

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

ACTS

FORM 4

CLASS NOTES

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UNIT 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Who wrote the Book of Acts?

Luke

What evidence is there to prove that the Gospel according to Luke and the Book of Acts of the Apostles were written by the same person?

- Both books are dedicated to a certain Theophilus
- In the introduction of the Book of Acts the author refers to his first book, the Gospel according to Luke
- Both books stress that the Roman authorities saw no wrong in Jesus' activities and those of the Church
- Both works are travelling books
- The beginning of Acts is the expansion of the end of the Gospel "...In my first book..." (Acts 1:1)
- Both books display the same interests such as universalism, the Holy Spirit, prayer and joy

What was the purpose of the Book of Acts?

- To show how the promise of the Holy Spirit made by Jesus got fulfilled among the apostles
- To make it clear that Christianity is for all, the Jews as well as the Gentiles
- To make it clear that Christianity was not rebellious to or seditious or subversive and not against the Roman powers

THEMES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

1. God saves mankind through Jesus Christ

- God made Jesus the Lord, Christ, master of all, saviour, messiah and judge thereby making him the channel of salvation.
- The Apostles are witnesses to this fact.

How to apply this theme?

This theme is applied where

- Jesus is said to be Lord, Christ, master of all, saviour, messiah and judge
- Jesus is said to be risen
- Jesus is said to be alive
- Jesus is said to be glorified
- Apostles are said to be witnesses of Jesus

2. Jesus works through the Holy Spirit

Whenever the apostles and disciples are working under the influence of the Holy Spirit, it is Jesus Himself working in them through the Holy Spirit.

How to apply this theme?

This theme is applied where

- Disciples talk in other languages
- Disciples speak out boldly without fear
- Prophets predict certain things or prophesy
- Disciples choose leaders
- The Church makes decisions
- Disciples confess Jesus as the Messiah

3. Jesus uses the Church as an instrument of salvation

Jesus sent the Church to preach, heal and pray so that people receive salvation through the apostles' words and actions.

Describe two types of salvation

- **Spiritual salvation:** achieved when believers preached and prayed so that people get converted and get eternal salvation.
- **Physical salvation:** achieved when believers performed miracles such as healing and raising the dead as well as distributing food supply

How to apply this theme

This theme is applied when Disciples

- Preach
- Pray for somebody
- Perform miracles
- Organise food distribution

4. The Power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

- Nothing and nobody could stop the spread of the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit
- None can oppose the Holy Spirit when it is at work

How to apply this theme

This theme is applied when:

- Disciples meet problems such as
- Imprisonment
- Threats
- Persecutions
- Opposition
- Natural dangers
- Superstitious beliefs
- Pagan religion
- False prophets

- Unnecessary laws
- Unnecessary arguments or debates

5. The Holy Spirit guides the Church

The Holy Spirit helped the apostles and disciples to make decisions, choose leaders, speak or preach boldly or courageously or without fear

How to apply this theme?

This theme is applied when the Holy Spirit is said to

- Transform the apostles and give them courage to confess that Jesus is the Lord
- Guide disciples on the choice of the leaders
- Direct the apostles' activities; what to do and where to go and evangelise
- Control the decision of the apostles
- Make disciples speak boldly or without fear

6. The Church shares in the suffering of Jesus

The disciples were arrested, accused, imprisoned, stoned and killed just as Jesus suffered.

How is the theme applied?

This theme is applied when disciples are

- Imprisoned
- Threatened
- Persecuted
- Arrested
- Il-treated
- Forced to flee
- Having their teaching rejected
- Faced with riots

7. The importance of prayer in the life of the Church

The Church prayed before doing some important activities and making decisions as well as for its survival.

How to apply this theme?

This theme is applied when

- The disciples or apostles or believers prayed.

8. The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to both the Jews and the Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

- In God's plan of salvation, the Jews would be the first to receive salvation and the Gentiles would get it after.

How to apply this theme?

