christ gives instead of trying to depend on our own strength. We will see that the result of depending on the Lord for strength is victory.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how marriage shows what our new life in Christ is like.
- Explain what happens when a Christian depends on his own strength.
- Explain what happens when the Holy Spirit controls our lives.
- Tell what it means to be a part of the family of God.

Paul says that he is writing this chapter to those who know the law of God. In both the Old and New Testaments, there are many verses that speak about marriage. Throughout the Bible, we see that two people are married to each other as long as they are both alive. When one of the partners dies, the other partner is free to marry again. However, if that person were to marry again before the death of the partner, the person who marries again would be committing adultery.

1. Read Romans 7:1-13 and write to what we have become dead when we become Christians.
2. Explain what it means for a Christian to be dead to the law.
3. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you do not have to grow in your spiritual life by keeping the law.

When we become Christians, we are given new life by Christ. We are no longer controlled by the old sin nature. We are to realize that we are married to Christ. This is possible because we are dead to the old nature and alive to Christ. Because of this new life, we should bring forth fruit for God. This will be the normal thing when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit. We have been set free from the control of Satan and no longer need to live the kind of life he wants us to live. When we sin, we are actually obeying the devil. We are dead to him and should not be obeying him any longer.

4. Since we have been set free from the law, read Romans 7:1-13 and write how we should serve Christ.
5. Explain what it means to be dead to the law and alive in Christ.
6. Explain why you are able to do what is right each time you depend on the Holy Spirit to give you His power.

Although we are dead to the law, the law is not bad. In fact, the law is very good. The law shows us that we were sinners. When I read the law, I learn that it is a sin to covet (desire something that someone else has). Paul said he would not have known it was a sin to covet if he had not known the law. As a result of knowing the law, he knew that he was a sinner. Here, we see again that the law is good because it shows men how bad they are. It is sin that brings death, not the law.

7. Read Romans 7:1-13 and write what the law is in itself.
8. Explain why God gave the law.
9. Explain what it means to you to know that you are no longer under the law but have

been set free from the Law.

Then, Paul goes on to talk about what happens to a Christian who is still obeying the sin nature instead of depending on Christ for strength. As you read the rest of this chapter, you will see the words “I”, “me”, “my” or “myself” many times. This is the reason why a Christian can have an unhappy life. He/she is trying to do things by himself/herself instead of letting the Lord control his/her life. Paul says that a man who is depending on his own strength cannot understand why he does the things that he does. Instead of doing the things he wants to do, he does the things he hates. Here, we see that a man has no power in his own strength. He will fail every time.

10. Read Romans 7:14-25 and write what a man realizes about the law when he does the things he does not want to do.
11. Explain why a person fails when he/she tries to do good in his/her own strength.
12. Explain how these failures when you were trying to do good have at times greatly discouraged you in your Christian life.

The law is good, but no man can obey it in his own strength. Instead, he will sin. This is due to the fact that the Christian still has the desires of the flesh in his life. A man cannot control the desires of the flesh by himself. The reason why all men fail by themselves is the fact that no one has any good in himself. A Christian may want to do good, but he/she does not have the power to do it by himself/herself. He/she will continue to fail as long as he/she depends on his own strength.

13. Read Romans 7:14-25 and write what a man in this condition does when he wants to do good.
14. Explain why a person will actually do evil when he/she is trying to do good.
15. Explain how you feel about yourself when you want to do good and end up doing evil instead.

A man who is a Christian but depending on his own strength wants to obey the law of God. He knows the law of God is right and good. Every day, he starts out the day by thinking he is going to obey God that day. However, by the end of the day, he has done as many things wrong as he did the day before. He had thought about the right way to do things, but his actions did not agree with his thoughts. Instead, he did the things that were sin. It was just like there was a war going on inside of him. He could never get his actions to agree with his/her thoughts.

16. Read Romans 7:14-25 and write what the man who tries to obey the law but cannot call himself.
17. Explain why a Christian who wants to do good but does evil instead begins to feel like he/she is a total failure.
18. Explain how this struggle to do right and then going ahead and doing what was evil caused you to have a great conflict in your mind when you first became a Christian.

Perhaps your life is still like the life we have been studying in this chapter. Every time you decide to do the right thing, you do the wrong thing instead. You even try very hard to do the things that are right. It seems like you are never able to do the things you know you should be doing. God wants to change your life and give you the joy that you have when you know you are doing what is right. This change will happen when you let the Lord give you the strength to live for Him instead of trying to live for Christ in your own strength.

19. Read Romans 7:14-25 and write what a person who is continually having this struggle is serving with his/her mind.
20. Explain how it affects a person when in his mind he/she serves the law of God and yet, at the same time, his actions are serving the law of sin.

21. Explain why you think many Christians are living in their own strength and falling instead of letting Christ give them the strength to live for Him.

As we come to chapter eight, we see the answer to the problem of failure. We see that we no longer need to live a life that is filled with failures. Instead, we can be Christians who are no longer condemned by the sin in our lives. We see that the answer to our problem is to walk in the way that the Holy Spirit tells us to walk, not the way our sinful nature tells us to walk. In the first seven chapters of Romans, the Holy Spirit is only mentioned once. In Romans 8, the Holy Spirit is mentioned nineteen times. Walking means taking one step at a time. This is the way we walk in the Spirit. We take each step as the Holy Spirit guides us. This is the reason why we are to pray all of the time. We can pray as we work, walk, talk, or whatever else we do. This way the Holy Spirit guides our steps moment by moment.

22. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write what has made us free from the law of sin and death.
23. Explain what it means to learn to walk in the Spirit.
24. Explain what it means to you, in your own life, to know that Jesus Christ has set you free from the law of sin and death.

The law could never make us right with God. The law only shows us that we have sinned. Although the law failed to bring us to God, it did show us that we were wrong. Then, God sent Christ to bring us to God. Christ became a man so He could die for the sins of men. Now, because Christ had complete victory over sin, we can also have victory over sin as we walk in the Spirit moment by moment. As long as we were controlled by the sin nature, we continued to sin all of the time. However, when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will do the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do. He will give us victory over sin when we are yielding to Him.

25. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write what kind of a mind gives us life and peace.
26. Explain what it means for a Christian to be spiritually minded.
27. Explain what you are learning that is helping you to start doing the things of the Spirit that bring life and peace.

