

# Paul's first journey

Paul and Barnabas went to places that are now in Turkey and Cyprus.

When they got to a new place, they spoke to the Jews who lived there. They said Jesus was the saviour king they had been waiting for. Some Jews became Christians. But some were angry with Paul and Barnabas. They did not want to hear about Jesus.

After this, Paul and Barnabas spoke to the rest of the people and told them about Jesus. Lots of those people became Christians too.



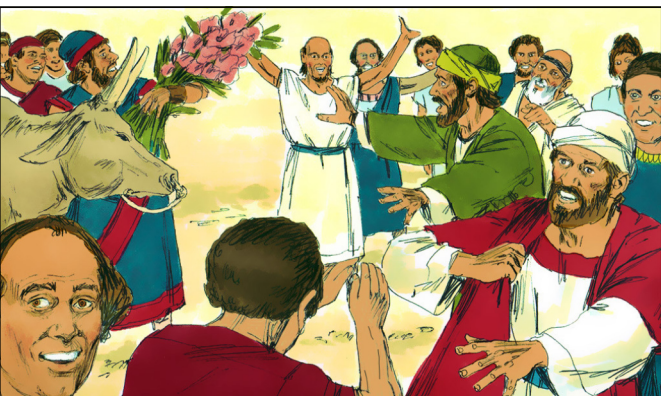
Read: Acts chapter 14 verses 8-18



Paul and Barnabas saw a man who could not walk.



Paul told the man to get up. And he did!



The people worshipped Paul and Barnabas. But they told the people to worship God!

1. Why did the people think Paul and Barnabas were gods?



2. What did Paul and Barnabas say about this?

3. Read verse 17 again. Can you think of more good reasons to worship God?



“Turn to the true living God, the one who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them.”

(Acts chapter 14 verse 14, ERV)

## The meeting in Jerusalem (Acts chapter 15)

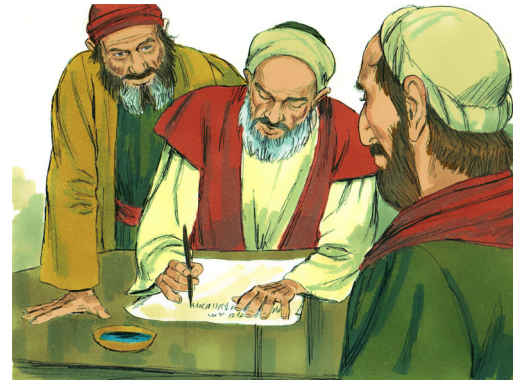
Some Jewish Christians were saying that all Christians must become Jews. Paul and Barnabas said this was wrong. They went to Jerusalem to see the other Christian leaders and talk about this.

Peter said, “God has treated Jews and non-Jews the same. He has given his Holy Spirit to all the Christians. This shows he does not want all Christians to become Jews. He accepts them as they are.”

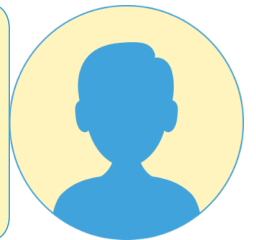
Then Paul and Barnabas told everyone about their journey. They said God had showed his love for the non-Jews as well as the Jews.

James was leading the meeting. He said, “We should not make it hard for people to follow Jesus. We will write to the non-Jewish Christians. We will only ask them to follow a few important rules. They do not have to become Jews.”

Paul and Barnabas took the letter to the non-Jewish Christians. When they read it, they were very happy.



James was Jesus’s brother. He did not believe in Jesus at first. Then after Jesus came back to life, he appeared to James. James started to follow Jesus, and became the leader of the Christians in Jerusalem.



1. What was this meeting about? Why was it important?
2. How did the leaders decide what to do?
3. If you have an important choice to make, how do you decide what to do?



Praise God for the good things he has done.  
Ask God to help you make good choices.



