

Lesson 1

The Gospel Goes to Europe

Before Class

Bible Lesson Text—Acts 16

Related Scripture Focus—Philippians 4:6-8

Lesson Aims

To help students

- *understand Paul—his personality, background, and environment.*
- *learn about the events surrounding the arrival of the Gospel in Philippi.*
- *learn to listen to God’s voice for direction.*
- *focus on Scripture: Philippians 4:6-8.*

Inspiration for the Teacher

Paul was a real person like you and me. He was stubborn and enthusiastic. His characteristics were made better, not removed, when Paul gave his heart to the Lord.

Picture Paul’s enthusiasm as he asked Timothy, his son in the faith, to accompany him on his journey. Picture Paul tossing and turning in Troas, trying to figure out where to go next. Imagine the group boarding the cargo ship, ready to cross the Aegean Sea, the sun streaming out across the water and glancing on the waves.

Picture the high-class Roman military road that enabled Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy to get to Philippi quickly. Imagine their daily walk to prayer, and the screams of the demon inhabiting the body of the young slave girl. Picture the sweating, yelling mob demanding that the heresy-spreaders be thrown into prison without a trial.

Picture Paul as a Roman citizen with rights to a fair trial, but holding his peace. Picture the jailer forcing Paul and Silas into the torturous stocks, careless of their bleeding backs. Picture the same jailer at Paul’s feet a few hours later, asking, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Paul was real and his God was real. Paul is gone from us, but his God is not. Send your students home today with a sense of this truth.

Gather the Supplies You Will Need

- Photocopied Optional Worksheet for each student from page 85 if you decide to use it
- Map of Asia Minor of Paul’s time and a modern map of the Middle East for introducing the setting of this course
- If you choose to use Optional Lesson Introduction #1, gather a variety of pain relievers and bandages.
- If you choose to use Optional Lesson Introduction #2, bring a picture of a city skyline—Chicago or Vancouver—to show the students.

Teaching Lesson 1

Welcome Your Pupils

As they enter the room, help them to find places to sit. Establish firm but friendly control of the class from the start. Explain the schedule and your rules so the students understand them. Tell them what you prefer to be called.

Praise and Worship God

Pray simply. Ask God to bless these students and this class.

Introduce the Student Workbook and the Course.

Hand each student a workbook. Tell them this workbook contains lessons taken from the last half of the Book of Acts. If they are not familiar with the Bible, show them the Acts of the Apostles in your Bible.

Show the students a map of Asia Minor of Paul's day and compare it with a map of the Middle East today. Tell them that this is where the events described in this course took place.

If students are not familiar with the events of the first fourteen chapters of Acts, give them a brief overview. Paul had been on an earlier missionary journey through Asia Minor to spread the Gospel. After he returned home to Antioch (point to this town on the map), he stayed and preached there for some time. After awhile, though, he got restless. Other Christians in Antioch could carry on the work of the church. But, what about places where people had never heard of the Gospel? Jesus had specifically commanded Paul to carry the message of salvation to the Gentiles. This course tells what Paul did next.

Optional Lesson Introductions

- 1. Display a collection of pain relievers and bandages. Talk about different kinds of pain people experience: headaches, broken bones, cuts, sore muscles. Next talk about the pain of rejection, loneliness, or fear. When a person is in pain, is he usually able to make calm decisions? Notice what happens in today's lesson when Paul and Silas experience severe physical and emotional pain. How did they respond?
- 2. Show a picture of a city skyline—Chicago or Vancouver. (Chicago is the third largest city in the U.S., after New York and Los Angeles. Vancouver is Canada's third largest city, after Montreal and Toronto.) At the time our story begins, Paul was preaching in Antioch, the third largest city in the Roman Empire, after Rome, Italy and Alexandria, Egypt. As a missionary to the Gentiles, Paul often preached in large population centers. From these places, the message of Christ could spread to many parts of the world.

Paul: A Profile

Read and discuss the information about Paul with your students. Try to portray the Apostle Paul as a man with talents and limitations similar to someone they might know.

It was not Paul's extraordinary characteristics that made him so well-known; rather, it was his obedience to the extraordinary tasks God asked him to do.

