A. T. Robinson

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

First Quarter, 1927
SENIOR DIVISION

The Acts of the Apostles

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, March 26, 1927
ADVANCING ON THE FRONTIERS

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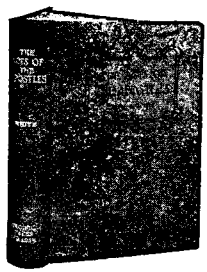
The answer

to the oft-repeated question, How can I realize greater benefits from the study of the Sabbath school lessons? is summed up in the following:

1. **Daily study of the Bible.**
2. **Daily study of the Lesson Quarterly.**
3. **Daily study of the lesson help,**



"The Acts of the Apostles"

The lessons for this and the next quarter are on the book of Acts. If you have not had access to the lesson help the past quarter, you have missed much. In other words, your lessons have been only half studied.

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THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 1

THE MINISTRY OF SAUL AND PETER

January 1, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 9: 23-43.
MEMORY VERSE: "He which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed." Gal. 1: 23.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 123-132.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Time: Probably about A. D. 40. It was apparently soon after Paul's visit to Jerusalem following his three years' retirement in Arabia (Gal. 1: 17-21). During A. D. 39 and 40 Petronius, the governor of Syria, was causing great consternation among the Jews by attempting to set up the statue of the emperor Caligula in the temple at Jerusalem. The Jews had thus so much to attend to themselves that it would seem they had no time to engage in persecuting the Christians. This may have been the reason for the rest which the church enjoyed, referred to in Acts 9: 31.

Previous to this time of peace for the church, the persecution had become "so fierce that Paul was not allowed to continue his labors at Damascus. A messenger from heaven bade him leave for a time; and he 'went into Arabia,' where he found a safe retreat.

"Here, in the solitude of the desert, Paul had ample opportunity for quiet study and meditation. He calmly reviewed his past experience, and made sure work of repentance. He sought God with all his heart, resting not until he knew for a certainty that his repentance was accepted and his sin pardoned. He longed for the assurance that Jesus would be with him in his coming ministry. He emptied his soul of the prejudices and traditions that had hitherto shaped his life, and received instruction from the Source of truth. Jesus communed with him, and established him in the faith, bestowing upon him a rich measure of wisdom and grace."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 125, 126.

Afterwards Saul returned to Damascus, and attempted to continue his ministry as recorded 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 1-3. Note how the providence of God overruled political events to give rest and peace to the church, as shown in Lesson Note. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read pages 123-125 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 4-8. Give careful thought to note following Question 5. Children may read paragraphs 4-6 of the primary lesson. Read pages 126-129 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9, 10, and notes. Children may review the lesson thus far. Read page 130 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 11-13. Children may read paragraph 7 of the primary lesson.

6. Study Questions 14, 15, and note. Children may read paragraphs 8-11 of the primary lesson. Read pages 131, 132 of the Lesson Help.

7. Review the lesson, giving special thought to the main points. Ask questions from different lessons. Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. When the Jews could not withstand the wisdom and power of Saul's preaching, what did they attempt to do? Acts 9: 23.

NOTE.—"After that many days were fulfilled" doubtless refers to the three years which Paul spent in Arabia. Gal. 1: 17-21.

The character and effect of Saul's preaching was like that of Stephen. Acts 6: 9-15.

2. How persistent were the enemies of Saul in their plans for his destruction? Acts 9: 24.

3. To what means did the disciples resort to rescue Saul from his enemies? Verse 25.

NOTE.—"Saul had 'increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ' (verse 22). Now he not merely 'proclaims' as before (verse 20); he 'proves.' He does it with such marvelous skill that the Jews are first confounded, then enraged to the point of murder. Their former hero was now their foe. The disciples had learned to run from Saul. They now let him down in a basket through the wall by night, and he is gone. This then is the beginning of the active ministry of the man who was called to be a chosen vessel to gentiles, kings, and Jews. . . . He had his message and it had his whole heart. . . . He had no need of light from the apostles since 'the divine revelation so completely absorbed his interest and attention.' "—"Life and Teachings of Paul," Garvie, p. 33.

4. When Saul reached Jerusalem, how was he received by the disciples who dwelt there? Verse 26.

NOTE.—"They had heard of his wonderful conversion, but as he had immediately retired into Arabia, and they had heard nothing definite of him further, they had not credited the rumor of his great change."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, p. 320.

5. How were the disciples at Jerusalem assured of the genuineness of Saul's conversion? Verse 27.

NOTE.—"The apostles no longer hesitated; they could not withstand God. Peter and James, who at that time were the only apostles in Jerusalem, gave the right hand of fellowship to the once fierce persecutor of their faith; and he was now as much beloved and respected as he had formerly been feared and avoided. Here the two grand characters of the new faith met—Peter, one of the chosen companions of Christ while He was upon earth, and Paul, a Pharisee, who, since the ascension of Jesus, had met Him face to face, and had talked with Him, and had also seen Him in vision, and the nature of His work in heaven."—Id., p. 321.

6. How was Saul's testimony received at Jerusalem? Verses 28, 29.

7. How deep was the apostle's love for those who were seeking his life? Rom. 9: 1-3.

NOTE.—"He would willingly have yielded up his life, if by that means they might have been brought to a knowledge of the truth. . . . . He had taken so active a part in the martyrdom of Stephen that he was deeply anxious to wipe out the stain by boldly vindicating the truth which had cost Stephen his life. It looked to him like cowardice to flee from Jerusalem."—Id., p. 322.

8. While braving the consequences of remaining at Jerusalem, what divine message came to Saul? Acts 22: 17, 18.

9. How was Saul delivered from the plottings of the Jews at Jerusalem? Acts 9: 30.

NOTE.—"When the brethren learned of the vision of Paul, and the care which God had over him, their anxiety on his behalf was increased; for they realized that he was indeed a chosen vessel of the Lord, to bear the truth to the gentiles. They hastened his secret escape from Jerusalem, for fear of his assassination by the Jews."—Id., p. 323.

10. About the time of Saul's departure from Jerusalem, what political event was overruled for the good of the church? Verse 31. (See first paragraph of the "Setting of the Lesson.")

11. Under what commission had Peter been sent out to preach? Luke 9: 2; 10: 9.

12. Where was Peter now active in labor? What case of suffering at Lydda attracted his attention? Acts 9: 32, 33.

13. How was the promised power of the gospel manifested on this occasion? What was the effect upon the people? Verses 34, 35.

14. What further manifestation of power attended Peter's ministry at Joppa? Verses 36-41.

15. How extensively did this miracle become known? What was its effect upon the people? As Peter remained there for a time, with whom did he stay? Verses 42, 43.

NOTE.—"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display. Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory,—Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 680.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Would the same depth of repentance, and thoroughness of consecration on my part, bring me in touch with the same source of power as was manifested in the lives of Paul and Peter?

What does the lesson teach as to the value of seeking periods of retirement from the stress of daily work, for communion with God?

LESSON 2

CORNELIUS AND PETER

January 8, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 10: 1-23.

MEMORY VERSE: "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." Acts 10: 4.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 132-137.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Cæsarea on the shore of the Mediterranean was about thirty miles north of Joppa, a gentile city, and the political capital of Judea. Joppa, now called Jaffa, is still an important town in Palestine. To understand all the circumstances of this lesson, one must remember the deep-seated feelings of the Jew against the gentile. No pious Jew would go to the home of a gentile or enter into any social relationship with him. One of the greatest questions the early church had to settle was the admission of the gentiles to the privileges of the gospel.

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.
3. Study Questions 5-9, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4-7 of the primary lesson.
4. Study Questions 10-14, and note. Children may read paragraphs 8 and 9 of the primary lesson.
5. Study Questions 15-17. Children may read paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson.
6. Read pages cited above in the Lesson Help. Children may answer questions in the primary lesson.
7. Review the main points in the lesson, and notes. Tell the story of the lesson, each member of the family taking part. Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What person of note is introduced in the opening verse of this lesson? Acts 10: 1.

NOTE.—The Roman centurion was in command of a band of one hundred soldiers. Sixty such bands made up the Roman Legion of six thousand men. "The centurion carried a staff of vinewood as his badge of office. There were various degrees of rank among the centurions."—Barnes' Bible Encyclopedia, art. "Centurion."

2. What is said of the character of this military officer? Verse 2.

NOTE.—"Cornelius appears to have been in that class of persons . . . who had so far benefited by their contact with the Jewish people as to have become convinced that theirs was the true religion. They, consequently, worshiped the true God, were acquainted with the scriptures of the Old Testament, and observed several Jewish customs, as, for instance, their hours for prayer or anything else that did not involve an act of special profession."—Id., art. "Cornelius."

3. Under what circumstances did this good man receive a comforting message from the Lord? What was the message? Verses 3, 4.

NOTE.—Prayer forms the connection between the soul and God.

4. To whom did the angel direct Cornelius for further light and instruction? How explicit were the directions given? Verses 5, 6.

NOTE.—"The angel appeared to Cornelius while he was at prayer. . . . The explicitness of these directions, in which was named even the occupation of the man with whom Peter was staying, shows that heaven is acquainted with the history and business of men in every station of life. God is familiar with the experience and work of the humble laborer, as well as with that of the king upon his throne. . . .

"Thus God gave evidence of His regard for the gospel ministry and for His organized church. The angel was not commissioned to tell Cornelius the story of the cross. A man subject, even as the centurion himself, to human frailties and temptations, was to be the one to tell him of the crucified and risen Saviour."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 133, 134.

5. How did Cornelius respond to this instruction of the angel? Verses 7, 8.

6. To what kind of man was Cornelius sent for light and instruction? Verse 9.

NOTE.—The Lord knows in what house, on what street, and in what city His children live. He knows when and where they pray. (See Acts 9: 11.) It was to Cornelius, who "prayed to God alway," and to Peter, who "went up upon the housetop to pray," that the two visions recorded in this lesson were given.

It was when Daniel prayed far into the night that the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation thereof were made known to him.