A carnal mind is a mind that thinks the way the devil wants it to think. A spiritual mind is a mind that thinks the way the Holy Spirit wants it to think. It is possible for a Christian to have a mind that still thinks the way the devil wants him to think. Sometimes, the devil tempts people to think about certain sins. Other times, the devil tempts the Christian to want and desire certain things. Often, the devil encourages a Christian to become proud and think of himself as a better Christian than others. Whatever way the devil can get a Christian to think, the devil will use that way to cause the Christian to fall.

28. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write who is alive in us if we are Christians.
29. Explain why many Christians do not act like Christ is alive in them.
30. Explain why you think the devil wants a Christian to think the way that those who are not Christians think.

When a Christian is thinking the way that men of the world think, he/she is not able to please God because he/she is not allowing God to control his life. If we let the Holy Spirit control our lives, our lives will be right with God and we will be filled with joy. The Holy Spirit will give us a life that is full and meaningful while we are here on the earth. We do not need to wait until we get to heaven to be full of joy. Instead, we can have that joy right now as we learn to yield to the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment.

31. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write what we are told will happen to those who live the way the sin nature tells them to live.
32. Explain why some Christians choose to be miserable instead of experiencing the joy

that Christ wants them to experience.

33. Explain why your mind feels like it is experiencing death when it is trying to live like the world and also follow Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 11, we also read that God may take the life of a Christian who lives in sin. He/she will have eternal life, but will lose his/her physical life because of his/her sin. Of course, a person who is not a Christian will be a part of the second death in the lake of fire where he/she will burn forever. However, if we live the way that the Holy Spirit tells us to live, we will have a joyful life here on earth as well as eternal life in heaven. We also have another wonderful privilege.

34. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write the privilege we will receive because we are led by the Spirit.
35. Explain why Christians can choose to be led by the Spirit of God.
36. Explain how you have experienced changes in your life as you have learned to be led by the Spirit of God.

Many Christians have not thought about what it means to be a child of God. This is a wonderful privilege. A child is a part of the family. We are a part of the family of God. We were chosen by God. He chose us and adopted us into His family. There was nothing good that we have done. He just chose us because He loved us. Now, there is nothing that anyone could do to take us out of the family of God.

37. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write what we can cry because we have been adopted into the family of God.
38. Explain why the Holy Spirit sets Christian free from the spirit of bondage.
39. Explain what it means to you to know that you are a part of the family of God.

As children in the family of God, we are made heirs of God. An heir is the one who receives all the things that belong to the one who is giving those things away. God has promised to give all things to Christ. Here, we see that we will share these things with Christ. This is why it is such a wonderful thing to have the privilege of suffering for Christ. We are actually having the wonderful opportunity of sharing with Christ the things that He has suffered for us. In Acts, we see that Christ only allows us to suffer for Him if we are good and faithful servants. If we have not had the privilege of suffering for Christ, we need to examine our lives to see if we are being faithful servants.

40. Read Romans 8:1-17 and write what will happen to us if we suffer together with Christ.
41. Explain why God gave us the Holy Spirit to bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.
42. Explain what it means to you to know that God has made you a joint heir with Christ.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In our lesson, we have seen that we became dead to the law at the moment we placed our trust in Christ. However, we often struggled because we did not even realize that we were dead to the law. We saw that when we try to live the Christian life in our own strength, we failed and continued to sin. Then, we saw that as we learn to yield to the Holy Spirit, we begin to experience victory over sin when we depend on the Holy Spirit for strength instead of depending on our own strength. We also saw that we have become a part of the family of God. This week, pray that Christ will give you the opportunity to explain to at least two Christians how they can have victory as they learn to yield their lives to the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment.

Now, re-read Romans 7:1-8:17 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 19
Romans 8:18-9:33

In our last lesson, we learned about the failure we will have if we try to serve Christ in our own strength. We also learned that it is possible to have victory through Christ if we depend on Him for our strength. Today, we are going to learn the wonderful results of letting the Holy Spirit control our lives. We will also see that nothing can separate us from God and His love. Then, Paul began to talk about his own people, the Jews. He was concerned because they had turned away from God. However, the prophets had predicted long before that the people of Israel would turn away from God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the Holy Spirit does for us.
- Tell why everything that happens to those who love God has a purpose.
- Explain why Paul was concerned about the Jews.
- Explain how God shows His love and kindness.

As we finished our last lesson, we saw that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ. Today, we learn a little more about suffering. We see that heaven is so wonderful that suffering now is so little that it is not even worth mentioning. The whole earth has been waiting for God to show those who are His sons. The earth wants to see those whom God has chosen. The earth itself is weak. The earth became that way because of sin, and yet the earth waits for the promises of God to be completed. One day, God will make a new earth that will be free from the things that came as a result of sin. The entire earth has suffered from the results of sin.

1. Read Romans 8:18-27 and write how we are saved.
2. Explain some of the ways the earth has suffered as a result of sin.
3. Explain why you think that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ as we look forward to the glory that will be revealed.

Just as the earth suffers as a result of sin, our bodies are also weak and suffer. We are looking forward to the time when our bodies will be made new and we will no longer have any aches or pain. This is the hope we have in Christ. Although we have not seen these things happen yet, we know that God is going to cause them to happen. Since we know that God is going to give us a new body, we can wait patiently for it. We know that God will give us our new bodies at the time He has chosen.

4. Read Romans 8:18-27 and write who prays for all Christians.
5. Explain why Christians are waiting for the day when our bodies will be set free from the results of sin.
6. Explain what it means to you to wait with hope and patience as you wait for the day when the effects of sin will be gone.

Here, we have a wonderful promise. Sometimes we do not know how to pray, so the Holy Spirit prays for us. These may be times of great sorrow or pain. The Holy Spirit puts into words the things that we do not know how to put into words. Since God knows our hearts, He also knows all about those needs for which the Holy Spirit is praying. We also see that the Holy Spirit prays that God will do things the way that He has planned. This also makes it possible for us to walk with God and know His will for our lives. Since the Holy Spirit prays that the will of God will be done, the Holy Spirit can also show us what God wants us to do.

7. Read Romans 8:18-27 and write how the Holy Spirit prays for us.

8. Explain what it means when it says that the Holy Spirit prays according to the will of God.
9. Explain how you know that the Holy Spirit prays for you.

