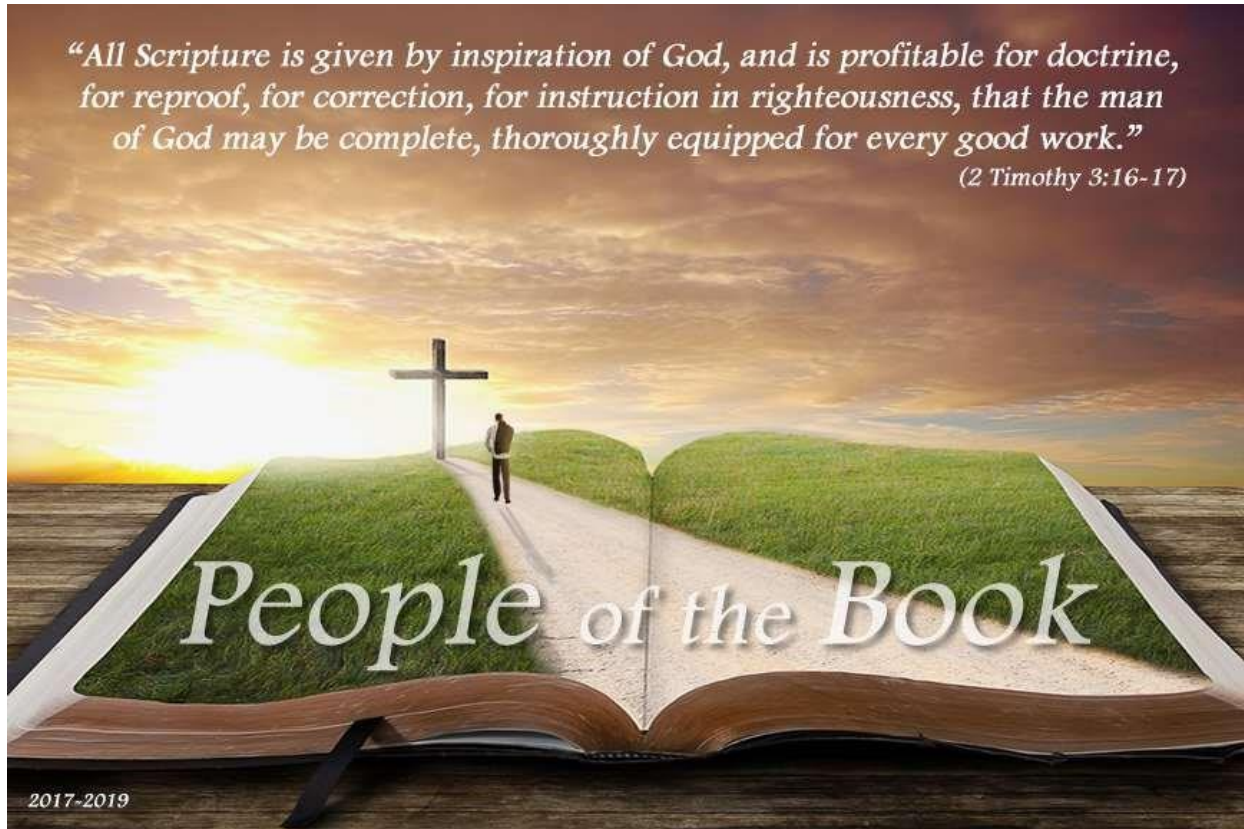


*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

*(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*



# **“People of the Book”**

## ***The Beginning of the Church***

***(Part 1)***

**A Harmony of Acts and Paul’s Epistles**

# Syllabus

Date	Lesson	Text
Sunday, April 7	1. Mission, Ascension, and Matthias	Acts 1
Wednesday, April 10	2. The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2
Sunday, April 14	3. Peter and John Heal a Lame Man	Acts 3
Wednesday, April 17	4. Peter and John in Prison	Acts 4:1-31
Sunday, April 21	5. Ananias and Sapphira; Apostles Arrested	Acts 4:32—5:42
Wednesday, April 24	6. Seven Chosen to Serve and Stephen's Setup	Acts 6
Sunday, April 28	7. Stephen's Sermon	Acts 7
Wednesday, May 1	8. Saul, Samaria, Simon, and a Eunuch	Acts 8
Sunday, May 5	9. The Conversion of Saul	Acts 9
Wednesday, May 8	10. The Conversion of Cornelius	Acts 10:1—11:18
Sunday, May 12	11. The Church in Antioch, Peter, and Herod	Acts 11:19—12:25
Wednesday, May 15	12. Paul's First Missionary Journey (Part 1)	Acts 13
Sunday, May 19	13. Paul's First Missionary Journey (Part 2)	Acts 14
Wednesday, May 22	14. The Conference in Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-35
Sunday, May 26	15. Paul's Call and Early Ministry	Galatians 1-2
Wednesday, May 29	16. Law and Flesh VS. Grace and Spirit	Galatians 4-6
Sunday, June 2	17. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part 1)	Acts 15:36—17:15
Wednesday, June 5	18. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part 2)	Acts 17:16—18:23
Sunday, June 9	19. What Happened in Thessalonica?	1 Thessalonians 1-3
Wednesday, June 12	20. The Coming of the Lord	1 Thessalonians 4-5
Sunday, June 16	21. Clarification on the Coming of the Lord	2 Thessalonians
Wednesday, June 19	22. Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Part 1)	Acts 18:24—19:41
Sunday, June 23	23. Division in Corinth	1 Corinthians 1-4
Wednesday, June 26	24. Sin in Corinth	1 Corinthians 5-7
Sunday, June 30	25. Food Offered to Idols	1 Corinthians 8-11
Wednesday, July 3	26. Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12-16

## 17 Periods of Bible History

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1. Before The Flood	Genesis 1-5
2. The Flood	Genesis 6-10
3. The Scattering of the People	Genesis 11
4. The Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
5. The Exodus	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers 1-13
6. Wandering in the Wilderness	Numbers 14-36, Deuteronomy, Joshua 1-5
7. Invasion and Conquest	Joshua 6-24
8. The Judges	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
9. The United Kingdom	
Saul	1 Samuel 8-31, 1 Chronicles 10
David	2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 11-29