7. What vision was given to Peter on this occasion? Verses 10-12.

8. What command came to him in connection with the vision? Verse 13.

9. What response did Peter make to this command? Verse 14.

NOTE.—"Though Cornelius was a Roman, he had become acquainted with the true God, and had renounced idolatry. He was obedient to the will of God, and worshiped Him with a true heart. He had not connected himself with the Jews, but was acquainted with, and obedient to, the moral law. He had not been circumcised, nor did he take part in the sacrificial offerings; he was therefore accounted by the Jews as unclean. He, however, sustained the Jewish cause by liberal donations, and was known far and near for his deeds of charity and benevolence. His righteous life made him of good repute, among both Jews and gentiles."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, pp. 324, 325.

10. In what words was the command to Peter thrice repeated? Verses 15, 16.

11. What did Peter understand this vision to mean? Verse 28.

NOTE.—"By the vision of the sheet, and its contents, let down from heaven, Peter was to be divested of his settled prejudices against the gentiles; to understand that, through Christ, heathen nations were made partakers of the blessings and privileges of the Jews, and were to be thus benefited equally with them. Some have urged that this

vision was to signify that God had removed His prohibition from the use of the flesh of animals which He had formerly pronounced unclean; and that therefore swines' flesh was fit for food. This is a very narrow, and altogether erroneous interpretation, and is plainly contradicted in the Scriptural account of the vision and its consequences." —Id., pp. 327, 328.

12. While Peter was reflecting on the vision, what visitors were making inquiry for him at his gate? Verses 17, 18.

13. What further instruction did Peter receive while still reflecting on the vision? Verses 19, 20.

14. As Peter met the men from Cæsarea, what announcement did he make concerning himself? What question did he ask them? Verse 21.

15. What reply did the messengers make? Verse 22.

16. What hospitality did Peter show these visitors before going with them to Cæsarea? Verse 23.

17. How does this lesson show that the Lord honors prompt obedience to His commands?

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Would acquaintance with the Lord, through prayer, bring guidance to me in time of need?

How may I be hindering the carrying out of the Lord's plan?

LESSON 3

THE GOSPEL GIVEN TO THE GENTILES

January 15, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 10: 24-48.

MEMORY VERSE: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10: 34.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 137-142.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

In response to the earnest entreaty of the messengers from Cornelius, Peter had left Joppa with six Jewish brethren and journeyed to Cæsarea, arriving there the next day.

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.
3. Study Questions 4-9, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-6 of the primary lesson.
4. Study Questions 10-15, and note. Children may read paragraphs 7 and 8 of the primary lesson.
5. Study Questions 16-18, and note. Children may read paragraphs 9-11 of the primary lesson.
6. Read pages cited above in the Lesson Help. Answer questions in the primary and youth's lessons if the papers are available.

7. Review the main points in the lesson. Tell the story of the lesson, each member of the family taking part. Discuss topics under heading "For Diligent Students" in primary lesson. Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. When did Peter and those who were with him arrive in Cæsarea? What preparation had Cornelius made in view of Peter's expected arrival? Acts 10: 24.

2. How was Peter greeted by Cornelius? Verse 25.

NOTE.—"As Peter entered the house of the gentile, Cornelius did not salute him as an ordinary visitor, but as one honored of heaven, and sent to him by God. . . . Cornelius, overwhelmed with reverence for the apostle who had been delegated by God, fell at his feet and worshiped him."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, p. 329.

3. How did Peter respond to the homage paid to him by Cornelius? Verse 26.

NOTE.—"Peter shrank with horror from this act of the centurion, and lifted him to his feet, saying, 'Stand up, I myself also am a man.' . . . Had Peter been invested with the authority and position accorded to him by the Roman Catholic Church, he would have encouraged, rather than have checked, the veneration of Cornelius. The so-called successors of Peter require kings and emperors to bow at their feet; but Peter himself claimed to be only an erring and fallible man."—Id., pp. 329, 330.

4. As Peter entered the house of Cornelius, what did he find? Verse 27.

5. What statement and inquiry did Peter make on meeting Cornelius? Verses 28, 29.

6. How did Cornelius explain his reason for sending for Peter? Verses 30-32.

NOTE.—"How carefully the Lord worked to overcome the prejudice against the gentiles that had been so firmly fixed in Peter's mind by his Jewish training! By the vision of the sheet and its contents, He sought to divest the apostle's mind of this prejudice, and to teach the important truth that in heaven there is no respect of persons; that Jew and gentile are alike precious in God's sight; that through Christ the heathen may be made partakers of the blessings and privileges of the gospel."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 136.

7. How did Cornelius open the way for Peter's message? Verse 33.

8. What still clearer vision does Peter seem to have gained on this inspiring occasion? Verse 34.

NOTE.—"Here we may perceive the workings of God's plan to set the machinery in motion, whereby His will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Peter had not yet preached the gospel to the gentiles. Many of them had been interested listeners to the truths which he taught. . . . The Greek Jews had received the labors of the apostles, and many of them had responded to those efforts by embracing the faith of Jesus; but the conversion of Cornelius was to be the first one of importance among the gentiles."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, p. 327.

9. Who did the apostle say were accepted with God? Verse 35.

10. Upon what did the apostle Peter base his message? How extensively does he say that word had been proclaimed? Verses 36, 37.

11. What declaration had been made concerning Jesus? Verse 38.

12. Of what did Peter declare himself to be a witness? Verses 39-41.

13. To what great truth was Peter to testify? Verse 42.

14. Who before Peter had borne similar witness? Verse 43.

15. What manifestation of divine power attended Peter's sermon, for which the soil had been so well prepared? Verse 44.

NOTE.—"Peter preached Jesus to that company of attentive hearers; His life, ministry, miracles, betrayal, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, and His work in heaven, as man's representative and advocate, to plead in the sinner's behalf. As the apostle spoke, his heart glowed with the Spirit of God's truth which he was presenting to the people. His hearers were charmed by the doctrine they heard, for their hearts had been prepared to receive the truth. The apostle was interrupted by the descent of the Holy Ghost, as was manifested on the day of Pentecost."—Id., pp. 331, 332.

16. How were those who accompanied Peter from Joppa affected? Verses 45, 46.

17. What question did Peter then ask? Verse 47.

18. What did he command those assembled to do? Verse 48.

NOTE.—"The descent of the Holy Ghost upon the gentiles was not an equivalent for baptism. The requisite steps in conversion, in all cases, are faith, repentance, and baptism. Thus the true Christian church are united in one Lord, one faith, one baptism."—Id., p. 332.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

The same spirit of faith and obedience that brought a shower of the "former rain" upon the first gentile converts, will now bring similar manifestations of the outpouring of the "latter rain." Am I prepared to receive it?

"God is no respecter of persons." Should I be?

LESSON 4

PETER TELLS HIS EXPERIENCE; THE GOSPEL REACHES ANTIOCH

January 22, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 11.

MEMORY VERSE: "The hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed." Acts 11: 21.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 155-160.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

A stir among the believers in Judea. Strange reports had reached their ears concerning the conduct of Peter. They had heard that

Peter had actually been preaching the gospel to gentiles. The prejudice of the Jewish believers against the idea of gentile acceptance of the gospel led to the rehearsal of the experiences of Peter in detail, when he returned to Jerusalem.

The center of activity in spreading the gospel shifts in this lesson from Jerusalem to Antioch, capital of Syria. It was an important city commercially, "the common mart where East and West met," sixteen miles from the Mediterranean Sea, and three hundred north of Jerusalem.

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 note. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson.
3. Locate Jerusalem and Cæsarea on the map. Study Questions 5-9, and notes. Teach to the children the salient points in the note following Question 9.
4. Study Questions 10-15, and note. Children may read paragraphs 4-7 of the primary lesson. Read pages 155 and 156 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 16-20, and note. Children may read paragraphs 8-10 of the primary lesson. Read pages 157-160 of the Lesson Help.
6. Find on the map the countries and cities mentioned in the lesson. Relate what occurred at each place. Children may answer questions in the primary lesson.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor," if the paper is available. Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What news reached the ears of the apostles and brethren in Judea? Acts 11: 1.

2. When Peter arrived at Jerusalem, how was he received by the brethren? Verses 2, 3.

NOTE.—"When the brethren in Judea heard that Peter had preached to the gentiles, and had met with them, and eaten with them in their houses, they were surprised and offended by such strange movements on his part. They feared that such a course, which looked presumptuous to them, would tend to contradict his own teachings. As soon as Peter visited them, they met him with severe censure, saying, 'Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.' "—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, pp. 332, 333.

3. How did Peter reply to their contention? Verse 4.

4. What was the substance of Peter's report to the brethren at Jerusalem? Verses 5-14.

5. What divine power did Peter tell them accompanied his sermon in the house of Cornelius? Verse 15.

6. Of what saying of Jesus' did Peter say this experience at Cæsarea had reminded him? Verse 16.

7. What appeal did he then make to his brethren? Verse 17.

8. What great truth now, for the first time, dawned upon their minds? Verse 18.

NOTE.—"The disciples, upon hearing this account, were silenced, and convinced that Peter's course was in direct fulfillment of the plan

of God, and that their old prejudices and exclusiveness were to be utterly destroyed by the gospel of Christ."—Id., pp. 333, 334.

9. In the first gospel commission, where were the apostles commanded to go? Where were they not to go? Matt. 10: 5, 6.

NOTE.—In Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9: 24), 490 years of the great prophetic period were allotted to the Jews. This period, beginning in the autumn of B. C. 457, must terminate in the autumn of A. D. 34. The gospel call was therefore limited to the Jews until that date. Paul and Barnabas, speaking to the Jews, said (Acts 13: 46): "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the gentiles." In that very year, A. D. 34, was the great persecution in which Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was put to death.

10. Following the death of Stephen, what marked change took place in the gospel program? Acts 8: 4, 5.

11. When the church was thus scattered abroad, to whom did they preach the gospel? Acts 11: 19, 20.

12. What success attended their ministry of the Word? Verse 21.

NOTE.—"After the disciples had been driven from Jerusalem by persecution, the gospel message spread rapidly through the regions lying beyond the limits of Palestine; and many small companies of believers were formed in important centers. Some of the disciples 'traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the Word.' Their labors were usually confined to the Hebrew and Greek Jews, large colonies of whom were at this time to be found in nearly all the cities of the world."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 155.