We have a wonderful promise for all those who love God. Since God has called and chosen us to complete His purpose, everything that happens in our lives will be for His good. Sometimes we cannot understand the things that happen to us. However, we can thank God for everything that happens to us because those things are completing His purpose. God knew His purpose for the world. He knew all those who He had chosen to be a part of those He would save. He chose them to be like His Son. In fact, He is forming Christ in us. All those who God chose, He called. All those who God called, He made right with Himself by forgiving their sins. All those God makes right with Himself, He will take to heaven.

10. Read Romans 8:28-39 and write if anyone can be against us since God has done all these things for us.
11. Explain what it means that God is working to conform all Christians to the image of Christ.
12. Explain some of the changes the Lord has led you to make in the last year so your life would be more conformed to the image of Christ.

This is another wonderful promise for every Christian. There is nothing anyone can do to keep God from completing these promises. Since God is on our side, there is nothing anyone can do against us. We are promised victory. We know that God will keep all of His promises because He kept His promise to give us eternal life. Christ died and rose again to give us eternal life.

13. Read Romans 8:28-39 and write what Christ is doing right now.
14. Explain what it means when it says because God is for us, no one can be against us.
15. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to know that Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you.

Here, we see that Christ is speaking to God for each one of us. He tells God our needs. We also see that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We have many things mentioned that are not able to separate us from the love of Christ. The first group of things that cannot separate us from the love of Christ are those things which happen to us day by day. This includes problems and troubles. We do not need to fear when men do evil things to us because their evil deeds cannot separate us from the love of God. Of course, we do not need to worry about a lack of food or clothes. We do not even need to worry about the dangers around us. None of these things can separate us from the love of God.

16. Read Romans 8:28-39 and write what we are through the One who loved us.
17. Explain why the things that Christians go through each day cannot separate them from the love of Christ.
18. Explain what has helped you to learn for your own life that you are more than a conqueror through Christ.

The second list of things that might try to separate us from Christ's love is a list of powers in the world. This includes life and death, angels, rulers of the world, evil powers, and things going on in the world now and in the future. Even the things above or below the world cannot keep us from the love of Christ. In fact, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. This is the reason why we are more than conquerors through Christ. We know that we have victory through Christ. We cannot lose when we let Him control our lives.

19. Read Romans 8:28-39 and write the last thing that cannot separate us from the love

of Christ.

20. Explain why Christians do not need to be fearful since no created thing can separate them from the love of Christ.
21. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to have victory through Christ.

As we begin chapter 9, we see the concern of Paul for the Jews. Paul says that he could wish that he would be placed under a curse from God if it would mean that the Jews would accept Christ as their Savior and Lord. Here, we see a real picture of love and concern. Paul was more concerned about his people than he was about himself. Today, we need more Christians who have a great concern for their own people.

22. Read Romans 9:1-13 and write what Paul calls his people.
23. Explain what gave Paul such a love and concern for his own people, the Jews.
24. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about being concerned for your own people.

The Jew (Israelites) had many privileges. They were the nation that God chose to be His nation. They saw the glory of God in the wilderness. They were given covenants (wonderful promises from God that will never be changed). They also received the law of God, which included instructions about how to worship God. Throughout the Old Testament, they were given promises about the coming of Christ. God is keeping every one of His promises, even though the Jews may individually refuse to accept the promises of God. God keeps His promise to Abraham no matter what some of the Jews do.

25. Read Romans 9:1-13 and write which son of Abraham received the promises given to Abraham.
26. Explain why God chose to keep His promises to Abraham through Isaac.
27. Explain why it is important to you, in your own life, that God has never broken the promises that He made to the Jews.

God has chosen the nation of Israel to be His nation. Just as God chose Abraham to be the father of the nation, God also chose Isaac and Jacob. God did not choose them because they were good. God chose them before they were even born. The choice of God was not even based on the fact that God knew who would be good or bad. God chose them because it is a part of His plan. Today, God chooses us because it is a part of His plan, not because we are good or bad.

28. Read Romans 9:1-13 and write what God said about the children of Isaac and Rebecca before the children were even born.
29. Explain what these verses teach about why God chose us.
30. Explain how these verses have shown you that God makes His choices according to His own will.

Some people might think that God is unfair to only choose some people. However, the answer to that idea is given in these verses. All men have sinned and none have a right to be chosen. If God did to us what we deserve, He would send us all to hell. We rebelled against God, but God chose us and saved us in spite of our rebellion. We do see that God allows many men to rebel and finally go to hell. Pharaoh rebelled against God, so God used the rebellion of Pharaoh to show the power of God. As a result of the rebellion of Pharaoh, many people heard of the power of God.

31. Read Romans 9:14-33 and write on whom God says He will have mercy (undeserved kindness).
32. Explain why God has chosen to show mercy and compassion by saving some from their sin although no one deserved that mercy.
33. Explain why you are thankful that God chose to show His mercy to you.

Since we all deserve to die, it is the love of God that causes Him to show kindness and love to us. God actually shows this love to all people until the time of their death. We have no right to question why He chose us. That would be like a pot or jar trying to tell the one who was making it that he/she was making it wrong. The man who works with the clay can make any kind of a pot that he wants to make. God could show His anger against sin by bringing judgment on all men.

34. Read Romans 9:14-33 and write what God wanted to make known to us instead.
35. Explain why God chose to send Christ to die for sin so He could show His love by forgiving the sin of all those who accept the payment of Christ for their sin.
36. Explain why it is a great privilege for you to know that God chose to show you the riches of His glory by giving you eternal life.

God also shared His riches with us, even though we are not Jews. We do not deserve this kindness. We also have rebelled against God. However, we see that God has chosen us in spite of our sin. It is wonderful to think that God would choose us, even though we have done nothing to deserve eternal life. We see that God chose the Gentiles and also made them His beloved and called them the sons of the living God.

37. Read Romans 9:14-33 and write which prophet predicted that God would also make us His beloved.
38. Explain what you learn from these verses about how God chooses people.
39. Explain what it means to you in your life to be a child of the living God.

The prophets had said that Israel would be blind and that God would choose people who were not Jews. However, there has always been a remnant (small group) of Jews who have followed God. Even though God is choosing many who are not Jews today, there are still some Jews who are becoming Christians. God has not completely forgotten the nation He chose. The reason Israel did not receive the privilege of being right with God was the fact that they tried to earn their salvation by keeping the law. They failed and stumbled because it was impossible to keep the law.