This theme is applied when the disciples

- Witness to the Jews before the Gentiles
- Preach to the Jews in the synagogue or Temple first before going to the Gentiles
- Convert and baptise the Gentiles

9. The Author's sympathy for the Romans

The Romans tolerated Christianity by protecting, being kind and helpful to disciples unlike the Jews who were attacking the Christians.

List the Roman officers who are spoken well of in the Book of Acts

- **Cornelius:** gave alms and prayed constantly
- **Sergius Paulus:** wanted to hear the word of God and believed after being preached to
- **Gallio:** declared that Paul was innocent
- **Town Clerk of Ephesus:** said that Paul and Barnabas were not blasphemers and that the citizens of Ephesus would be responsible for the riots and not Paul and Barnabas
- **Claudius Lysias:** saved Paul from being beaten, allowed Paul while in custody to address Jews, untied Paul when he realised that he was a Roman citizen, moved Paul to Felix when there was a plot to kill him and wrote good things about Paul in a letter to Felix
- **Felix:** gave Paul some freedom while in custody and allowed Paul's friends to attend to his needs
- **Festus:** agreed with King Agrippa and Bernice to say Paul was innocent
- **Agrippa:** agreed with Festus and Bernice to say that Paul was innocent
 - **Julius the army commander:** treated Paul with kindness

UNIT 2

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM PROLOGUE (ACTS 1: 1 - 2)

To whom was the Book of Acts dedicated?

Theophilus

Who was Theophilus?

- A high ranking Roman government official or a person of high social ranking who loved God greatly.

What does Theophilus mean?

- Friend of God
- Lover of God

Why did Luke write or dedicate the Acts of the Apostle to Theophilus?

- To show that Christianity was not subversive to Roman authority.
- To persuade Romans to tolerate the Christian Religion just as they did with the Jewish Religion.

THE PROMISE TO THE APOSTLES (ACTS 1: 3 - 5)

What promise did Jesus make to His disciples?

The gift of the Holy Spirit who will help them perform wonders.

For how long did Jesus appear to his disciples after resurrection before his ascension?

40 days

What proved beyond doubt to the apostles that Jesus was alive?

- The apostles saw him
- He talked with the apostles

What did Jesus and the disciples talk about?

The Kingdom of God

What order or instructions did Jesus give to the disciples?

- Not to leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- John baptized with water but in a few days the disciples will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

DISCIPLES' QUESTION TO JESUS (ACTS 1: 6 - 8)

Relate the disciples' question to Jesus

- Lord, will you at this time give the kingdom back to Israel?"

Explain factors that might have prompted the disciples to ask Jesus this Question

1. They were thinking of a material kingdom whereby a Jewish Empire would be established and Rome defeated.
2. They were thinking of prosperity thereafter.
3. The apostles will be the fulfilment of the promise that they exercise its authority over the tribes of Israel.
4. The apostles were thinking about the end that would come very soon.

Relate Jesus' response to the question

- Thinking about the end is to be discouraged.
- The apostles are to be Evangelist first.
- The apostles are to be judges of the renewed Israel because they are chosen witnesses.
- The Kingdom is to be exercised through the preaching of the Gospel.
- The Kingdom is to be opened even to the Gentles.

OR

- Time and occasion are set by my Father's own authority
- It is not for you to know when they will be
- When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power
- You will be witnesses for me from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth

What attitude did the disciples have on the Messiah?

- He would defeat the Romans
- He would make the Jewish nation independent and glorious as in the days of David
- He would re-establish the monarchy of David
- He would bring peace and prosperity
- He would be a sign that there is no god but the God of Israel so that all Gentiles would worship in Jerusalem

Who were "witnesses"?

- These were men who had actually seen Jesus and could give personal evidence about his life, death and resurrection.

What did the apostles witness to?

- Through Jesus God did great things.
- Jesus was handed over, crucified and killed
- Jesus rose from the dead.

List the themes illustrated in this story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit

**THE ASCENSION ON MOUNT OLIVES
(ACTS 1: 9 - 11)**

**Where did the ascension take place?
Mount of Olives**

What did Jesus tell his disciples before ascending?

