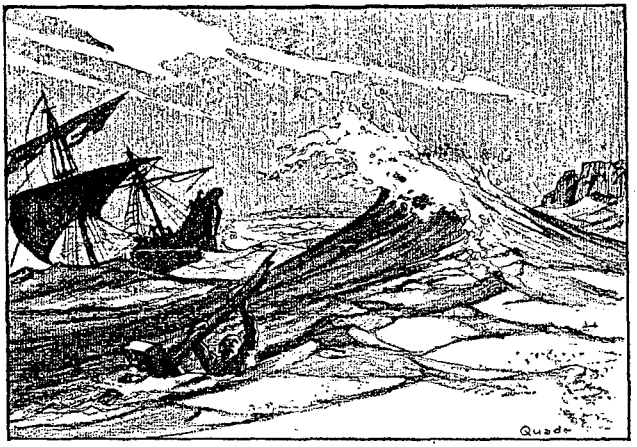
A. T. Robinson



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

Second Quarter, 1927
SENIOR DIVISION

The Acts of the Apostles

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, June 27, 1927
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

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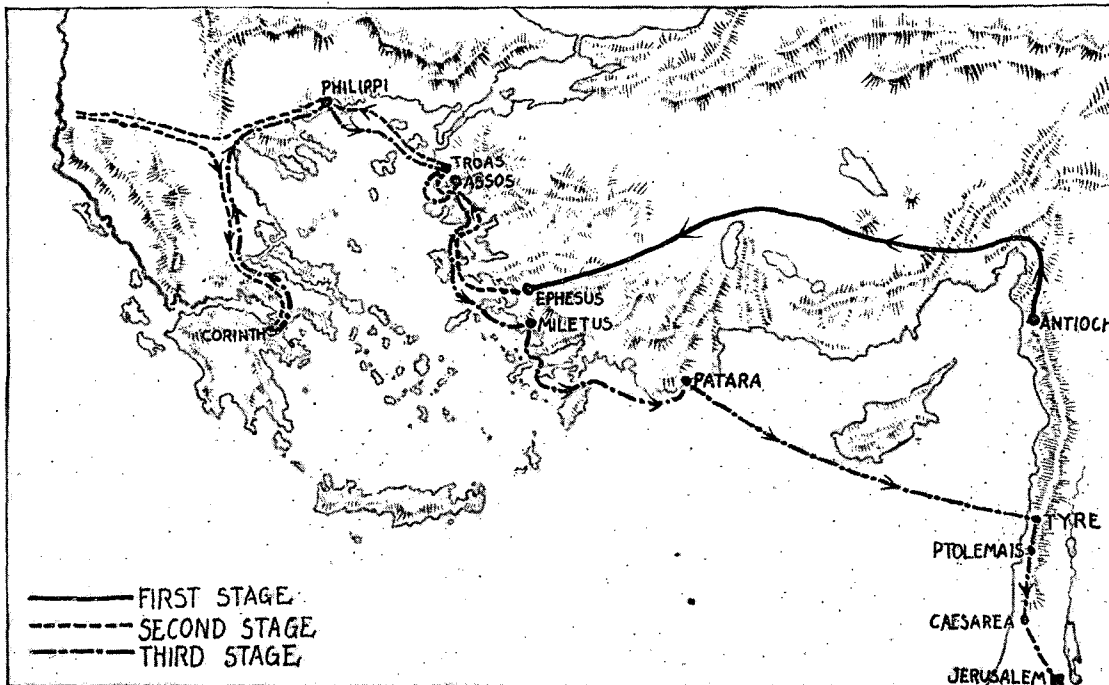


PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 1

PAUL AND APOLLOS AT EPHESUS

April 2, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 18: 23 to 19: 20.
MEMORY VERSE: "Fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified." Acts 19: 17.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 281-290.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Starting on his third missionary journey, Paul probably left Antioch in Syria early in A. D. 54, revisiting the churches which he had previously founded in the provinces of Galatia and Phrygia; thence he came to Ephesus, which was a prominent center in Asia. This missionary journey is supposed to have occupied a period of almost four years.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson," and Acts 18: 23 to 19: 7. Children may trace on the map Paul's journey from Antioch to Ephesus. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-4, and note. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read pages 269 and 270 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 5-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4 and 5 of the primary lesson. Read pages 281-285 of the Lesson Help.
4. Read Acts 19: 8-20. Let the children get the outline of this portion of the lesson in mind: Paul preaching in a hall; miracles; sons of Sceva; burning of books.
5. Study Questions 9-15, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 6-9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 285-290 of the Lesson Help.
6. Study Questions 16 and 17, and note. Consider topics under "Personal Reflections." Children may read paragraphs 10-12 of the primary lesson.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Study notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Ask questions under heading, "Can You Tell?" in junior lesson.

THE LESSON

1. Leaving Antioch, what provinces did Paul visit in beginning his third missionary journey? Acts 18: 23.

2. Who preceded Paul in visiting the city of Ephesus? Verse 24.

3. How did Apollos gain a fuller knowledge of the gospel message? Verses 25, 26.

NOTE.—Apollos "had heard the preaching of John the Baptist, had received the baptism of repentance, and was a living witness that the work of the prophet had not been in vain."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 269.

4. What is said of the further labors of Apollos? Verses 27, 28.

5. On meeting some of the disciples of Apollos at Ephesus, what questions did Paul ask them? How did they reply? Acts 19: 1-3.

NOTE.—"They were leading a life of fasting, and prayers, and alms; but they had not passed on to 'righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.'"—Plumptre.

6. What instruction did Paul give them? Verse 4.

NOTE.—It is interesting to note in this connection how Paul later rebuked the spirit of partisanship. See 1 Cor. 1:12, 13; 3:21-23. As this spirit is not unknown in the church to-day, we would do well to heed the following instruction: "He who sends forth gospel workers as His ambassadors is dishonored when there is manifested among the hearers so strong an attachment to some favorite minister that there is an unwillingness to accept the labors of some other teacher. The Lord sends help to His people, not always as they may choose, but as they need; for men are short-sighted, and can not discern what is for their highest good. It is seldom that one minister has all the qualifications necessary to perfect a church in all the requirements of Christianity; therefore God often sends to them other ministers, each possessing some qualifications in which the others were deficient.

"The church should gratefully accept these servants of Christ, even as they would accept the Master Himself. They should seek to derive all the benefit possible from the instruction which each minister may give them from the word of God. The truths that the servants of God bring are to be accepted and appreciated in the meekness of humility, but no minister is to be idolized."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 277, 278.

7. How did the disciples of Apollos respond to this instruction? Verse 5.

NOTE.—"The New Testament phrase is 'baptized in' or 'into,' to express the close union with God into which men are brought by baptism."—Cambridge Bible.

8. What demonstration of the Holy Spirit followed this instance of rebaptism? Verses 6, 7.

NOTE.—"As at Jerusalem, so here was the Spirit given in this great center of Gentile activity that a like result might follow, and that the amazement and marvel at such a power might win attention to the message and gain converts to Christ."—Cambridge Bible.

9. How long did Paul continue to speak in the synagogue at Ephesus? What is said of his manner of work? Verse 8.

10. How were some affected by Paul's teaching? What did their evil speaking lead him to do? Where did he afterwards take the believers for further instruction? Verse 9.

NOTE.—We know nothing more of Tyrannus. This "school" might have been a lecture room, or hall, rented to Paul for a portion of each day. Paul undoubtedly worked at his trade in this city as he had at Corinth.

11. How long did Paul remain there? How extensive was the influence of his work? Verse 10.

NOTE.—"The audience of Paul was made up not of the settled inhabitants of Ephesus only, but of those who visited the city for business or pleasure, and carried news of the preacher and his message to all corners of the district."—Cambridge Bible.

12. How did God manifest His power through the great apostle? Verses 11, 12.

NOTE.—"The imperfect tense of the verb in the Greek implies that these manifestations of God's power were continued during the apostle's stay. This was no mere spasmodic excitement over some powerful discourse."—Cambridge Bible.

13. What attempt was made to counterfeit Paul's work? Verses 13, 14.

14. What results followed this attempt? Verses 15, 16.

15. How were the efforts of these apostate teachers overruled for the furtherance of the gospel? Verse 17.

NOTE.—"Thus unmistakable proof was given of the sacredness of the name of Christ, and the peril which they incurred who should invoke it without faith in the divinity of the Saviour's mission."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 288.

16. How were the true fruits of repentance shown by many? Verses 18, 19.

NOTE.—"These treatises on divination contained rules and forms of communication with evil spirits. They were the regulations of the worship of Satan,—directions for soliciting his help and obtaining information from him. By retaining these books the disciples would have exposed themselves to temptation; by selling them they would have placed temptation in the way of others."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 288, 289.

"In this Greek city the pieces of silver were probably Attic drachmas, worth about twenty cents each, the whole being worth ten thousand dollars, but in purchasing power that sum was equal to perhaps one hundred thousand dollars of our money."—Peloubet.

17. After this victory for the truth, what is said of the word of God? Verse 20.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

One may be a true Christian while ignorant of some of the most blessed truths of the gospel. When clearer light comes, he must accept it, if he would continue in the faith. Acts 18: 25.

From every true Christian there goes forth power; it is a blessing to come in contact with him. Acts 19: 12.

God sometimes overcomes the wonders and works of opponents by greater wonders and better works. Verse 17.

The proof of our being Christians is seen in the giving up of all wrong no matter what the cost, and the acceptance of the right. Verses 18, 19.

TROUBLE AT EPHESUS

April 9, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 19: 21-41.
MEMORY VERSE: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." Exodus 20: 4.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 291-297.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul, under the impression that his labors in Ephesus were drawing to a close, mapped out for himself his further journeys.

"For over three years Ephesus was the center of Paul's work. A flourishing church was raised up here, and from this city the gospel spread throughout the province of Asia, among both Jews and Gentiles. . . .

"Once a year, special ceremonies were held at Ephesus in honor of the goddess Diana. These attracted great numbers of people from all parts of the province. Throughout this period, festivities were conducted with the utmost pomp and splendor.