40. Read Romans 9:25-33 and write how men are made right with God.
41. Explain why the law had become a stumbling block to the Jews instead of causing them to come to God in faith.
42. Explain how the Lord worked in your life to cause you to realize that you must be saved by faith and not by your own works.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In this lesson, we have seen that the Holy Spirit prays for us. We have also seen that God works through all things that happen in our lives to form the image of Christ in us. What a joy it is to be reminded again of the fact that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We also learned about the concern of Paul for his own people. This gives us a great example for our lives. This week, pray that the Lord will give you the opportunity to share with at least two people how they can receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Now, re-read Romans 8:18-9:33 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans

Lesson 20

Romans 10:1-11:36

In our last lesson, we learned how the Jews had turned away from God. Today, we will see that they turned away from God because they failed to believe the promises of God. However, Christ still offers eternal life to all those Jews who will come to Him and ask Him to forgive their sins. The need of the world today is for men to tell others about the life they can have through Jesus Christ. Some people might think that God has forgotten about the Jews. We see that God has not forgotten the people He chose. He has allowed their eyes to be blinded so we would have the opportunity to receive the Gospel. The day will come in the future when all of the Jews will worship God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what each person must do to become a Christian.
- Explain why we are told to take the Gospel to all people.
- Tell why God has put the Jews aside for a little while.
- Explain the promise that God gives about the Jews.

As we begin our lesson, we see again the concern of Paul for his people. He had a great desire to see the people of Israel become Christians. Today, we need more Christians who have a great concern for their people. The Jews were very religious, but they did not have a true knowledge of God. Since the Jews did not know the real way to be right with God, they worked to create their own plan to be right with God. Their plan was to earn their way to heaven by working instead of submitting themselves to Christ so Christ could work in their lives. This was due to the fact that they did not understand the righteousness of God.

1. Read Romans 10:1-13 and write who completes or ends the law.
2. Explain why many people are like the Jews and are trying to work out their own plan to try to be right with God.
3. Explain why you think many people do not understand that God is a righteous and holy God and that our own works will never help us reach Him.

The law did not make men right with God. However, Christ completed the law by providing a way for men to be right with God. If a man could have obeyed the law that was given by Moses, he would have been right with God. We have already seen, though, that it is impossible for a man to obey the law. Instead, a man must place his trust in Christ and accept His payment for sin if he wants to be right with God. We also see that man cannot bring Christ down from heaven or raise Christ from the dead in order to have eternal life. Instead, the Word, which can give us life, is very close to us.

4. Read Romans 10:1-13 and write how we are to confess Christ.
5. Explain why no person can work to earn his or her salvation.
6. Explain why you think many people will not accept the fact that the only way that they can come to God is through Christ.

Here, we see two things that will happen when a person becomes a Christian. First, in our hearts we will believe in the resurrection of Christ. True belief and acceptance of the fact that Christ rose from the dead is the only way we can be saved from the penalty of our sin. Second, what has happened in our life will cause us to want to speak to others about Christ. One of the first things that usually happens when a person becomes a Christian is a desire to tell others about Christ.

7. Read Romans 10:1-13 and write what promise God gave in the Old Testament to all

those who believe on Christ.

8. Explain why every Christian should want to tell others how to come to Christ and receive eternal life.
9. Tell how you would explain Romans 10:9-10 to help a person know how to have eternal life.

A true Christian will want to tell others about Christ. He will not be ashamed to tell others about Christ. It does not matter whether the person is a Jew or not a Jew. He will still want to tell others about Christ. God offers salvation to all men of every tribe and race. Christ will make the same change in a person regardless of the race or tribe of that person. Christ shares His riches with all who will receive Him as their Savior and Lord.

10. Read Romans 10:1-13 and write what will happen to all those who call on the name of the Lord.
11. Explain why God promises to give salvation to all those who will call on the name of Christ.
12. Tell how you would explain these verses to a person who has placed his trust in Christ to help him understand what God promises him.

Christ will save every person who comes to Him for salvation. The problem that many people face is the fact that they do not understand what it means to believe in Christ. As a result, they do not know that Christ will save them if they ask Him. Many do not know how to become a Christian because no one has ever told them about Christ. Here, we see the sad condition of many people today. They have never heard about Christ because we as Christians have not obeyed the command of Christ to go and tell others how to become Christians. The command is given to every Christian to go and tell others about Christ. We as Christians have all been sent. Now, it is time to obey and go.

13. Read Romans 10:14-21 and write where faith comes from.
14. Explain how Christ says Christians can have beautiful feet.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses about your privilege and responsibility to share with other people how to be saved from their sin.

Here, we see that a person will not know how to become a Christian unless someone takes the time to explain the Word of God to him. Today, we need to take time to explain to individuals what the Word of God teaches about the death and resurrection of Christ. As we take time to discuss the Word of God with other people, we are helping them to see how the Word of God applies to their own lives. As such people hear the Scripture and understand how it applies to them personally, the result will often be that they will put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. They must understand before they will accept Christ.

16. Read Romans 10:14-21 and write the first thing Isaiah said about the people in these verses.
17. Explain why true faith will only come from hearing the Word of God.
18. Explain what these verses teach us about the importance of learning and Word of God and learning how to explain the Word of God to others.

Here, we see again that the Jews, as a nation, refused to accept the promises of God. This is why God gave the people of other nations the opportunity to become Christians. God wanted to cause the Jews to have a desire to be a part of the family of God. Isaiah said that God had shown Himself to the people of Israel, even though they had not looked for Him. Today, God wants us to tell all people about Christ whether they are Jews or Gentiles. We know that some will become Christians when they understand

what the Word of God teaches about the death and resurrection of Christ.

19. Read Romans 10:14-21 and write what Isaiah said about the Jews.
20. Explain why Isaiah had written that the Gentiles would find God, even though they were not looking for Him.
21. Explain how these verses show that Christ wants to work through your life to help others understand the meaning of faith.

We have seen that the Jews turned away from God. However, this does not mean God has forgotten His people. God has always had a small group of Jews who have worshipped Him. During the time of Elijah, Elijah thought he was the only one left who worshipped God. Then, God told him that there were seven thousand men who had not worshipped the false god, Baal. In the same way, God is continuing to choose a group of Jews who will worship Him. As a nation, the Jews have stumbled and turned away from God. We see that the stumbling of the nation has not prevented God from saving a small group.

22. Read Romans 11:1-12 and write the reason why God allowed the Jews to stumble.
23. Explain why the Lord has always kept a group of Jews who have worshipped Him and have not turned to idols or other things.
24. Explain what you personally learn from these verses about the fact that people are saved by grace and not by works.