1. Describe the character of Paul. (*He was a bold, well-educated Jew. He was a Roman citizen. He was wholehearted in whatever he did.*)
2. How did God change Paul before He used him to be a missionary? (*Jesus met Paul on one of his missions to hunt down Christians and changed his life. Paul turned from persecuting Christians to become a Christian himself.*)
3. What were God's special instructions to Paul? (*God asked Paul to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles.*)

The Bible Lesson

(See *The Bible Lesson* on page vi for three different ways to present the lesson.)

Discussion Guide

The Gospel in Philippi

- Give students the background for Acts 16.
 - (*Acts 15:35*) Paul and Barnabas had previously journeyed to places around the Mediterranean Sea. When they got back, they settled at Antioch with an established Christian church.
 - (*Acts 15:36-41*) How did it happen that Paul found a new companion for his second missionary journey?
- Read as much of Acts 16 as needed for students to answer these questions:
 - (*Acts 16:1-3*) Who was the third companion? Where was he from?

– (vv. 4-8) What work did the three men do? What prevented them from traveling further into Asia?

- Note the change in pronouns between verse 8 and verse 10. Up to this point, Luke wrote in third person about Paul's travels. Here in Troas, Luke joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy, and for the rest of the Book of Acts, he uses the pronoun "we."

– (Acts 16:9-12) Note that Macedonia is now part of northern Greece, a European country. How did Paul receive God's direction to go there? In what Macedonian city did the missionary band stay for a time?

– (vv. 13-15) Who was the first convert in Philippi?

– (vv. 16-18) Who may have been the second convert?

– (vv. 19-21) Why did the healing of the demon-possessed slave girl cause trouble with the officials of Philippi?

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Acts 16; Philippians 4:6-8

The Gospel Goes to Europe

Ancient Ruins of Philippi

Paul: A Profile


Do these words describe someone you know? Bold, adventurous, willing to take risks. What about these words? Intelligent, well-educated, stubborn.

Meet Paul.
The Apostle Paul was all of the above, and more. The Bible doesn't tell us much about Paul's background. We know he grew up in Tarsus, outside the Jews' homeland of Israel, and he studied the Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish law in Jerusalem.

Paul was not a typical Jew. He was a Roman citizen and spoke several languages. The Romans, under their emperor, ruled a huge collection of lands from Europe to Africa that included Israel. Paul's Roman citizenship gave him rights and privileges that most of his fellow countrymen didn't enjoy.

Paul was committed to wiping out the new religion started by Jesus. He received official papers permitting him to arrest Christians. He did his job well.

Paul's new mission.
Then one day as Paul traveled to another city to hunt down Christians, Jesus, the leader of the Christians Paul hated, struck him to the ground with a bright light. Paul's life was changed forever. Jesus knew that Paul was a persuasive leader, and could bring many people to the truth if he were on the right side.



Paul changed his mind and became a whole-hearted Christian. Jesus told Paul He had chosen him to take the Gospel not only to the Jews, but also to Gentiles, or non-Jews. Paul spent the rest of his life as a Christian missionary.

Paul traveled to many cities, each with its own culture and flavor. In this lesson, Paul begins his second missionary journey.

The Gospel in Philippi

Beginning the journey.
Paul and his friend Silas set off from Antioch, the third largest city in the Roman Empire. They passed through Syria and Cilicia near Paul's hometown Tarsus and visited Christian churches along the route.

Timothy joined the group in Lystra. When Paul had been there on an earlier trip, Timothy had become a believer in Jesus.


One of Paul's purposes for this trip was to preach the Gospel to those who had never heard it. But as the three men planned their trip through what is now Turkey, God told them their plans were wrong. Paul wasn't sure what to do.

REA----- AND ABLE

Paul was well-equipped to be a missionary to Jews and non-Jews alike. Note his qualifications:


- held both Roman and Jewish citizenship
- spoke at least three languages
- was highly educated
- was comfortable with both city and country life
- was content in whatever circumstances he faced
- received special instruction from the resurrected Jesus

Following God's leading.
When they reached Troas on the Aegean seacoast, Paul had a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia, a part of what is now Europe across the Aegean Sea. The man pled, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Paul knew the dream was from God. He had

 If Paul had had any idea how much trouble he would get into by casting the demon out of the slave girl, do you think he would have done it?