Solomon	1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9
10. The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10-30*
11. Judah Alone	2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chronicles 30*-36
12. Captivity	Ezekiel, Daniel
13. Return from Captivity	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
14. Years of Silence	(Prophesy in Amos 8:11)
15. Life of Christ	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
16. The Early Church	Acts
17. Letters to the Christians	Romans - Revelation

## **The Acts Facts**

1. Jesus' Ascension and Matthias Replaces Judas
2. The Day of Pentecost
3. Peter and John Heal a Lame Man
4. Peter and John in Prison
5. Ananias and Sapphira
6. Seven Chosen to Serve
7. Stoning of Stephen
8. Philip in Samaria and the Ethiopian Eunuch
9. Conversion of Saul
10. Conversion of Cornelius
11. The Disciples Were First Called Christians in Antioch
12. James Executed and Peter in Prison
13. Paul's First Missionary Journey
14. Paul's First Missionary Journey
15. The Conference in Jerusalem
16. Paul's Second Missionary Journey
17. Paul's Second Missionary Journey
18. Paul's Second Missionary Journey
19. Paul's Third Missionary Journey
20. Paul's Third Missionary Journey
21. Paul Arrested in Jerusalem
22. Paul Speaks to the People
23. Paul before the Council
24. Paul before Felix
25. Paul before Festus
26. Paul before Agrippa
27. Paul's Voyage to Rome (Shipwreck)
28. Paul's Voyage to Rome (Arrival)

*I learned this breakdown in fifth grade. It has stuck with me all these years and has been extremely helpful!*



# Lesson 1: Mission, Ascension, and Matthias

**Text:** Luke 24:45-53; Acts 1

## Overview:

- There is an overlap between the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts. The first part of Acts is like a TV show that reviews the previous episode – “Last time on Luke.”
- Obviously, Acts is a continuation of Luke. It is written by the same person to the same person and continues the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a shame that John’s Gospel was placed between Luke and Acts.

## Questions:

1. What are the “many proofs” of v. 3?
2. We often rebuke the apostles for their question in v. 6. But consider v. 3. Could they still be expecting a physical kingdom?
3. How does Acts 1:8 form an outline for the rest of the book?
4. What does the comment from the angels in v. 11 mean?
5. In the list of people in the upper room, who stands out to you?
6. Where are the quotations about Judas found in the Old Testament?
7. What were the requirements of the man to take Judas’ place?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What role did Mary, Jesus’ mother, have in the beginning of the church?