God has not forgotten the Jews. Instead, God has set most of the Jews aside for a time in order to save many Gentiles. God also did this to cause the Jews to become jealous and want to turn to Him. The setting aside of the Jews has caused us to have a share in the riches of God. We have received great riches because the Jews rejected Christ. However, we read that our blessings will be even greater when the Jews also turn back to Christ. Here, we see a wonderful promise for the Jews. God has not forgotten them. One day, they will turn to God as a nation.

25. Read Romans 11:1-12 and write what happened to the eyes of the people of Israel.
26. Explain what God promises the Jews in these verses about the future.
27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that God has not forgotten the Jews.

God goes on to give us a picture of what He has done. For this picture, God uses an olive tree. The olive tree is a picture of the blessings promised to the family of Abraham. Here, we see that some of the branches are broken off to make room for all of us who are not Jews. Notice the fact that not all of the original branches were broken off. The promises that were given to the Jews still belong to the Jews. We only have the privilege of sharing some of the blessings that belong to the Jews.

28. Read Romans 11:13-24 and write why part of the original branches were broken off.
29. Explain why Christians are not to boast against the original branches.
30. Explain how this illustration of the olive tree helps you to understand that God is concerned about both the Jews and the Gentiles.

Here, we are given a real warning. We are not to be proud because we are given this great blessing of sharing the promises given to the Jews. If we are proud, God will also judge us. God is even able to remove the Gentiles and put the Jews back in the place of importance again. We see that God has not forgotten the Jews. He will remember His promises to them and restore them to the place of blessing. He will cause them to believe in Him.

31. Read Romans 11:13-24 and write what God is able to do with the Jews.
32. Explain why God tells Gentiles not to be proud because God has chosen to show His blessing to the Gentiles.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the fact that you stand by faith and the fact that faith leaves no room for pride.

Paul goes on to say that God has blinded the Jews until the Gentiles have had an opportunity to follow Christ. When God has completed His plan of saving a group of Gentiles, God will complete His plan for the Jews. We read that the entire nation of Israel will turn to Christ when God opens their eyes. God says that He made a covenant (promise) with the Jews and God will keep His promise by saving the entire Jewish nation that is alive at that time.

34. Read Romans 11:13-36 and write what God promises will happen to Israel in the future.
35. Explain what God promises to the Jews in these verses.
36. Explain what you learn about the way that God is going to bless both the Jews and the Gentiles in the future.

Since the Jews refused to receive the Gospel, we have received the privilege of sharing the blessings of God. God does not change His mind, so the Jews will again receive the blessings promised to them. Here, we see that all men have sinned and failed to believe the promises of God. As a result, God shows His love and kindness to all people. As we apply these verses to our own lives, we see that every one of us has failed. We all deserve to die and go to hell. However, God showed His love and kindness to us and shared His riches with us.

37. Read Romans 11:25-36 and write the reason why we cannot understand God's wonderful ways toward us.
38. Explain why God has shown that all are guilty so He can then show His mercy to all nations and peoples.
39. Tell how you would use these verses to explain to someone that God is going to show mercy to both the Jews and the Gentiles in the future.

As we come to the end of this chapter, we see the greatness of the wisdom and knowledge of God. His ways are so wonderful that we cannot understand them. None of us are wise enough to understand how God thinks. None of us can tell God anything because He knows all things. No one can pay God for anything because everything belongs to God. Everything came from God. Everything is held together by God. All things are made for God.

40. Read Romans 11:25-36 and write how long we should give glory to God because of all these things.
41. Explain what these verses teach about the greatness of the wisdom and knowledge of God.
42. Explain why these verses show you the importance of studying and understanding the Word of God so you can continue to grow in wisdom.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In our study of these two chapters, we saw again that Paul had a great concern for the Jews, even though his primary ministry was to the Gentiles. We saw what a person has to confess and believe in order to have his or her sins forgiven. Then, we saw how God chose to set the Jews aside for a time so that He could show mercy to the Gentiles. We also see that, in the future, God is going to show His mercy to both the Jews and the Gentiles. This week, pray that the Lord will open the opportunity for you to share with at least two people what you have learned about the mercy of God for all people.

Now, re-read Romans 10:1-11:36 and then write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 21
Romans 12:1-13:14

Today, we will learn about the kind of life that God wants every Christian to live. First, we learn that we are to give our bodies to God so God can use our bodies the way that He wants to use them. Then, we will see that God has given every Christian spiritual gifts so every Christian can serve Christ better. As Christians, we are told to serve Christ. We are then given instructions about the way we should serve other Christians. We also see how we should act toward men who are not Christians. In the final part of our lesson, we will receive instructions about the way we should act toward our government.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how you may know the will of God for your life.
- Tell why God has given every Christian gifts for service.
- Explain how we should act toward other Christians.
- Explain how we should act toward people who are not Christians.
- Explain how we should act toward our government.

As we begin our study, we see that Paul is begging us to present our bodies to Christ as a living sacrifice. This means that we are to give our body as a present to Christ. This is something we do once. If we take back part of the control of our body, we are actually stealing from God and should confess our sin to Him. It is only natural that we should give our bodies to Christ for His use because Christ gave His life to save us. He did not hold anything back. He gave everything He had to save us.

1. Read Romans 12:1-2 and write what our attitude should be toward the world.
2. Explain why all Christians are urged to present their bodies to God as a living sacrifice.
3. Explain why you believe that God will work in your life and then work through you life if you present your body to Christ.

We live in the world, but we are not to be like the world. The devil controls the people of the world. If we think and act like they do, we are acting and thinking the way the devil wants us to act and think. The people of the world think only of satisfying themselves. As Christians, our whole goal in life should be to please God. Our thoughts should be to please God, instead of satisfying our evil desires. Instead of thinking and acting like the world, we are to be changed (transformed) so our lives please God.

4. Read Romans 12:1-2 and write how we are transformed.
5. Explain why it should be the goal and desire of every Christian to live to please God.
6. Explain what you think it means for you to be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Here, we see the key to the way that Christ changes our lives. It begins by developing a new way of thinking. This happens as we let the thoughts of God replace our thoughts. For this reason, we need to be continually memorizing Scripture. Then, we can spend our time thinking about the Word of God instead of thinking evil thoughts. When the devil tries to tempt us, we can ask God to help us think about His Word rather than allow the thoughts of the devil to stay in our mind. As our thoughts are changed, we will know God's good and perfect will for our lives.