– (vv. 22-24) How did Paul and Silas end up in jail?

– (vv. 25-28) Describe how God intervened in men's plans.

 Most people beaten and imprisoned probably wouldn't sing or pray. What made Paul and Silas different?

– (vv. 29-30) How did God use the earthquake to bring glory to Himself?

– (vv. 31-35) Describe the jailer's conversion. How do his actions demonstrate his sincerity?

– (vv. 36-39) What Roman law had the rulers broken in their treatment of Paul and Silas? (*They had jailed them without a proper trial to condemn them.*)

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never been to Europe, but if that was where God wanted the missionaries to go, they would go.

In Troas they picked up another helper. Luke was a doctor and a writer. Later he wrote about Paul's life and travels.

The four men boarded a ship and arrived at the port of Neapolis. Traveling inland, they reached Philippi, where they talked with women who met by the riverside to pray. One of these ladies was Lydia. Luke describes this woman as "a seller of purple." After Lydia believed, she was baptized. She offered her house as a headquarters for the missionaries.

Casting out a demon.

As days passed, the group noticed a demon-possessed slave girl following them when they walked through the city. Because of the demon, this slave was profitable to her masters as a fortuneteller. The girl shouted, "These men are the servants of the most high God, who show us the way of salvation."

Finally one day Paul turned and said to the demon in the girl, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." Demons are not as powerful as Jesus, so the demon had no choice but to leave.

Arrested and jailed.

The girl's masters were furious that they could no longer make money from their slave. They dragged Paul and Silas off to the town court, but they didn't tell the rulers of Philippi the real reason they were upset. "These men are disturbing our city," they complained. "They are teaching customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to practice." An angry crowd gathered to watch.

The rulers ordered that Paul and Silas be beaten and put in jail. The jailer had strict orders not to let the men escape. If the prisoners escaped, the jailer would be executed.

Although Paul and Silas were still in pain from

the beating, the jailer forced them into stocks—wooden frames with holes for a prisoner's feet.

Shaken by an earthquake.

What did Paul and Silas do that night in jail? The Bible says, "At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God, and the prisoners heard them."

Suddenly God shook the prison with an earthquake. The bolts and locks loosened, and the stocks were forced apart.

The jailer awoke and saw the prison doors wide open and assumed his prisoners had all escaped. He reached for his sword to kill himself, but Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself; we are all here!"

The jailer was astounded. He came shaking to Paul and Silas. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" he asked.

Paul was tired and sore, but he took this opportunity. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved," he said. The jailer listened and believed.

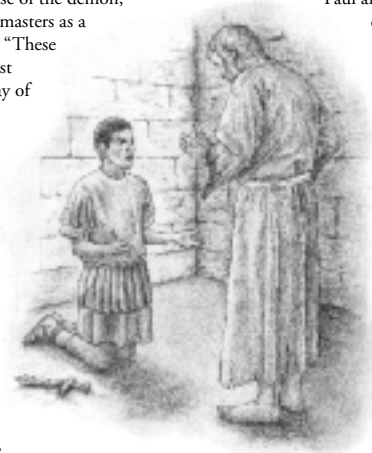
The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and cleaned their wounds. He and his whole family believed the Gospel.

Leaving Philippi.

The next morning a message arrived from the rulers of the city. "Let those men go," they said.

Paul had not yet mentioned his Roman citizenship. He replied, "We are Romans, and they beat us even though we were innocent. Are they going to let us go secretly? They can come let us out themselves."

The rulers were horrified that they had jailed Roman citizens without a trial. They begged the men to leave the city. After meeting with the Christians in Philippi once more, the missionary band traveled on.



Workbook Activities

Map It

This activity may be done along with *Where Was It?* at the bottom of the page.

You will find an answer key to this map on page 147 of this manual.

Securing the Facts

Allow the students to help each other finish the outline. When it is completed, have the students take turns reading the parts of the outline to summarize the main events of the story.