"This gala season was a trying time for those who had newly come to the faith. The company of believers who met in the school of Tyrannus were an inharmonious note in the festive chorus, and ridicule, reproach, and insult were freely heaped upon them."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 291, 292.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson. Consult a Bible Dictionary for a further description of the temple of Diana than that given in the note.
3. Study Questions 4-8, and note. Children may read paragraphs 3-6 of the primary lesson. Read pages 291-293 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-12, and notes. Children may read paragraph 7 of the primary lesson. Read pages 293 and 294 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 13-17. Children may read paragraphs 8 and 9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 295-297 of the Lesson Help.
6. Relate the story of the lesson, giving all details, each member of the family taking part. Discuss the topics under heading, "Special Questions" in junior lesson, if the "Youth's Instructor" is available.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. As Paul's work at Ephesus was about completed, what further travels did he contemplate? Acts 19: 21.

2. Who preceded him into Macedonia? Verse 22.

NOTE.—"Feeling that the cause in Ephesus still demanded his presence, he [Paul] decided to remain until after Pentecost. An event soon occurred, however, which hastened his departure."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 291.

3. What agitation was started at that time? Who led in the

trouble that was made? What was his occupation? What is said of the profits of the business? Verses 23, 24.

NOTE.—"An extensive and profitable business had grown up at Ephesus from the manufacture and sale of small shrines and images, modeled after the temple and the image of Diana."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 292.

The Temple of Diana was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and was two hundred twenty years in building. It was built of purest marble and is said to have "gleamed far off with a starlike radiance." One hundred twenty pillars, some of which were carved with designs of exquisite beauty surrounded the structure. In the center of the building was the shrine containing the image of Diana which was hidden from view by the vast folds of a purple embroidered curtain of finest texture. It is probable that "there was no religious building in the world in which was concentrated a greater amount of admiration, enthusiasm, and superstition."

4. What appeal did Demetrius make to his fellow craftsmen? Verse 25.

5. Who did Demetrius say was responsible for the decline in their business of making shrines? Verse 26.

6. How did he further appeal to the idolatrous prejudices of the people? Verse 27.

NOTE.—There was constant demand for the silver shrines. The rich bought them and gave them to the temple, where they were hung. The priests occasionally cleared away the older ones to make room for new gifts. Some of these statues were placed in dwellings for the protection of the home; small ones were worn or carried as charms against disease or accident. There was large sale to travelers, pilgrims, and merchants who visited Ephesus.

7. What was the effect of the speech of Demetrius? Verse 28.

8. Upon whom did the people vent their anger? Verse 29.

9. How was Paul prevented from entering the theater? Verses 30, 31.

NOTE.—"A report of this speech was rapidly circulated. 'The whole city was filled with confusion.' Search was made for Paul, but the apostle was not to be found. His brethren, receiving an intimation of the danger, had hurried him from the place. Angels of God had been sent to guard the apostle; his time to die a martyr's death had not yet come. . . .

"Paul's place of concealment was not far distant, and he soon learned of the peril of his beloved brethren. Forgetful of his own safety, he desired to go at once to the theater to address the rioters. But 'the disciples suffered him not.' Gaius and Aristarchus were not the prey the people sought; no serious harm to them was apprehended. But should the apostle's pale, care-worn face be seen, it would arouse at once the worst passions of the mob, and there would not be the least human possibility of saving his life."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 293.

10. What state of confusion marked this great assemblage of people? Verse 32.

11. Whom did the Jews put forward in their defense? Verse 33.

NOTE.—The fact that Paul and some of his companions were Jews no doubt made the Jews of Ephesus feel that odium was cast upon them. To let it be known that they had no sympathy with the Christians, they chose one of their own number to set the matter before the people.

12. How was Alexander the Jew prevented from making his speech? Verse 34.

NOTE.—Alexander was one of the craftsmen, a coppersmith, to whom Paul afterwards referred as having done him much harm. 2 Tim. 4:14. But the crowd was in no mood to make fine distinctions. Seeing he was a Jew, they thrust him aside, the uproar continually increasing.

13. When this two-hour tumult ceased, what appeal was made by the town clerk? Verses 35, 36.

14. What defense of Paul and his companions did the town clerk make? Verse 37.

15. Upon whom did he place the responsibility for the unseemly disturbance? What advice did he give? Verses 38, 39.

16. What did he say might be the result of the disorder? What was the effect of this speech by the town clerk? Verses 40, 41.

17. How does Paul speak of this experience at Ephesus? 1 Cor. 15: 32.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

How do my life, labors, and sacrifices compare with those of the great hero of this lesson?

If I am certain I am right, need I employ rash or radical measures to convince others?

Does the Lord protect His servants in the midst of danger and tumult now as He did in Paul's day?

LESSON 3

PAUL JOURNEYING TOWARD JERUSALEM

April 16, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 20.
MEMORY VERSE: "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20: 35.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 389-396.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul desired to end his third missionary tour by returning to Jerusalem in time for the feast of Pentecost. This feast would give him "an opportunity to meet those who should come from all parts of the

world to attend the feast. Ever he cherished the hope that in some way he might be instrumental in removing the prejudice of his unbelieving countrymen, so that they might be led to accept the precious light of the gospel. He also desired to meet the church at Jerusalem, and bear to them the gifts sent by the Gentile churches to the poor brethren in Judea. And by this visit he hoped to bring about a firmer union between the Jewish and the Gentile converts to the faith."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 389.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson. Read pages 389 and 390 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-9, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson. Read page 391 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 10-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 6-9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 392-394 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 15-20, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 10-12 of the primary lesson. Read pages 395 and 396 of the Lesson Help.
6. Review the narrative portion of the lesson. Children may answer questions on paragraphs 1-6. Review instruction given to the Ephesian elders.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss questions in the junior lesson under the heading "What Is the Meaning?" Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. Describe Paul's leave-taking of the believers at Ephesus. To what region did he go? Acts 20: 1.

2. What is the brief record of his labor in Macedonia? Trace on the map the apostle's journey from Ephesus in Asia to Corinth in Greece. Verse 2.

3. In writing of his labors in this region, what mention does Paul make of his trials? 2 Cor. 7: 5-7.

NOTE.—"In the autumn he [Paul] went to Greece and spent three months there, chiefly in Corinth, where he had much to do amid sickness and afflictions on every side, fightings without and fears within (2 Cor. 4:7-11), in caring for all the churches (2 Cor. 11:28), and correcting wrong conduct (2 Cor. 12:20, 21; 13:1, 2). It was four or five years since he had left them after a stay of a year and a half."—Peloubet.

4. How long did the apostle remain at Corinth? For what reason did he change his plan to sail directly to Palestine? Acts 20:3.

NOTE.—"Having completed his work at Corinth, he determined to sail directly for one of the ports on the coast of Palestine. All the arrangements had been made, and he was about to step on board the ship, when he was told of a plot laid by the Jews to take his life. In the past these opposers of the faith had been foiled in all their efforts to put an end to the apostle's work. . . .

"Upon receiving warning of the plot, Paul decided to go around by way of Macedonia. His plan to reach Jerusalem in time for the Passover services had to be given up, but he hoped to be there at Pentecost."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 389, 390.

5. What representatives of different churches were to accompany Paul to Jerusalem? Having left Paul behind, at what place did they wait for him? Verses 4, 5.

NOTE.—"Paul had with him a large sum of money from the Gentile churches, which he purposed to place in the hands of the brethren in charge of the work in Judea; and because of this he made arrangements for these representative brethren from various contributing churches, to accompany him to Jerusalem."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 390.

6. How long did Paul and his company remain at Troas? Verse 6.

NOTE.—"At Philippi Paul tarried to keep the Passover. Only Luke remained with him, the other members of the company passing on to Troas to await him there. The Philippians were the most loving and true-hearted of the apostle's converts, and during the eight days of the feast he enjoyed peaceful and happy communion with them."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 390, 391.

7. On what day of the week was the farewell meeting held? To what time did Paul continue his speech? Verses 7, 8.

NOTE.—"The labors of the early days of the week that was spent at Troas are not related to us, but concerning the last day we have a narrative which enters into details with all the minuteness of one of the Gospel histories. It was the evening which succeeded the Jewish Sabbath."—"Life and Epistles of the Apostle Paul," Conybeare and Howson, p. 520.

"The meeting was held on what we should call Saturday evening; but we must remember that the Jewish first day began from sundown on Saturday or the Sabbath."—"The Expositor's Bible," Vol. 2, p. 393. See Gen. 1:15; Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32.

8. While Paul was preaching, what serious accident occurred? What did Paul do and say? Verses 9, 10, 12.

9. How was the remainder of the night spent? At daybreak, what did Paul do? Verse 11.

10. While Paul remained at Troas for this evening farewell meeting, what does Luke say he and his companions were doing? Verses 13, 14.

NOTE.—The distance across country by a well-paved road from Troas to Assos was about nineteen miles, which could be traveled on foot in much less than the sailing time around the promontory.

11. Trace the route from Assos to Miletus. What was Paul's reason for sailing by Ephesus without visiting his former field of labor? Verses 15, 16.

NOTE.—"As the travelers sailed southward from Assos, they passed the city of Ephesus, so long the scene of the apostle's labors. Paul had greatly desired to visit the church there; for he had important instruction and counsel to give them. But upon consideration he determined to hasten on; for he desired, 'if it were possible for him, to be

at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.' "—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 392.

12. When Paul learned that the ship would tarry for a time in the harbor at Miletus, what means did he take of communicating with the Ephesian believers? Verse 17.

NOTE.—Ephesus was about thirty miles north from Miletus. The time of the ship's sailing being uncertain, Paul sent for the leaders of the church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus, where followed one of the most touching addresses ever spoken.

13. How does the apostle begin his address to the Ephesian elders? How faithful had been his labors among them? Verses 18-21.

14. With what uncertainty did he contemplate his future labors? Verses 22, 23.

"I know not what awaits me;
God kindly veils mine eyes,
And o'er each step of my onward way
He makes new scenes to rise;

"Where He may lead I'll follow,
My trust in Him repose;
And every hour in perfect peace
I'll sing, 'He knows! He knows!' "

—P. P. Bliss. From the last song written before the accident which caused his death.

