

WEEK 7: MORE OF THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
DAY 1: PAUL ENCOURAGED CHURCHES IN MACEDONIA AND GREECE
Acts 20:1-16

1. We have seen how Paul began his third missionary journey. He first visited the churches he had already started. He helped the disciples of John at Ephesus. He saw the sons of Sceva wounded. He saw the people burn their books of magic.

Why were Demetrius and other workmen in Ephesus angry about the preaching of Paul?

From this, what do we see that we must sometimes face when we preach the truth?

2. The workmen in Ephesus were angry because they were afraid they would lose money. From this we see that we must sometimes face danger when we preach. Paul preached for a long time in Ephesus. He faced much danger there. Finally he was driven away. He went about visiting the churches in Macedonia and Greece. He did many things for them. At the end of the lesson you will write two of these:

- (1) He gave them much encouragement.
- (2) He broke bread with them.
- (3) He spoke much to them.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 20:1 to 11. In verse 1, where did Paul go after the danger in Ephesus?

3. He went to Macedonia. In Macedonia, there were churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Beroea. Paul had started these churches on his second journey.

Acts 20:2:

When he had gone through these parts (of Macedonia) and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

After giving much encouragement in Macedonia, where did Paul go? _____
On the map facing this page, find Ephesus. Fill in the line which goes from Ephesus to Philippi and Thessalonica and Beroea. Then fill in the line to Athens and Corinth.

4. From Macedonia, Paul went to Greece. In Greece he had started churches at Athens and Corinth. He visited these churches and gave them much encouragement too.

Acts 20:3:

There (in Greece) he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he determined to return through Macedonia.

On which journey did Paul give much encouragement to the churches in Macedonia and Greece?

=====

5. It was on his third journey. On this journey he first visited the new churches at Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium. He had started these on his first journey. Then he spent a long time in Ephesus. Then he visited the churches of Macedonia and Greece.

Acts 20:2:

When he had gone through these parts and had given them much encouragement ...

What did Paul give the churches of Macedonia and Greece?

=====

6. He gave them much encouragement. Paul was not a man who preached quickly and went away. He stayed and taught the people as long as he could. He often came back to encourage the churches. Paul took other men with him on his journeys. He was teaching them to plant churches. He was also teaching them to visit the new churches and give them much encouragement.

As we learned in the first lesson, what do we call a person who goes to new places and plants churches?

=====

7. We call this person a missionary. Paul was a good missionary. He went on many journeys to new places. He planted churches and visited them many times.

After the trouble at Ephesus on the third journey, what did Paul do to the churches in Macedonia and Greece?

- (1) _____
 - (2) He broke bread with them.
 - (3) He spoke much to them.
- =====

8. First, Paul gave them much encouragement. He also broke bread with them. After Paul went back through Macedonia he came to Troas.

Acts 20:6-7:

but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days. On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them.

What did Paul break with the churches as he went about giving them encouragement? _____

9. He broke bread with them. He not only gave them much encouragement. He had fellowship with them. He helped them remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. He taught them to walk in the way of Christ.

Who went around and broke bread with people in the new churches? _____

10. Paul did this. He was the great missionary who started churches in the third part of Acts. He went back again to visit the churches in Macedonia and Greece.

Besides giving them much encouragement, what did he do with them? _____

11. He broke bread with them. He also spoke much to them.

Acts 20:7:

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them intending to depart on the morrow, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

What was Paul doing that kept the people up until midnight? _____

12. Paul was speaking to them. Perhaps he was teaching them. Perhaps he was having fellowship with them. They may have been asking questions. He may have been preaching. Paul spoke much to the people. This was the third thing he did for the churches of Macedonia and Greece.

What was the second thing he did?

(1) He gave them much encouragement.

(2) _____

(3) He spoke much to them.

13. Paul broke bread with them. He was ready to leave the next day. He had much to say. He loved these people in the church at Troas. He wanted to help them all he could.

Acts 20:9:

And a young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window. He sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer; and being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

What happened while Paul talked much with the people? _____

14. Eutychus fell from a window and died. But God used Paul to raise him again.

Acts 20:10:

But Paul went down and bent over him, and embracing him said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

What was Paul doing when the young man went to sleep and fell from the window? _____

15. Paul was speaking to the people. Now see what Paul did after raising the young man.

Acts 20:11;

And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.