- They would receive power through the Holy Spirit.
- They would become witnesses of Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the end of the earth

Relate the ascension of Jesus

- After Jesus had told the disciples that they would become his witnesses after receiving the Holy Spirit, he was lifted as the disciples looked.
 - A cloud hid him from their sight.
 - As they looked on *two men dressed in white* stood beside them. They asked the disciples why they were standing looking up the sky. They assured the disciples that Jesus will come back the same way he has gone to heaven.
- “... a Cloud...”**
- Symbolizes God’s glory and Presence
- “...two men...”**
- Elijah and Moses who also appeared on the transfiguration day.
 - Moses was the bringer of Law While Elijah was regarded as the greatest of the Prophets.
- “...dressed in white...”**
- This may indicate heavenly messengers.

What did the two men say to the disciples?

- They asked the disciples why they were standing looking up the sky.
- They assured the disciples that Jesus would come back the same way he had gone to heaven.

Mention the similarities Between Ascension and Transfiguration

- Both took place on a mountain.
- The cloud appeared on both occasions.
- Two men dressed in white appeared on both occasions.

State the differences between Ascension and Transfiguration

- In the Transfiguration the mountain is not mentioned while in the Ascension the mountain is mentioned. It is Olives.

- In the transfiguration the word was heard in the cloud saying “ *this is my son, my chosen, listen to him*” while in the ascension no word was heard.
- In the Transfiguration the two men were speaking with Jesus while in the Ascension they were speaking to the disciples.

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit.
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church

**THE REPLACEMENT OF JUDAS ISCARIOT
(ACTS 1: 12 - 26)**

What were the qualifications for the successor?

- He must have been in Jesus’ company from the time of baptism by John until the ascension
- He must be able to witness that Jesus is raised.

Mention the candidates who competed in the election

- Joseph Barsabbas also known as Justus.
- Mathias.

Relate Peters’ speech before the Election

- Judas’ place in the ministry is vacant
- This was foretold by the Scriptures
- Someone must replace Judas
- He must have been in Jesus’ company from the time of baptism by John until the ascension and be a witness that Jesus is risen

What did Judas do with the money he got for betraying Jesus?

- He bought a field where he fell to his death; he burst open and all his bowels spilt out

Describe the election procedure

- They prayed to the Lord asking for his guidance
- They cast or drew lots
- Candidates’ names were written on the stones, Urim and Thummim and put in the pot that was later shaken and the stone that fell out first indicated the winner.

Relate the prayer made during the election procedure

Lord, you know the thoughts of everyone, so show us which of these two you have chosen to serve as an apostle in the place of Judas who left to go to the place where he belongs.

Who was elected as Judas’ successor?

Matthias

What was the significance of the figure 12?

They had to complete 12 which represented the new people of God.

Outline traditions of Judas' death

- He swelled to monotonous size and later on burst open spilling out his bowels
- He hanged himself.
- His body was torn by dogs.

Which Stones were used when casting lots?

- Urim
- Thummim.

Explain the aspects of Apostleship

- He is a servant of the community.
- He is an envoy of Christ.

Who is regarded as the leader of the disciples?

Peter

What does "Akeldama" mean?

Field of blood

List the themes illustrated in the story

1. Prayer is vital for the life of church
2. God saves mankind through Jesus

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE PENTECOST DAY (ACTS 2: 1 - 13)

What is the Pentecost?

- a. Pentecost is **Greek term meaning Fiftieth.**
- b. This was a *harvest feast for the Jews* celebrated 50 days after the Passover.
- c. Later it became *a commemoration of the covenant made at Mount Sinai.*
- d. At Pentecost, *Christians commemorate the out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostle, the birth of the Church.*

Describe what happened on the Day of Pentecost?

- There was a sudden noise sounding like the blowing of strong wind filling the house where the people were.
- People saw tongues of the fire touching every disciple of Jesus
- The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as enabled by the Spirit.
- People accused the disciples of being drunk but Peter defended the disciples that they were not drunk.
- After Peter's speech some people believed and were baptized.