15. What shows that Paul did not allow this uncertainty to weaken him in his purpose? Verse 24.

16. What solemn declaration did he make to the Ephesian brethren? Verses 25-27.

NOTE.—"Paul had not designed to bear this testimony, but while he was speaking, the Spirit of inspiration came upon him, confirming his fears that this would be his last meeting with his Ephesian brethren."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 393.

17. What solemn charge did he give them? Of what did he warn them? Verses 28-30.

NOTE.—Paul warns the elders against two dangers which threatened the church,—wolves from without that would come in to destroy, and those of their own number who would arise in their midst, who would cast away their former faith, and would teach things contrary to the truth. In this way, division in the church would be created, and these false brethren would draw away some of the flock after them. Observe that these disciples are drawn to these "false brethren" instead of to Christ. This danger still threatens the church.

18. Of what did Paul remind them? To what source of divine power and grace did the apostle direct them? What is the word of God able to do? Verses 31, 32.

19. What had Paul not coveted? What example had he given them? What words of Jesus did he ask them to remember? Verses 33-35.

20. Describe the scene of Paul's leave-taking of the Ephesian brethren. Verses 36-38.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Does the Holy Spirit bring to my soul, as it did to that of Paul, the comforting conviction that I am pure from the blood of all men"?

Am I as diligent and faithful in my sphere of activity as I ought to be?

Will the troubles of the future be able to move me from my course?

LESSON 4

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY ENDED AT JERUSALEM

April 23, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 21: 1-17.
MEMORY VERSE: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Galatians 6: 14.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 396-398.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul is hastening on his way to Jerusalem, greatly desiring to reach that city in time for the feast of Pentecost. His companions were Luke, Timothy, and six brethren from different churches in Asia. Paul's arrival at Jerusalem marks the end of his third missionary tour.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Trace route on the map. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Consult a Bible Dictionary for information on places mentioned.
3. Study Questions 5-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4-6 of the primary lesson. Recall interesting experiences in the life of Christ.
4. Study Questions 9-11, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 7 and 8 of the primary lesson. Recall a former prophecy made by Agabus. Acts 11: 27, 28.
5. Study Questions 12-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 9 and 10 of the primary lesson. Read pages 396-398 of the Lesson Help.
6. Relate the story of the lesson, giving all details, each member of the family taking part. Name characteristics of Paul revealed in this lesson.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. Having said farewell to the brethren who met him at Miletus, where did Paul go next? (Trace on the map.) Acts 21:1.

2. What transfer was made at Patara? Verse 2.

3. What island did they pass on the voyage? At what port did they land? Verse 3.

NOTE.—Sailing within sight of Cyprus, the apostle Paul could hardly fail to recall his experience with Elymas, the sorcerer, when visiting that island in company with Barnabas.

4. How long did they remain at Tyre? What counsel was given to Paul? Verse 4.

NOTE.—"At Tyre, where the ship was unloaded, they found a few disciples, with whom they were permitted to tarry seven days. Through the Holy Spirit, these disciples were warned of the perils awaiting Paul at Jerusalem, and they urged him 'that he should not go up to Jerusalem.' But the apostle allowed not the fear of affliction and imprisonment to turn him from his purpose."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 396.

5. Describe Paul's leave-taking of the believers at Tyre. Verses 5, 6.

NOTE.—The last parting moments here, as at Miletus, were employed in praying to Him who alone can give true comfort and protection. This contains a lesson we all will do well to heed.

6. What was the next place at which Paul and his company stopped? Verse 7.

7. What place did they reach the following day? Who provided them entertainment at Cæsarea? Verse 8.

NOTE.—This is the same Philip who preached the gospel to the Samaritans, and baptized the Ethiopian eunuch.

"Here Paul spent a few peaceful, happy days—the last of perfect freedom that he was to enjoy for a long time."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 397.

8. What is said of Philip's four daughters? Verse 9.

9. What prediction did the prophet Agabus make concerning Paul? Verses 10, 11.

NOTE.—"His [Agabus's] revelation was made in that dramatic form which impresses the mind with a stronger sense of reality than mere words can do, and which was made familiar to the Jews of old by the practice of the Hebrew prophets. As Isaiah (chapter 20) loosed the sackcloth from his loins, and put off his shoes from his feet, to declare how the Egyptian captives should be led away into Assyria naked and barefoot,—or as the girdle of Jeremiah (chapter 13), in its strength and its decay, was made a type of the people of Israel in their privilege and their fall,—Agabus, in like manner, using the imagery of action, took the girdle of St. Paul, and fastened it round his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus saith the Holy Ghost: So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man to whom this girdle belongs, and they shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "—"Life and Epistles of the Apostle Paul," Conybeare and Howson.

10. What united warning was given Paul by his companions in travel and the believers in Cæsarea? Verse 12.

NOTE.—"Both at Tyre and at Cæsarea, prophets warned Paul of the danger of going to Jerusalem. It was revealed to them, not that

Paul should not go, but that if he went, he would go into bonds, prison, and sufferings. The prophets inferred from this foreknowledge that Paul should not go on. But Paul recognized more clearly the voice of the Spirit, and his duty to proceed in spite of warnings and remonstrances."—Peloubet.

11. What reply did Paul make to their warnings? What was the effect of his reply? Verses 13, 14.

12. At what place was the third missionary journey terminated? Verse 15.

NOTE.—"Never before had the apostle approached Jerusalem with so sad a heart. He knew that he would find few friends and many enemies. He was nearing the city which had rejected and slain the Son of God, and over which now hung the threatenings of divine wrath. Remembering how bitter had been his own prejudice against the followers of Christ, he felt the deepest pity for his deluded countrymen. And yet how little could he hope that he would be able to help them! The same blind wrath which had once burned in his own heart, was now with untold power kindling the hearts of a whole nation against him."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 397, 398.

13. Who joined them at Cæsarea on their journey to Jerusalem? Verse 16.

NOTE.—"Some of the Christians of Cæsarea went along with them, not merely, as it would seem, to show their respect and sympathy for the apostolic company, but to secure their comfort on arriving by taking him to the house of Mnason, a native of Cyprus, who had been long ago converted to Christianity,—possibly during the life of our Lord Himself,—and who may have been one of those Cyprian Jews who first made the gospel known to the Greeks at Antioch."—"Life and Epistles of the Apostle Paul," Conybeare and Howson.

14. How were Paul and his companions received at Jerusalem? Verse 17.

NOTE.—Paul arrived at Jerusalem in time for the feast of Pentecost. This was his fifth visit to Jerusalem since his conversion many years before.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

We must maintain a very close connection with Heaven to be as certain as Paul was of the path of duty.

The times are very uncertain. In parting with friends or brethren, it is well to make prayer a part of the farewell.

Life itself must be kept continually on the altar.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

JUNE 27, 1927

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

LESSON 5

PAUL ARRESTED IN THE TEMPLE

April 30, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 21: 18-40.
MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 399-408.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

The meeting of Paul, the Lord's chosen apostle to the Gentiles, with the Jewish believers in Jerusalem, was an occasion of more than ordinary interest. James, the brother of Jesus, still occupied a position of responsibility in the church there. None of the twelve apostles are mentioned. They were probably widely scattered on various missions. Some of the leading brethren at Jerusalem still cherished prejudice against the methods of Paul and his associates. Paul felt that if he could remove this prejudice, he would clear away a great hindrance to the success of the work of the gospel; but the counsel of the brethren to Paul was not in harmony with the will of God.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read pages 399-401 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-10, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4 and 5 of the primary lesson. Read pages 402-406 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 11-14. Children may read paragraphs 6-8 of the primary lesson. Read pages 407 and 408 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 15-17. Children may read paragraphs 9 and 10 of the primary lesson.
6. Relate the story of the lesson, giving all details, each member of the family taking part. Discuss questions under "Do You Remember?" in the "Youth's Instructor," if the paper is available.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What report of his labors did Paul make to the brethren at Jerusalem? Acts 21: 18, 19.

NOTE.—"In the eight years since Paul had reported his work to the church at Jerusalem at the great conference (Acts 18: 21, 22), he had (1) made two long missionary tours; (2) revisited and strengthened the churches in Asia Minor; (3) he had carried the gospel into Europe; (4) he had founded large churches in Philippi, Corinth, Thessalonica, and Ephesus; (5) he had been the means of great numbers of conversions, and the great extension of the gospel; (6) some of the converts had been willing to endure much for the gospel; (7) they had sent large contributions by Paul to the poor at Jerusalem; (8) special miracles had been wrought by the hand of Paul."—Peloubet.

2. How was this report received? Verse 20.

3. What did Paul present to the leaders of the work at Jerusalem?

NOTE.—"On this occasion, Paul and his companions formally presented to the leaders of the work at Jerusalem the contributions forwarded by the Gentile churches for the support of the poor among their Jewish brethren. The gathering of these contributions had cost the apostle and his fellow workers much time, anxious thought, and wearisome labor. The sum, which far exceeded the expectations of the elders at Jerusalem, represented many sacrifices and even severe privations on the part of the Gentile believers."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 399.

4. Of what did they say the brethren at Jerusalem had been informed concerning Paul's labors? Verses 21, 22.

5. What did they urge Paul to do? Verses 23, 24.

NOTE.—"This was the golden opportunity for all the leading brethren to confess frankly that God had wrought through Paul, and that at times they had erred in permitting the reports of his enemies to arouse their jealousy and prejudice. But instead of uniting in an effort to do justice to the one who had been injured, they gave him counsel which showed that they still cherished a feeling that Paul should be held largely responsible for the existing prejudice. They did not stand nobly in his defense, endeavoring to show the disaffected ones where they were wrong, but sought to effect a compromise by counseling him to pursue a course which in their opinion would remove all cause for misapprehension."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 403.

"He [Paul] felt that if by any reasonable concession he could win them to the truth, he would remove a great obstacle to the success of the gospel in other places. But he was not authorized of God to concede as much as they asked."—Id., p, 405.