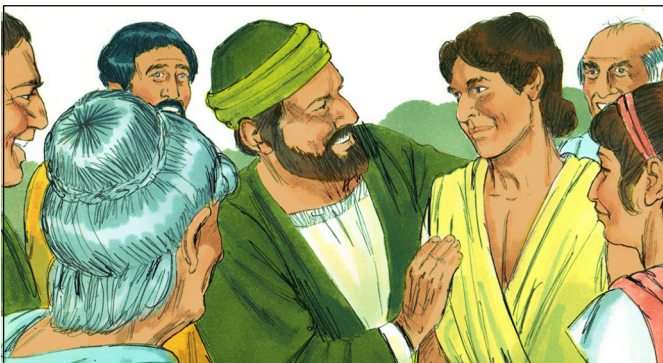
# Paul's second journey begins

Paul and Barnabas wanted to set off on another journey to tell people about Jesus. But they had a big disagreement. A man called John Mark had gone with them on their first journey. But he left them before their journey finished. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them again. But Paul did not think this was a good idea.

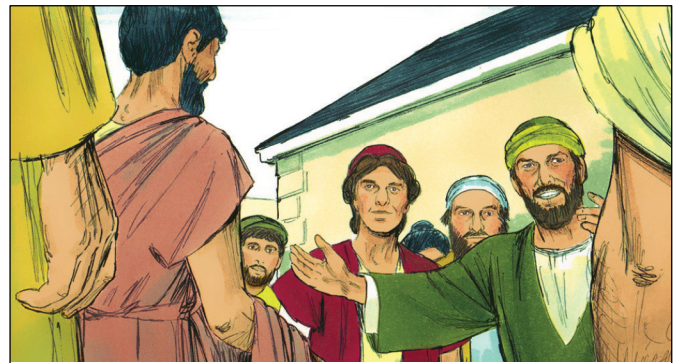
So Barnabas and Paul split up. Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus. And another man called Silas went with Paul to Syria and Turkey.



Read: Acts chapter 16 verses 1-10



Paul and Silas met Timothy. He joined them on their journey.



They took the letter from the leaders to all the churches.



Paul saw a vision of a man from Greece asking for help.

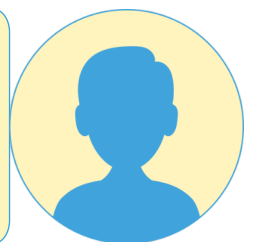
1. Why did Paul and Barnabas split up? Was this a good reason?



2. Why do you think Paul wanted Timothy to come with them?

3. Read verses 9-10 again. What did Paul's vision mean?

Timothy later became a church leader. Paul wrote letters to him and gave him advice. Paul loved Timothy very much and called him 'my true son in the faith'. (1 Timothy chapter 1 verse 2)



## Lydia becomes a Christian (Acts chapter 16)

Now, Paul was with Silas, Timothy and a man called Luke, who later wrote the book of Acts. After Paul's vision, he and his friends packed their things and sailed on a ship to Greece.

Paul and his friends sailed to different towns and told people about Jesus. Then they stopped in the city of Philippi for a few days.

While they were there, it was the Sabbath day, when Jews rest and worship God together. There was no Jewish meeting place in Philippi, so Paul and his friends went to the river to pray.

Some women were at the river too. One was called Lydia. She made money selling expensive purple cloth. Paul and his friends talked to the women about Jesus.

Lydia was not a Jew, but she loved God. She listened to Paul and believed the good news about Jesus. She was baptised, along with all the people who lived with her. Then Lydia invited Paul and his friends to stay at her house.



[Lydia] was a worshipper of the true God... and the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying.

(Acts chapter 16 verse 14, ERV)



1. Why did Paul and his friends go to the river?
2. What do you think helped Lydia believe the good news about Jesus?
3. What does this story tell you about what it means to become a Christian?



Thank God that he helps people learn about Jesus.

Ask God to help you tell someone about Jesus.



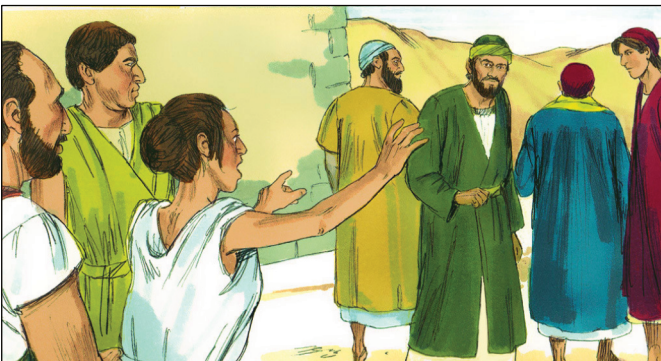
# Paul and Silas in prison

Paul and his friends were still in Philippi. This was an important Roman city. Most of the people who lived there were Romans and Greeks.