After the danger at Ephesus on the third journey, what did Paul do to the churches in Macedonia and Greece?

(1) He gave them much encouragement.

(2) He broke bread with them.

(3) _____

16. Paul spoke much to the people. This is important. A missionary must learn to talk with people. He must learn to teach them. He must learn to listen to their questions. He must learn to understand them and help them.

What are the first two things Paul did to the churches?

(1) _____

(2) _____

17. Paul gave them much encouragement. And he broke bread with them.

What is the third thing he did? _____

18. He spoke much to them. Last week you planned a journey to find people who want missionaries. We hope this journey went well. Now it is time to find missionaries to send. The church at Antioch fasted and prayed. You and other leaders can do this too. Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Talk to people in the church who seem good for this work. Ask God to show you if you yourself are called. Ask those in the church who cannot go to pray and give offerings for the missionaries.

When you know whom God wants to send, write the names here. _____

19. After the danger at Ephesus on the third journey, what did Paul do to the churches in Macedonia and Greece?

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 7: MORE OF THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
DAY 2: PAUL CARED MORE ABOUT HIS WORK THAN HIS LIFE

Acts 20:12-27

1. We are learning much from the life and work of Paul. He was a good missionary. He is a good example for us. He is a good example for those we will send as missionaries. Today we will see how he felt about his work.

After the danger at Ephesus on the third journey, what did Paul do to the churches in Macedonia and Greece?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Paul gave them much encouragement. He broke bread with them. And he spoke much with them. At Troas he talked all night with them. In the morning he left for a place called Miletus. Miletus was not far from Ephesus. At Miletus Paul said farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus. He gave them a long farewell speech. He said:

The work of giving the good news of Jesus is more important than saving our earthly lives.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 20:17 to 27. Read verse 17 again. When he was at Miletus, whom did Paul call for?

3. Paul called for the elders of the church at Ephesus. He was now hurrying to finish the third missionary journey. He had collected an offering for the mother church.

Acts 20:16:

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Where was Paul going when he wanted to give farewell to the Ephesians quickly?

4. He was going to Jerusalem. There was famine in Jerusalem at this time. Paul had collected an offering for the church there. He wanted to help them. This is what he said to the elders from Ephesus.

Acts 20:18-19:

You yourselves know how I lived among you all the time from the first day I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that befell me.

Who was more concerned about giving the good news of Jesus than about saving his earthly life? _____

5. Paul's work was more important to him than his life. He went on to remind the Ephesians of how he had worked.

Acts 20:20-21:

how I did not shrink from (or fear) declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance to God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What was Paul's work? _____

6. Paul's work was to give the good news of Jesus. He was testifying about faith in Jesus. You remember how Ananias spoke the words of God about Paul in Damascus.

Acts 9:15:

he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel.

Which was more important to Paul -- was it giving the good news of Jesus, or saving his earthly life? _____

7. Giving the good news of Jesus was more important to Paul.

Acts 20:22:

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what shall befall me there.

Acts 21:13:

For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

To Paul giving the good news of Jesus was more important than saving what? _____

8. This work was more important than saving his earthly life. Paul was not careless with his life. But he was not trying to save it first of all. Paul was ready to give his life.

Acts 20:23:

the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions (or troubles) await me (in Jerusalem).

What work was more important to Paul than saving his earthly life?

9. This work was giving the good news of Jesus. This was what Paul lived for. It was what he was willing to die for.

Acts 20:24:

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish (or finish) my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

The work of giving the good news of Jesus must be more important to us than what?

10. It must be more important than saving our earthly lives. Paul's life had been in danger many times already. He had been beaten and stoned and put in prison. But he had been faithful. Now he was saying goodbye to the elders from Ephesus.

In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, what does he teach us is more important than saving our earthly lives?

11. It is the work of giving the good news of Jesus. Now see what else Paul said in his farewell.

Acts 20:25:

And now, behold, I know that you all among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom will see my face no more.

When Paul said that giving the good news is more important than saving our earthly lives, what kind of speech was he giving the Ephesians?

12. He was giving them a farewell speech. He knew that he would not come back to the churches of Macedonia, Greece, and Asia. Later he wrote these words to the church at Philippi.