## Lesson 2: The Day of Pentecost

**Text:** Acts 2

### **Overview:**

- The Day of Pentecost was an important day for Jews and would become one for Christians.
- The Spirit is poured out on the Apostles and they preach the first Gospel sermon after the death and resurrection of Jesus
- Everything Peter says hinges on Jesus' resurrection. If the body is still in Joseph's tomb, then everything Peter says is wrong.

### **Questions:**

1. When they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, who made up the "all"? Was it the 12 apostles? Or was it the 120 mentioned in 1:15?
2. What was this miracle of tongues? What did it enable the Apostles to do?
3. Use a map to locate the places mentioned in vv. 9-11.
4. What did some accuse the apostles of?
5. How does Peter respond?
6. What passage from David, did Peter quote? Why could David not be talking about himself? What does this imply?
7. What does Peter accuse the Jews of?
8. What is the correct response to guilt over sin?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Why is the community aspect of Acts 2 so important?

## Lesson 3: Peter and John Heal a Lame Man

**Text:** Acts 3

### **Overview:**

- This story provides a wonderful example of how miracles are designed to give credence to the word.
- There is also a subtle claim that Christianity is better than Judaism, that Christ is better than the temple in this story.

### **Questions:**

1. What did the lame man want from Peter and John? What did he get?
2. In explaining how the lame man was made well, how does Peter, again, convict the people of their sins?
3. Again, how should the people respond?
4. How many times does Peter mention the name of Jesus or reference “the name” in this chapter?
5. How is Jesus the prophet of which Moses spoke?
6. Peter claims that Jesus is the fulfillment of which promise made to Abraham?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

What does the phrase “whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring” mean?



## Lesson 4: Peter and John in Prison

**Text:** Acts 4:1-31

### **Overview:**

- The Jewish leaders assumed that killing Jesus would make the problem go away. For them, it only made the problem worse.
- How will the apostles respond to the first act of persecution against them?

### **Questions:**

1. Why are the Sadducees so annoyed at Peter and John?
2. Did their arrest hinder the power of God's word?
3. When speaking to the Jewish leaders, what does Peter, again, emphasize?
4. V. 13 is quite a compliment to Peter and John. What had Jesus said was the goal of a disciple?
5. Why couldn't the council really do anything about this?
6. How do Peter and John respond to the council's order to quit speaking about Jesus' name?
7. Why is the prayer of vv. 24-30 so powerful?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

What is the unspoken temptation of Peter and John in this passage?

## Lesson 5: Ananias and Sapphira; Apostles Arrested

**Text:** Acts 4:32—5:42

### Overview:

- The story of Ananias and Sapphira really begins with the background story at the end of chapter 4.
- The number of believers is growing and it's all happening right in the temple. The Jewish leadership cannot allow it to continue.

### Questions:

1. Who was Barnabas? What did he do? Why did he do it?
2. Peter accuses Ananias and Sapphira of lying, but why did they lie? What were they wanting?
3. Who are “the rest” in v. 13?
4. The power of God is so strong and the faith of the people so great. How are miracles now happening?
5. What do the apostles do after being miraculously released from prison?
6. What was Peter's response to the High Priest's rebuke?
7. How many times has Peter now accused the Jews of killing the Messiah?
8. Why is Gamaliel's advice ironic?
9. What was the Apostles' response to their physical punishment?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What example do the  
Apostles set for believers in  
this chapter?

## Lesson 6: Seven Chosen to Serve; Stephen's Setup

**Text:** Acts 6

### **Overview:**

- One thing to note in the book of Acts is that the stories move back and forth from internal issues to external issues. For example, Peter and John are arrested in Acts 4 (external) and in Acts 5:1-11 we have the story of Ananias and Sapphira (internal). Acts 5 ends with the Apostles before the council (external) and chapter 6 begins with the Hellenistic widows being overlooked (internal).

### **Questions:**

1. Who are the Hellenists and why might they get overlooked in the daily distribution?
2. Why couldn't the apostles oversee this issue?
3. What are the qualities of the men who would handle the problem?
4. It is surprising that many of what group became obedient to the faith?
5. Who is Stephen?
6. What was the real problem with Stephen? What did the leaders claim?
7. What is v. 15 describing?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

The names of the men in Acts 6 are all Greek names. How would this have aided in fixing the problem?

