

**Grade 6, Lesson 18**  
**Bible Background**

**Paul's First Preaching Journey**

We usually think of the gospel reaching into the rural villages of Palestine where Jesus ministered. But the church we see in Acts was almost entirely *urban*, taking root and growing in major metropolitan areas. After 56 AD Paul was able to write that “from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ” (Romans 15:19).

After Jerusalem, Antioch in Syria became the new center of the church, and it was where the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:19-26). Luke listed five men who were serving as prophets and teachers in the church (Acts 13:1). It was here that Saul and Barnabas were set apart by the Holy Spirit and sent on their way “to the work to which I have called them” (13:2-5).

Traveling on to Cyprus, they came to Paphos the capital, where they met the Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who wanted to hear the word of God (13:7). Wherever the word of the Lord is planted, it is met with opposition, this time by Elymas the magician who was trying to turn the proconsul from the faith (13:8). Paul confronted the enemy directly, the man went blind, and this miracle caused the proconsul to believe (13:11-12).

Their next stop was Perga in Pamphylia, where John (Mark) left and returned to Jerusalem for reasons unknown (13:13). The fact remains, however, that even when people leave the Lord's work, He supplies what is needed and the word of the Lord continues to grow.

Arriving at Pisidian Antioch, they went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day and Paul was asked to speak (13:14-16). This is the first of Paul's sermon recorded in Acts and provides a good model for any sermon. He reviewed the history of Israel up to the coming of the Messiah (13:16-25), and explained the events of the crucifixion and resurrection (13:26-37). God fulfilled His promise “in that He raised up Jesus” (13:33) and now forgiveness of sins is proclaimed so that “everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses” (13:38-39). “Freed” means “justified.” Here Paul states a basic truth of the Christian faith: justified by faith.

In Iconium, Paul and Barnabas began teaching in the synagogue (14:1), but were forced to leave the city for their own safety (14:4-6). From there they went to Lystra, where Paul healed a lame man and the people, thinking they were gods, wanted to offer sacrifices to Barnabas and Paul (14:8-18). Finally they arrived back at Antioch from where they started. They gathered the church together and “began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles” (14:27).

## Answers for Quarter 2, Lesson 18

1. As the believers told people the good news about the Lord Jesus a large number believed, turning to the Lord.
2. Barnabas and Saul remained in Antioch for an entire year where they met with the church and taught many Christians.
3. “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
4. They were sent out travelling from place to place as missionaries.
5. They were sent out by the Holy Spirit as the church in Antioch fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them.
6. “You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?”
7. He became blind and did not see the sun for a time.
8. The proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.
9. When the Gentiles heard that the message of salvation was also for them, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord. As many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. The word of the Lord continued to be spread through the whole region.
10. The people of the city were divided as some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. Both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers attempted to mistreat and to stone Barnabas and Paul.
11. A man who had no strength in his feet, being lame from his mother’s womb and therefore had never walked, was healed by Paul prompting the people there to believe that the two missionaries were gods.
12. Barnabas and Paul tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd and said, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.”
13. Discuss student’s responses. Acknowledge our humanness and fears yet encourage them to be faithful in every circumstance.
14. I can encourage my Christian friends by reminding them of the strength that God gives as we trust in Him and commit our lives to living for His will and His purpose for us. God has given us His Word and the power of His Holy Spirit, but He also strengthens us through the prayers and encouragement of fellow believers in the body of Christ.

## Catechism Corner

1. Trusting in Jesus Christ with all my heart, I surrender myself to Him as my only Savior from sin, and death, and the power of Satan.
2. Baptizing and Teaching.
3. Tell (teach) them about Jesus and what he has done for them.

Invite them to church where they can receive the Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament).

**Word Works** (none)

# Paul & Barnabas Journey Chart

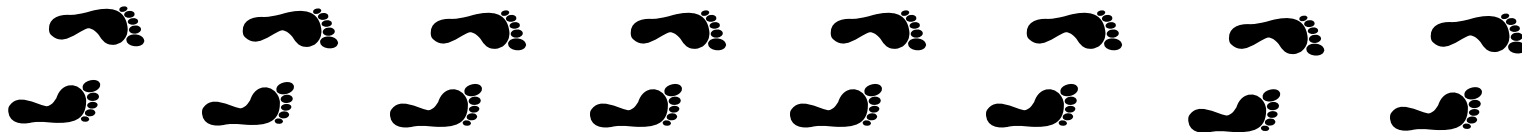
Look up the different verses in Acts to follow Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey. Did they have an easy trip? Fill in the chart with the details. *(The first one is done for you.)*

Acts Verses	Place	What Paul/Barnabas were doing	What believing Gentiles did	What unbelieving Jews did	Results
13:44-50	Pisidian Antioch	boldly preached forgiveness of sins in Jesus	rejoiced and glorified the word of God, believed	jealous, contradicted, blasphemed, persecution, drove them out	God's Word spread to whole region
14:1-7	Iconium				
14:8-20	Lystra				
14:20-21	Derbe			---	---

What can we learn from these missionaries? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it always easy to be a Christian? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Should we stop witnessing if some people oppose us or refuse to listen? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_



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14:1-7	Iconium	<i>in synagogue, speaking boldly in reliance on Lord; miracles</i>	<i>large number of Jews and Gentiles believed</i>	<i>stirred mind of Gentiles to bitterness; divided city, tried to mistreat and stone them</i>	<i>apostles fled to other cities and kept preaching gospel</i>
14:8-20	Lystra	<i>healed a lame man</i>	<i>crowd called them gods, wanted to sacrifice to them</i>	<i>stoned Paul, dragged him out of city, thought he was dead</i>	<i>Paul got up and entered city</i>
14:20-21	Derbe	<i>preached the gospel</i>	<i>made many disciples</i>	---	---

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Is it always easy to be a Christian? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lessons:** *Sometimes it is very hard to be a Christian, especially if others make fun of you, persecute you, or even lie about you. But remember that God's Word is completely true, and He is the final Judge. He will care for us, and we have heaven to look forward to! All who reject Jesus as Savior will spend eternity in hell separated from God. These thoughts should encourage us to be strong in the Lord and to never give up witnessing and praying!*



# Memory Verse Review

Finish the grid below and then use it to decode this week's memory verse.

A	B		D		F	G			J		L	M			P		R	S	T		V			Y	
	2	3		5			8			11		13	14			17	18		20	21				24	25

20 8 5 18 5 6 15 18 5 13 25 2 5 12 15 22 5 4

2 18 5 20 8 18 5 14 2 5 19 20 5 1 4 6 1 19 20

9 13 13 15 22 1 2 12 5 1 12 23 1 25 19

1 2 15 21 14 4 9 14 7 9 14 20 8 5 23 15 18 11

15 6 20 8 5 12 15 18 4 11 14 15 23 9 14 7

20 8 1 20 25 15 21 18 20 15 9 12 9 19 14 15 20

9 14 22 1 9 14 9 14 20 8 5 12 15 18 4 . I Corinthians 15:58



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Finish the grid below and then use it to decode this week's memory verse.

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

T h e r e f o r e   m y   b e l o v e   d  
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i m m o v a b l e,   a l w a y s  
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o f   t h e   L o r d   k n o w i n g  
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 20 8 1 20 25 15 21 18 20 15 9 12 9 19 14 15 20

i n   v a i n   i n   t h e   L o r d | Corinthians 15:58  
 9 14 22 1 9 14 9 14 20 8 5 12 15 18 4