Philippians 1:21:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, what does he teach us is more important than saving our earthly lives?

13. It is giving the good news of Jesus. The most important thing to Paul was to finish the word God gave him. This often brought trouble to him. When there is trouble, some people change their message. Or they keep back some of it.

Acts 20:27:

for I did not shrink (or pull back) from declaring to you the whole counsel (or message) of God.

Did Paul keep back some of the message in order to save his earthly life? _____

Let us say that your church is ready to send out some missionaries. You are asked to preach a sermon for the sending meeting. On another paper write three big things you could say. Write some things you could say to explain these. Bring your paper to class.

14. Paul did not keep back any of the message.

In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, what does he teach us is more important than saving our earthly lives?

WEEK 7: MORE OF THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
DAY 3: ELDERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF THEMSELVES AND THE FLOCK

Acts 20:28-38

1. In Paul's farewell to the the elders of Ephesus, what does he teach us is more important than saving our earthly lives?

2. It is giving the good news of Jesus. Paul was saying farewell. He knew that trouble was waiting for him in Jerusalem. He would not see the young churches again. Paul loved these people and he wanted the church to remain strong. He wanted the elders to lead well. His last words to them were important. Today we learn:

In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, he told them to do two things.

(1) To be careful of themselves.

(2) To take care of the church.

He also said that the word of God would build them up and give them inheritance.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 20:28 to 38. Read verse 28 again. Who was Paul talking to in these verses? _____

3. He was talking to the elders of Ephesus. He spoke very clearly to them. He told them that false teachers would come into the church.

Acts 20:29:

I know that after my departure fierce wolves (or wild animals) will come in among you not sparing the flock (or sheep).

What sheep was Paul talking about to the elders? _____

4. Paul was talking about the church or the Christians. These men must be careful of themselves and take care of the church. Later Paul was teaching Timothy to lead the church. He wrote.

I Timothy 4:12

set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

What men at Ephesus should be careful of themselves first of all? _____

5. The elders should do this. They should be an example to others in the church. Paul knew what would happen.

Acts 20:30:

from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Who should the elders be careful of first? _____

6. They should do this to themselves. It would not be enough to take care of the church. If they themselves did wrong, the church would go wrong too. The church would follow the leaders.

Acts 20:31:

Therefore be alert (or be careful), remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish (or warn) every one with tears.

In his farewell, what did Paul tell the elders to do about themselves? _____

7. He told them to be careful of themselves. Some leaders tell their people, "Do not do what I do. Just do what I say." They want people to obey God. But they themselves want to do as they like. This does not work. Leaders too can be lost. They can be deceived. They must first be careful of themselves.

Who told the elders of Ephesus to first watch themselves? _____

8. Paul told them this. He was saying farewell to them. He told them two things to do.

Acts 20:28:

Take heed to yourselves and to the flock.

What is the first thing Paul told the elders to do?

(1) _____

(2) Take care of the church.

9. First Paul told the elders to be careful of themselves. Then he told them to take care of the church. He called the church a flock. A flock is a group of sheep. Paul was thinking of the church as a flock of sheep. In Paul's time, many people had sheep. They took good care of them. They stayed with them all the time. They kept them from wild animals.

What do we call someone who takes care of sheep or cattle? _____

10. We call him a shepherd or a herdsman. Leaders of the church are often called shepherds in the Bible. Shepherds in Bible times worked hard. They knew each sheep. It was not children who took care of sheep or cattle then. It was the strong men. Peter wrote about this.

I Peter 5:1-3:

So I exhort the elders among you ... Tend (or take care of) the flock of God that is your charge (or work) ... not as domineering (or ruling) over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.

Who is the flock of God whom elders should watch? _____

11. The flock of God is the church. It is the Christians or believers. Leaders in the church should not do their work to get honour or money. They should do it because they want to work for God. See again what Peter said.

I Peter 5:2:

Tend (or take care of) the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint (or force) but willingly, not for shameful gain (or money) but eagerly.

After being careful of themselves, what should elders do to the church? _____

12. They should take care of it. Pastor Amos was put in charge of a small church. The first thing he did was to tell the people how to speak to him. He also told them how they should obey him. When the people brought grain to help him, he said he wanted money instead. Pastor Amos was trying to be a chief instead of a shepherd. He needed the teaching of Paul.

