

# Paul listened to God

## LIFE POINT

People can tell about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will help them.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 15:36-41; 16:1-12

## UNIT VERSE:

Preschool- Go and tell the good news about Jesus. Mark 16:15

Elementary- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (NIV)

## A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Parents, today your child learned that people can tell about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will help them. Paul submitted to the Holy Spirit's leadership about where to go and where not to go. The Holy Spirit empowered Paul to tell people everywhere about Jesus. Now, imagine you and your best friend are working to tell people about Jesus but find yourselves in a strong disagreement over one person. This was the situation in which Paul and Barnabas found themselves. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they had traveled to many places, spreading the gospel. It seems while planning their next journey they did not agree. Their disagreement was intense enough that Barnabas took Mark and sailed south while Paul found a new partner, Silas, and headed north. As Paul and Silas continued their travels, they met a young man named Timothy who joined them on their mission. Once again Paul listened to the Holy Spirit when He directed them to Europe. The men concluded that God was leading them to preach in that area.

Although Paul and Barnabas may not have envisioned their argument as something positive, God had a plan to use it for His good. Because of their disagreement and separation, more people—Mark, Silas, and Timothy—became involved in the mission of spreading the gospel. Also, God used these two newly formed missionary groups to go in two different directions, essentially reaching more people with the good news of Christ.

In hindsight, how have you noticed God work to accomplish His purpose? How can you use that experience to lead others to the gospel of Jesus?

## Paul listened to God—BASED ON ACT 15:36-41; 16:1-12

When Paul and Barnabas had been missionaries for awhile, Paul spoke to Barnabas: "Let's go back and visit the believers in every town where we have preached. Let's see how they are doing."

Barnabas agreed. He wanted to take John Mark, but Paul did not want to take John Mark. So Barnabas took John Mark with him to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas, and they traveled through Syria and Cilicia. They helped the churches wherever they went.

In Lystra Paul met Timothy who was a follower of Christ. People spoke well of Timothy, and Paul took him and traveled through towns, encouraging believers. The number of believers increased daily.

The Holy Spirit guided Paul and the men as they traveled. Instead of going to Asia or Mysia, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man begging him to come and help. They immediately left, understanding that God was calling them to preach the gospel to Macedonia. They traveled to several towns in Macedonia, delivering the message of Jesus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why did Paul and Barnabas return to the places they had already been? (They wanted to see how the believers were doing.)
- Why did Paul and Barnabas go in different directions? (They disagreed about taking John Mark with them.)
- Whom did Paul meet in Lystra? (Timothy, who joined Paul as he traveled to towns to preach)
- Why didn't Paul go to Asia? (The Holy Spirit led them to Macedonia.)
- How did Paul know to go to Macedonia? (He saw a vision of a man begging them to come and help.)
- Who did the men teach about in every town they went to? (Jesus)

## BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### \*COLOR SHEET

*What you need: Printed color sheet and crayons*

As your child is coloring, ask them what they learned about the Holy Spirit in today's lesson.

### \*SORT COINS

*Things you need: Various Coins, paper cups or muffin tin*

Sort coins into cups. Explain that people at church can help missionaries by giving money to help them travel or buy the things they need to tell people about Jesus. Say that God helps people through the giving of others.

### \*MAKE FOOTPRINTS

*Things you need: Paper, pencil, washable crayons, stickers*

Guide your child to stand on a piece of paper. Trace around his shoe with a pencil. Offer markers and other art materials for your child to decorate their footprints. (Older preschoolers may enjoy cutting out the footprints.) Talk about the Bible story and say that Paul and his friends walked to Philippi. Mention that God helped Paul know when it was time to go to a new place and God also helps people like you and me. Say the Unit Verse. Offer to write the verse on the footprint pages. (*Verses listed above*)

### \*LISTEN TO GOD ART

*What you need: "Listen to God Verses" Activity Page, white copy paper, construction paper, gift bag, crayons, markers, tape, or glue*

Let your child choose a strip from the gift bag. Give your child a sheet of white copy paper.

Remind them that Paul listened to God when the Holy Spirit told him not to go to Asia. He also listened to God when the man in his dream asked him to come to Macedonia. Paul listened to God and obeyed Him. Paul knew that God helps people to do His work in their communities and world.

Help your child look up and read the Scripture references on the strip that they drew from the bag. Ask them how they can listen to God and obey that verse. Let your child draw a picture about how they can listen to God. After they have finished drawing, lead them to tape or glue their pictures to colorful construction paper to provide a "frame" to display on the wall.

Do as little or as many verses in the bag as you'd like.