Why was it important for the Jews to gather on the Day of Pentecost?

- a. It was a harvest festival that happened 50 days after the Passover.

"...Speak in other languages...each one heard them speak in his own language..."

- Luke indicates that the gospel is for all people.
- Pentecost is the reversal of Babel, where sin divided people; the Holy Spirit brings about unity between all the people.

What Conditions were fulfilled before being before the Lord?

- They were all cleansed before the Lord.
- They were all with one accord.
- They were all in one place

Mention the miraculous aspects to the coming of the Holy Spirit

- The sound of rushing wind.
- Tongues as of fire.
- The infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- The speaking with other tongues.

Relate Peter's speech on the Pentecost

We are not drunk; this is out pouring of the Spirit as foretold by Joel when he spoke of the last days.

- Jesus did mighty works that were the signs that he came from God yet you, Jews had him killed.
- God raised him up. This should not be unbelievable to you as it was foretold by David in one of his Psalms; we are witnesses of resurrection
- Jesus shares in the power of God. He is the Messiah: he sent the Holy Spirit. What you now hear and see is his power.
- Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit for the promise is to you... in the first place.

Outline statements from Peters' speech that show that he was addressing Jews not Gentiles

- He quoted from the prophet Joel: Jews were reading from various prophetic books.
- He said "listen to these words fellow Israelites".
- He said that Jesus' divinity was proved to them by all the miracles and wonders God performed through him.
- He told the Jews what King David spoke about the resurrection of the Messiah

What was the reaction of the Jews to the event?

- Some accused the disciples of being drunk
- Many of them believed and about 3,000 were added to their group

What accusation was made to the disciples?
Jews accused the disciples of being drunk.

Summarize Peter's response to the drunkenness accusation

- The people or disciples are not drunk.
- It was only the third hour of the day and as faithful Jews they could not be by that time.
- According to the Jewish Law, a person was not allowed to be drunk during that morning period
- The whole event was fulfilment of the prophecy by Joel "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh".

Whose prophecy was fulfilled on this Day of Pentecost?
Joel

What prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on this day?

- God says I will pour out My Spirit on everyone
- They will proclaim my message

Describe the reactions of the people as Peter was addressing them

- They were deeply touched or troubled.
- They asked "brethren what shall we do?"

How did Peter respond to the people's question?

- Turn away from your sins
- Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be forgiven
- You will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit

What was Peter's appeal to the people?

Save yourselves from the punishment coming on this wicked people

What was Peter's FINAL APPEAL to the people touched by his message?

- Save yourselves from the punishment coming on wicked people
- Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- Receive the Holy Spirit for the promise was made to you in the first place.

Describe people's reaction after PETER'S FINAL APPEAL

- They believed
- About 3,000 of them were baptized.
- They spent their time in learning from the apostles.
- They were fellowshiping together and helping any who had need.

"...This Jesus God raised up and....we all are witnesses..."

How did Peter prove that statement using the Old Testament Scriptures?

- He quoted Psalms in which *David said that he saw the Lord before him at all times and that the Lord will not abandon him in the world of the dead.* That meant that David foretold of the resurrection of the Christ.

Mention the group of people angered by the preaching of the Resurrection

The Sadducees

Why did that group of people get angered with the preaching of the resurrection?

They never believed in the resurrection of the dead.

Themes illustrated by Peter's speech on the Pentecost Day

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- The Church's mission is universal: Salvation is offered to the Jews first then to the Gentiles.
- Jesus uses the Church as an instrument of salvation

**THE HEALING OF THE LAME MAN
(ACTS 3: 1 - 26)**

Why was the lame man carried to the Beautiful Gate?

To beg money from the people who were going into the Temple

Who healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate?

- Peter
- John

Where was the lame man healed?

At the Beautiful gate

How old was the lame man?