7. Read Romans 12:1-2 and write what we get to know as our minds are being

transformed.

8. Explain how the Lord changes and transforms the minds of Christians.
9. Explain what these verses teach you about how you can know the will of God for your life.

Paul goes on to warn us that we should not think we are the one who is important. Instead, we need to realize that we are part of the body of Christ. This means that without Christ working in and through our lives, we are nothing. All Christians are different parts of the same body. Since we are different parts, all Christians must depend on each other if the body of Christ is going to work effectively. If a part of the body does not work, the entire body suffers. This is the reason why many churches are not doing very much for the Lord. Many of the Christians are not sharing in the work of the Lord.

10. Read Romans 3:3-8 and write what God has given every Christian so every Christian can serve Him.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that every Christian is dependent upon the other members of the body in order to function effectively.
12. Explain what these verses teach you about the fact that God has given you the exact spiritual gifts you need to carry out the ministry He has given you.

The first gift that is mentioned is the gift of prophecy. The Bible was completed with the writing of Revelation, so we have no more prophets. However, when we speak the things that are written in the Bible, we are actually using the gift of prophecy, especially as we warn people of the consequences of sin and the salvation that has been provided through Christ. We are to speak the Word of God, not our own words. The gift of prophecy is one of the speaking gifts and involves speaking the Word of God and not our own words. The gift of ministry is the gift of service or serving others. This gift is what equips some Christians to see physical things that need to be done to help the body. The gift of teaching is the gift of guiding others to accept the Word of God as the standard for their lives. Someone with this gift is able to help others understand the doctrines of the Bible. The gift of exhortation is the gift of speaking words that edify, encourage and comfort others. It is also the gift of guiding others to apply the Word of God to daily living.

13. Read Romans 12:3-8 and write how we should give to the Lord.
14. Explain why God has given Christians different gifts and not all the same gifts.
15. Tell how you would explain these first four gifts to someone else.

When we give, we should do it with a generous and willing heart. Those who are given the gift of leading others should lead in such a way as to cause those people to depend on the Holy Spirit, not on the men that are leading. People who are led by the Holy Spirit will continue to be led by the Holy Spirit if leaders die or become unable to lead. If men are depending on the leaders instead of the Holy Spirit, the church will have serious problems if leaders fail. The gift of mercy (showing kindness) should be done with a happy heart that is full of love.

16. Read Romans 12:3-8 and write how a person with the gift of mercy is to exercise that gift.
17. Explain why God has given every Christian gifts to serve Him.
18. Explain which of these gifts you feel the Lord may have given you so you can serve the body of Christ.

As Christians, we need to act the right way toward the people around us. First, we see how we should act toward other Christians. We are told to have a true love for other Christians and not just pretend to love them. We are to hate the things that are evil and

do the things that are good instead. We are to treat each other with kindness and love. We should talk about the good that others have done, not about the things we have done. We should not be lazy as we work. Instead, we should always be serving the Lord because the Holy Spirit controls us. We are told to be full of joy. We should be glad to suffer for Christ. We should spend much time in prayer.

19. Read Romans 12:9-21 and write what we should do to those who persecute us.
20. Explain why the attitudes we have in our lives will determine the effectiveness of our use of the spiritual gifts Christ has given us.
21. Explain what you have found is the most effective way to help these attitudes develop and mature in your own life.

We are to help other Christians when they have a special need. We need to invite others to come and eat with us. This way, we can have fellowship with them. We need to rejoice with people when they are happy. We need to cry with them when they are sad. We are to have peace between ourselves and other Christians. We are not to be proud. Instead, we are to become friends with those who are not important. We are not to think we are wise. As we see all of these things, we realize that Christ must control our actions toward other Christians. We need the love of Christ in our lives if we are going to show this kind of love to others.

22. Read Romans 12:9-21 and write how we should overcome evil.
23. Explain why each Christian is to develop a concern to help and minister to other Christians.
24. Explain how your personal attitudes that you have as you begin the day affect your actions each day.

As we begin the section that tells how we should act toward those who are not Christians, we see that it can be summarized by saying we should do good to those who do evil things to us. Instead of wanting to return evil for evil, we should ask ourselves what is right and good. Then, we should ask the Holy Spirit to give us strength to live in peace with all men. As Christians, we have the peace of God in our hearts. This is a peace that no man can take away. If men hate us because we are Christians, we should show kindness and love so they can see what it means to have real peace.

25. Read Romans 12:9-21 and write who will repay men for their evil actions.
26. Explain why it should be the goal of every Christian to live at peace with all people whether they are Christians or not.
27. Explain what you have learned about the way that the Lord works when you do not try to get even but choose to leave all vengeance to Him.

We do not need to worry about getting even with others when they do evil things to us. God will take care of any punishment that they need. It is our responsibility to show true Christian love to those who do evil to us. If they are hungry, we should feed them. If they are thirsty, we need to give them water. By showing kindness to men when they hate us, we will make them ashamed of themselves. Christ gave us the perfect example of loving those who hate us. Christ had so much love for the men who killed Him that He asked the Father to forgive them. Christ died for us while we were sinners and hated Him. If Christ loved us that much, we should also be willing to love those who hate us.

28. Read Romans 12:9-21 and write how we are to overcome evil.
29. Explain why Christians are told to show kindness even to those who do evil.
30. Explain what you learn from these verses about the way you should respond to those who do evil to you.

In addition to telling us how we should act toward other people, God also tells us how we should act toward our government. We see that every government in the world is

there because God allows it to continue for a purpose. When that government has completed its purpose, God will judge it if it has been an evil government. When we fight against our government, we are actually fighting against the power that God has allowed to rule us. If we do that, God will judge us.

31. Read Romans 13:1-14 and write who is punished by the leaders.
32. Explain why God allows certain governments to continue even when they are very evil.
33. Explain why it is important to you to obey your government whether that government is good or evil.

Although a leader may not realize it, God is the One who allows him to rule. God will use that leader to complete His purpose. We are to serve our rulers because it is right to serve them. We are also to pay taxes to them if we owe taxes to them. We are to fear the rulers who should be feared. We are to honor those who should be honored. Here, we see that we are to have real respect for our rulers and the laws that they make. We are not to disobey the rulers just because we do not like the laws.

34. Read Romans 13:1-14 and write who we should owe.
35. Explain why Christians are to submit to their rulers so they can have a clear conscience.
36. Explain how you would teach a new Christian the importance of submitting to government and also to all that are in positions of authority.