## Lesson 7: Stephen's Sermon

**Text:** Acts 7

### **Overview:**

- To appreciate what Stephen does in this sermon, we need to remember the accusations against him in Acts 7:8-15. The common accusation against early Christians was that they were disrespecting the temple. Stephen specifically addresses this charge by showing that God is not confined to the temple.

### **Questions:**

1. How would you describe the majority of Stephen's sermon?
2. Where was God in v. 2? Where was God in v. 9? vv. 30-33? v. 45? vv. 45-46?
3. How had the people been more devoted to the temple than to God?
4. It is hard to accuse Stephen of sin when the entirety of Israelite history is full of rebellion. In what locations does Stephen accuse them of rebellion?
5. Stephen accuses his hearers of resisting the Holy Spirit. How do they prove his point?
6. Who is introduced at the end of this chapter?
7. How is Stephen like Jesus in his death?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What impact might Stephen's sermon have had on Paul?

## Lesson 8: Saul, Samaria, Simon, and the Eunuch

**Text:** Acts 8

### **Overview:**

- There is a lot going on in this chapter. Another one of the seven from chapter 6 is busy spreading the gospel.
- Remember Acts 1:8: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The gospel has been preached in Jerusalem and Judea. Now Philip takes the gospel to Samaria.

### **Questions:**

1. What affect did Saul’s persecution have on the church?
2. What three things was Philip preaching (v. 12) when he preached the gospel?
3. What was the difference between Philip and Simon?
4. Why did the apostles have to come to Samaria after Philip’s preaching?
5. What did Simon want? What was Simon’s problem?
6. What was the Eunuch in relation to Judaism?
7. What passages was he reading?
8. If Philip preached Jesus, where does the Eunuch get the idea of baptism?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

How do we know this is Philip from Acts 6, not Philip the apostle?

## Lesson 9: The Conversion of Saul

**Text:** Acts 9

### **Overview:**

- The story is so important that Luke tells it three times.
- The gospel has been preached in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to a possible proselyte, and now to a hostile enemy of the cross.

### **Questions:**

1. Why was Saul going to Damascus?
2. What did Saul do for three days?
3. What objection does Ananias give God? How does God respond?
4. How did Saul move so quickly from persecuting Christ to preaching Christ?
5. What was the problem when Saul taught in the synagogues?
6. What almost happened to Saul while in Damascus?
7. Who helped Saul to be accepted among the brethren?
8. What two miracles does Peter perform in this chapter?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

How would we respond if someone hostile to the gospel accepted and obeyed it?

## Lesson 10: The Conversion of Cornelius

**Text:** Acts 10:1—11:18

### **Overview:**

- The gospel has been preached in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, to a possible proselyte, and to an enemy of the cross. What is left?
- This is an extremely important story—especially considering most of us are gentiles—in the book of Acts and is pretty much told twice, back to back.

### **Questions:**

1. Who was Cornelius and what kind of man was he?
2. What was Peter's vision? What did it mean? Why did he have it three times?
3. What was Peter's sermon?
4. What happened after Peter's told them about Jesus? Did this save them?
5. What was the purpose of the Holy Spirit coming on Cornelius's house? Note 11:15.
6. What was still necessary for these gentiles to do?
7. What happened when word got out?
8. What is still going to be a question concerning the salvation of the gentiles?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the “baptism of the Holy Spirit”?

## Lesson 11: The Church in Antioch, Peter, and Herod

**Text:** Acts 11:19—12:15

### Overview:

- Luke likes to introduce a character briefly, then bring them back for more later. He does this with Barnabas, Stephen, Philip, Saul, and, in this chapter, John Mark.
- 

### Questions:

1. Where else have we seen Barnabas? Why did Barnabas go to Tarsus?
2. Who prophesied a famine?
3. Why was Peter put in prison?
4. What were the brethren doing while Peter was in prison?
5. When Peter was at the gate, what did they think the servant saw?
6. Who is the James in v. 17?
7. Why did an angel strike down Herod?

### Be Ready to Discuss:

Why is it interesting that Peter was asleep while in prison?



## Lesson 12: Paul's First Missionary Journey (Part 1)

**Text:** Acts 13

### **Overview:**

- This chapter marks a change from an emphasis on Peter and the work around Jerusalem to Paul and the rest of the world.
- This is also where we learn of Saul's other, more common, name.
- For these chapters, it will be helpful to consult a map.