13. Whom did the church at Jerusalem send to build up the work in these newly opened centers of light? Verse 22.

14. How did Barnabas exhort the new converts? Verse 23.

15. What character does Inspiration ascribe to Barnabas? Verse 24.

16. Whom did Barnabas seek as a colaborer? Verse 25.

NOTE.—Barnabas now hastened to find Saul and brought him to Antioch, at which place their united labors in the gospel began. "The labors of Barnabas in Antioch were richly blessed, and many were added to the number of believers there. As the work developed, Barnabas felt the need of suitable help, in order to advance in the opening providences of God; and he went to Tarsus to seek for Paul, who, after his departure from Jerusalem some time before, had been laboring in 'the regions of Syria and Cilicia,' proclaiming 'the faith which once he destroyed.' Barnabas was successful in finding Paul, and in persuading him to return with him as a companion in ministry."—Id., p. 156.

17. At what place was the name Christian first bestowed upon the followers of Christ? Verse 26.

18. Who next came to Antioch from Jerusalem? Verse 27.

19. What noted event took place in fulfillment of their prophetic utterances? Verse 28.

20. How was the church benefited by this prophetic warning? Verses 29, 30.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Am I worthy of bearing that royal name of Christian?
Do I "send relief" to the needy "according to" my ability?
What effect would persecution for my faith have upon me?

LESSON 5

DEATH OF JAMES; PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON

January 29, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 12.

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb. 13: 6.

LESSON HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 143-154; "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 748, 749.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Time: Spring of A. D. 44. The Passover that year was April 1-8. The martyrdom of James took place just before the feast, and the release of Peter just after. For a time the churches in Judea had enjoyed rest from persecution (Acts 9: 31). After a time, the Jews again turned toward the rapidly increasing Christian church, and used their influence with Herod the king to stop its progress by persecution. The famine predicted by the prophets at Antioch was on the increase. Barnabas and Saul came to Jerusalem, bearing the relief that had been provided by the church at Antioch.

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 143-146 of "The Acts of the Apostles."
3. Study Questions 5-9, and note. Children may read paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson. Read page 147 of "The Acts of the Apostles."
4. Study Questions 10-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 6-8 of the primary lesson. Read page 148 of "The Acts of the Apostles."
5. Study Questions 15-19, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 9-11 of the primary lesson. Read pages 149-154 of "The Acts of the Apostles."
6. Relate the story of the lesson, giving all details, each member of the family taking part. Discuss topics under heading "Questions to Think About" 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." Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 748, 749. Discuss questions under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. After a period of rest from persecution, what trying experience came to the church at Jerusalem? Acts 12: 1.

NOTE.—The accuracy of the sacred writer in the expression "about that time" is remarkable. "There was no portion of time for thirty

years before, or ever afterwards, in which there was a king at Jerusalem, a person exercising that authority in Judea, or to whom that title could be applied, except the last three years of Herod's life, within which period the transaction here recorded took place."—Paley.

2. What Christian believer became the first victim of the rage of the tyrant Herod? Verse 2.

NOTE.—James, the brother of John, had been a prominent apostle. He was one of the earliest disciples, one of the favored three admitted to the death chamber of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5: 37), to the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17: 1), and to the agony in the garden (Matt. 26: 37). Jesus had said to him, "Ye shall drink indeed of My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father." Matt. 20: 23. In these prophetic words the Lord foretold the death of James.

3. What seems to have been the chief motive prompting Herod in this cruel persecution? Verse 3.

NOTE.—Several Herods are mentioned during the seventy years of New Testament history.

(a) Herod the Great, the founder of the family, was the murderer of the children at Bethlehem; he died in the spring, after the birth of Christ, B. C. 4.

(b) Herod Antipas, his son (B. C. 4 to A. D. 39), was the Herod who murdered John the Baptist.

(c) Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great, was the king who murdered the apostle James, as recorded in this lesson (A. D. 37-44).

(d) Herod Agrippa II, great grandson of Herod the Great, was the Herod before whom Paul made his defense (Acts 26: 28).

4. What did Herod purpose concerning Peter? Verse 4.

NOTE.—The word that is translated "Passover" in the Revised Version, is mistranslated "Easter" in the King James Version. The death of James occurred just before the eight-day period of the Passover, and the deliverance of Peter followed at its close.

5. While Peter was in prison, how was he remembered by the church at Jerusalem? Verse 5.

6. How long was the answer to their prayers deferred? What occurred the night before the date set for the execution of Peter? Verses 6, 7.

NOTE.—"It is the last night before the proposed execution. A mighty angel is sent from heaven to rescue Peter. The strong gates that shut in the saint of God open without the aid of human hands. The angel of the Most High passes through, and the gates close noiselessly behind him. He enters the cell, and there lies Peter, sleeping the peaceful sleep of perfect trust."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 146.

7. What command did Peter receive from his heavenly visitor that showed care for his comfort? Verse 8.

8. How did this sudden awakening out of sleep and that which followed impress Peter? Verse 9.

9. How far did the angel accompany Peter? Verse 10.

10. Of what was Peter conscious when he came to himself? Verse 11.

11. When Peter came to realize fully what had taken place, where did he go? Verse 12.

NOTE.—Many were gathered together praying. It was now almost morning, between three and six o'clock. As this was the last night before Peter's expected execution, they continued all night in prayer.

12. How did the assembled disciples respond to Peter's knock at the gate? Verses 13-15.

13. How did the disciples feel when they recognized Peter? Verse 16.

NOTE.—"It was impossible for them to know what answer was wisest and best. God had allowed Stephen to be stoned, and his martyrdom had spread the gospel as a great wind spreads a conflagration. How did they know it was not God's will for Peter to be a martyr that should light up the heathen skies with the gospel, even more than his life could do? They prayed for Peter because they loved him, and because he seemed necessary for the good of Christ's cause; but the soul of their prayer was for the cause of Christ and the salvation of men. They knew this prayer would be answered. Even if Peter was to be released, they could not imagine in which, of a hundred possible ways, it would be done. They evidently never dreamed of the plan God actually used. No wonder they were astonished. Our astonishment at the way and the time does not deny our expectation of an answer."—"Notes on International Sunday School Lessons."

14. To whom did Peter ask the brethren to make these things known? Verse 17.

15. What question agitated the soldiers in the prison as daylight appeared? Verse 18.

16. Upon whom did Herod vent his rage, on learning that Peter had escaped? Verse 19.

NOTE.—"Herod knew that no human power had rescued Peter, but he was determined not to acknowledge that a divine power had frustrated his design, and he set himself in bold defiance against God."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 149.

17. How was a quarrel settled between Herod and the people of Tyre and Sidon? Verse 20.

18. What took place upon a special day? What fearful judgment was instantly visited upon Herod? Verses 21-23.

NOTE.—"Suddenly a terrible change came upon him. His face became pallid as death, and distorted with agony. Great drops of sweat started from his pores. He stood for a moment as if transfixed with pain and terror; then turning his blanched and livid face to his horror-

stricken friends, he cried in hollow, despairing tones, He whom you have exalted as a god is stricken with death."—Id., p. 151.

19. How was the work of the gospel affected by the persecution at the hand of Herod? What mission had been fulfilled by Barnabas and Saul during the time of the events recorded in this lesson? Verses 24, 25.

NOTE.—Barnabas and Saul had come to Jerusalem to bring the relief provided by the church at Antioch, in response to the warning of the prophets. The famine was on the increase, it having begun in A. D. 43, and continued till A. D. 45.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

In time of need, the Christian's power is in prayer, which moves the hand that moves the world.

The church should pray for its leaders.

The ministry of angels brings a closeness of connection between heaven and earth.

LESSON 6

BEGINNING OF PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

February 5, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 13.

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Ps. 1: 6.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 166-176.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

When Saul was converted, the Lord said, "He is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." Saul waited, working as he had opportunity until the Lord Himself opened the way for a larger work.

Paul labored with Barnabas in Antioch for a period of one year after his many years' retirement in Arabia. By command of the Holy Spirit, he and Barnabas were set apart for their mission to the gentiles. They started on their first missionary journey in the autumn of A. D. 46. This first missionary voyage seems to have occupied between one and two years, and they traveled about one thousand miles.

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 and 2, tracing on the map the places noted between Antioch in Syria, and Antioch in Pisidia. Children may take part in the map study.
3. Study Questions 3-6, and note. Children may read paragraphs 1-7 of the primary lesson. Read pages 166-168 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 7-10, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 8 and 9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 169-171 of the Lesson Help.

5. Study Questions 11-14. Children may read paragraph 10 of the primary lesson. Read pages 172 and 173 of the Lesson Help.

6. Study Questions 15-19. Children may read paragraphs 11 and 12 of the primary lesson. Read pages 174-176 of the Lesson Help.

7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Study notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. As the prophets and teachers ministered before the Lord at Antioch, what message came to them? Acts 13: 1, 2.

2. What three things were done by those who followed the instruction to "separate" Barnabas and Saul for this special work? Who really sent these men on their mission? Where did they first go? Verses 3, 4.

NOTE.—Trace the journey, starting at Antioch in Syria, passing overland, or down the Orontes River by boat, to Seleucia, sixteen miles away.

Thence the route is by boat southwestward to the island of Cyprus about eighty miles out in the Mediterranean Sea. They landed at Salamis in the east end of the island, and then worked across, a distance of about one hundred and ten miles to Paphos, the capital, on the western coast.

Paul and his company then took passage for Perga in Pamphylia, the province which extended along the central part of the southern coast now known as Asia Minor. Perga was several miles from the coast, on the river Cestrus, which was then navigable.

From Perga the route was north a hundred miles and more, crossing the Taurus Mountains to Antioch in Pisidia on the high tableland.

Driven from Antioch, the missionaries traveled about ninety miles southeastward to Iconium.