Here, we see that we are to pay all of our bills. We are not to forget them. It is our responsibility to pay our bills immediately. We are also commanded to love one another. All of the commandments that relate to other people can be summarized by loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. If we love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, we will not do anything that will hurt our neighbor. Instead, we will do everything possible to show our love to our neighbor. True love actually completes the law.

37. Read Romans 13:1-14 and write how we are to love our neighbor.
38. Explain what it means to love your neighbor as you love yourself.
39. Tell how you would explain the statement that love is the fulfilling of the law to a new Christian.

As we realize the great responsibility that we have to share the Gospel, we need to awake from our sleep. We have very little time to tell others about Christ because the Lord is coming soon. The day will soon dawn. The night is almost over. Since the time is so short, we no longer have time to keep doing things as usual. Instead, we need to make every effort to let others know that Christ can give them eternal life. We need to let our lives be an example of the life that Christ lived. In this way, others will see that Christ can change their lives as well.

40. Read Romans 13:1-14 and write why we should put on the Lord.
41. Explain why Christians are to put on the armor of light.
42. Explain why it is important for you not to provide yourself with an excuse to fulfill an evil desire.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In our study of these two chapters, we have seen that we are to present ourselves to God. We have also seen that Christ has given each one of us spiritual gifts in order to serve Him effectively. We saw that we need to have the proper attitudes and actions as we exercise those gifts. We are also told how to minister to those who do evil toward us. Then, we saw that we are to place ourselves under the authority of our government. Finally, we saw that we are to act in love and not allow ourselves an excuse to do evil. This week, pray that the Lord

will give you the opportunity to share what you have learned about spiritual gifts with at least two other Christians.

We are not to let the flesh (our old sin nature) control our lives. Instead, we are to let Christ control our lives. Now, re-read Romans 12:1-13:14 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Acts and Romans
Lesson 22
Romans 14:1-16:27

Many Christians are puzzled about what things are right and what things are wrong. In our lesson today, we will see how God answers that problem. We see that our first responsibility is to do those things which God has shown us are right and avoid those things which He has shown are wrong. Then, when we do not know whether something is right or wrong, we should ask ourselves whether that thing would cause our brother to stumble and fall. If something we would do or say would cause a weaker Christian to sin, then we should avoid doing that thing even if we feel it is right and good. We will also learn today how God wants us to act toward each other. Finally, we will see the greetings of Paul to the people in Rome.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how a Christian should know what to do.
- Tell how God wants us to act toward each other.
- Tell what Paul planned to do after he wrote this letter.
- Explain what lessons we learn from the other Christians that are mentioned.

Today, some Christians say that certain things are all right while other Christians say that those things are sin. In this lesson, we will see that we are given two examples to use as guidelines. The principles we learn from these examples will guide us in every situation where we are not sure what is right and what is wrong. In the time of Paul, many people wondered whether they should eat meat that had been offered to idols. The other problem in the time of Paul was the question of whether they should celebrate ceremonial days.

1. Read Romans 14:1-12 and write what we are not to do when someone does something that we think is questionable.
2. Explain why some Christians may feel that something is wrong while other Christians may feel that thing is not wrong.
3. Explain why you believe it is important for you to avoid judging others who may not agree about the same things that you feel may be right or wrong.

God is the one who will judge whether a man is right or wrong, so we are not to judge them. If the Bible says that a certain thing is sin, then we should help a Christian who is doing that thing to realize what the Bible says. If the Bible does not speak about a certain thing, we are not to spend our time arguing with another Christian about whether that thing is right. Instead, we are to encourage him/her because he/she is a Christian brother/sister. We are to be persuaded in our own mind what is right and wrong and then do only those things we know are right. However, we must not make our opinions, of what is right and wrong, a standard by which we judge other Christians.

4. Read Romans 14:1-12 and write to whom we are to live.
5. Explain why Christians are not to judge other Christians based on their own opinions of what is right or wrong.
6. Explain why you feel that your most important responsibility is to live to please the Lord and do the things you know He wants you to do.

The question of ceremonial days and holidays is a real question for some people today. In these verses, we see how we should feel about such days. We should realize that everything we do should bring glory to God. If we are celebrating a holiday, are we keeping Christ as the center of our celebration? Are we using that day to tell others

about Christ? We are not living for ourselves. Instead, we are living for Christ. All of the things we do, on any day of the week, should be done to serve the Lord. If our desire is to please the Lord in all that we do, we will be bringing glory to God.

7. Read Romans 14:1-12 and write to whom we will give an account if we do what is wrong.
8. Explain what Christians should do about questionable things according to these verses.
9. Explain what you learn for your own life from these verses about why we should not judge another Christian.

We are also given certain instructions about things we may feel are right. Even though we may feel that something is right, we should not do that thing if it will cause a weaker Christian to stumble and sin. We should show the love of God by avoiding the things that will cause another Christian to stumble. This means that there are some things we choose not to do for the sake of other Christian brothers. In this way, we are helping them to grow strong so they can serve Christ better. When we show this kind of love, we will be right with God. We will have inner peace. We will be filled with joy by the Holy Spirit.

10. Read Romans 14:13-23 and write what we are told to follow.
11. Explain why Christians should show Christian love by not causing other Christians to stumble.
12. Explain what you learn for your own life about not causing other Christians to stumble from these verses.

We also see that we should do things that help bring peace between Christian brothers. Today, this is one of the things that is needed in many churches. There are some churches where part of the Christians do not speak to other Christians. We are to forgive each other and let the love of Christ control our lives so we have real peace between each other. We are also told to do those things that will help other Christians to grow stronger. If we are busy helping other Christians grow stronger, we will not have time to do things that might be wrong. Those things will cease to be a problem because we will not have time for them.

13. Read Romans 14:13-23 and write what things we are to follow as Christians.
14. Explain what it means when it says that the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
15. Explain what makes it possible for you to personally follow peace and the things that build up other Christians.

We see that we should only do things that do not cause us to feel guilty. Any time we do something that causes us to feel guilty, we may be doing something that is wrong. We lose the inner peace and joy that comes from knowing that we are right with God. When we have doubts about whether a thing is right or wrong, we should not do that thing. We are condemning ourselves because we are not doing that thing in faith. Everything that is not done by faith is sin.

16. Read Romans 14:13-23 and write what causes a man to be happy.
17. Explain what these verses teach that Christians should do to help a weaker brother.
18. Explain some of the ways you have found that you can personally help weaker Christians in their lives and spiritual growth.