Paul and his friends decided to go to a place where people prayed. But something strange happened on the way.



Read: Acts chapter 16 verses 16-24



A slave girl with a bad spirit shouted about Paul and Silas.



Paul told the bad spirit to come out of her. And it did!



Paul and Silas were arrested for making trouble. They were put in prison.

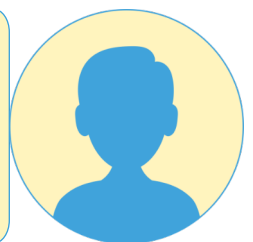
1. What was the slave girl doing, and why did this upset Paul?



2. How did Paul help the girl?

3. Read verses 16 and 19 again. Why were the slave girl's owners so angry?

Silas was also known as Silvanus. He went with Paul on this journey, and later helped Paul and Peter write letters to the churches. Peter called him 'a faithful brother'. (1 Peter chapter 5 verse 12)



## Saved by an earthquake (Acts chapter 16)

At midnight, Paul and Silas were singing songs to praise God. The other prisoners were listening to them. All the doors were locked, and there were chains on the prisoners.

Then suddenly the ground began to shake! It was an earthquake! All the doors flew open and the chains broke! Now there was nothing to stop the prisoners from escaping!



The jailer in charge of the prison woke up. He thought the prisoners had escaped. He thought he would be killed for letting them go. So he got out his sword. He was about to kill himself!

Paul shouted, “Do not hurt yourself! We are all still here!” The jailer was shaking with fear. He asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved. So they told him about Jesus.

The jailer believed what Paul and Silas said. He was baptised along with all the people who lived with him. And the next morning, the Romans set Paul and Silas free.



The jailer... ran inside and, shaking with fear, fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?”

(Acts chapter 16 verse 14, ERV)



1. Do you think this was a normal earthquake? Why?
2. Why do you think the jailer asked how he could be saved?
3. How did God bring good out of Paul and Silas’s hard time? Has he ever brought good out of a hard time in your life?



Thank God that he looks after us, even in hard times.

Sing a song to God to praise him.



# Paul in Athens and Corinth

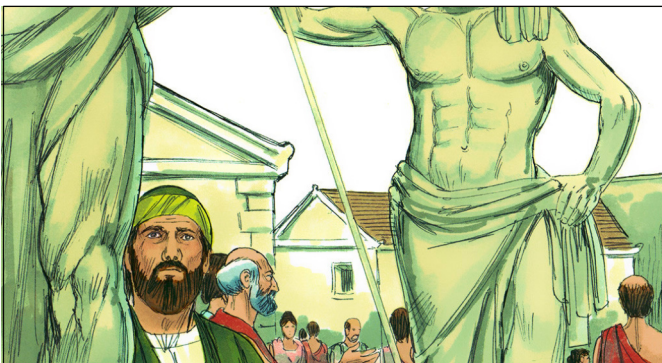
Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica. Some Jews became Christians. But other Jews were angry and made trouble for Paul.

Next, Paul and Silas went to Berea. The Jews there wanted to learn about Jesus. But the angry group from Thessalonica came and upset the people. So Paul went on to Athens by himself.

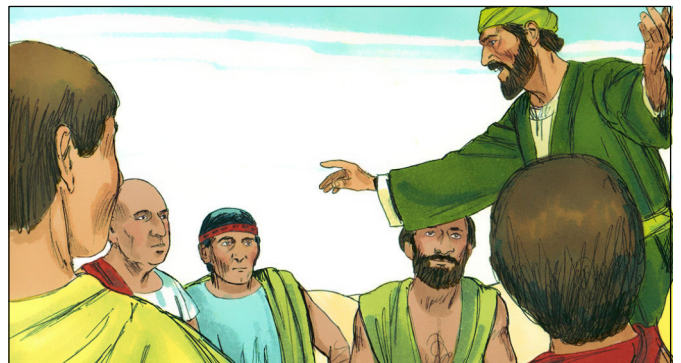
Athens was full of places to worship different gods. The Greeks there liked to talk about new ideas, so Paul told everyone about Jesus. The council in charge did not understand what Paul was saying. So they asked him to come to a meeting and tell them more.