6. What compromise did Paul make in yielding to their demands? Verse 26.

NOTE.—"When we think of Paul's great desire to be in harmony with his brethren, his tenderness toward the weak in the faith, his reverence for the apostles who had been with Christ, and for James, the brother of the Lord, and his purpose to become all things to all men so far as he could without sacrificing principle,—when we think of all this, it is less surprising that he was constrained to deviate from the firm, decided course that he had hitherto followed."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 405.

7. Were the results of this concession what the elders had expected? Verse 27.

NOTE.—"But instead of accomplishing the desired object, his efforts for conciliation only precipitated the crisis, hastened his predicted sufferings, and resulted in separating him from his brethren, depriving the church of one of its strongest pillars, and bringing sorrow to Christian hearts in every land."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 405, 406.

8. What outcry was made against Paul? Verse 28.

9. Upon what was this false charge based? Verse 29.

10. How widespread was the excitement raised against Paul? Verse 30.

11. To whom were tidings of this uproar brought? Verse 31.

12. What did the chief captain then do? Verses 32, 33.

13. What was the reply to the chief captain's inquiry as to the cause of the excitement? Verse 34.

14. What occurred on the castle stairs? Verses 35, 36.

15. What request did Paul make as he was about to be taken into the castle? What question revealed surprise on the part of the chief captain? What other man had he thought Paul to be? Verses 37, 38.

16. What did Paul say of himself? What privilege did he ask? Verse 39.

17. How did the apostle silence the people? In what language did he speak? Verse 40.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Any deviation from right principles to gain a seeming present advantage, always hinders the cause of right and truth which we may be trying to advance.

Paul was not irritated by criticism, and was ever ready to listen to counsel. Rom. 12: 3, 16.

Paul, in the confusion on the stairway, was calmly thinking how he could secure an opportunity to testify for Christ. 2 Tim. 4: 2.

LESSON 6

PAUL'S ADDRESS ON THE CASTLE STAIRS

May 7, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 22.
MEMORY VERSE: "This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15: 12.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 408-410.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul had been seized by the angry Jews while he was in the temple, and they sought to take his life. He was protected from his enemies by Roman soldiers under the command of Claudius Lysias, the chief captain. As the soldiers were taking him up the steps into the Castle of Antonia, at the northwest corner of the temple area, Paul asked permission to speak to the Jews, and the captain gave consent. "Paul's every word and act at this moment of supreme danger evince remarkable courage, coolness, and self-possession. His one thought now was to seize the occasion of speaking to the people, when he had a great crowd before him, with their attention fixed on him. This might be an opportunity of bringing the truth to them."

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.

2. Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read page 409 of the Lesson Help.

3. Study Questions 5-9, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4 and 5 of the primary lesson. Read also Paul's experience as related in Acts 9.

4. Study Questions 10-13. Children may read paragraph 6 of the primary lesson.

5. Study Questions 14-18, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 7-11 of the primary lesson.

6. Relate the story of the lesson, giving all details, each member of the family taking part. Discuss questions under "Can You Tell?" in the "Youth's Instructor," if the paper is available.

Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. By what courteous introduction did Paul gain the attention of his hearers? Acts 22: 1.

2. What helped him to arouse their interest? Verse 2.

NOTE.—"Had he [Paul] spoken in Greek, the majority of those who heard him would have understood his words. But the sound of the holy tongue in that holy place fell like a calm on the troubled waters. The silence became universal and breathless."—"Life and Epistles of the Apostle Paul," Conybeare and Howson.

3. What did Paul say of his early life and training? How did he refer to his former zeal as a persecutor of the Christians? Verses 3-5.

NOTE.—Gamaliel was the most famous teacher of that time. "His learning was so eminent and his character so revered, that he is one of the seven who alone among Jewish doctors have been honored with the title of 'Rabban.'" He it was who gave counsel against slaying Peter and others. Acts 5: 34-40. He was still living, an aged man, when Paul spoke, but died three years later, while Paul was on his journey to Rome. The burial honors of a king were given him, while his pupil was to be put to death as a criminal. But in another school, at the feet of the divine Teacher, this pupil had exchanged the dead forms of learned rabbinical teaching for the life-transforming and saving truths of the gospel, "determined not to know anything, . . . save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2: 2.

4. How does Paul say he was arrested in his wrong course? Acts 22:6.

5. What conversation does he repeat? Verses 7, 8.

NOTE.—Saul saw that Just One, and heard His voice; and that one glimpse of the Saviour won his soul, and changed his life. It was conversion. Not with the same physical demonstration, but just as really, Jesus, by His Spirit, seeks to reveal Himself to every soul.

6. How were his companions affected by this vision? Verse 9.

NOTE.—To the casual reader there may appear to be a contradiction between verse 9 of this chapter and verse 7 of chapter 9.

"Paul heard intelligible words, the others heard a sound, but it was not speech to them. 'Heard not the voice,' that is, the words which

were spoken to Saul. They were only conscious of a sound around them."—Cambridge Bible.

7. What was Paul's first question after recognizing that Jesus was the Lord? What reply did Paul receive to his anxious question? Verse 10.

8. How was he enabled, in his blindness, to reach Damascus? Verse 11.

9. How was he delivered from this helpless condition? Verses 12, 13.

10. What message did Ananias bear to him? Verses 14, 15.

11. To what Christian duty was his attention next called? Verse 16.

12. When Paul made his first visit to Jerusalem after his conversion, what experience came to him? Verses 17, 18.

13. What led him at that time to feel that he ought to bear his witness in Jerusalem? Verses 19, 20.

14. At what point in Paul's address did they cease to hear him? Verses 21, 22.

NOTE.—"Hitherto the people had listened with close attention, but when Paul reached the point in his history where he was appointed Christ's ambassador to the Gentiles, their fury broke forth anew. Accustomed to look upon themselves as the only people favored by God, they were unwilling to permit the despised Gentiles to share the privileges which had hitherto been regarded as exclusively thir own. Lifting their voices above the voice of the speaker, they cried, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.' "—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 409, 410.

15. What command was given by the chief captain? Verses 23, 24.

NOTE.—"He [the chief captain] had not been able to understand the apostle's Hebrew speech; and when he saw its results, he concluded that his prisoner must be guilty of some enormous crime; . . . and before long, the body of the apostle was 'stretched out,' like that of a common malefactor, 'to receive the lashes.' "—"Life and Epistles of the Apostle Paul," Conybeare and Howson.

16. How was the captain's plan interrupted? Verses 25, 26.

NOTE.—"The Valerial law forbade any Roman citizen to be bound. The Porcian law forbade any to be beaten with rods."—Clarke.

17. What conversation followed? With what result? Verses 27-29.

18. What action was taken by the chief captain the next day? Verse 30.

NOTE.—"The apostle was now to be tried by the same tribunal of which he himself had been a member before his conversion. As he stood before the Jewish rulers, his bearing was calm, and his countenance revealed the peace of Christ."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 410, 411.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Isa. 30: 15.

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16: 33.

The apostle told his experience. Exhortation without experience is valueless.

LESSON 7

PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL; A PLOT MADE KNOWN

May 14, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 23.
MEMORY VERSE: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46: 1.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 411-418.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul had been ejected from the temple and roughly treated, but Claudius Lysias, the chief captain, had been unable to find out what the apostle had done that was wrong, for in the confusion "some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude." When Paul spoke from the castle stairs, Lysias could not understand him, for he spoke in the Hebrew tongue. When the Jews cried out and would listen no longer, the chief captain thought Paul must be a very wicked man. He gave orders to have him scourged, expecting that he would then confess his evil deeds; but Paul let it be known that he was a Roman citizen, and this plan was abandoned as "unlawful." Then the chief captain commanded the Sanhedrin to meet and set Paul before them, that he might understand what fault the Jews found with him.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson. Read pages 410 and 411 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 5-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3 and 4 of the primary lesson. Read pages 412 and 413 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-13, and note. Children may read paragraphs 5-9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 414 and 415 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 14-18, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 10-12 of the primary lesson. Read pages 415-418 of the Lesson Help.
6. Tell the story of the lesson, giving all details, each member of the family taking part. Answer questions under "What Is the Evidence?" in the "Youth's Instructor" junior lesson, if the paper is available.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. When Paul was brought before the Sanhedrin, what was his opening statement? Acts 23: 1.

2. How was the apostle's declaration of sincerity received? Verse 2.

NOTE.—The high priest Ananias presiding over the council, according to Josephus, was a tyrant of violent and unscrupulous conduct. "This unscrupulous man, angry at Paul's claim to be innocent, while the Jews, by word and act, had publicly treated him as a criminal worthy of death, 'commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.' "—Peloubet.

3. How did Paul show such a command to be unworthy the office of high priest? Verse 3.

NOTE.—" 'God shall smite thee,' is about to smite thee. Not a malediction, or a wishing of evil upon the high priest; but, like Christ's woes against the scribes and Pharisees, an expression of his belief that such conduct would be punished and ought to be punished. Within two years this Ananias was deposed, and four years later he met a terrible death at the beginning of the Jewish wars."—Peloubet.

4. What did those standing by ask Paul? What excuse did Paul offer? What words did he quote to show his respect for those in authority? Verses 4, 5.

NOTE.—Paul did not know it was the high priest who spoke. In reality, Ananias was not legally the high priest. He had been deposed from the office for bad conduct, and sent to Rome to answer. Released, he returned to Jerusalem, and found that his successor had been assassinated, and the office was vacant. "The Sanhedrin being destitute of a president, Ananias appears to have discharged that office by his own authority, and with much tyranny, and he might not then have worn the robes of the high priest."—Henry and Scott's Commentary. But Paul respected the office, however perverted.

5. What was Paul quick to perceive in the council? What advantage did he take of this? Verse 6.

NOTE.—Paul's belief in the resurrection had been confirmed by the fact that Jesus had risen from the grave. 1 Cor. 15:16-18.

6. What confusion did Paul's statement make in the council? What did the Pharisees cry out? Acts 23:7-9.

7. How was he again rescued from the violence of the mob? Verse 10.

NOTE.—"The result was that the council came to no decision as to the charge against Paul, but continued to quarrel so fiercely among themselves that the soldiers were compelled to rescue Paul again, and bring him into Castle Antonia."—Peloubet.