3. At what port in the island of Cyprus did they first preach the gospel? Verse 5.

4. Whom did they find at Paphos? What prominent man there desired to hear the word of God? Verses 6, 7.

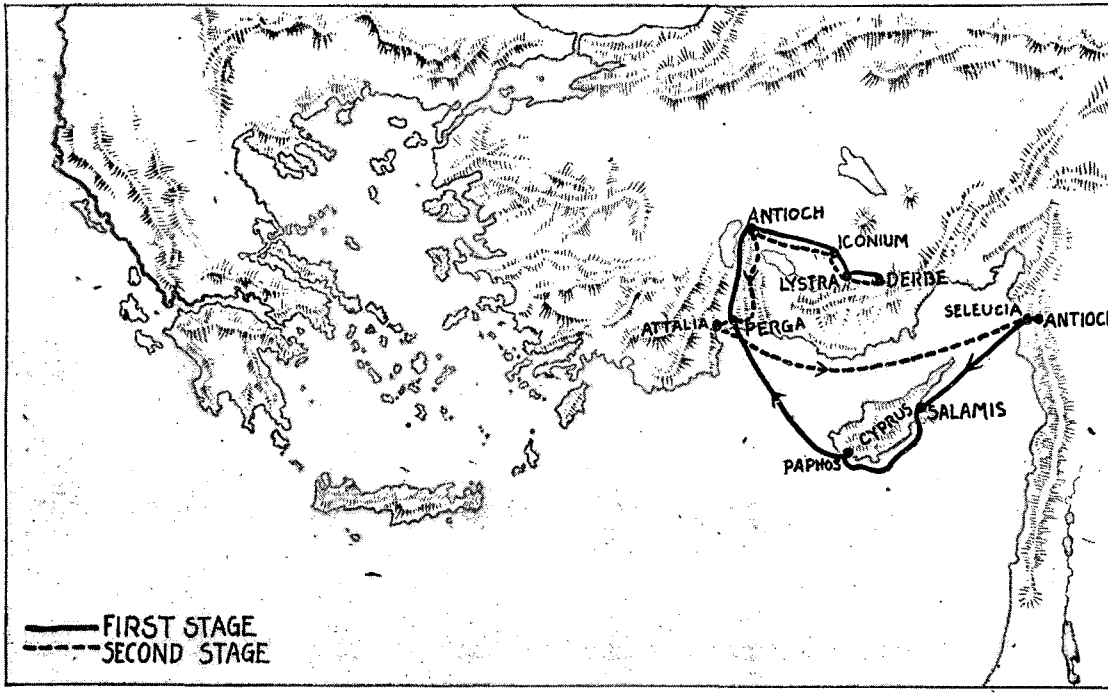
5. What experience is related of Paul and Elymas the sorcerer? Verses 8-11.

NOTE.—"The sorcerer had closed his eyes to the evidences of gospel truth; and the Lord, in righteous anger, caused his natural eyes to be closed, shutting out from him the light of day. This blindness was not permanent, but only for a season, that he might be warned to repent, and seek pardon of the God whom he had so grievously offended. The confusion into which he was thus brought, made of no effect his subtle arts against the doctrine of Christ."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 168.

6. How was the deputy impressed by the miracle wrought at the hand of Paul? Verse 12.

7. What incident occurred at Perga, the next stopping place of the missionaries? Verse 13.

NOTE.—"It was here that Mark, overwhelmed with fear and discouragement, wavered for a time in his purpose to give himself



PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

whole-heartedly to the Lord's work. Unused to hardships, he was disheartened by the perils and privations of the way. He had labored with success under favorable circumstances; but now, amidst the opposition and perils that so often beset the pioneer worker, he failed to endure hardness as a good soldier of the cross. He had yet to learn to face danger and persecution and adversity with a brave heart. As the apostles advanced, and still greater difficulties were apprehended, Mark was intimidated, and losing all courage, refused to go farther, and returned to Jerusalem."—Id., pp. 169, 170.

8. At Antioch in Pisidia, what invitation was extended to Paul and Barnabas? Verses 14, 15.

9. How did Paul show tact and wisdom in the introduction to his discourse? Verses 16-19.

NOTE.—"Paul, in a Jewish synagogue, and speaking to Jews and those who had joined with them, wisely conciliated them and warded off prejudice by referring to the early history of the Jews. He believed their Scriptures, in no case overthrowing them, but simply showing how they were fulfilled. He reminded them of the unbelief of their ancestors, in order to prepare the audience for the startling charge he had to bring against the rulers of the Jews at Jerusalem, as having condemned and slain the Saviour. He spoke of King David because the promise was that the Messiah should be his descendant (Isa. 11: 1). They were looking for the Messiah. He thus appealed to the hope dear to the heart of every Jew. He then told them that Jesus was that promised son of David."—"Notes on International Sunday School Lessons."

10. How did Paul refer to the four hundred and fifty years following the forty years' wandering in the wilderness? Verse 20.

11. What events did he note from the time of the judges to the birth of the Messiah? Verse 21-25.

12. What personal application of the truth did he then make to his hearers? Who did he say fulfilled the prophecies that were then being read every Sabbath day in the synagogues? Verses 26, 27.

13. What salient points in the life of Jesus did Paul set before them? Verses 28-31.

14. What message of glad tidings did Paul declare to the people? Verses 32, 33.

15. How did Paul preach forgiveness and justification at Antioch? What solemn warning was given in this discourse? Verses 38-41.

16. What followed the request of the gentile hearers of Paul's message? Verses 42-44.

17. What solemn declaration did the apostle make to those Jews who contradicted and blasphemed? Verses 45-47.

18. How did the gentiles respond to the gospel message? Verses 48, 49.

19. What opposition followed? Verses 50-52.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Christ "died unto sin." Rom. 6: 10. "Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father." Rom. 6: 4. Christ was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Rom. 1: 4. Have I died to sin? Rom. 6: 3. Have I risen from the death of sin? Rom. 6: 5. What reckoning am I now to do? Rom. 6: 11. What relationship is thus created? 1 John 3: 2.

LESSON 7

PAUL AND BARNABAS AT ICONIUM, LYSTRA, AND DERBE

February 12, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 14.
MEMORY VERSE: "Ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein." Acts 14: 15.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 177-187.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul and Barnabas were on their first missionary tour, having been set apart especially for this work by the church at Antioch, in Syria. They had preached at Salamis and Páphos in the island of Cyprus, the country of Barnabas, and at Antioch in Pisidia. This lesson relates their experiences at Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, and the completion of their trip by the return to Antioch in Syria.

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 177-179 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 5-10, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-7 of the primary lesson. Read pages 180-182 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 11-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 8-10 of the primary lesson. Read pages 183-185 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 15-18, and notes. Children may trace the route of the lesson on the map. Read pages 186 and 187 of the Lesson Help.
6. Tell the story of the lesson and trace the journey from the start at Antioch in Syria to the return to that place, relating important events.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Study notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topic under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. Having been expelled from Antioch in Pisidia, where did Paul and Barnabas next labor? Acts 14: 1.

2. In what way did opposition develop at Iconium? How did they meet this opposition? Verses 2, 3.

NOTE.—"This increasing popularity of the doctrine of Christ stirred the unbelieving Jews to fresh opposition. . . . They went to the authorities, and represented their work in the most false and exaggerated light, leading the officers to fear that the entire city was in

danger of being incited to insurrection. They stated that great numbers were attaching themselves to the apostles, and suggested that it was for secret and dangerous designs.

"In consequence of these charges, the disciples were repeatedly brought before the authorities; but in every case they so ably defended themselves before the people, that, although the magistrates were prejudiced against them by the false statements they had heard, they dared not condemn them. They could but acknowledge that the teachings of the apostles were calculated to make men virtuous, law-abiding citizens."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, pp. 358, 359.

3. What was the effect upon the people of the city? To what height did the persecution reach? To what cities did the apostles then flee? Verses 4-7.

NOTE.—"Friends of the apostles, although unbelievers, warned them of the designs of the malicious Jews, and urged them not uselessly to expose themselves to their fury, but to escape for their lives. They accordingly departed from Iconium in secret, and left the faithful and opposing parties to battle for themselves, trusting God to give victory to the doctrine of Christ. But they by no means took a final leave of Iconium; they purposed to return, after the excitement then raging had abated, and complete the work they had begun."—Id., p. 360.

4. What instruction of the Master were the apostles following in fleeing from Iconium? Matt. 10: 23.

5. What eager listener sat among the hearers at Lystra? Acts 14: 8.

NOTE.—"As Paul recounted the works of Christ in healing the afflicted, he perceived a cripple whose eyes were fastened upon him, and who received and believed his words. Paul's heart went out in sympathy toward the afflicted man, whose faith he discerned; and he eagerly grasped the hope that he might be healed by that Saviour, who, although He had ascended to heaven, was still man's Friend and Physician, having more power even than when He was upon earth."—Id., p. 362.

6. What did Paul perceive concerning this poor cripple? What command given by the apostle did this man obey? Verses 9, 10.

NOTE.—"In the presence of that idolatrous assembly, Paul commanded the cripple to stand upright upon his feet. Hitherto he had only been able to take a sitting posture; but he now grasped with faith the words of Paul, and instantly obeyed his command, and stood on his feet for the first time in his life. Strength came with this effort of faith; and he who had been a cripple walked and leaped as though he had never experienced an infirmity."—Ibid.

7. Beholding this miracle, what did the people say? What names did they ascribe to Paul and Barnabas? Verses 11, 12.

8. How did the priest of Jupiter think to honor the visitors to their city? Verse 13.

NOTE.—"The news of the miraculous cure of the cripple was soon noised throughout all that region, until a general excitement was

aroused, and priests from the temple of the gods prepared to do the apostles honor, as visitants from the courts of heaven, to sacrifice beasts to them, and to bring offerings of garlands and precious things. The apostles had sought retirement and rest in a private dwelling, when their attention was attracted by the sound of music, and the enthusiastic shouting of a vast assembly, who had come to the gate of the house where they were abiding."—Id., p. 363.

9. What hindered the carrying out of this plan? What did Paul say of himself and his associate? How did the apostles make this an occasion to preach to them the only true and living God? Verses 14, 15.