Where Was It?

This exercise could be done along with the map exercise at the top of the page.

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Map It

On the map on page 69, draw a line to show Paul's journey from Antioch to Tarsus, and then through Lystra and Troas and across the Aegean Sea to Neapolis and Philippi.

Securing the Facts

Complete the outline of the lesson using choices from the box below.

- I. Paul leaves Antioch with Silas.
- II. Timothy joins them at Lystra.
- III. Paul waits for God's direction at Troas.
 - A. Paul receives a vision one night.
 - B. Luke joins the group.
- IV. The missionaries cross the Aegean Sea to Macedonia.
 - A. The group arrives in Philippi.
 - B. They make their headquarters at Lydia's house.
- V. Paul spreads the Gospel in the city of Philippi.
 - A. Paul casts a demon out of a slave girl.
 - B. Paul and Silas are thrown into prison.
 - C. Paul and Silas sing and pray in prison.
 - D. An earthquake frees Paul and Silas.
 - E. The jailer and his family believe in Jesus.

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|--|---|
| • An earthquake frees Paul and Silas. | • Paul receives a vision one night. |
| • The jailer and his family believe in Jesus. | • The group arrives in Philippi. |
| • They make their headquarters at Lydia's house. | • Paul casts a demon out of a slave girl. |
| | • Paul and Silas are thrown into prison. |

Where Was It?

Choose answers from the box.

1. B The homeland of the Jews
2. A A region of Europe across the Aegean Sea from Troas.
3. D Paul grew up in this Roman town.
4. C In this Macedonian city, Paul commanded a demon to leave a young girl alone.

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|--------------|
| A. Macedonia |
| B. Israel |
| C. Philippi |
| D. Tarsus |

Scripture Focus

Tell the students that about ten years after his night in jail, Paul wrote a letter to the church at Philippi. When he wrote this letter, Paul was once again in jail. This passage is part of the letter he wrote to his old friends from Philippi. Do you suppose Lydia and the jailer were still faithful followers of Jesus? Can you picture them listening with special interest to the letter Paul had written?

Read the introductory paragraph for page 4 with the students. Also read the verses from Paul's letter to the Philippians and discuss what they mean.

Don't Worry About It!

Do the activities together as a class to ensure that students understand the Bible passage.

Lesson 1

Scripture Focus — Paul's Letter to the Philippians

God directed Paul to write letters of instruction and encouragement to the many churches he started and visited on his missionary journeys. Since his letters contain God's instructions for all Christians, regardless of when or where they live, they have been collected in the New Testament portion of the Bible. Today's Scripture focus is a quote from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, about ten years after his visit and memorable time there in the town jail.

Verses From Paul's Letter

Philippians 4:6-8

v. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

v. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

v. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Don't Worry About It!

1. In verse 6 of this Scripture, Paul tells the people of Philippi to "be careful for nothing." What does he mean?

Don't worry or fret about things.

2. What should we do instead of worry? Pray and give thanks.

3. What will happen to us when we choose to pray instead of worry?

We will have peace in our hearts and minds.

4. In verse 8 of the passage, Christians are told how to think. List the kinds of things we are encouraged to think about.

Things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, things of virtue and praise

Notice that worrying is not included in this list of good thoughts. So, the next time you are tempted to fret, pray instead. Think about pure and lovely things. Let God's calm replace your worry with peace.

A TOSSED SALAD

Think about the different kinds of people who accepted God's call to begin the new Christian church at Philippi:


- a jailer and his family
- a wealthy businesswoman
- a slave girl recently delivered from occult oppression

Only God could use such diverse people to build a successful, beautiful church!

In Today's Terms

Terry, Larry, and Gary will guide the students into real-life scenarios throughout this course. Discuss with your students how the experiences of these fictional characters relate to their own lives.

You might choose to make this a read-aloud class exercise, or you may have students read and answer the questions on their own.

 Most of us don't hear God speak in an audible voice, or get His instructions in dreams or visions. How do we discern God's voice?