8. What cheering message came to Paul from the Lord, following his rescue from mob violence? Verse 11.

NOTE.—"While reflecting on the trying experiences of the day, Paul began to fear that his course might not have been pleasing to God. Could it be that he had made a mistake after all in visiting Jerusalem? Had his great desire to be in union with his brethren led to this disastrous result? . . .

anxiety he thought of the perils of the scattered churches, exposed as they were to the persecutions of just such men as he had encountered in the Sanhedrin council. In distress and discouragement he wept and prayed. In this dark hour the Lord was not unmindful of His servant."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 412, 413.

9. What desperate plot against Paul's life was entered into by a large number of men? Verses 12, 13.

10. What was the plan of the conspirators? Verses 14, 15.

NOTE.—These men knew the character of the priests, and did not hesitate to ask their coöperation in the plan to commit murder, to which they had bound themselves by a religious oath, a "great" oath. The priesthood had traveled the downward way so far that the buying and selling of preferment was common, and the use of a class known as professional assassins was not unknown in their own factional quarrels.

11. How was this plot made known to Paul? What steps did Paul then take? Verses 16, 17.

12. How was this knowledge given to the chief captain, Lysias? What appeal did the young man make? Verses 18-21.

13. What timely action was taken by the chief captain? Verses 22-24.

14. What friendly communication did Lysias, the chief captain, send to Felix, the Roman governor? Verses 25-27.

NOTE.—"Lysias at once decided to transfer Paul from his jurisdiction to that of Felix the procurator. As a people, the Jews were in a state of excitement and irritation, and tumults were of frequent occurrence. The continued presence of the apostle in Jerusalem might lead to consequences dangerous to the city, and even to the commandant himself."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 415.

15. What preliminary steps did Lysias say he had taken in Paul's case? How was the message of Lysias concluded? Verses 28-30.

16. How far did the soldiers take Paul on the journey? Verse 31.

17. Who continued the journey with Paul to Cæsarea? Upon their arrival, what did they do? Verses 32, 33.

NOTE.—So within a fortnight Paul was back at Cæsarea, where his friends were who had besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. He probably entered the city in the broad light of day, attended by "threescore and ten" horsemen. How unlike his present escort was the humble Christian company that had but a few days before attended him on the journey from Cæsarea! Notwithstanding his changed surroundings, he was no doubt recognized by Philip and others whose hearts were shocked and saddened at the calamity that had overtaken their beloved leader.

18. How was Paul received by Felix, the Roman governor? Verses 34, 35.

NOTE.—"When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Prov. 16: 7.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

The Lord's message to Paul (Acts 23:11), at what must have been one of the most discouraging moments of his eventful life, is a beautiful illustration of the assurance to every loyal Christian that, "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation." 2 Peter 2:9.

Though Paul had the promise of God that he would be delivered, he did all that human wisdom could suggest to aid himself.

"Man's extremity is God's opportunity."

LESSON 8

PAUL ACCUSED BEFORE FELIX

May 21, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 24.
MEMORY VERSE: "Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Acts 24: 25.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 419-427.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul had been brought to Cæsarea under escort of a soldier guard provided by Lysias, the chief captain in Jerusalem. Felix, the Roman governor, had commanded that Paul be kept a prisoner in Herod's judgment hall, until his accusers came from Jerusalem to be present at his trial.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1-4 of the primary lesson. Read pages 419 and 420 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-12, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 5-10 of the primary lesson. Read pages 421 and 422 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 13-17, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 11-13 of the primary lesson. Read pages 423-427 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study the meaning of the unusual words in this lesson, such as heresy, void, tumult, clemency, sedition, profane, etc. Children may answer questions in primary lesson.
6. Tell the story of the lesson in detail, each member of the family taking part. What is the teaching of this lesson on the following: Respect due authorities; the resurrection of the dead; God's care for His servants; improving opportunities of telling the gospel; the danger of delay in obedience.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. How long was Paul kept waiting by Felix, before being brought to trial? Who came from Jerusalem to attend the trial? Acts 24:1.

2. By what false flattery did Tertullus introduce his speech? Verses 2-4.

NOTE.—The usual recourse was had to flowery and untruthful flattery. Yet, while the character of Felix was base, he had put down the bandits and robbers with an iron hand, and had pursued and scattered the band of revolutionists led by the fanatical Egyptian, for whom the Roman captain had at first mistaken Paul. Acts 21:38. Paul's own manner of address, a few moments later (Acts 24: 10), was respectful and complimentary, but without false flattery.

Felix is said to have been the worst governor that ever ruled Judea. "With all manner of cruelty and lust he [Felix] exercised royal functions in the spirit of a slave."—Tacitus, in Standard Bible Dictionary.

3. What three charges were laid against Paul? Verses 5, 6.

NOTE.—"The charge brought against the prisoner seems to have included three particulars: (1) that he was guilty of sedition, and so of disloyalty to the Roman government; (2) that he was guilty of heresy, the ringleader of a sect, and so a renegade from Judaism; (3) that he was guilty of profaning the temple, and thus of affronting a worship which was under the patronage and protection of Rome."—Vaughn.

4. What interference with the plans of the Jews did Tertullus resent? What variation from the truth is noticeable in his words? Verses 7, 8.

5. How was the plea of Tertullus supported? Verse 9.

NOTE.—"Felix had sufficient penetration to read the disposition and character of Paul's accusers. He knew from what motive they had flattered him, and he saw also that they had failed to substantiate their charges against Paul. Turning to the accused, he beckoned to him to answer for himself."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 420.

6. In what courteous terms did Paul open his defense? Verse 10.

NOTE.—In response to a gesture of invitation from the governor, Felix, Paul answered Tertullus in a courteous way. "Paul felt at least his judge had had, during his long years of office, ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the character of the leaders of the Jews, with their jealousies and narrowness."—Schaff.

7. How long did Paul say he had been in Jerusalem? Verse 11.

8. In what brief statement did he refute all three of the charges laid against him? Verses 12, 13.

NOTE.—Paul showed that he had not been long enough in Jerusalem to be the leader of a seditious party. He challenged proof of the things charged. The Jews themselves were seditious, and plotters against the superior civil authority, which latter they tried to overturn altogether. As a Christian, the apostle Paul was subject to the powers of government in all things civil.

9. What confession of faith did Paul make? Verses 14-16.

10. What did he say he had brought to the Jewish nation? Verse 17.

11. What was Paul's story of his arrest at Jerusalem? Verses 18-21.

NOTE.—"He came to make offerings in the temple, to worship there; and he engaged in the Jewish rites and ceremonies there; how could he then wish to profane the temple? 'And offerings.' The usual sacrifices customary at the feast of Pentecost, and also those special contributions which were part of the Nazarite's vow (Acts 21:23-26)."—Schaff.

12. Until what time was further investigation of Paul's case deferred? Verse 22.

13. What liberty was given him as a prisoner? Verse 23.

14. What private interview was afforded him, in which to present the gospel to Felix? Verse 24.

NOTE.—"Paul regarded this as a God-given opportunity, and faithfully he improved it. He knew that he stood in the presence of one who had power to put him to death, or to set him free; yet he did not address Felix and Drusilla with praise or flattery. He knew that his words would be to them a savor of life or of death, and forgetting all selfish considerations, he sought to arouse them to a sense of their peril."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 422, 423.

15. How did Felix manifest conviction as the claims of the gospel were presented to him? Verse 25.

NOTE.—"Felix felt that Paul's words were true. Memory went back over the guilty past. With terrible distinctness there came up before him the secrets of his early life of profligacy and bloodshed, and the black record of his later years. He saw himself licentious, cruel, rapacious. Never before had the truth been thus brought home to his heart. Never before had his soul been so filled with terror. The thought that all the secrets of his career of crime were open before the eye of God, and that he must be judged according to his deeds, caused him to tremble with dread.

"But instead of permitting his convictions to lead him to repentance, he sought to dismiss these unwelcome reflections. The interview with Paul was cut short. . . . He had slighted his last offer of mercy. Never was he to receive another call from God."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 425-427.

16. What base motive influenced Felix? What did he do in the hope of gain? Verse 26.

NOTE.—"Felix visited him several times, and listened attentively to his words. But the real motive for this apparent friendliness was a desire for gain, and he intimated that by the payment of a large sum of money Paul might secure his release. The apostle, however, was of too noble a nature to free himself by a bribe. He was not guilty of any crime, and he would not stoop to commit a wrong in order to gain freedom. Furthermore, he was himself too poor to pay such a ransom, had he been disposed to do so, and he would not, in his own behalf, appeal to the sympathy and generosity of his converts."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 426, 427.

17. What is the last word concerning Felix? Verse 27.

NOTE.—The inspired record leaves Felix in his baseness, doing injustice to Paul to please the Jews. There had been an outbreak be-

tween the Jews and the Gentiles in Cæsarea; and on accusation of the Jews, Felix had been called to account by Nero, at Rome. He was pardoned, however, but apparently never achieved distinction again, and he had turned from life eternal. It is the opinion of historians that Drusilla and her son by Felix perished in the great eruption of Vesuvius, in A. D. 79. One of those shapeless human forms dug out of the ashes and lava beds of Pompeii in recent years may represent the wicked but beautiful princess who listened to Paul's sermon that day in Cæsarea, calling in vain to repentance before the judgment to come.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Am I, in my daily life, saying yes to the Holy Spirit, as did the Philippian jailer (Acts 16: 25-31); or, am I saying no, as did Felix?

Am I ready to avoid all wrong methods to secure advantage?

There is danger in delay. The "convenient season" may never come to those who put off salvation.

LESSON 9

PAUL BEFORE FESTUS

May 28, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 25.
MEMORY VERSE: "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye." 1 Peter 4: 14.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 428-435.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Felix, desiring to please the Jews, kept Paul in prison, but granted him many favors. Two years passed away, and Porcius Festus was appointed governor in the place of Felix. That Paul's enemies had not forgotten him, but were simply waiting for a favorable time to renew their efforts to have him put to death, is evident from the scriptures considered in this lesson.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson.
3. Study Questions 5-9, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-6 of the primary lesson. Read pages 428-432 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 10-13, and note. Children may read paragraphs 7 and 8 of the primary lesson. Read pages 433-435 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 14-17, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 9-11 of the primary lesson.
6. Tell the story of the lesson in detail, each member of the family taking part. Discuss questions under "Can You Tell?" in the "Youth's Instructor" junior lesson, if the paper is available.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. Who succeeded Felix as governor of Judea? Acts 24: 27.