10. What had God allowed all nations to do? What witness of His love had He constantly given? Verses 16-18.

11. How was public opinion quickly turned against the apostles? To what extent was this persecution carried? Verse 19.

NOTE.—"The Lystrians rushed upon the apostles with great rage and fury. They hurled stones violently; and Paul, bruised, battered, and fainting, felt that his end had come. The martyrdom of Stephen was brought vividly to his mind, and the cruel part he had acted on that occasion. He fell to the ground apparently dead, and the infuriated mob dragged his insensible body through the gates of the city, and threw it beneath the walls."—Id., p. 366.

12. What took place as the believers stood around the body of Paul? Where did he and Barnabas go the next day? Verse 20.

NOTE.—"To the believers this unexpected restoration of God's servant was regarded as a miracle of divine power, and seemed to set the signet of Heaven upon their change of belief. They rejoiced with inexpressible gladness, and praised God with renewed faith."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 184.

13. Did the apostles avoid those cities where they had suffered persecution before? Verses 21, 22.

14. How did they bind off the work they had formerly done? Verse 23.

NOTE.—"As an important factor in the spiritual growth of the new converts, the apostles were careful to surround them with the safeguards of gospel order. Churches were duly organized in all places in Lycaonia and Pisidia where there were believers. Officers were appointed in each church, and proper order and system was established for the conduct of all the affairs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the believers.

"This was in harmony with the gospel plan of uniting in one body all believers in Christ, and this plan Paul was careful to follow throughout his ministry. Those who in any place were by his labor led to accept Christ as the Saviour, were, at the proper time, organized into a church. Even when the believers were but few in number, this was done."—Id., pp. 185, 186.

15. In what other place did they preach on their return journey? Verses 24, 25.

16. From what port did the apostles sail on their return voyage to Antioch, in Syria? Verse 26.

NOTE.—Between one and two years were spent on the first missionary tour, during which time the apostles had traveled considerably more than one thousand miles.

17. To whom did they report their missionary work and experiences? Verse 27.

18. How much time did they spend at Antioch? Verse 28.

NOTE.—They returned to Antioch some time during A. D. 47, and remained there till the Jerusalem council which was held in A. D. 51 or 52.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

If I have "like passions" with Paul (Acts 14: 15), and Elijah (James 5: 17), and Peter (Acts 10: 26), may I not also prevail with God?

LESSON 8

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM; PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

February 19, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 15 to 16: 12.
MEMORY VERSE: "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Acts 16: 9.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 188-211.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Time: Probably A. D. 51 or 52, fourteen years after Paul's conversion (Gal. 2: 1).

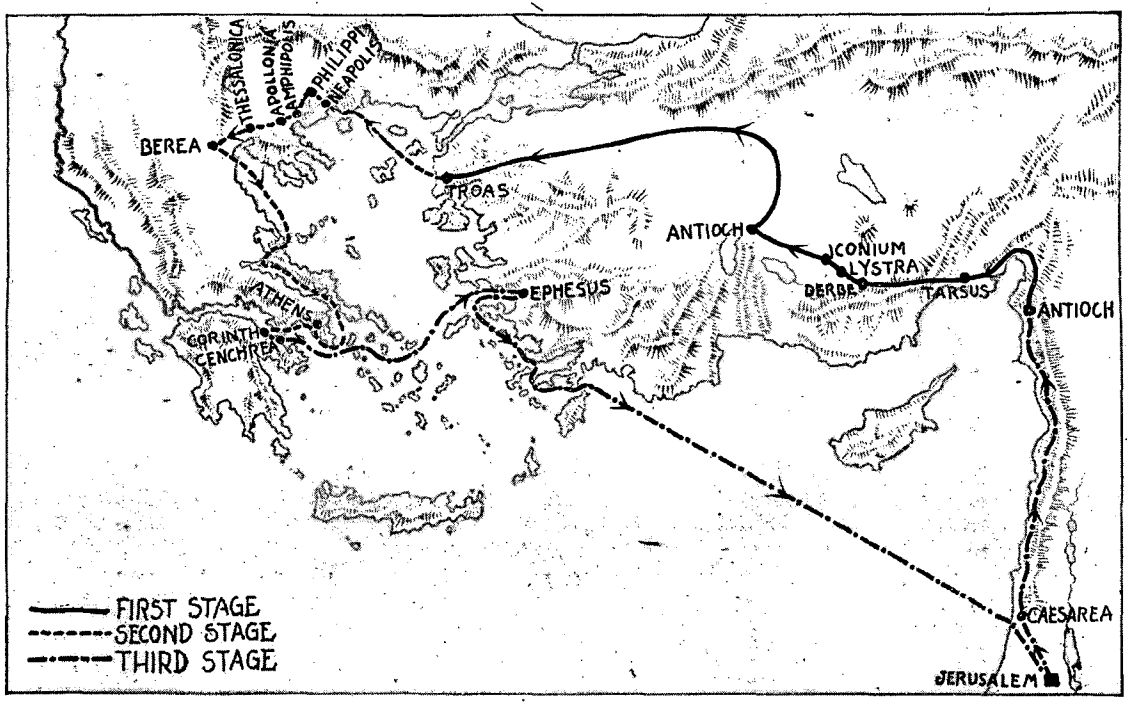
Place: Jerusalem. The visitors were coming from Antioch in Syria, three hundred miles north of Jerusalem.

Paul: Age about forty-eight, now the leading apostle to the gentiles. This was his third visit to Jerusalem since his conversion. The first was A. D. 39 (Acts 9: 26), the second A. D. 44 (Acts 11: 30).

Circumstances: Paul and Barnabas, after an absence of nearly two years on their mission through Asia Minor, had returned to Antioch in Syria, and had reported to a great missionary meeting of the church which had sent them forth. Here they remained a "long time with the disciples" (Acts 14: 28). It was during this time that the dispute arose with which to-day's lesson has to do.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Study carefully the "Setting of the Lesson" and read Acts 15. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Children trace on the map the route from Antioch in Syria to Jerusalem. Read selected portions of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-9, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson. Read selected portions of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 10-12, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4-6 of the primary lesson. Read selected portions of the Lesson Help.



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

5. Study Questions 13-15, and note. Children may read paragraphs 7-10 of the primary lesson. Read selected portions of the Lesson Help.

6. Read Acts 16: 1-12. Study Questions 16-18. Children may read paragraphs 11 and 12 of the primary lesson. Read selected portions of the Lesson Help.

7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Study notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What erroneous teaching caused trouble in the church at Antioch? Acts 15: 1.

NOTE.—"While the apostles united with the ministers and lay members at Antioch in an earnest effort to win many souls to Christ, certain Jewish believers from Judea, 'of the sect of the Pharisees,' succeeded in introducing a question that soon led to widespread controversy in the church, and brought consternation to the believing gentiles. With great assurance these Judaizing teachers asserted that in order to be saved, one must be circumcised, and must keep the entire ceremonial law."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 188, 189.

2. How did they decide to have the question settled? Verse 2.

NOTE.—"In the church at Antioch, the consideration of the question of circumcision resulted in much discussion and contention. Finally, the members of the church, fearing that a division among them would be the outcome of continued discussion, decided to send Paul and Barnabas, with some responsible men from the church, to Jerusalem, to lay the matter before the apostles and elders. There they were to meet delegates from the different churches, and those who had come to Jerusalem to attend the approaching festivals. Meanwhile all controversy was to cease until a final decision should be given in general council. This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country."—Id., p. 190.

3. On reaching Jerusalem, what report did they make to the church? Verse 4.

4. At the Jerusalem council, what reference did Peter make to his vision of eleven years before (Acts 10: 9-14)? Verses 7-9.

5. With what question did Peter close his speech? Verses 10, 11.

6. What testimony was borne by Barnabas and Paul? Verse 12.

7. What line of argument was followed by James? Verses 13, 14.

NOTE.—"James presided at the council, and his final decision was, 'Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the gentiles are turned to God.'

"This ended the discussion. In this instance we have a refutation of the doctrine held by the Roman Catholic Church,—that Peter was the head of the church. Those who, as popes, have claimed to be his successors, have no Scriptural foundation for their pretensions. Nothing in the life of Peter gives sanction to the claim that he was elevated above his brethren as the vicegerent of the Most High. If those who are declared to be the successors of Peter, had followed his example, they would always have been content to remain on an equality with their brethren."—Id., pp. 194, 195.

8. With what does James say the bringing in of the gentiles is a fulfillment? Verse 15.

NOTE.—He does not refer to the testimony of any one prophet, but to all that the prophets have spoken on this subject.

9. From which one of the prophets does he quote, as an illustration? Verses 16, 17. (See Amos 9: 11, 12.)

NOTE.—"The meaning of the passage is that the kingdom of God, of which David was the representative, shall be restored in the Messiah, who, as a descendent of David, shall bring back his royal line to the throne. And when this time comes the gentiles shall be partakers with the Jews."—Peloubet.

10. How did they decide to convey the decisions of the council to the church at Antioch? Verse 22.

11. In what form was the decision sent? Verses 23-29.

NOTE.—The following are prominent points in the letter:

(a) The greeting.
(b) The statement of the difficulty.
(c) Other workers to be sent.
(d) The decision.
(e) Four things named from which the gentiles were asked to abstain.
(f) The ending.

12. What effect did the reading of this epistle have upon the brethren assembled at Antioch? Verses 30-32.

NOTE.—"The entire body of Christians were not called to vote upon the question. The apostles and elders—men of influence and judgment—framed and issued the decree, which was thereupon generally accepted by the Christian churches. All were not pleased, however, with this decision; there was a faction of false brethren who assumed to engage in a work on their own responsibility. They indulged in murmuring and faultfinding, proposing new plans, and seeking to pull down the work of the experienced men whom God had ordained to teach the doctrine of Christ. The church has had such obstacles to meet from the first, and will ever have them to the close of time."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, p. 376.

13. Following the settlement of these church difficulties, what suggestion did Paul make to his companions in labor? Verse 36.