### **Questions:**

1. Who is Bar-Jesus? Who is Sergius Paulus? Who is Elymas?
2. What did Paul do to Elymas?
3. What happened to John Mark?
4. How is Paul's sermon like Stephen's?
5. What was the initial response to Paul's message? What happened the next week?
6. Why did Paul and Barnabas turn to the gentiles?
7. Why did Paul and Barnabas shake off the dust of their feet?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Why does Paul respond so harshly toward Elymas?

## Lesson 13: Paul's First Missionary Journey (Part 2)

**Text:** Acts 14

### **Objectives:**

- This is a theologically rich section of John. Please read the entire section as we will not be able to cover everything in class.
- There are some things going on in the background that provide added depth for understanding what Jesus is doing. If you can, find some information about the first century celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

### **Questions:**

1. What do the Jews do in every city where Paul and Barnabas go to preach?
2. Why did they leave Iconium?
3. Including this one, how many miracles has Paul done?
4. What did the crowds in Lystra think of Paul and Barnabas?
5. From where were the Jews who stoned Paul?
6. For what reason do Paul and Barnabas revisit Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch?
7. How does Paul summarize their mission in v. 27?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Was Paul foolish to return to Lystra?

## Lesson 14: The Conference in Jerusalem

**Text:** Acts 15:1-35

### **Overview:**

- The greatest internal issue the first century church faced was the Jew-Gentile distinction. The Jews had been God's special people since Abraham. So, if the Gentiles are going to become heirs to the promises God made to Abraham, do they have to become Jews? This is one of the main issues Paul deals with in his letters.
- It is important to remember that the apostles and other influential brethren did not get together and "vote" about what was right. They got together to decide how best to deal with the situation and disseminate God's will on the issue.

### **Questions:**

1. What was the main identifying mark of a Jew?
2. Acts 15:5 makes it clear that some Christians were still keeping what?
3. To what did Peter appeal?
4. To what did Barnabas and Paul appeal?
5. To what did James appeal?
6. What specific things were forbidden for Gentiles?
7. How did they decide to disseminate this information?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

We can understand why idolatry and sexual immorality are still forbidden, but what about blood?

## Lesson 15: Paul's Call and Early Ministry

**Text:** Galatians 1-2

### **Overview:**

- At this point in our study, we will begin placing Paul's epistles into the chronological story of Acts. Our bibles organize Paul's epistles by length, not date.
- In the first two chapters of Galatians, we see Paul defending himself and his gospel. The apostles have not colluded together. This was made clear by the fact that Paul had minimal communication with the apostles in Jerusalem for over 14 years.

### **Questions:**

1. This letter does not open with a typical thanksgiving, but what?
2. How did Paul receive the gospel he preaches?
3. When was the Son revealed to Paul?
4. Trace the timeline provided in Galatians 1-2. How does this compare with the account given in Acts?
5. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised but would not have Titus circumcised?
6. When Paul finally met with the apostles, how did his gospel compare to theirs?
7. Of what was Peter guilty?
8. Since Paul would go to the Gentiles, what request did James, Peter, and John make of him?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Why Paul rebuke Peter publicly as opposed to taking him aside?

## Lesson 16: Law and Flesh VS. Grace and Spirit

**Text:** Galatians 3-6

### Overview:

- This is (probably) the first letter Paul wrote, and it deals with the major internal issue of Jews and Gentiles. The question was, “Do Gentiles have to become Jews to be saved?”
- Paul answers with a resounding “NO!” One must be a descendant of Abraham to be saved and one does this through faith and obedience to the gospel, not by keeping the law or through circumcision.

### Questions:

1. All the spiritual blessings that the Galatians had received, did they come from the law or from faith?
2. If the promises made to Abraham were not based on the Law, why did God give the Law?
3. How do we put on Christ? How do we become the offspring of Abraham?
4. Under the Law, God’s people were \_\_\_\_\_. But now, God’s people are \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 4:1-7).
5. Ishmael was a child of the \_\_\_\_\_ and represents the \_\_\_\_\_. Isaac was a child of \_\_\_\_\_ and represents the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What does it mean to walk according to the flesh? What behaviors comprise the works of the flesh?
7. What does it mean to walk according to the Spirit? What fruit is born by such walking?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Do we bear one another’s burdens (6:2) or do we bear our own load (6:5)?