NOTE.—Porcius Festus was appointed governor of Judea by Nero, A. D. 60. Josephus tells us that he governed his stormy province with a wise and firm rule. His firmness in resisting the unjust demands of the Jews must elicit our admiration.

2. Where did Festus first go after assuming the duties of his office? What further effort against Paul was made by the Jews at Jerusalem? Acts 25: 1, 2.

NOTE.—That the Jews were so quick to approach Festus, after waiting two years, shows that the spread of the Christian teaching kept irritating them, and also that Paul was considered a leader of the new movement.

3. What did the Jews ask Festus to do? Verse 3.

NOTE.—They poured into the ears of the new governor all the charges Tertullus had brought against Paul, and begged Festus to have Paul brought to Jerusalem for trial since the accusations against him were chiefly for breaking the Jewish law. They purposed to assassinate Paul while he was on the way from Cæsarea to Jerusalem, somewhat after their plan of two years before, but now with much better chance of success.

4. What was the reply of Festus? What better plan did he propose? Verses 4, 5.

NOTE.—"Festus held firmly to his purpose of giving Paul a fair trial at Cæsarea. God in His providence controlled the decision of Festus, that the life of the apostle might be lengthened."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 429.

The unprejudiced Roman governor was more susceptible to the influence of God's Spirit than the Jewish priests who had year after year been rejecting light and instruction.

5. On being arraigned before the court of Festus at Cæsarea, what accusations were laid against Paul? Verses 6, 7.

6. How did Paul briefly reply to these false charges? Verse 8.

7. What question, pleasing to the Jews, did Festus ask Paul? Verse 9.

NOTE.—"Governor Festus summoned Paul into court where they emphasized these 'many and grievous complaints,' and asked Paul if he were willing to go up to Jerusalem for his trial. The question was whether Paul would accept an informal acquittal from the Roman court on condition that he submit to a trial before his own people on the other counts, which would naturally come before the Sanhedrin. Thus Festus would throw upon Paul the responsibility of refusing to go to Jerusalem. 'As far as he was concerned, the Jewish notables would be able to see that no obstacles were thrown by him in the way of their carrying out their customs and rights.' "—Peloubet.

8. What noble reply and appeal did Paul then make? Verses 10, 11.

NOTE.—Paul stood up "foursquare to all the winds that blow" for his rights as a Roman citizen. His independent manhood speaks out, "I deny their charges; I will not go to Jerusalem to be tried by my

enemies; I appeal unto Cæsar." This appeal was Paul's only safety. "He no doubt saw in this appeal an opportunity of accomplishing his long-cherished desire of going to Rome (Acts 19:21) and realizing the Lord's promise to him that he should preach the gospel there (Acts 23:11). 'We can but suppose that a sudden inspiration opened his eyes to the path by which he might be carried to the long-desired goal of his hopes at Rome.' "—McGiffert.

9. What was governor's official reply? Verse 12.

10. Who now paid a friendly visit to Festus? Verse 13.

NOTE.—Agrippa II was the great grandson of Herod the Great, who ordered the massacre of the children in his effort to destroy the newborn King of the Jews. Matt. 2:16-18. He was son of Herod Agrippa I, who put James to death, and who was smitten by the Lord in this same city of Cæsarea. Acts 12:1, 2, 21-23.

11. How did Festus introduce Paul's case to King Agrippa? Verses 14-17.

12. What did he say of the character of the charges against Paul? Verses 18, 19.

13. What had he asked Paul? What was the outcome of the trial? Verses 20, 21.

14. What desire was expressed by King Agrippa? What reply did Festus make? Verse 22.

15. What is said of the circumstances under which Paul witnessed for Christ before Agrippa? Verse 23.

NOTE.—The court assembled in the same magnificent hall of the palace which had witnessed the still more stately scene, eighteen years before, when the father of Agrippa was called a god, and came to his tragic death because of his pride.

16. How did Festus introduce Paul's case to Agrippa and those present? Verses 24, 25.

17. What peculiar embarrassment was Festus under in the matter of sending Paul to Cæsar's court? Verses 26, 27.

NOTE.—"Festus was puzzled to know what charges to send with Paul to Rome. For Paul was no such criminal as the Jews tried to make him out. He had broken no Roman law. And yet Festus could not send a prisoner to Rome without stating why he was a prisoner, and why he was sent. Hence he asked Agrippa, who was a Jew, to help him out of this dilemma."—Peloubet.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear." "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me." Psalm 27: 3, 5.

How much depends upon the answer to the question which seemed so trivial to the governor! Acts 25: 9.

Why was Paul so well prepared to meet unexpected situations in his experience?

LESSON 10

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA

June 4, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 26.
MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6: 2.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 433-438.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

King Agrippa and Bernice, visiting Festus, learned of Paul and the accusations of the Jews against him. Agrippa expressed a desire to see Paul and to hear him speak, and Festus arranged for such a meeting.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read pages 433-435 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-10, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4 and 5 of the primary lesson. Read page 436 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 11-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 6 and 7 of the primary lesson. Read page 437 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 15-19, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 8-11 of the primary lesson. Read page 438 of the Lesson Help.
6. Tell the story of the lesson in detail, each member of the family taking part. Discuss questions under "Some Things to Think About" in the "Youth's Instructor" junior lesson.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. Who assembled in the judgment hall at Cæsarea to hear Paul speak? Acts 25: 23.

2. When the preliminaries of the public hearing were over, what did Agrippa say to Paul? How did Paul arrest the attention of his audience? Acts 26: 1.

NOTE.—Not as a guilty criminal cringing before the judge, but as a witness and pleader for a great cause, the apostle stood before the assembly. His hand, though possibly the one from which a chain was hanging, was stretched forth in gesture to command attention, after the manner of the practiced orator.

3. In what respectful words did Paul begin his speech? What gave him special satisfaction in speaking before Agrippa? Verses 2, 3.

NOTE.—Paul appealed to the one good point in Agrippa's bad character and life, not only because it was a courteous and fitting thing to do, but because it was the only way to open Agrippa's heart to the gospel. Agrippa, being a Jew, could understand Paul's argument better than Festus, for he was acquainted with the Scriptures and the customs of the Jews. Paul had been condemned for preaching that the Messiah, for whom the Jews were looking, had come.

4. **What did the Jews know concerning Paul's life? Verses 4, 5.**

5. **For what did he say he was now being judged? Verses 6, 7.**

NOTE.—"He showed how the Old Testament Scriptures had declared that the Messiah was to appear as a man among men; and how in the life of Jesus had been fulfilled every specification outlined by Moses and the prophets. For the purpose of redeeming a lost world, the divine Son of God had endured the cross, despising the shame, and had ascended to heaven triumphant over death and the grave."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 436.

6. **What appeal did he make to the king, touching the hope for which he was on trial and in bonds? Verse 8.**

NOTE.—The fulfillment of the hope of Israel was dependent upon the resurrection. Abraham and all the faithful were dead, yet God had promised an everlasting inheritance to them.

7. **What did Paul say of his former zeal in the Jews' religion? Verses 9-11.**

8. **How does he, for the third time, relate the experience of his remarkable conversion? Verses 12-16.**

9. **What commission does he say he received at that time? Verses 17, 18.**

10. **How does he say he responded to the heavenly vision? Verses 19, 20.**

NOTE.—Paul's strongest argument was that he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but he preached what he believed, and gave his entire life, amid perils, in hunger and thirst, cold and nakedness, persecutions, "stripes above measure," and shipwrecks (2 Cor. 11: 23-25), to urging Jews and Gentiles to "repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" as he had done.

11. **Because of these things, what had the Jews attempted to do? Verse 21.**

NOTE.—The charges against Paul were evidently false, for the Jews went about to kill him because he proclaimed the very Messiah they were expecting, the One who would be the fulfillment of their hopes.

12. **Who had helped the apostle thus far to witness for Jesus? What were the main points in his teaching? Verses 22, 23.**

13. **What interruption bore witness to Paul's earnestness in speaking? Verse 24.**

NOTE.—"The whole company had listened spellbound to Paul's account of his wonderful experiences. The apostle was dwelling upon his favorite theme. None who heard him could doubt his sincerity. But in the full tide of his persuasive eloquence he was interrupted by Festus, who cried out, 'Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.' "—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 437.

14. What was Paul's reply? Verse 25.

15. What did Paul say that King Agrippa knew? Verse 26.

16. What personal question did Paul put to the Jewish king? As he apparently saw the king deeply moved, what did he declare? Verse 27.

NOTE.—As Paul made the appeal direct to the wicked king, it is plainly apparent that it was Agrippa, and not Paul, who was on trial that day.

17. What conviction was expressed by the king? Verse 28.

NOTE.—"Deeply affected, Agrippa for the moment lost sight of his surroundings and the dignity of his position. Conscious only of the truths which he had heard, seeing only the humble prisoner standing before him as God's ambassador, he answered involuntarily, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.' . . .

"Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice might in justice have worn the fetters that bound the apostle. All were guilty of grievous crimes. These offenders had that day heard the offer of salvation through the name of Christ. One, at least, had been almost persuaded to accept the grace and pardon offered. But Agrippa put aside the proffered mercy, refusing to accept the cross of a crucified Redeemer."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 438.

18. What heartfelt desire did Paul express in response to Agrippa's declaration? By what act did the king show that he did not desire to hear more of Paul's words? Verses 29, 30.