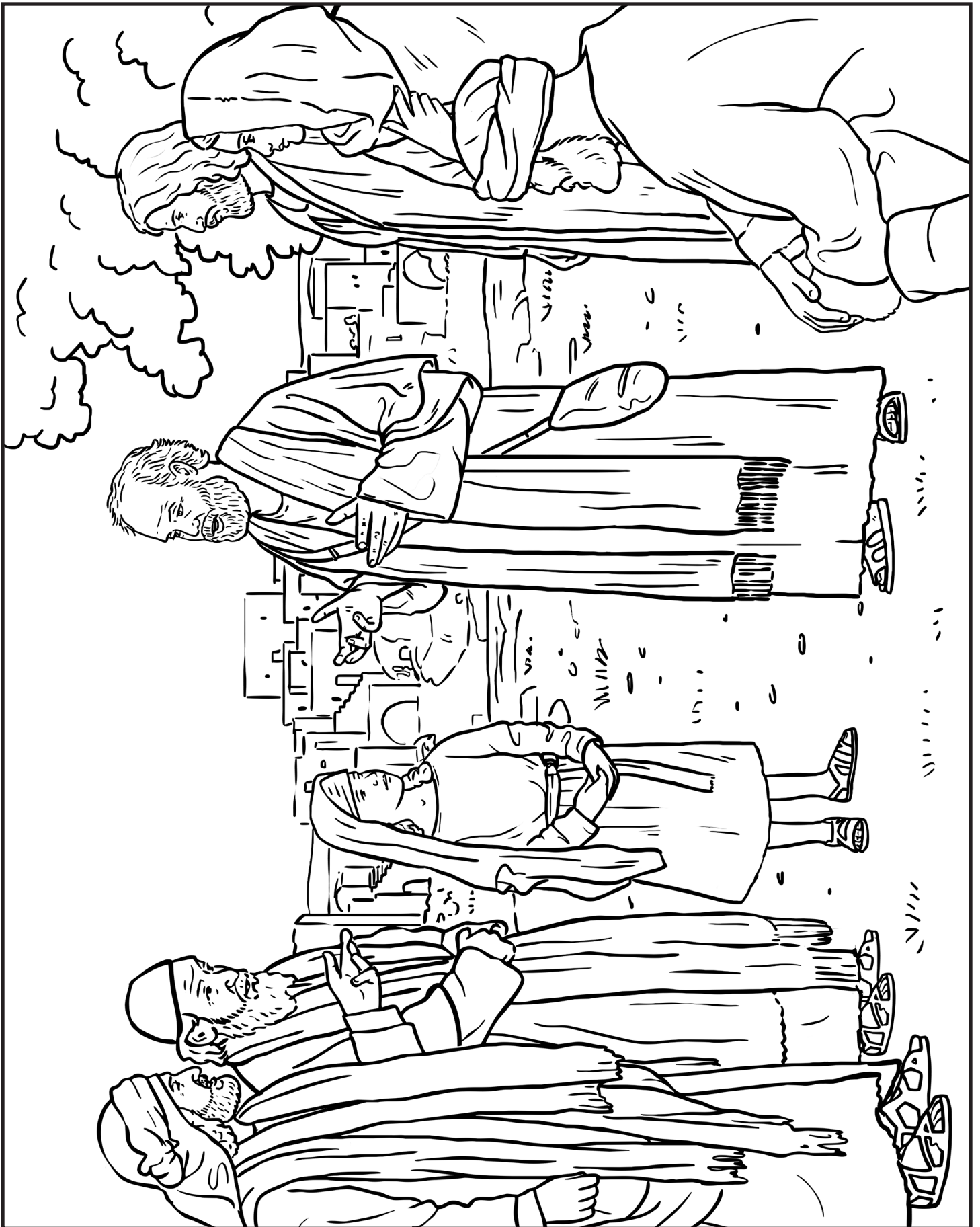
### **\*PRAYER**

*What you need: No supplies Needed*

Pray and thank God for the Holy Spirit. Ask God to help us trust that the Holy Spirit will help us and give us courage to tell others about Jesus.

*Extra activity sheets attached below*





## Paul Listened to God

God helps me; I will not be afraid. *Hebrews 13:6*

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Luke 6:27



Exodus 20:12



Philippians 4:6



Psalms 100:2



Ephesians 4:25



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

I Can Listen;  
I Can Tell.

Use a blue crayon to make a circle around the places where you can listen to God. Use a red crayon to make a triangle around the places where you can tell about Jesus.



## WHERE WILL YOU GO?

Look at the pictures above. Write one place where you can tell about Jesus this week.

UNIT VERSE

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8 NIV

Holy Spirit Helps

Read the following statements. After reading the connected verse, check the appropriate box to show if each statement is true or false.

1.

The Holy Spirit helps Christians keep God's commands.

John 14:15-17



2.

The Holy Spirit gives Christians power.

Acts 1:8



3.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.

2 Corinthians 13:13



4.

The Holy Spirit is wind that blows around you.

John 3:8



5.

It is impossible to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4



Acts  
Holy  
Power  
Spirit  
Earth  
Jerusalem  
Receive  
Witnesses  
End  
Judea  
Samaria

Unit Verse Word Search

Find the words of the Unit Verse in the puzzle below.

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