We are given the final instructions about questionable things in the first part of chapter fifteen. We are to follow the example of Christ. Christ did not live to please Himself. Instead, Christ lived to please His Father. He was willing to suffer or do whatever was necessary in order to please the Father. Now, we are told to live our lives so we please

Christ and our Christian brothers and help them to become stronger for the Lord. Christ set aside His human desires so He could please the Father. Today, we need to set aside our desires so we can live lives that are pleasing to God.

19. Read Romans 15:1-13 and tell why the Bible was written according to these verses.
20. Explain why the things written in the Old Testament can help us learn how to live our lives and give us hope.
21. Explain some of the ways you can help newer Christians learn lessons from the Word of God to help build them up spiritually.

We received the Word of God so we could learn from it and so it could guide our lives. It teaches us how to live lives that are patient. It gives us comfort because it instructs us in the right way to live. The final result is that we have a wonderful hope and promise because we know we have eternal life. Because of these things, God wants all Christians to think the same way and have the same kind of mind. The way that we think the same way and have the same mind is to think to please Christ, instead of trying to please ourselves.

22. Read Romans 15:1-13 and write what we will all do when we have the same mind.
23. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to accept one another.
24. Explain what lessons you learn for your life about how to develop unity between Christians.

Here, we see that when Christians all have the same kind of mind and thoughts, they will all speak for Christ. Here, we see a big reason why there are not more Christians witnessing for Christ. We saw several times in the book of Acts that when the Christians all had the same mind, there were many who became Christians because the Christians were all praying and witnessing. We also see that there will be great rejoicing when all Christians have the same mind. People of all tribes and races will be praising God together because they have become one through Christ. We will all be filled with joy and peace as we witness together through the power of the Holy Spirit.

25. Read Romans 15:1-13 and write with what the God of hope wants to fill our lives.
26. Explain how the power of the Holy Spirit can cause Christians to be filled with joy, peace, and hope.
27. Explain what lessons you have learned for your own life about depending on the power of the Holy Spirit to change you life instead of trying to change through your own efforts.

Paul goes on to tell the reason why he had written this letter to the Romans. He wrote to them because he was sure that they wanted to teach and encourage each other. As a result, Paul also wanted to share with the Christians in Rome. He was called to take the Gospel to the Gentiles and he wanted to share what the Holy Spirit had taught him with Gentiles in all parts of the world. The reason he had not come to Rome was due to the fact that he wanted to preach the Gospel to those who had never heard. Now, Paul had taken the Gospel to all the places from Jerusalem to the northwest edge of Greece. The only places to go now were past Rome.

28. Read Romans 15:14-33 and write what country Paul wanted to visit that he had never visited before.
29. Explain why Christians who are full of goodness and knowledge are able to admonish one another effectively.
30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Paul was concerned to help the Gentiles become obedient to God both in word and in deed.

We see that the desire of Paul was to continue to take the Gospel to places where they had never heard about Christ. He was not satisfied to continue to preach to those who

had already heard about Christ. He wanted others to hear also. Here, we have an example for us today. We should not be satisfied to only witness to those who come to us. Instead, our desire should be to continually take the Gospel to those who have never understood what it means to follow Christ. As we take the Gospel to others, we will also be filled with joy.

31. Read Romans 15:14-33 and write where Paul was going before he came to Rome.
32. Explain why Christians should be concerned about those who have not yet heard the Gospel and do whatever they can to help them hear.
33. Explain what you learn from Paul about your personal responsibility to take the Gospel to those who have not yet heard.

The people who had become Christians in the places where Paul preached the Gospel were concerned about the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem. The new Christians had collected a large gift of money to send to the Christians in Jerusalem. Since the Jews in Jerusalem had used everything they had to help take the Gospel to other places, the Christians in other places now wanted to share what they had to meet the physical needs of the Christians in Jerusalem. Here, we see a real example of Christian love. The love of Christ should make us want to share when we see other Christians who have needs.

34. Read Romans 15:14-33 and write what Paul asked the Christians in Rome to do for him as he went to Jerusalem.
35. Explain why the Christians in Macedonia and Achaia give an example for all Christians by their concern for other Christians.
36. Explain what you learn from these verses about your responsibility to share with other Christians when they have a need.

In the final chapter of Romans, we see that Paul sends greetings to many Christians in the city of Rome. Many of these people were probably those who had become Christians in other cities when Paul witnessed to them. They had moved to Rome and witnessed there. Two of these people we met in our study of the book of Acts. Paul had lived with Priscilla and Aquila when he first started preaching in the city of Corinth. They had helped Paul establish the church in Corinth. Later, they had helped Paul establish the church in the city of Ephesus. Now, we see that they had moved to Rome and established a church in their house. This is the way the early church spread. Whenever a Christian moved to another area, he would establish a church in his house. When the church grew too large for one house, part of the Christians would go and establish churches in other houses.

37. Read Romans 16:1-27 and write what Paul warns us to do with men who cause divisions by teaching false doctrine.
38. Explain how Aquila and Priscilla provide an example for all Christians about the way to spread the Gospel.
39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own ministry to Christians in other areas by the fact that Paul took time to greet many individual Christians by name.

Today, there are many people who are trying to divide the church by teaching false doctrine. Such people are serving themselves instead of Christ. They want to get people to follow them. Often, they are very good speakers, so it is easy for them to get many people to follow them. However, they lead men away from Christ. Paul warns us to seek the good things and avoid the things that are evil. The final part of the letter gives the names of several that wanted to send their greetings to the church in Rome. One of those who sent greetings was Gaius. It was in his house that the church met. Another who said hello to the Christians was the one who did the writing for Paul.

40. Read Romans 16:1-27 and write the name of the man who did the writing for Paul.
41. Explain what these verses teach is one of the primary reasons why false teachers try

to cause divisions between Christians.

42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Paul says he wants us to be wise toward the things that are good and ignorant concerning the things that are evil.

Lessons are learned best when we put them into practice. In the chapters that we have studied in this lesson, we have seen that we are to have a real concern to help other Christians in their spiritual growth. We are not to judge them when they have different opinions about what is right and what is wrong. Instead, we are to help weaker Christians in their growth. We also saw that the great concern of Paul was to help Christians everywhere in their spiritual growth. This week, pray that the Lord will lead you to at least two Christians that you can help in their spiritual growth.

Now, re-read Romans 14:1-16:27 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters today.