Read: Acts chapter 17 verses 22-32




Paul saw a place where people worshipped an unknown god.



He told the council this was the real God who made them.



Paul said God had given them life. Now he wanted them to know him and be his children.

1. Why do you think the Greeks in Athens worshipped an unknown god? 
2. Read verse 22 again. How is the real God different from the gods of Athens?
3. What else did Paul say about what God is like?



“[God] is not far from any of us. It is through him that we are able to live, to do what we do, and to be who we are.”  
(Acts chapter 17 verse 28, ERV)

## A long stay in Corinth (Acts chapter 18)

Paul moved on to Corinth. He met a married couple called Priscilla and Aquila. They were Jewish Christians from Rome. A new law had made all Jews leave Rome, so they had come to Corinth.

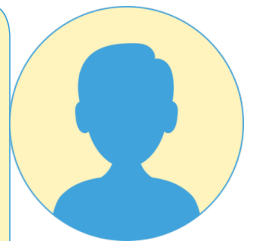


Priscilla and Aquila were tent makers. Paul was a tent maker too. This was how he made money. So the three of them worked together making tents. They worked together telling people about Jesus too.

A Jew called Apollos came to Corinth. He had heard about Jesus, and started telling people about him. But there were some things Apollos did not know about. So Priscilla and Aquila invited him to their home. They helped him understand more about Jesus.

One night, Jesus spoke to Paul in a vision. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. Keep on telling people about me. I am with you, and no one will hurt you.” So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half. He carried on telling everyone about Jesus.

Priscilla and Aquila were important Christian leaders. Paul said, “All the churches... are grateful for them.” (Romans chapter 16 verse 4) In the Bible, Priscilla is sometimes named before Aquila. This was unusual. It might mean she was the main teacher and leader.



1. Why do you think Paul liked to work with other people?
2. Can you think of a time when someone helped you understand more about Jesus? What did you learn?
2. How do you think the vision of Jesus helped Paul?



Thank God for the good teachers and leaders you know.  
Ask God to guide you in your life.



# Paul's third journey

Later, Paul went to Ephesus. He told everyone there about Jesus.

God showed his amazing power through Paul. Some people carried cloths that Paul had used. When they put these cloths on sick people, God made them well!

A man was under the power of a bad spirit. A group of Jews tried to use Jesus's name to send the bad spirit away. But the bad spirit said "I know Jesus, but who are you?" The man with the bad spirit jumped on the Jews and they ran away.

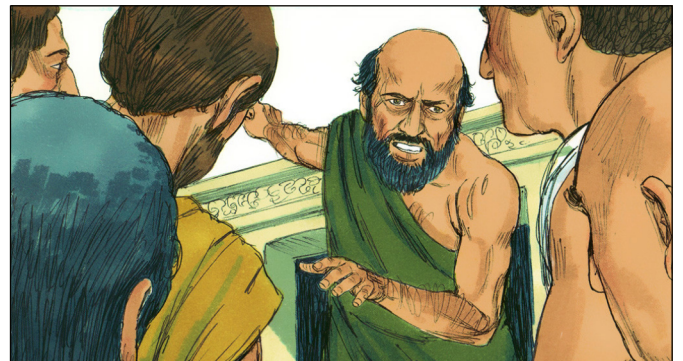
All the people were afraid when they saw how great Jesus was. Some new Christians still had books of magic spells. They burned these books in front of everyone and said sorry to God.



Read: Acts chapter 19 verses 23-41



Some men who made idols for worship were angry with Paul.



They started a big riot in Ephesus to get rid of Paul.



But the leader of the city told everyone to calm down. Paul had not done anything wrong.