19. What did the king and those with him say after conferring together? What did Agrippa say to Festus? Verses 31, 32.

NOTE.—"The court decided that Paul was innocent, and might have been set at liberty had he not appealed to Cæsar; but that the appeal must stand. The whole process of two years and more, at Jerusalem and Cæsarea, ended in a public and decisive acquittal. Claudius Lysias, Festus, and Agrippa had each declared him innocent; three times was it publicly announced of the apostle, as of the Lord, that he had done nothing worthy of death. But this decision was the means of bringing him safely to Rome. It made a favorable impression on the Roman officer who took him there, and upon the Roman authorities after his arrival."—Peloubet.

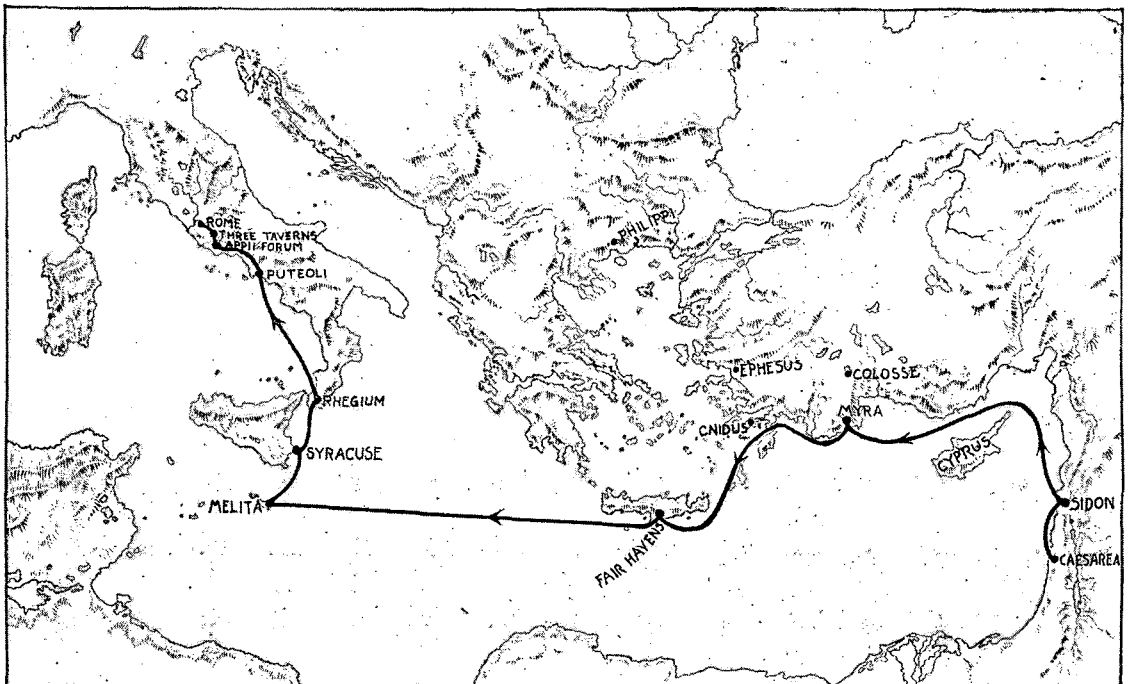
PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

It is a fearful thing to trifle with conscience, especially when conscience is stirred by the Holy Spirit, as was the case with King Agrippa.

As the apostolic preaching was a witness to fulfilling prophecy in that generation, so now the gospel carries a message of prophecy fulfilling in our own generation. Acts 26: 22, 23; Rev. 14: 6-12.

What is the hope for which we stand before the world, even as Paul stood?

What five things does the Lord wish to do for us all? Acts 26: 18.



PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

LESSON 11

THE VOYAGE TO ROME

June 11, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 27.
MEMORY VERSE: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34: 7.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 439-446.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul had been kept a prisoner in Cæsarea while waiting for a ship to take him to Rome for trial before Cæsar. The day's lesson portrays the experiences of the voyage.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Trace course carefully on the map. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read pages 439 and 440 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 4-8, and notes. Children may read paragraph 4 of the primary lesson. Read pages 441 and 442 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-13, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 5 and 6 of the primary lesson.
5. Study Questions 14-19, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 7-11 of the primary lesson. Read pages 443-446 of the Lesson Help.
6. Tell the story of the lesson in detail, each member of the family taking part. Compare life to a voyage; suggest what experiences are like storms, and why they are permitted. Who is our Captain, what is our compass, and what port are we seeking? What words of cheer may be claimed by the voyager on life's sea?
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What was now determined in Paul's case? What Roman officer had charge of Paul when he started on his voyage to Rome? Who of the same faith accompanied Paul? Acts 27: 1, 2.

NOTE.—"One circumstance greatly lightened the hardship of his lot,—he was permitted the companionship of Luke and Aristarchus. In his letter to the Colossians, he afterwards referred to the latter as his 'fellow prisoner' (Col. 4:10); but it was from choice that Aristarchus shared Paul's bondage, that he might minister to him in his afflictions."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 440.

Aristarchus had passed through some stirring experiences before this, in his service with the apostle. Acts 19: 28, 29.

2. Trace the voyage from Cæsarea to Myra. What privilege was given Paul at Sidon? At what port did they change ships? Verses 3-6.

NOTE.—The voyagers for Rome left the ship at Myra, at which port frequent wheat-laden ships from Egypt arrived en route for Rome. "The second ship was a large Egyptian merchantman loaded with grain from Alexandria, having on board two hundred and seventy-six persons, besides the freight."—Peloubet.

3. How does Luke describe the voyage to the next port? Verses 7, 8.

4. What warning accompanied Paul's advice against sailing from Fair Havens? Verses 9, 10.

NOTE.—"At Fair Havens they were compelled to remain for some time, waiting for favoring winds. Winter was approaching rapidly; 'sailing was now dangerous;' and those in charge of the vessel had to give up hope of reaching their destination before the season for travel by sea should be closed for the year. The only question now to be decided was, whether to remain at Fair Havens, or attempt to reach a more favorable place in which to winter.

"This question was earnestly discussed, and was finally referred by the centurion to Paul, who had won the respect of both sailors and soldiers. The apostle unhesitatingly advised remaining where they were. . . . But 'the master and the owner of the ship,' and the majority of passengers and crew, were unwilling to accept this counsel."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 440, 441.

5. How was Paul's counsel overruled? Verses 11, 12.

6. What favorable omen led them to continue the voyage? What overtook them soon after they started? Verses 13, 14.

NOTE.—Euroclydon is from two Greek words which mean "east wind" and "wave." It means a tempestuous wind at sea.

7. How does Luke describe the course and handling of the ship in the tempest? Verses 15-17.

NOTE.—The hurricane was so great the ship could not be managed, so it was driven before the wind. The ship's small boat had been in tow behind, but now with great difficulty they hoisted it aboard. There was great danger of the ship's timbers springing apart, thus letting in water, so ropes were passed around the ship and drawn taut.

8. What further efforts were made to keep the ship from going down? What did Paul and his companions unite with the sailors in doing the third day? Verses 18, 19.

9. What caused the people on board to give up hope of being saved? Verse 20.

NOTE.—The ancient mariners were ignorant of the use of the compass, but directed their course largely by the position of the heavenly bodies. When they could not see the sun or the stars for so long a time, they lost hope.

10. In their darkest hour, what cheering message came to the ship's company through the servant of the Lord? Verses 21, 22.

NOTE.—Now Paul comes to the front, the only one in the whole ship's company who could bring a message of hope. He begins with a gentle reminder that his advice had not been heeded. This was a good reason why they should trust him now. Then he promises them safety. Paul, "the prisoner of Jesus Christ," stood among them as a star of hope in the dark heavens, as a lighthouse on a stormy, rockbound coast.

11. Upon what assurance was Paul's message of hope based? Verses 23, 24.

NOTE.—The message was that he would be saved because he must be brought before Cæsar, as God had promised him before. Acts 23: 11. Paul's safety was as sure as God's promise.

the outcome of the voyage? Verses 25, 26.

13. How long had the voyage lasted when sight of land appeared? What did the sailors do to safeguard the ship? For what did they long? Verses 27-29.

14. What selfish plan did the sailors form? How was their purpose frustrated? Verses 30-32.

15. What counsel and assurance did Paul give the ship's company? Verses 33-36.

16. How many were in the ship? After partaking of food, what was next done? Verses 37, 38.

17. What was seen as day broke? What plan was formed? What did the seamen do? Verses 39, 40.

18. As the ship was about to go to pieces, what counsel was given by the soldiers? How did the presence of one godly man save the lives of many others? Verses 41-43.

NOTE.—The proposition was not a strange one. The Roman soldier must forfeit his life if a prisoner intrusted to him escaped.

19. How did those who could not swim get ashore? What came to pass in fulfillment of the angel's word to Paul? Verse 44.

NOTE.—When the roll was called, not one was missing. Nearly three hundred souls,—sailors, soldiers, passengers, prisoners,—stood that stormy morning upon the shore of the island of Melita.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

There is but one true port to which we should steer across the ocean of life. It is the city of God. Only Jesus is wise enough and strong enough to pilot us safely into the harbor of everlasting rest and safety.

What is the secret of good cheer amid trial?

Because we are under God's guidance and protection, need we expect that our way will always be smooth and pleasant?

LESSON 12

ON THE ISLAND; AT ROME

June 18, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 28.
MEMORY VERSE: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." 2 Timothy 4:7, 8.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 445-455.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

A company of prisoners, including Paul, under charge of Julius, were en route from Cæsarea to Rome. Encountering a severe storm lasting many days, the ship was finally wrecked, but all on board reached the land near by, and were saved.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson. Read pages 445 and 446 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 5-10, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-6 of the primary lesson. Read pages 447-449 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 11-13, and note. Children may read paragraphs 7-9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 450 and 451 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 14-18, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson. Read pages 452-454 of the Lesson Help.
6. Tell the story of the lesson in detail, every member of the family taking part. Discuss the qualities of character which Paul displayed from the beginning to the end of his life's story.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from any of the lesson sheets. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Discuss topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What was the name of the island on which Paul and the ship's company had been cast? Acts 28: 1.

NOTE.—The modern name is Malta, now a British naval station. It is sixty miles from the island of Sicily, and two hundred from the African coast. A bay on the north side of the island has been named St. Paul's Bay, where it is supposed the party landed.