In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, what did he tell them to do?

- (1) _____
(2) Take care of the church.

13. First he told them to be careful of themselves. Paul knew that some of the leaders would become false teachers. They would lead the church away from God. They would scatter the church.

What is the second thing Paul told the elders of Ephesus to do?

- (1) To be careful of themselves.
(2) _____

14. Paul said they should take care of the church. Then Paul said some more very important words. He said that God and his word would help them.

Acts 20:32:

And now I commend (or give) you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified (or set apart).

Paul said the word of God would give them inheritance. What else did he say the word of God would do for them? _____

15. He said it would build them up. Read this important verse again.

Acts 20:32:

... the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

What did Paul say the word of God would do for them besides building them up? _____

16. He said it would give them inheritance. Inheritance is what parents leave for their children. It may be money or cattle or land. But these things can be destroyed. The inheritance from God is life which will not end.

I Peter 1:4:

... and to an inheritance which is imperishable (or unending), undefiled (or not spoiled) and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Paul was saying farewell to the elder of Ephesus. He would not be there to help them now. He was trusting God to help them.

What did Paul say would build them up and give them inheritance? _____

17. It is the word of God. If the elders kept obeying the word of God, they would not go wrong. They would not be deceived. They would not lead the church away. The word of God would help them go straight.

In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, what two things did he tell them to do?

(1) _____

(2) _____

18. He told them to be careful of themselves and to take care of the church.

What did Paul say would build them up and give them inheritance? _____

19. The word of God would do this. Missionaries plant new churches. The time always comes when they must leave these churches. They must leave so the churches will grow strong. The churches have God's help. They have the word of God. The word of God will build them up. It will also give them inheritance in God's family.

Has the time come yet for the missionaries who came to you to leave? _____

Has the time come yet for the missionaries you have sent to leave the churches they have planted? _____

20. You will talk about this in class.

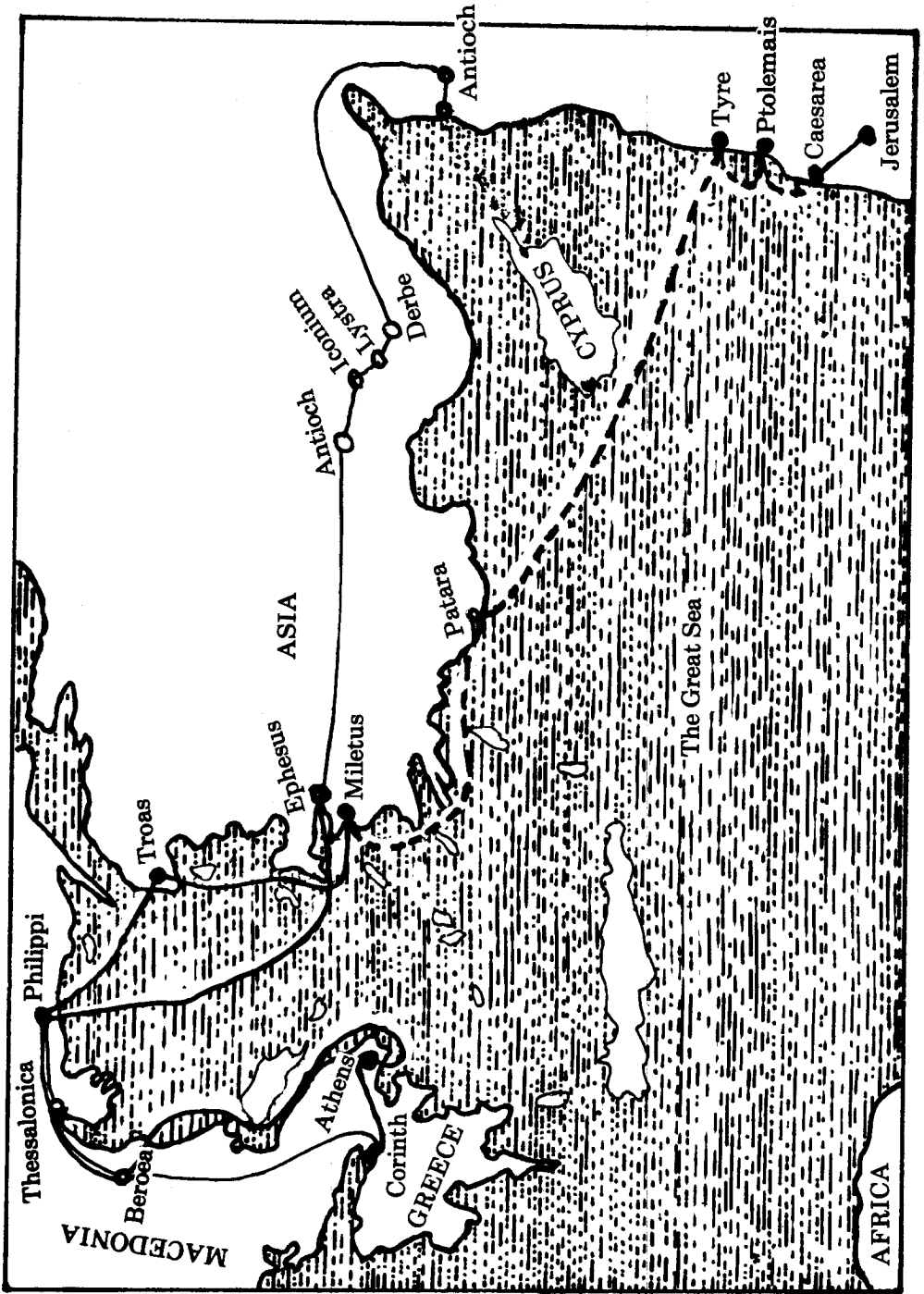
In Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus, what did he tell them to do?