14. What contention arose, causing a separation between Paul and Barnabas? Verses 37-41.

15. What young man did Paul now select as a companion in labor? Acts 16: 1.

NOTE.—"Timothy or Timotheus, in the Bible (Acts 16: 1; 17: 4, etc.), a Lycaonian, the son of a gentile father and a Jewish mother, Eunice (2 Tim. 1: 5), was born in Lystra, and was already a member of the Christian church there at the time of Paul's second visit. He took the place formerly occupied by John Mark in Paul's company, and in deference to Jewish feeling was circumcised. He accompanied the apostle on many of his journeys, and was employed by him on im-

portant missions (1 Thess. 3:2; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10). Paul speaks of him as his 'son,' and this (see Phil. 2:22) refers to loyal service rather than to spiritual parentage. He was especially interested in the Macedonian churches, which he helped to found. His name is associated with that of Paul in the opening salutations of both epistles to the Thessalonians, the second epistle to the Corinthians, and those to the Philippians, and Colossians. He was, therefore, with Paul at Rome. At a later date he is mentioned in Hebrews 13:23 as having undergone imprisonment, but as having been released."—The Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, art. "Timothy."

16. What effect did their message have upon the churches which they visited? Verses 4, 5.

17. What night vision appeared to Paul at Troas? Verse 9.

18. What course did the apostles then take? Verses 10-12.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

It is important for me to be loyal to God, and to His organized work in the earth, by being found on the right side of every controversy that may arise.

Do I regard salvation as a free gift, or must I do something to earn it?

LESSON 9

PAUL AND SILAS AT PHILIPPI

February 26, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 16:12-40.

MEMORY VERSE: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 212-220.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Paul and his company came to Philippi in response to the vision given him in which he saw a man of Macedonia praying for him to come over and help. Philippi was one of the chief cities in Macedonia, and the first city in Europe where Paul preached. To the church at Philippi, Paul later wrote the most cheering of all his epistles, calling them "my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown."

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. Children may read paragraphs 1-5 of the primary lesson. Read pages 212 and 213 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 5-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 6-8 of the primary lesson. Read page 214 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-13, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 9-11 of the primary lesson. Read pages 215-217 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 14-17, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 12 and 13 of the primary lesson. Read pages 218-220 of the Lesson Help.

6. Review the call of Paul to Macedonia. Trace the route on the map. Tell the story of the lesson in its details, each member of the family taking part.

7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Study notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. In what city in Macedonia did Paul and his company begin their work? How did the apostles spend the Sabbath? Acts 16: 12, 13.

2. Who is mentioned as accepting the message of salvation as the result of Paul's preaching on the Sabbath? Verse 14.

3. What hospitality did she extend to the apostles? Verse 15.

4. How did the enemy seek to hinder the work at Philippi? How did Paul rebuke the evil spirit, which sought to throw discredit upon his mission? What was the result? Verses 16-18.

5. What complaint did the owners of the slave girl make against Paul and Silas? Verses 19-21.

NOTE.—"The first heathen persecution, like that subsequently at Ephesus (Acts 19: 25-27), was set on foot by covetousness. (Compare 1 Tim. 6: 9, 10). Like the Gergesenes (Matt. 8: 28-34), they cared nothing that a soul had been saved in comparison with the loss of their gains."—Abbott.

6. How was the multitude affected by these things? How did the magistrates show their displeasure? What command was given? Verse 22.

NOTE.—"Stirred by a frenzy of excitement, the multitude rose against the disciples. A mob spirit prevailed, and was sanctioned by the authorities, who tore the outer garments from the apostles, and commanded that they should be scourged."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 213.

7. How severely were the apostles beaten? What was then done with them? How were they made very secure? Verses 23, 24.

NOTE.—"The apostles suffered extreme torture because of the painful position in which they were left, but they did not murmur. Instead, in the utter darkness and desolation of the dungeon, they encouraged each other by words of prayer, and sang praises to God because they were found worthy to suffer shame for His sake. Their hearts were cheered by a deep and earnest love for the cause of their Redeemer. Paul thought of the persecution he had been instrumental in bringing upon the disciples of Christ, and he rejoiced that his eyes had been opened to see, and his heart to feel, the power of the glorious truths which once he despised."—Id., pp. 213, 214.

8. What unusual sound awakened the prisoners at midnight? Verse 25.

NOTE.—The Christian's inward experience of joy is superior to the outward experience of trouble; his prayer, even in his greatest extremity, should ever be mingled with praise (Phil. 4: 6; Col. 4: 2; 1 Thess. 5: 18).

"The prisoners heard them." "It may be that bars in the inner walls allowed the sound to pass into other cells. The verb is not the

common one for 'hearing' and is rarely found anywhere. It indicates attentive hearkening."—Cambridge Bible.

9. What was the response to the midnight prayer and praise service? Verse 26.

NOTE.—"What these missionaries prayed for we do not know. It may have been for release from suffering, as was right; but we have no doubt their most earnest prayer was that God would make His cause more successful through their sufferings, that the infant church might be strengthened, and many be converted from their sins. How the answer would come they could not know, nor did it much matter. Answers to prayer very often come in the most unexpected ways."—Peloubet.

10. What did the jailer see as he awoke? What was he about to do? Verse 27.

NOTE.—He no doubt did not hear the songs, but was awakened by the earthquake. "He probably slept in such a place that on rising he could observe at a glance whether the prison doors were secure. Paul, out of the dark, could observe him before the jailer could see farther than the open doors."—Cambridge Bible.

"The Roman law transferred to the jailer the punishment due an escaped prisoner."—Riddle.

11. How was the jailer prevented from carrying out his rash intention? Verse 28.

NOTE.—"In the bitterness of his spirit he felt that it was better for him to die by his own hand than to submit to a disgraceful execution. Drawing his sword, he was about to kill himself, when Paul's voice was heard in the words of cheer, 'Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.' (Every man was in his place, restrained by the power of God exerted through one fellow prisoner."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 215, 216.)

12. What did the jailer hastily do? What anxious inquiry did he make? Verses 29, 30.

13. By what words was the jailer's mind directed to the Saviour? What effect did Paul's preaching have upon the jailer and his household? Verses 31-34.

14. What instruction did the magistrates give to the sergeants the next morning? When this message was given to Paul, what reply did he make? Verses 35-37.

NOTE.—"The apostles were Roman citizens, and it was unlawful to scourge a Roman save for the most flagrant crime, or to deprive him of his liberty without a fair trial. Paul and Silas had been publicly imprisoned, and they now refused to be privately released without the proper explanation on the part of the magistrates."—Id., p. 217.

15. What caused the magistrates to fear when Paul's reply was delivered to them? What did they do? Verses 38, 39.

NOTE.—"When this word was brought to the authorities, they were alarmed for fear that the apostles would complain to the emperor; and going at once to the prison, they apologized to Paul and Silas for the

injustice and cruelty done them, and personally conducted them out of the prison, entreating them to depart from the city."—Id., pp. 217, 218.

16. What was the nature of their parting meeting with the brethren at the house of Lydia? Verse 40.

17. What enabled Paul and Silas to speak words of comfort to the believers in the home of Lydia? 2 Cor. 1: 3-5.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Have I that personal acquaintance with the Lord, and such an abiding trust in Him as would give me the same quiet mastery of any situation that might arise, as characterized the experiences of Paul and Silas?

Am I learning to rejoice in the Lord under unfavorable circumstances?

What will enable me to give comfort to those in affliction?

LESSON 10

PAUL AND SILAS AT THESSALONICA AND BEREA

March 5, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 17: 1-15.
MEMORY VERSE: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5: 39.
LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 221-233.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

After Paul's release from the Philippian jail, in company with Silas and Timothy, he went along the great Roman road thirty-three miles to Amphipolis, near the seashore. Apollonia was thirty miles farther. Thessalonica was then thirty-seven miles distant, making a journey of about one hundred miles in a southwest direction. Thessalonica was the chief city of Macedonia in Paul's day. It is now called Salonika, a city of considerable size. Here Paul preached for several weeks, when a disturbance arose which compelled the missionaries to move on, but they left a goodly number of converts to Christianity.

Driven from Thessalonica, Paul went sixty miles farther to the southwest on the way to Greece, to a city called Berea. Here many Jews and Greeks, and especially many honorable women, as in Thessalonica, became disciples.

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 pages 221-224 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 5-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 4-7 of the primary lesson. Read pages 225-230 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-11, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 8-10 of the primary lesson. Read pages 231 and 232 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 12-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 11 and 12 of the primary lesson. Read page 233 of the Lesson Help.

6. Relate the story of the lesson, each member of the family taking part. See that the younger members understand the following statements:

Paul "reasoned with them out of the Scriptures."
"Opening and alleging."
"Consorted with Paul and Silas."
"Turned the world upside down."
"Taken security of Jason."

7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Read notes in the "Youth's Instructor." Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What important city did Paul and Silas next visit? Acts 17: 1.

NOTE.—"After being thus 'shamefully treated' in Philippi (1 Thess. 2: 2), Paul passed on rapidly to Thessalonica, the real capital of the province and an admirable center of influence (cf. 1 Thess. 1: 8). In this great seaport there was at least one synagogue; and for three weeks he there discussed from the Scriptures the cardinal points in his message (cf. 1 Cor. 15: 3 seq.), 'that it behooved the Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead,' and that accordingly 'this Jesus . . . is the Christ' (17: 2 seq.). Some Jews believed, 'and of the God-fearing Greeks' (semi-proselytes) a large number, including not a few of the leading women. There was also successful work among those who turned directly 'from idols, to serve a God living and real' (1 Thess. 1: 9)."—The Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, art. "Paul."

2. What custom did Paul follow on the Sabbath? Verse 2.

NOTE.—Paul kept the seventh day as the Sabbath. Note his careful observance of that day as recorded in Acts 17: 2; 18: 4, and his teaching of the doctrine of the second coming of Christ in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16.

3. What was the theme of Paul's preaching at Thessalonica? Verse 3.

NOTE.—"Paul made the prophecies in the Old Testament relating to the Messiah, and the agreement of those prophecies with the life and teachings of Christ, clear in the minds of all among his hearers who would accept evidence upon the subject."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, p. 388.

4. What were the visible results of the effort at Thessalonica? Verse 4.

5. To what means did the Jews resort in stirring up an opposition movement? Verse 5.

NOTE.—"These Jews were not then in favor with the Roman power, because they had raised an insurrection in the metropolis not long previous to this time. They were regarded with suspicion, and their liberty was, in a measure, restricted. They now saw an opportunity to take advantage of circumstances to reëstablish themselves in favor, and, at the same time, to throw reproach upon the apostles, and the converts to Christianity.