2. What kindness was shown the shipwrecked crew and passengers by the people of the island? Verse 2.

NOTE.—To the Greeks, all were "barbarians" who did not speak Greek. The people were of Phœnician origin. It was probably late in October, and already the chill nights and mornings of autumn had begun. The kindness shown by the islanders was repaid in blessings later.

3. What service did Paul render? Verse 3.

NOTE.—Paul "was ready to do the humblest duty. He knew the greatness of serving. His Master had taught this duty and privilege when He washed His disciples' feet. 'Whatever was to be done, if he were able to take a part in it, he was never wanting, whether it was in counseling about a difficulty, in comforting under danger, or helping by bodily labor to relieve the general distress.' "—Peloubet.

Heroic deeds are no more praiseworthy than the commonest daily toil done with the same high motive of love to God and man.

4. What change in the attitude of the people of the island was caused by Paul's experience with the viper? Verses 4-6.

NOTE.—"One writer on this verse says that no poisonous serpent ever fastens itself to what it strikes with its fangs. I went to a naturalist and he tells me that the writer is mistaken; and he showed me 'The Reptile Book' by Raymond Lee Ditmars, curator of reptiles in the New York City Zoölogical Park (1907), who says the viperine snakes 'do not strike and then await the death of the animal from poison, . . . but once seizing the animal retain their hold with fangs deeply embedded until its struggles have ceased.' "—Peloubet.

5. Who had quarters in this part of the island? What did he do? What blessing came to the hospitable Publius? Verses 7, 8.

6. What followed this manifestation of God's power? How did the islanders generally treat the party? Verses 9, 10.

7. After remaining at Melita (modern Malta) three months, by what means and course did they journey to Italy? Verses 11-13.

NOTE.—The sign of the ship on which Paul sailed was really its name. Such signs were used because many could not read. Castor and Pollux were supposed to be twin sons of Jupiter.

November, December, and January evidently had been spent in Malta, and with early February, the Alexandrian grain ships were again moving toward Italy. Syracuse was the great port of Sicily; and at Rhegium, at the toe of the Italian boot, the apostle first touched Italy. The company landed at Puteoli, on the present Bay of Naples.

8. Where was Paul permitted to tarry with friends? Verse 14.

9. Who came to meet him at Appii Forum? How did this meeting with the brethren from Rome affect the apostle? Verse 15.

NOTE.—"From Puteoli they marched thirty-three miles before they reached the famous Appian Way, the great military road from Rome to Southern Italy, 'by which many a Roman general had passed in triumph to the capitol, seated on a car of victory, surrounded by the plaudits of rejoicing Rome.' . . . Fifty-seven miles farther along this road they came to Appii Forum."—Peloubet. Here they were met by the first delegation of brethren from Rome.

"At last the travelers reach Appii Forum, forty miles from Rome. As they make their way through the crowds that throng the great thoroughfare, the gray-haired old man, chained with a group of hardened-looking criminals, receives many a glance of scorn, and is made the subject of many a rude, mocking jest.

"Suddenly a cry of joy is heard, and a man springs from the passing throng and falls upon the prisoner's neck, embracing him with tears and rejoicing, as a son would welcome a long-absent father. Again and again is the scene repeated, as, with eyes made keen by loving expectation, many discern in the chained captive the one who at Corinth, at Philippi, at Ephesus, had spoken to them the words of life.

"As the warm-hearted disciples eagerly flock around their father in the gospel, the whole company is brought to a standstill. The soldiers are impatient of delay, yet they have not the heart to interrupt this happy meeting; for they too have learned to respect and esteem their prisoner."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 448, 449.

10. When delivered by Julius to the Roman guard, how was Paul treated differently from other prisoners? Verse 16.

11. How soon after reaching Rome did Paul call a meeting of the leading Jews at Rome? What are the main points in his talk to the brethren at Rome? Verses 17-20.

NOTE.—"Many of the Jews who had been banished from Rome some years previously had been allowed to return, so that large numbers were now to be found there. To these, first of all, Paul determined to present the facts concerning himself and his work, before his enemies should have opportunity to embitter them against him."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 450.

12. What information concerning Paul's case had these Jews failed to receive? What reason did they give for desiring to hear his message? Verses 21, 22.

13. How did the apostle take advantage of this opening? What two classes of hearers were there? Verses 23, 24.

14. What is said of those who rejected the message? To what prophetic warning did Paul direct their attention? Verses 25-27.

15. What solemn declaration did the apostle make? Verse 28.

16. What was the effect of these words? Verse 29.

17. How long and under what conditions did Paul, the prisoner, live at Rome? Verses 30, 31.

NOTE.—"Paul was treated in Rome with the utmost leniency. He was allowed to hire a house or a lodging in the city and live there at his own convenience under the surveillance of a soldier who was responsible for his presence when required. A light chain fastened Paul's wrist to that of the soldier. No hindrance was offered to his inviting friends into his house, or to his preaching to all who came in to him; but he was not allowed to go out freely."—Ramsay.

Paul's first trial before Nero was delayed these two years by the failure of his accusers to present themselves.

"In the providence of God, this delay resulted in the furtherance of the gospel. . . . During this time, the churches that he had established in many lands were not forgotten. Realizing the dangers that threatened the converts to the new faith, the apostle sought so far as possible to meet their needs by letters of warning and practical instruction. And from Rome he sent out consecrated workers to labor not only for these churches, but in fields that he himself had not visited. . . . Thus, while apparently cut off from active labor, Paul exerted a wider and more lasting influence than if he had been free to travel among the churches as in former years."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 453, 454.

18. What promise was thus fulfilled to Paul? Acts 23:11; 27:24.

NOTE.—Paul spent two busy years in his own hired house preaching the gospel and writing letters to the churches. The epistles of Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians were written during his first captivity at Rome.

The chronology of events in these years, as nearly as students have worked it out, is as follows:

Paul's arrival in Rome	A. D. 61
Trial and acquittal	A. D. 63
Burning of Rome	A. D. 64
Paul's condemnation and martyrdom	A. D. 68

During the visit to Greece and Macedonia and Asia, the apostle wrote the epistle to Titus and the first to Timothy; the second epistle to Timothy, so full of courage and trust, his last message to the church, being written in Rome after his condemnation. It is supposed that Paul must have been executed in May or June, A. D. 68.

Of Paul's last moments we read: "As he stands at the place of martyrdom, he sees not the sword of the executioner or the earth so soon to receive his blood; he looks up through the calm blue heaven of that summer day to the throne of the Eternal. . . . His faith is

strengthened as he calls to mind how patriarchs and prophets have relied upon the One who is his support and consolation. . . . From the rack, the stake, the dungeon, from dens and caves of the earth, there falls upon his ear the martyr's shout of triumph. . . . His mind grasps the Saviour's promise, 'I will raise him up at the last day.' His thoughts and hopes are centered on the second coming of his Lord. And as the sword of the executioner descends, and the shadows of death gather about the martyr, his latest thought springs forward, as will his earliest in the great awakening, to meet the Life-giver, who shall welcome him to the joy of the blest."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 511-513.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

As the apostolic church carried the gospel to all the world in their day, so a commission is given the church to-day. What is this commission?

Whether temporarily or permanently settled in a place, every place is a mission field.

Wherever the child of God may be, he is under the care of his ever-present Saviour.

LESSON 13

THE REVIEW

June 25, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 18: 23 to 28: 31.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Study questions on Acts 18 and 19. Children may tell the story of what occurred at Ephesus.
2. Study questions on Acts 20 and 21: 1-17. Children may tell the story of the night meeting at Troas.
3. Study questions on Acts 21: 18-40 and Acts 22. Children may tell how Paul was saved from the mob and the story of his conversion as he told it on the castle stairs.
4. Study questions on Acts 23 and 24. Children may tell the story of how Paul's nephew helped save his uncle's life.
5. Study questions on Acts 25 and 26. Children may tell the story of Paul's appearance before Agrippa.
6. Study questions on Acts 27. Children may tell the story of the shipwreck.
7. Study questions on Acts 28. Children may tell of the experiences on the island of Melita, and on the way to Rome.

Paul Begins His Third Missionary Journey

Acts 18:23 to 19:20

1. Describe the work of Apollos at Ephesus. What marvelous things were done while Paul was at Ephesus? What evidence of sincerity in repentance did the magicians give?

Trouble at Ephesus

Acts 19:21-41

2. What caused the silversmiths to make trouble for Paul at Ephesus? How serious did the situation become? How were the people quieted?

Paul Journeying Toward Jerusalem
Acts 20

3. Who accompanied Paul on the journey to Jerusalem? What made the meeting at Troas quite an important one?

Paul's Third Missionary Journey Ended
Acts 21:1-17

4. What occurred at Cæsarea that was of special interest? How did Paul meet the pleading of the brethren for a change in his plans?

Paul Arrested in the Temple
Acts 21:18-40

5. In what way did the Jews desire Paul to demonstrate his loyalty to the teachings of Moses? What circumstances led to his arrest? How was he saved from death?

Paul's Address on the Castle Stairs
Acts 22

6. What were the principal points in Paul's address to the Jews? What did he say that aroused their anger? What saved Paul from being scourged?

Paul Before the Council: A Plot Made Known
Acts 23

7. What are the chief incidents in connection with Paul's appearance before the Sanhedrin? What plot was laid to take his life? How was the plot frustrated and Paul saved?

Paul Accused Before Felix
Acts 24

8. Who appeared against Paul in the trial before Felix? What were the charges against him? What was the decision?

Paul Before Festus
Acts 25

9. Describe the trial of Paul two years later. To whom did Paul appeal his case?

Paul Before Agrippa
Acts 26

10. What circumstances led to Paul's appearance before Agrippa? What are the principal points in Paul's address? What did Agrippa and Festus both say?

The Voyage to Rome
Acts 27

11. What were the most thrilling experiences of the voyage? How was the special care of the Lord made known?

On the Island; At Rome
Acts 28

12. What were the experiences of the shipwrecked company on the island of Melita? Under what circumstances did they leave the island? Describe the completion of the journey to Rome. How was Paul enabled to carry on his work in that city? How does the story of Paul's life end?

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