(1) _____

(2) _____

What did Paul say would build them up and give them inheritance? _____

The Third Missionary Journey



WEEK 7: MORE OF THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

DAY 4: PAUL WENT ON TO JERUSALEM

Acts 21:1-16

1. We have seen that Paul was now ready to finish the third journey. At Miletus he said farewell to the elders from Ephesus.

In his farewell, what did Paul tell the elders to do?

(1) _____

(2) _____

What did Paul say would build them up and give them inheritance? _____

2. Paul told the elders to be careful of themselves and take care of the church. He said the word of God would build them up. Then Paul left these men. He went on his way to Jerusalem. Paul was taking an offering to the church there. It was from all the young churches he had planted. Paul wanted to show what God was doing.

Because he was sure of God's leading,
Paul went on to Jerusalem even when many
people warned him of trouble there.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 21:1 to 11. On the map facing this page, find Miletus. Fill in the line going from Miletus to Jerusalem.

3. Paul was going to Jerusalem. He went by way of Cos, Patara, Tyre, Ptolemais and Caesarea. He found new friends and old friends on the way. He visited the believers at Tyre.

Acts 21:4:

And having sought out the disciples (at Tyre), we stayed there for seven days. Through the Spirit they told Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

What did the disciples at Tyre tell Paul? _____

4. They told him not to go on to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had shown them that Paul would have trouble. God wanted Paul to know what was coming. Paul must have prayed much about this. He was sure God wanted him to go to Jerusalem.

Acts 21:5:

And when our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey; and they all, with wives and children, brought us on our way till we were outside the city; and kneeling down on the beach we prayed and bade one another farewell.

Did Paul obey the warning of the disciples at Tyre not to go to Jerusalem? _____

5. He did not obey their warning. Paul was sure of God's leading. He was sure God wanted him to go to Jerusalem. He went on. He visited the Christians in Ptolemais for one day. The next day he visited Christians in Caesarea. Here he found some young women who were busy preaching.

Acts 21:8-9:

we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven (deacons) and stayed with him. And he had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

But what would Paul meet in Jerusalem? _____

6. He would meet trouble in Jerusalem. In Caesarea the prophet Agabus prophesied this. Perhaps you remember that Agabus prophesied at another time. He said there would be famine in Jerusalem. Now the famine had come.

Acts 21:10:

While we were staying for some days (in Caesarea), a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

Who was sure God wanted him to go to Jerusalem and take an offering for them? _____

7. Paul was sure of this. He was sure of God's leading. God showed him through the prophet what would happen. Agabus was like many prophets in the Old Testament. He acted out what would happen to Paul.