## Lesson 17: Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part 1)

**Text:** Acts 15:36—17:15

### **Objectives:**

- After clearing up some confusion about Jews and Gentiles, Paul prepares to continue his foreign evangelism.
- This time Paul heads north traveling over land into Cilicia. He has an itinerary in mind, but God has other plans for Paul.

### **Questions:**

1. What happened between Paul and Barnabas? Who joined Paul?
2. Why was Paul forbidden from preaching the word in Asia?
3. When does the “we” change to “us” and what does that imply?
4. Who was Lydia?
5. Why were Paul and Silas thrown in Prison?
6. What was the sign of the jailor's repentance?
7. What accusation was made against Paul in Thessalonica?
8. What was so special about the brethren in Berea?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
How do we know children were not included in household conversions?

## Lesson 18: Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part 2)

**Text:** Acts 17:16—18:23

### **Overview:**

- This second journey had Paul in a couple major cities. Athens was a famous city of history, learning, and philosophy. How would Paul preach to these idolatrous philosophers?
- Corinth was a very tolerant city. The Las Vegas of the ancient world. How would Paul preach to a group of people who tolerated—almost—everything?

### **Questions:**

1. What do we know about the city of Athens?
2. Why would they have an altar to the “unknown god”?
3. As Paul spoke to the Areopagus, what issue caused some to mock him?
4. Why were Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth? And what connection did they have with Paul?
5. How was Paul encouraged to stay in Corinth, even under threatening circumstances?
6. How long did Paul stay in Corinth?
7. Why did Paul cut his hair in Cenchreae?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Does there come a time when we need to move on to another person who may be more receptive of the gospel?

## Lesson 19: What Happened in Thessalonica?

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 1-3

### Overview:

- You may want to reread Acts 17:1-9 because Paul writes this letter because of the chaos that ensued in that trip. He had to get out so quickly that he wanted to write to them immediately.
- His concern for the Thessalonians and their encouragement of him are obvious in this short letter.
- This letter was probably written from Corinth in AD 50 shortly after leaving Thessalonica.

### Questions:

1. Who had heard of the faith of the Christians in Thessalonica?
2. When Paul preached, his desire was to please \_\_\_\_\_.
3. How did Paul support himself while in Thessalonica?
4. Paul wanted to return to see them but couldn't. So he sent \_\_\_\_\_ instead.
5. What was Timothy's report?
6. What does Paul encourage them to keep doing?

### Be Ready to Discuss:

How did Paul get so close to the Thessalonians so quickly?



## Lesson 20: The Coming of the Lord

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 4-5

### **Overview:**

- In the final section of 1 Thessalonians Paul has a lot to say about the return of Jesus Christ. This will cause a little confusion which 2 Thessalonians will address.

### **Questions:**

1. Each chapter of 1 Thessalonians ends with a comment about the coming of the Lord. Except for chapter 5 which begins with it. Note these verses?
2. Many people say God wants us to be happy. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_!
3. It seems like the Thessalonians were afraid that if a Christian died before the return of the Lord, they would miss it. How does Paul address this?
4. When would the Lord return?
5. What kind of things happen at night? So what kind of people should we be?
6. Until the Lord returns, what should we be doing?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What does it mean to be sober?

## Lesson 21: Clarification on the Coming of the Lord

**Text:** 2 Thessalonians

### **Overview:**

- It appears that the Thessalonians misunderstood Paul to be saying that Jesus was coming back immediately. So they all quit their jobs, kicked up their feet, and started watching the sky. Paul told them that they needed to get back to work.
- This letter was probably written as soon as whoever delivered 1 Thessalonians returned.

### **Questions:**

1. What is going to happen when Christ returns?
2. What things must happen before the Lord returns?
3. What is the “mystery of lawlessness”? Who is the “lawless one”?
4. Upon whom God will send a strong delusion?
5. Why does Paul warn them of idleness?
6. How was the church to respond to someone who would not obey Paul’s word?
7. How were they to know this letter was from Paul?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What do we know about the antichrist?

## Lesson 22: Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Part 1)

**Text:** Acts 18:24—19:41

### **Overview:**

- If you blink you will miss the end of the second journey and beginning of the third. Paul stops in Antioch for a little while before he goes out again. We might ask whether he viewed it as two separate trips.
- One of the goals of this trip was to collect funds for the needy saints in Jerusalem.
- We will not really have a change of subjects at the quarter, thus part 2 of this trip will not be discussed for a few weeks as we study 1 Corinthians.