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In Today's Terms

This exercise at the end of each lesson will help you see how Biblical principles can be applied to the everyday lives of young people in our time. In every lesson, you will follow three teenage brothers who face problems and struggles similar to those you face. Just like you, these boys have opportunity to practice what the Bible teaches.

In his time, Paul waited for direction from God when he wasn't sure what to do next. For Paul, God's voice came in a vision, and he knew he was to travel over to Macedonia. Today, we might not see visions, but God still speaks if we listen for His voice. As you read the story sections below, choose what you think God would say to each person.

Circle the letter of the best answer for each of the following stories.

Terry, Larry, and Gary are three brothers. Terry (17) enjoys adventures. Larry (15) likes to read. Gary (14) does a little of both and tries to keep the other two in line.

Terry drives his brothers to school. This morning, they're running late because Larry has spent too long perfecting the science report that is due today.

"If it wouldn't be for you, we'd be halfway to school by now," Terry says, as Larry jumps into the backseat and the car lurches forward.

1. If Larry listens for God's voice, how will he answer?
 - A. "I couldn't help it."
 - B. "At least I get good grades."
 - C. "I'm sorry, Terry. I should have finished the paper last night."

As Terry crests a hill, Mr. Lowell's little dog races across the road in front of his car. Terry brakes hard. He sees he won't be able to stop in time, so he swerves off the road. The car lurches, spraying gravel into the air and crashing through Mr. Lowell's yard fence at the edge of the road.

The car comes to rest in the yard. A stunned silence is broken by Gary. "No use trying to make it to school on time, anymore!"

Terry gets out to check the damage. A broken post has dented in the front driver's side. The rest of the car has picked up clods of dirt, pebbles, and grass.

"I should have just hit the crazy dog," Terry mumbles. "Then at least it would have been Mr. Lowell's fault."

2. If Terry listens for God's voice, how will he approach Mr. Lowell in this situation?
 - A. He'll sue the dog owner for letting his dog loose.
 - B. He'll send Mr. Lowell a bill for repairs.
 - C. He will repair the car at his own expense and accept money from Mr. Lowell if he offers it.

Mr. Lowell hurries across the yard. The dog is now panting from the porch steps, watching the scene. "Is everyone okay?" asks Mr. Lowell.

3. If Mr. Lowell listens for God's voice, he will . . .
 - A. Offer to pay for damages to the car.
 - B. Try to get the boys to pity him because his back is bad and he can't fix the fence.
 - C. Yell at Terry for being such an irresponsible driver.

* For more activities for Lesson 1, turn to pages 42 and 43.

5

This is the end of the basic lesson.

- If you are teaching a five-day Bible school or have limited time for extras, omit the extra activities suggested at the bottom of page 5 in the student workbook.
- Page 11 in this manual lists additional, non-workbook activities.

Extra Activity 1
Page 42

No Grumbling

Students will find the correct words for the blanks from the Bible story printed on pages 1 and 2 of their workbooks. Encourage them to work together to fill the blanks and decipher the Bible verse at the top of page 42.

Lesson 1, Extra Activity 1

No Grumbling

The verse to be decoded below is more of Paul's advice to the Christians in Philippi. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul tells how our attitudes can be a blessing to others as well as to ourselves.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
D	O	A	L	L	T	H	I	N	G	S	W	I	T	H	O	U	T	M	U	R	M	U	R	I	N	G	S
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41															
A	N	D	D	I	S	P	U	T	I	N	G	S	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	A	N	S	2	:	1	4

Fill in the blanks below. Then transfer the letters that have numbers beneath them into the corresponding squares on the grid above.

- Paul, who was both a R O M A N citizen and a Jew, was born in T A R S U S.
- Paul had P E R M I S S I O N to H U N T down the C H R I S T I A N S.
- Paul was struck down by a L I G H T from Jesus, and his heart was changed.
- In P H I L I P P I, Paul and some other missionaries met W O M E N who prayed by the river and a D E M O N-possessed girl who cried at them L O U D L Y through the streets.
- In prison, Paul and Silas S A N G praises to G O D at midnight.
- Look up Philippians 2 and read verses 14 and 15. How did Paul describe the society (nation) in which the Christians lived? crooked and perverse.
- How did Paul want the Christians to be known? blameless and harmless.