Acts 21:11:

And coming to us he took Paul's girdle (or belt) and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this girdle and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

What was Paul sure God wanted him to do, even though many people warned him of troubles? _____

8. He was sure God wanted him to go to Jerusalem. God told him what would happen. Paul told the elders of Ephesus that in every city people were warning him. God also spoke through Agabus in Caesarea.

Acts 21:12:

When we heard this, we and the people there begged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Did many or few people warn Paul about what would happen in Jerusalem?

9. Many people warned Paul. Paul understood these warnings. But he was sure of what he should do. Paul must have been praying much during these days. He did not want to be foolish. But he did want to obey God.

Acts 21:13:

Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Paul went on to Jerusalem because he was sure of whose leading? _____

10. He was sure of God's leading. He was sure of what Jesus wanted him to do. Sometimes God warns us of danger ahead. This does not mean we should stop going. It means we should be prepared. We should go on trusting God to lead us and help us.

Acts 21:14:

And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "The will of the Lord be done."

Because he was sure of God's leading, what did Paul do when many people warned him of trouble in Jerusalem? _____

11. Paul went on to Jerusalem. He and his friends left Caesarea. Some of Paul's friends were Gentiles. Gentiles were not wanted in Jewish homes. They needed a place to stay in Jerusalem. Some disciples from Caesarea took Paul to the home of Mnason. Mnason was a good Christian. He made no difference between Jews and Gentiles.

Acts 21:15-16:

After these days we made ready and went up to Jerusalem. And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

What would Paul meet in Jerusalem? _____

12. Paul would meet trouble in Jerusalem. He would be arrested. He would be put into prison. The Jews would try to kill him. Then he would be tried by the Gentiles. Paul was not afraid. He had great courage.

Because he was sure of God's leading, what did Paul do when many people warned him of trouble in Jerusalem?

13. Paul went on to Jerusalem. We remember that to Paul, doing the work of God was important. Giving the good news of Jesus was more important than saving his earthly life. We will see what happened a few days later. God showed him he had done right.

Acts 23:11:

"Take courage, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome."

If you were warned of danger ahead because you were witnessing for Jesus, what would you do?

14. Be ready to talk about this in class.

Because he was sure of God's leading, what did Paul do when many people warned him of trouble in Jerusalem?

WEEK 7: MORE OF THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
DAY 5: PAUL WENT TO THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

Acts 21:17-26

1. This week we have seen the end of the third missionary journey.

Because he was sure of God's leading, what did Paul do when many people warned him of trouble in Jerusalem?

2. Paul went on to Jerusalem. Perhaps you were once sent to a village far away. You wondered what would happen there. In Jerusalem Paul was asked to go to the temple. He was asked to obey some of the Jewish customs. Paul obeyed. There were many reasons why he did this. We will look at three of them. At the end of the lesson you will write two. Paul obeyed because:

- (1) The church leaders asked him to do it.
- (2) He did not want to drive away new Jewish believers.
- (3) He wanted to be able to lead Jews to Jesus.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 21:17 to 26. In verse 17, was Paul received well by the brethren in Jerusalem?

3. The brethren received him gladly. They also received the Gentile Christians who were with him. They received the offering which the Gentile churches sent.

Acts 21:19-20:

After greeting them, he (Paul) related (or told) one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified God.

You remember how the leaders decided that Gentiles did not have to become Jews to be Christians. Were the leaders in Jerusalem now changing this decision?

4. They were not changing this decision. They praised God for the Gentiles who believed. But they had a problem. Many false reports about Paul were going around among the Jews. They thought Paul was telling Jews to stop being Jews.

Acts 21:20-21:

and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed; they are all zealous for the law, and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses.

Who told Paul that people thought he was telling Jews to stop being Jews?

5. It was the church leaders in Jerusalem. They saw that new Jewish believers were troubled. God had first revealed himself to the Jews. They were his chosen people. Now they thought Paul was telling Jews to throw away the law of God.

In our village when there is trouble like this, the chief calls the elders. They sit down and talk about the problem. They decide how to make things good again. The leaders in Jerusalem did this with the missionary.

Whom did the leaders in Jerusalem ask to go to the temple and obey some of the Jewish laws?

6. They asked Paul to do this. Paul took the advice of the leaders. They asked him to go to the temple and obey the law of cleansing. Paul knew it would not be wrong for him to do this. He was not trusting in the law to save him. Paul understood that when we become Christians we are still part of our people. Customs which are not forbidden by God can be continued. If people know we are still part of them, they will listen to our words.