1. Why was Demetrius angry with Paul?



2. Read verse 32 again. How do you think these people got so angry if they did not know what they were angry about?

3. How did the leader of the city stop the riot?

## Paul says goodbye (Acts chapter 20)

Paul believed God wanted him to go back to Jerusalem. He knew this was not safe. The Jewish leaders wanted to kill him. But Paul set off. On the way, he spent visited the Christians in Greece. He was with Timothy, Luke and some others.

Before Paul got on the ship to go back home to Israel, he asked the leaders of the church in Ephesus to meet him. He told them to keep following Jesus and looking after the Christians. He said he would not see them again. Then they all cried as they said goodbye.



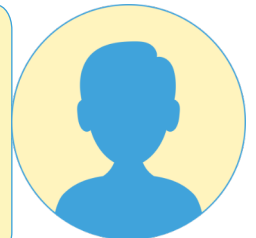
In Israel, someone gave Paul a message from God. He said Paul would be arrested in Jerusalem. But this did not change Paul's plan.



We all begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. He asked, "Why are you crying? Why are you breaking my heart? I'm ready to be put in prison. In fact, I'm ready to die in Jerusalem for the Lord Jesus."

(Acts chapter 21 verses 12-13, NIrV)

Luke was a doctor and a Christian. He looked into the facts about Jesus's life, and also travelled with Paul. He wrote the books of Luke and Acts as a clear report of everything that had happened.



1. Why were Paul and the church leaders from Ephesus so sad to say goodbye?
2. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem even though it was not safe?
3. Have you ever done something hard to please God?



Ask God to help Christians in places that are not safe.  
Say sorry to God for any bad things you have done.



# Paul is arrested in Jerusalem

When Paul and his friends got to Jerusalem, the Christians there were very happy to see them. Paul told them everything that God had done in the places he had been.

The Jews who hated Paul found out where he was. They tried to kill him. But the Roman commander stopped them and arrested Paul. He let Paul speak to the people. At first they listened. But then they started fighting with each other about what Paul was saying.

The commander locked Paul up for the night. He heard that some Jews still wanted to kill Paul. So he sent Paul away to see Felix, the Roman governor. Felix did not know what to do with Paul. He kept Paul in prison for 2 years. Then Festus became the new governor.



Read: Acts chapter 25 verses 13-22 and chapter 26 verses 19-32



The Jewish King Agrippa visited Governor Festus.



Paul told them about his life and why he followed Jesus.



Paul wanted to go to Rome to talk to the Roman ruler. Festus and Agrippa agreed.

1. What did Paul say to Festus and Agrippa?



2. What did Festus and Agrippa think about what Paul said?

3. Read Acts chapter 25 verse 11. Why did Paul want to talk to the Roman ruler (Caesar)?

## Paul is taken to Rome (Acts chapters 27-28)

Festus sent Paul on a ship to Rome. On the way there was a big storm and the ship crashed on an island. But God told Paul no one on the ship would die. They would all get to Rome.

When they got to Rome, Paul lived in a house while he waited to see the Roman ruler. But he was not allowed to go out. Jews and other people came to see him. He told them all about Jesus.

We do not know what happened when Paul talked to the Roman ruler. In the end Paul was probably killed for following Jesus. But Paul was not afraid of death. He knew that after he died, he would live with God forever.

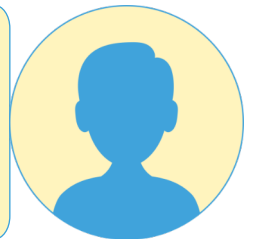
While Paul was in Rome he wrote letters to the churches. He told them Jesus was more important than anything else. He told them to keep following Jesus and never give up.



Christ is everything that I live for. If I die, that will be even better for me.

(Philippians chapter 1 verses 20-21, ERV)

In the book of Acts we learn about where Paul went and what he did. But lots of Christians went to other places, and started other churches. The good news about Jesus soon spread all over the world.



1. What do you think helped Paul not to be afraid of death?
2. What have you have learned from these stories about Paul's life?
3. If you had to tell someone why you follow Jesus, what would you say?



Ask God to help you when you are afraid.

Thank God for Christians who spread the news about Jesus.