40 years old

Narrate how the lame man was healed

- When Peter and John were going for prayers at around 3 O'clock in the afternoon, they met a man at the Beautiful Gate, the entrance to the Temple.
- The lame man looked straight at Peter and John expecting to receive alms
- Peter instead of giving him something, healed him by ordering him in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to get up and walk
- He then took him by hand and raised him.

What did the man do when he saw Peter and John?

He begged them to give him something

How did the apostles respond to this action of the lame man?

- They looked at the man
- Peter asked the man to look at them
- Peter told the man that he had no money at all but would give him what he had: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I order you to get up and walk.
- Then Peter with his right hand helped the man up.

How did Peter heal the lame man at the beautiful gate?

- He ordered the lame man in the name of Jesus to get up and walk.
- He then took him by his right hand and helped him up.
- At once the man's feet became strong; he jumped up, stood on his feet and started walking around.

What did the lame man do after being healed?

- He jumped up, stood on his feet and started walking around
- He went into the Temple with Peter and John, walking, jumping and praising God

Describe the people's reaction in the Temple

- They were all surprised and amazed at what had happened to the lame man.
- They ran to Peter, John and the lame man.

Relate Peter's speech in the Temple after healing the lame man

- It is not us but the man's faith in Jesus that cured him.
- Pilate declared Jesus innocent, but you killed him. God raised him up we are witnesses.
- You, the people and the rulers acted in ignorance, fulfilling the prophets.
- Repent and listen to Jesus.
- God made a promise to you. If you believe it will be fulfilled, then all nations will be blessed in you.

What did Peter tell the people in the Temple about Jesus?

- It was faith in Jesus that healed the man.
- Jesus was delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate.
- By resurrection, Jesus had been glorified by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Whatever Jesus experienced was foretold long ago through the prophets.

Mention the Jewish religious leaders that were offended by Peter and John

- Sadducees
- Priests.

Why were the Sadducees offended?

- Peter preached Jesus whom they had condemned.
- Peter proclaimed faith in the resurrection in which they do not believe.
- Peter and John operated in the Temple, a domain that fell under their authority.
- The Sadducees feared that the activity of Peter and John might cause riots that would anger the Roman authorities.

Why were the Priests offended?

Peter accused them of killing the Messiah.

Mention the themes illustrated in Peter's Speech

- The Church's mission is universal; she is sent to Jews and Gentiles : to the Jews first then to the Gentiles
- God saves mankind through Jesus

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus uses the Church as instrument of salvation
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- The Church's mission is universal

PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE COUNCIL (ACTS 4: 1 - 37)

Who arrested Peter and John?

- Priests
- Officer in charge of the Temple guards.
- Sadducees.

What led to the arrest of Peter and John? (Reasons)

- The apostles were preaching about Jesus and the resurrection.
- The Sadducees were Jealousy of the apostles' teaching.
- The apostles' preaching was contrary to their beliefs and customs.
- Peter and John blamed the Council that they killed Jesus.
- To Sadducees and priests Jesus was only the son of Joseph.
- The healing was done in the Temple premises which were the domain of the Sadducees
- The lame man was healed in the name of Jesus whom they condemned
- They were very angry to hear them proving that the dead will rise which was against the Sadducees' belief

What annoyed the Sadducees most?

The apostles were teaching that Jesus had risen from death which proved that the dead will rise to life

Who were the members of the Council at that time?

- The Jewish leaders
- The Elders
- The Teachers of the Law
- High Priest Annas
- Caiphas
- John
- Alexander

What query was made by Council?

The Council questioned the healing of the lame man and how he was healed.

Narrate the speech by Peter before the Council

- The lame man is healed through the powerful name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- You crucified Jesus rejecting the stones.
- God raised him up.
- Jesus is the head of the corner.
- Only in Jesus there is Salvation.

Describe the reactions of the members of the Council

- a. They were surprised or amazed.
- b. They realized that Peter and John had been companions of Jesus.
- c. There was nothing that they could say.
- d. They told Peter and John to leave the Council room and then they started discussing among themselves.