Paul's first reason for going to the temple was because he was asked to do this. Who asked him to do it?

7. It was the leaders of the church who asked him. Paul wanted to work together with these leaders. When he could, he did what they asked. When he felt they were wrong, he told them so. Paul went to the temple because the leaders asked him to. He also had another reason. He did not want to drive away new Jewish believers. Many Jews were now believing in Christ.

Acts 21:21:

they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or observe the customs.

If the Jews thought Paul was telling people to disobey God, would they understand the way of Christ?

8. They would not understand. They would be confused. They would stumble over the teachings. Perhaps they would turn back from the way of Christ.

Whom did Paul not want to drive away? _____

What was his first reason for going to the temple?

- (1) _____
 - (2) He did not want to drive away new Jewish believers.
 - (3) He wanted to lead the Jews to Jesus.
-

9. Paul went to the temple because the leaders asked him to. He did not want to drive away new Jewish believers. The new believers were not strong yet. The leaders were concerned about them. But they were not changing their decision about Gentiles.

Acts 21:25:

as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity.

What did Paul do because he did not want to drive away new Jewish believers?

10. He went to the temple. He obeyed some of the Jewish laws for cleansing.

Acts 21:26:

Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself with them and went into the temple, to give notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for every one of them.

The first reason Paul did this was because the leaders asked him to. What was the second reason?

11. Paul did not want to drive away new Jewish believers. He also had another reason. He wanted to be able to lead Jews to Jesus. Paul was not afraid of the Jews. He was willing to be killed for preaching about Christ. He did not go into the temple because he was afraid. Later Paul explained why he did some things.

I Corinthians 9:20:

To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I became as one under the law-- though not being myself under the law that I might win those under the law.

When the leaders in Jerusalem talked about the Jewish believers, did Paul obey their advice, or did he refuse it?

12. He obeyed it. He felt this was the right thing to do. But at another time Paul knew the leaders were wrong. See what he did.

Galatians 2:11-13:

But when Cephas (or Peter) came to Antioch I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself ... and with him the rest of the Jews acted insincerely (or like hypocrites).

Paul wanted to lead many Gentiles to Jesus. But who else did he also want to lead to Jesus?

13. Paul also wanted to do this to Jews. He decided to go to the temple in Jerusalem. He obeyed the law of cleansing, though he was not trusting this to save him. He brought offerings for himself and four other men. These were not offerings for an evil spirit or a false god. This was the old way of worshipping God under the law. Paul wanted the Jews to listen to him.

What did Paul want to do to the Jews? _____

14. He wanted to lead them to Jesus. Paul had a very hard decision to make. He knew that keeping the law cannot save us. He knew the Gentiles were saved without keeping the law of Moses. He knew that Jesus had fulfilled the law. But he decided to go to the temple.

What is the third reason why he decided to do this?

- (1) The church leaders asked him to do it.
- (2) He did not want to drive away new Jewish believers.

(3) _____

15. He wanted to be able to lead Jews to Jesus. Think about this for a while. A missionary must be able to fit in with the people where he goes. He must respect their customs. He must also understand his own customs. He must be able to see what is wrong and what is not wrong.

What are the first two reasons why Paul went to the temple and obeyed some of the Jewish laws?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) He wanted to be able to lead Jews to Jesus.

16. The church leaders asked Paul to do it. And Paul did not want to drive away new Jewish believers.

What is the third reason why Paul went to the temple? _____

17. Paul wanted to be able to lead Jews to Jesus. One day an elder in our church had a difficult problem. His son was caught in adultery. The woman's father asked him to bring three chickens to pay for the uncleanness of the woman. If he did not bring the chickens, he would be taken to court. In court the fine would be three or four goats. The elder brought the chickens. The family of the woman were not Christians. They used the chickens to make a sacrifice. When the church heard about this they were troubled. They said the elder should have asked for advice. Perhaps they could have given him a better plan.

Do you think that what this elder did was like what Paul did? _____

In what ways was it different? _____

18. In class, talk about when we should keep old customs and when we should refuse them.

Write two reasons why Paul went into the temple and obeyed some of the Jewish laws.

(1) _____

(2) _____