Extra Activity 2

Page 43

Who Said It?

Who Did It?

Allow students to complete the exercises on their own or work together. When they are finished, check the answers with them.

Lesson 1, Extra Activity 2

Who Said It?

Choose answers from the box. Use one answer more than once. One answer is not used.

1. E Come over into Macedonia and help us.
2. F These men are servants of the most high God, who show us the way of salvation.
3. C I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.
4. B Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
5. C Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.
6. D Let those men go.
7. C They have beaten us openly without a Roman trial.

- | |
|---------------------------|
| A. Lydia |
| B. Jailer |
| C. Paul |
| D. Rulers |
| E. Macedonian in a vision |
| F. Demon-possessed girl |

Who Did It?

Choose answers from the box.

1. E I sang praises to God with Paul one night in a Philippian prison.
2. B I was a doctor who traveled with Paul. I wrote a book about Paul's life and travels.
3. D I was a Roman citizen who made a radical change from hunting down Christians to worshipping with them.
4. A I joined Paul's missionary team in Lystra.
5. C I met with other women to pray by the riverside near Philippi.

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|------------|
| A. Timothy |
| B. Luke |
| C. Lydia |
| D. Paul |
| E. Silas |

PAX ROMANA

Paul was born at a unique time in history. During his life, the entire Western world was united under the power of Rome. This peaceful period was called "Pax Romana" which means "the peace of Rome." Throughout this period, people could travel widely in safety on good roads and freely exchange goods and communication. This was an incredible advantage to Paul, whose mission was to spread the Gospel to many people.

Additional Activities and Ideas for Lesson 1

- **Read the story** that begins on page 105 of this manual.
- **Do the Optional Worksheet for Lesson 1**, which you have photocopied from page 85. Find the instructions and answers for the Optional Worksheet on page 95.

- **Sing several songs.**

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Appendix C, p. 126 and p. 62, student book)

“I’m Pressing on the Upward Way” (Appendix C, p. 129 and p. 65, student book)

Tell the students that many of our hymns and religious songs are based on Bible texts. These two songs are no exception. In fact, both of them are taken from words that Paul wrote in his epistle to the Philippians.

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” is taken word for word from the King James Version of Philippians 4:4. Point out that Paul certainly “practiced as he preached” the night he and Silas were arrested in Philippi and found themselves in the local jail at midnight. Long before Paul wrote these words, he had learned the value of rejoicing even during suffering and hardship.

We could consider *“I’m Pressing on the Upward Way”* the theme song for this study of Paul. Read Philippians 3:12-14 with your class. Notice Paul’s sincere humility. He didn’t consider himself perfect. He didn’t say he’d arrived at some height of sainthood that made striving unnecessary. But he purposefully put his murderous past behind him and looked forward to what Jesus Christ would continue to do in his life.

The song lyrics contain a number of poetic metaphors for the Christian life. You may want to have the class study the words before you sing the song together. We will continue to refer to words and phrases from this song as we study Paul’s missionary journeys and the personal challenges he encountered as he trusted God to empower him to take the Gospel to regions that had never heard of Jesus.

- **Play Bible Baseball.** See Appendix D, pp. 132-133.
- **Current Events.** Bring newspaper clippings of pertinent world happenings and discuss how Paul may have responded to these events. Remember that Paul preferred to preach the Gospel in large cities, so that more people would have a chance to hear. Encourage the students to continue this activity each day by bringing in clippings for the class to discuss.
- **City Posters.** Allow students to choose any city, or limit them to cities near you. Have them research the cultural and religious nature of the city and list the challenges that a modern-day Paul would face in that city. Have the students use this information to make posters to be displayed on program night. Give specific guidelines on what will or will not be allowed on the posters, or you may find yourself with pictures or displays that you don’t want. Designate a certain time each class period for the students to work on their posters. Make a poster yourself as an example for the students to follow.
- **A Missionary Experience.** Consider exposing the students to some cultural experience, such as a visit to an ethnic neighborhood. Emphasize the fact that the best missionaries are the ones who understand the culture of the people they hope to reach.