"This they set about doing by representing that the leaders in the new doctrine were raising a tumult among the people. They accordingly excited the passions of the worthless mob by cunningly devised

falsehoods, and incited them to make an uproarious assault upon the house of Jason, the temporary home of the apostles. This they did with a fury more like that of wild beasts than of men."—Id., pp. 390, 391.

6. Not finding the apostles, whom did they involve in the commotion? Verse 6.

NOTE.—"When they had broken into the house, however, they found that the apostles were not there. Friends who had apprehended what was about to occur, had hastened them out of the city, and they had departed for Berea. In their mad disappointment at not finding Paul and Silas, the mob seized Jason and his brother, and dragged them before the authorities with the complaint."—Id., p. 391.

7. What charge was brought against the apostles? Verse 7.

NOTE.—"Jewish jealousy was aroused particularly by the loss of their converts; and at length in alliance with the rabble of the market place, it was able once more to cut short the preachers' work among the gentiles. The charge made against them had a serious ring, since it involved not only danger to public order but treason against the emperor (laesa majestas). Thus at Thessalonica Paul had experience of the imperial system as rival to his gospel of the sovereignty of God and of His Christ, the true King of humanity."—The Encyclopedia Britannica, ~~11th edition, art. "Paul."~~

8. How were the people and the rulers of the city affected? Verses 8, 9.

9. Being freed from the plotting of their enemies, where did the apostles next go? Verse 10.

NOTE.—"The persecuting Jews flattered themselves that by their course toward the Christians they had regained the confidence of the magistrates, and had established their reputation as loyal citizens, while they had, at the same time, gratified their malice toward the apostles, and transferred the suspicion which had heretofore rested upon themselves to the converts to Christianity."—"Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. 3, p. 391.

10. What character is ascribed to the people of Berea? Verse 11.

NOTE.—"The minds of the Bereans were not narrowed by prejudice. They were willing to investigate the truthfulness of the doctrines preached by the apostles. . . . If, in the closing scenes of this earth's history, those to whom testing truths are proclaimed would follow the example of the Bereans, searching the Scriptures daily, and comparing with God's word the messages brought them, there would to-day be a large number loyal to the precepts of God's law, where now there are comparatively few. But when unpopular Bible truths are presented, many refuse to make this investigation. Though unable to controvert the plain teachings of Scripture, they yet manifest the utmost reluctance to study the evidences offered. Some assume that even if these doctrines are indeed true, it matters little whether or not they accept the new light; and they cling to pleasing fables which the enemy uses to lead souls astray. Thus their minds are blinded by error, and they become separated from heaven."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 231, 232.

11. What different classes are mentioned as having received the gospel at Berea? Verse 12.

12. By whom was another strong opposition movement aroused? Verse 13.

NOTE.—"Paul and Silas withdrew by night, and began work in Berea, a small city of Thessaly, in the hope of returning when excitement had subsided. But Jewish intriguers from Thessalonica stirred up the populace with the old charges, and Paul, as the prime actor, was forced to retire, first to the coast (whence he may have thought of a secret visit to Thessalonica, 1 Thess. 2: 18; cf. 3: 5), and then by sea to Athens."—The Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, art. "Paul."

13. What precaution was taken for Paul's safety? Verse 14.

14. What message did Paul send back to Berea by those who had conducted him to Athens? Verse 15.

NOTE.—"On arriving at Athens, the apostle sent the Berean brethren back with a message to Silas and Timothy to join him immediately. Timothy had come to Berea prior to Paul's departure, and with Silas had remained to carry on the work so well begun there, and to instruct the new converts in the principles of the faith."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 233.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Would I know more of the "sufferings of Christ," and enjoy less of the "friendship of the world," if my life were as fully consecrated to the service of Christ as were the lives of Paul, Silas, and Timothy?

Do I make the Bible the standard of my belief as did the Bereans?

Why did Paul not become discouraged by the continual persecution?

LESSON 11

PAUL AT ATHENS

March 12, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 17: 16-34.

MEMORY VERSE: "He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17: 25.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 233-242.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Place: Athens, the capital of Attica, in Greece, and the great metropolis of literature and art for the world. It was named from Athena, identified with the Roman goddess Minerva, and was founded by Cecrops about 1556 B. C.

"The name of Athens was synonymous with the most graceful conceptions of art and the profoundest study of philosophy. There human wisdom had sat enthroned. All succeeding generations and civilized nations have acknowledged her intellectual supremacy. Athens was the mother of the fine arts, the patron of poetry, the founder of

systems of philosophy. She gave birth to the products of genius in almost every department of literature and art, which have scarcely, if ever, been surpassed."—Peloubet.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Read the "Setting of the Lesson" and the Lesson Scripture. Drill on the memory verse each day.
2. Trace on the map the route of Paul's second missionary journey thus far. Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson. Read pages 233-235 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson. Read pages 236, 237 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 6 and 7 of the primary lesson. Read pages 238 and 239 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 15-18, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 8 and 9 of the primary lesson. Read pages 240-242 of the Lesson Help.
6. Summarize Paul's argument revealing the true God, as he presented it before the Athenians. Children may answer questions in the primary lesson.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. What stirred the feelings of the apostle at Athens? Acts 17: 16.

NOTE.—It is said that Athens contained over three thousand public statues, the majority of which were of heathen gods. In one street there stood before every house a square pillar, upon the top of which was a statue of the god Hermes. Every gateway and porch carried its protecting god. A Roman poet sarcastically said, "In Athens it is easier to find gods than men."

2. How did Paul improve the opportunity this situation afforded him? Verse 17.

NOTE.—Paul began to preach to the Jews in the synagogue, and to the people gathered in the crowded market place.

3. By whom was he encountered as he preached "Jesus, and the resurrection?" Verse 18.

NOTE.—The attention even of the Epicureans and Stoics, who were leaders in philosophy and religion in Athens, was drawn toward him by the power of his words.

4. What information did they demand of Paul? Verses 19, 20.

NOTE.—"After discussing with them for a time, they requested him to leave the curious and thronging crowds of the market, which was not a proper arena for discussion; and for the convenience of both parties, and in order to give him a fair hearing, they led him up the steps of the Areopagus, Mars' Hill, to the platform on its summit, where were assembled the noblest blood of Athens, the first politicians, the first orators, the first philosophers; a court the most august, not only of Athens, but of Greece, and indeed of the whole world. It was at this bar that Socrates was arraigned and condemned on the ground of innovating upon the state religion. Here Paul was allowed to speak 'from the tribune of a regular court, where both speaker and audience would be free from disturbance.' "—Peloubet.

5. What characteristic of the people of Athens is noted? Verse 21.

6. What observation had Paul made in his walks about the city? Verse 22.

7. Of what fact did he take advantage in directing their minds to the true God? Verse 23.

NOTE.—"The people then, as in heathen countries now, sacrificed to gods to propitiate them, and keep them from sending trouble upon them. 'That no deity might punish them for neglecting his worship, or remain uninvoked in asking for blessings, they not only erected altars to all the gods named or known among them; but, distrustful still lest they might not comprehend fully the extent of their subjection and dependence, they erected them also to any other god or power that might exist, although as yet unrevealed to them.' "—Peloubet.

8. To what distinguishing power of the true God did the apostle appeal? Verse 24.

NOTE.—All through the Bible the true God is set forth as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. (See Jer. 10: 10-12; Ps. 96: 5; Jer. 32: 17; 51: 15; Acts 4: 24; 14: 15).

9. What kind of worship is not acceptable to God? Verse 25.

10. What great truth did Paul declare? What did he say had been before determined? Verse 26.

11. What is said to be the divine purpose in the existence of nations? Verse 27.

NOTE.—The object of divine Providence, in His dealings with nations as well as with individuals, is to bring men to a knowledge of the true God.

"The Greek word translated 'feel after' denotes the action of the blind person groping after what he desires to find."—Schaff.

12. How dependent are all men upon God? Whom did Paul tactfully quote as authority for his statement? Verse 28.

NOTE.—It is a remarkable fact that with Paul's immense wealth of learning, and his knowledge of Greek literature and philosophy, this is one of but two quotations from such source to be found in all his writings. (See Titus 1: 12.)

13. What conclusion did the apostle draw concerning idol worship? Verse 29.

14. What call to repentance did he make? Verse 30.

15. To what solemn impending event did he call attention? Verse 31.

NOTE.—"The resurrection of Christ brought assurance of the judgment of the world by Christ, because (1) it proved Christ's claim that He was the Son of God. (2) It proved that His teaching was true, a part of which was that He should judge the world. (3) It proved the resurrection of the dead and a life beyond the grave, without which there could be no judgment."—Peloubet.

16. How was the teaching concerning the resurrection of the dead received? Verse 32.

NOTE.—"It is quite probable that at this point the apostle's speech was stopped, before it was completed. So long as he confined himself to philosophy, even though it were new, they could listen, and even

when he spoke of their duties; but the doctrine of the resurrection was too strange and too personal. It was not only opposed to their teaching and philosophy, but it condemned their lives. They must either repent, or they must refuse to believe this truth. They would not repent; therefore they either mocked, or put off considering the matter. Still, there were a few believers; and Paul's sermon was not without effect."—Ibid.

17. What seems to have been the result of the Mars' Hill effort in which the apostle matched "Greek with Greek"? Verses 33, 34.

18. What lesson did the apostle evidently learn from this experience? 1 Cor. 2: 1-4.

NOTE.—"In preaching the gospel in Corinth, the apostle followed a course different from that which had marked his labors at Athens. While in the latter place, he had sought to adapt his style to the character of his audience; he had met logic with logic, science with science, philosophy with philosophy. As he thought of the time thus spent, and realized that his teaching in Athens had been productive of but little fruit, he decided to follow another plan of labor in Corinth, in his efforts to arrest the attention of the careless and the indifferent. He determined to avoid elaborate arguments and discussions, and 'not to know anything' among the Corinthians, 'save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.' He would preach to them 'not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.' "—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 244.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

All the wealth of this world's wisdom is "foolishness with God." Its only effect, apart from Jesus Christ, in whom "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," is to drown men and women in vice and corruption.