### **Questions:**

1. What was the problem with Apollos's teaching?
2. The disciples that Paul met in Ephesians had only heard of the baptism of John. Who had they possibly heard preach?
3. How long did Paul stay in Ephesus?
4. What was causing people to be healed and cleansed?
5. What amazing thing happened in Ephesus?
6. Why was Demetrius so mad about the Gospel's success?
7. What almost happened in Ephesus?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

What are some reasons we (or others) might have for rejecting the gospel like Demetrius?

## Lesson 23: Divisions in Corinth

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 1-4

### **Overview:**

- Paul probably wrote 1 Corinthians in AD 55 while he was in Ephesus.
- Based on 1 Corinthians 5:9, it is possible that what we call 1 Corinthians was not the first letter Paul sent them.
- This letter is a response to two things: 1. Questions the Corinthian brethren had written to Paul. 2. Information Paul received from Chloe's household.
- Needless to say, there were some major issues in Corinth that Paul had to deal with.

### **Questions:**

1. What is the first appeal Paul makes to the Corinthians?
2. Why is Paul glad he didn't baptize many people?
3. How is the gospel a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles?
4. Why would Paul have purposely simplified his preaching in Corinth?
5. Of what does Paul accuse the Corinthians?
6. Paul says that the local church is the temple of God. With that in mind, why are divisions within the church problematic?
7. Did Paul really have a problem with Apollos?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

What is the temptation with a good looking, smooth talking, clever, and powerful preacher?

## Lesson 24: Sin in Corinth

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 5-7

### **Overview:**

- If divisions in the church weren't enough, there were serious sins being committed by members of the church!
- And, what's worse, they felt enlightened and sophisticated because they were tolerant of them. This bewildered Paul.

### **Questions:**

1. How bad was the situation of the man who had his father's wife?
2. How did Paul tell them to deal with that situation?
3. What does it mean to "deliver one to Satan"?
4. What were the brethren doing to one another when they had disagreements?
5. Some seemed to believe that in Christ they had complete freedom to do whatever they desired. But what does it mean that our body is the temple of God?
6. Sexual desire is a strong and natural feeling. Because of that, what does Paul advise?
7. Why does Paul personally encourage the Corinthians to remain single?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What does Paul mean when he says, "I, not the Lord"?

## Lesson 25: Food Offered to Idols

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 8-11

### **Objectives:**

- Chapters 8-10 deal with another Jew-Gentile issue. This time it is about eating meat offered to idols.
- Chapter 11 is a familiar passage about the Lord's Supper and a difficult passage about "the covering."

### **Questions:**

1. Paul says that we know there are not other gods, but what happens to some who eat meat which was offered to idols?
2. So even though we know there are not other gods, we must be aware of our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In chapter 9 Paul claims that he has a right to receive monetary support for his work. Why doesn't he demand his rights? How is this connected to the issue of meat offered to idols?
4. In chapter 10 Paul reminds them that the Old Testament is there for our learning. We should learn from their failures. We should not think that we are invincible. How is this connected to the issue of meat offered to idols?
5. What is Paul's practical guidance on this issue?
6. Some have argued that the head covering is literal. Some have said it was only necessary for practice of spiritual gifts. How have you read this section? Is v. 16 the solution to the whole problem?
7. What was going on with the Lord's supper observance in Corinth?

## Lesson 26: Spiritual Gifts

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 12-16

### **Objectives:**

- 1 Corinthians 12-14 are all about spiritual gifts. Chapter 12 discusses the need for various people and gifts. Chapter 13 tells us that love is the filter through which the gifts should be practiced. And chapter 14 lays out specific guidelines for the practice of these gifts in the assembly.
- 1 Corinthians 15 is a wonderful chapter on the resurrection.
- 1 Corinthians 16 is mostly known for its comments concerning the collection of the saints.

### **Questions:**

1. What are the different kinds of spiritual gifts?
2. What was happening in Corinth concerning these gifts?
3. How does love affect how these gifts were used?
4. Spiritual gifts were to pass away when what came?
5. What was the purpose of speaking in tongues?
6. How many were to speak in tongues during an assembly? How many were to prophesy?
7. What was the overarching principle that was to guide their assemblies?
8. How does everything Christians believe and do depend on the resurrection?
9. What was the purpose of having a weekly collection?