May I possess much of the wisdom of this world, and not know the true God?

Is the Lord near to those who do not know Him?

LESSON 12

PAUL AT CORINTH; END OF PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

March 19, 1927

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Acts 18: 1-22.

MEMORY VERSE: "I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee." Acts 18: 10.

LESSON HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 243-254.

SETTING OF THE LESSON

Leaving Athens, Paul goes to Corinth, the capital of the Roman province of Achaia. He most likely made the trip by sea. So given over to evil was this commercial city, that "as wicked as Corinth" became a proverb. Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half. He then

went to Ephesus, touched at Cæsarea, thence to Jerusalem, and back to Antioch in Syria, the place of his ordination. Thus Paul ended his second missionary journey.

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 243-247 of the Lesson Help.
3. Study Questions 6-8, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 3-6 of the primary lesson. Read pages 248-250 of the Lesson Help.
4. Study Questions 9-11, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 7 and 8 of the primary lesson. Read pages 251-254 of the Lesson Help.
5. Study Questions 12-14, and notes. Children may read paragraphs 9 and 10 of the primary lesson. Review Paul's second missionary journey, tracing route on the map from Antioch to Philippi, mentioning chief events at each stopping place.
6. Complete map study as suggested, tracing route from Philippi to Antioch, mentioning chief events at each stopping place.
7. Review the lesson by asking questions from senior, youth's, junior, or primary lesson. Consider topics under "Personal Reflections."

THE LESSON

1. After his experience at Athens, where did Paul go? Acts 18: 1.

2. Whom did Paul meet at Corinth as associates in Christian fellowship? Verse 2.

NOTE.—"Among the Jews who had taken up their residence in Corinth, were Aquila and Priscilla, who afterward became distinguished as earnest workers for Christ. Becoming acquainted with the character of these persons, Paul 'abode with them.' "—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 243.

3. In what secular business were Paul and Aquila associated? Verse 3.

NOTE.—"Paul, after working miracles, stood in his workshop at Corinth, and stitched hides of leather together with his hands; and the angels regarded him with love, and the devils with fear."—St. Chrysostom. Paul supported himself at Ephesus also. (See Acts 20: 34.)

4. What custom (Acts 17: 2) did Paul follow on the Sabbath? Verse 4.

5. What was Paul's message to the Jews at Corinth? What solemn declaration did Paul then make? Verses 5, 6.

NOTE.—"The word [opposed] implies very strong opposition, as of a force drawn up in battle array. It was an organized opposition."—Cambridge Bible.

"The more than usually violent opposition of the Jews was no doubt stirred up by the intense earnestness of Paul in his work after the arrival of Silas and Timotheus, when he was 'pressed and constrained by the Word.' "—Philip Schaff.

6. Being no longer permitted to occupy the synagogue, where did Paul continue his teaching? Verse 7.

NOTE.—Paul departed from the synagogue (verse 4), not from the city or from the house of Aquila. He used the home of Justus for the purpose of teaching and worship. We may suppose that he still lodged with Aquila and Priscilla.

7. Besides many of the Corinthians, what church officer of note embraced the gospel? Verse 8.

8. What comforting assurance came to Paul in a night vision? Verses 9, 10.

NOTE.—"The form of the original suggests that the apostle was beginning to despond."—Riddle.

"He felt keenly the trial of seeming failure and comparative isolation. His converts came chiefly from the slave or freedman class, and those of a culture like his own, whether Greeks or Jews, were slow to accept his preaching (1 Cor. 1: 26, 27). And then he carried, as it were, his life in his hands. The reviling of the Jews might at any hour burst into furious violence or deliberate plots of assassination. The temptation of such a moment of human weakness was to fall back, when words seemed fruitless, into the safety of silence, and therefore the command followed, 'Speak, and hold not thy peace.'"—Plumptre.

9. In their violent opposition, what accusation did the Jews make against Paul when Gallio became governor? Verses 12, 13.

NOTE.—"The increased success that Paul had in presenting Christ, roused the unbelieving Jews to more determined opposition. They rose in a body, and 'made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat' of Gallio, who was then proconsul of Achaia. They expected that the authorities, as on former occasions, would side with them; and with loud, angry voices they uttered their complaints against the apostle, saying, 'This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.'"—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 252.

10. How did Gallio, a man of integrity, dispose of the case, even before Paul had made any defense? Verses 14-16.

NOTE.—"Gallio was a man of integrity, and he refused to become the dupe of the jealous, intriguing Jews. Disgusted with their bigotry and self-righteousness, he would take no notice of the charge. As Paul prepared to speak in self-defense, Gallio told him that it was not necessary."—Id., p. 253.

11. How did the Greeks then treat Sosthenes, who was now in the place of the good Crispus? How was Gallio's favor toward Paul still further shown? Verse 17.

NOTE.—"For the first time during Paul's labors in Europe, the mob turned to his side; under the very eye of the proconsul, and without interference from him, they violently beset the most prominent accusers of the apostle."—Ibid.

12. After spending a year and a half in Corinth, where did Paul then go? Who accompanied him to Ephesus? Verse 18.

13. Why did he decline an urgent invitation to remain longer at Ephesus? Whom did he leave at Ephesus to follow up the interest awakened?

NOTE.—Paul's "plan to visit Jerusalem prevented him from tarrying then, but he promised to return to them, 'if God will.' Aquila and Priscilla had accompanied him to Ephesus, and he left them there to carry on the work that he had begun."—Id., p. 269.

14. How did Paul complete his second missionary journey? Verse 22.

NOTE.—Starting from Antioch in Syria, Paul went by land over the mountains and visited the churches in Cilicia and Galatia. Especial mention is made of his second visit to Derbe and Lystra.

While seeking to go northward into Mysia and Bithynia, he was hindered by the Spirit, and finally came to Troas.

At Troas he was given a vision of the man of Macedonia praying for help, and Paul and his friends came to Philippi.

From Philippi he went to Thessalonica, thence to Berea, thence to Athens, thence to Corinth.

From Corinth he went to Ephesus, but would not remain on account of his desire to attend the Passover feast at Jerusalem.

Leaving Ephesus, he sailed to Cæsarea, then went up to Jerusalem and saluted the church, returning to Antioch in Syria.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

If we are right with God, we need not fear what man can do to harm us.

It is honorable to labor with our hands.

LESSON 13

THE REVIEW

March 26, 1927

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Study Questions covering Acts 9: 23-43 and Acts 10. Children may tell the story of Paul's escape from Damascus.
2. Study Questions covering Acts 11 and 12. Children may tell the story of Peter's deliverance from prison.
3. Study Questions covering Acts 13 and 14. Children may tell the stories of Elymas the sorcerer and of the healing of the cripple at Lystra.
4. Study Questions covering Acts 15 to 16: 13. Children may tell about the letter which was sent to Antioch.
5. Study Questions covering Acts 16: 12-40 and 17: 1-15. Children may tell the story of what occurred at Philippi.
6. Study Questions covering Acts 17: 16-34. Children may tell the story of Paul's preaching at Athens.
7. Study Questions covering Acts 18: 1-22. Children may tell of Paul's work at Corinth.

THE LESSON

Saul at Damascus; Peter's Ministry. Acts 9: 23-43.

What compelled Saul to leave Damascus? What experience awaited him in Jerusalem? To what place was he sent? What notable miracles by the hand of Peter were performed by the Lord at Lydda and Joppa?

The Gospel Sent to the Gentiles. Acts 10.

Who was Cornelius? What was he instructed to do by an angel? How was Peter prepared by the Lord to receive the messengers from Cornelius? Whom did Peter preach on reaching the home of Cornelius? What wonderful experience came to these gentile believers?

Peter Relates His Gentile Experience; the Gospel Reaches Antioch. Acts 11.

What was demanded of Peter when he reached Jerusalem? After Peter had related the experiences at Cæsarea, what conclusion was reached by Jewish believers? What great epoch, in reality, had thus been opened by the Lord in fulfillment of His commission to His disciples to go into all the world? How was the gospel carried to Antioch in Syria? Who later labored at Antioch? With what success?

Death of James; Peter's Deliverance from Prison. Acts 12.

How did Herod vex the church at this time? How securely was Peter imprisoned? How was he delivered? What was the church doing? What judgment was visited upon Herod?

Saul and Barnabas Sent Forth as Missionaries. Acts 13.

By whose command were Saul and Barnabas sent forth? Where did they first go? In opposing the gospel, what judgment befell Elymas the sorcerer? What resulted from Paul's first recorded discourse? Under what circumstances did the apostles leave the city?

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. Acts 14.

As the result of Paul and Barnabas having "so" spoken the words of truth at Iconium, what resulted? Why did they leave Iconium? What noted miracle was performed at Lystra? Because of the miracle, what did the people attempt to do? What befell Paul at this place? To what city did the apostles next flee? From Derbe to what place did they return, completing their first missionary tour?

The Council at Jerusalem; Paul's Second Missionary Journey. Acts 15 to 16: 13.

What controversy arose in the church at Antioch? How was it settled? From Antioch what city, overland, did Paul and Silas first visit? On again reaching Lystra, whom did Paul call as another associate in gospel labor? What led the brethren to enter Macedonia?

Paul and Silas at Philippi. Acts 16: 12-40.

How did Paul and Silas begin their labors in Europe at Philippi? What led to their imprisonment? Describe their deliverance.

At Thessalonica and Berea. Acts 17: 1-15.

What experience awaited the apostles at Thessalonica? At Berea?

Paul at Athens. Acts 17: 16-34.

To what notable place in Athens was Paul conducted? What truth was emphasized in his attempt to lead the people to turn from their idols to worship the true God? The citing of what new gospel truth brought Paul's discourse to an end?

Paul at Corinth; End of Paul's Second Missionary Journey. Acts 18: 1-22.

On leaving Athens, where did Paul go? Despite opposition, how were the apostles encouraged to remain at Corinth? What victory for the gospel was won before Gallio? What church did Paul visit on returning to Antioch, thus completing his second missionary journey?