Why were the members of the Council surprised?

- Peter and John spoke with boldness yet they were uneducated ordinary people.
- Peter and John confessed to be followers of Jesus whom the same Council had put to death.

What was the decision of the Council?

- The Council gave Peter and John a solemn warning not to preach Jesus anymore.
- The Council set the apostle free.

Why was there nothing the Council could say?

They saw the man who had been healed standing there with Peter and John.

Suggest reasons for simply warning the apostles

- a. The Council acknowledged that the extraordinary miracle had been performed by the apostles.

- b. The Council did not want the healing miracle story to be spread among people.
- c. The Council could not punish the apostles.

Why could the Council not punish the Apostles?

- All people were praising God because of the healing miracle.
- The apostles did not break any law.
- It was indisputable that the miracle had happened in the name of Jesus
- They feared the people who had witnessed the miracle

What was the Apostles' reaction to the warning?

- They asked the Council to judge what was right in God's sight- to obey them or to obey God.
- They were not intimidated and told them that they would not stop speaking as Jesus' witnesses.

How were the apostles treated before the Council?

- They were strongly warned not to speak or teach in Jesus' name
- They were set free

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- Jesus uses the Church as the instrument of salvation
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

THE BELIEVERS PRAY FOR BOLDNESS (ACTS 4: 23 – 31)

What did the believers do when Peter and John reported to them what Council had said?

They all joined together in prayer

Relate the believers' prayer

- They asked the Lord to take notice of the threats
- They asked the Lord to make them strong and allow them to preach with boldness.
- They asked the Lord to stretch out his hand to heal and grant that wonders and miracles be performed in Jesus' name.

What happened soon after praying?

- The believers received the holy spirit
- The believers began to proclaim God's message with boldness.

Mention the theme illustrated in the story

The importance of prayer in the life of the Church

THE BELIEVERS SHARE THEIR POSSESSIONS (ACTS 4: 32 – 37)

Describe how the believers lived together

- They were one in mind and heart
- None of them said that any of their belongings were their own individually
- They all shared with one another everything they had
- Those who owned fields and houses would sell them and hand the money to the apostles who would distribute to each according to his need

What would the people do with the money after selling their property?

They would hand the money to the apostles who would distribute to each according to one's need

Mention one person who sold his property in the story?

Joseph Barnabas

What does Barnabas mean?

One who encourages

What did Joseph sell?

A field

What did he do with the money he got from selling his property?

He brought the money and handed it over to the apostles

Why did Joseph Barnabas hand the money to the apostles?

To distribute to each one according to his needs

Mention the main theme illustrated in this story

Jesus uses the Church as an instrument of salvation

THE STORY OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA (ACTS 5: 1 - 11)

Narrate the death of Ananias and Sapphira

- As the Church continued to grow, members continued to sell their property and return all the money to the apostles.
- Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of their property.
- They had promised to return all the money to the apostles.
- With the wife's knowledge Ananias kept back some money.
- The husband came first and after Peter criticized him he died and was buried.
- The wife came second after three hours and died also and was buried.

What wrong did Ananias and Sapphira commit?

They kept part of the money but lied to the apostles that they had given the full amount

Relate what Peter said to Ananias

- Why did you let Satan take control of you and make you lie to the Holy Spirit by keeping part of the money you received for the property?
- The property belonged to you before you sold it.
- The money was yours after you sold it.
- Why did you then decide to do such a thing?
- You have not lied to human beings, you have lied to God

What happened as soon as Ananias heard what Peter had said?

- He fell down dead
- The young men came in, wrapped up his body, carried him out and buried him

Relate what Peter said to Sapphira

- He asked her if at all the money they had brought was the full amount realised for the property
- When she said yes, Peter then asked why she and her husband decided to put the Lord's Spirit to the test
- He told her that the men who carried Ananias her husband were now at the door to carry her out too.

What happened when Peter finished speaking to Sapphira?

- Sapphira fell down at his feet and died
- The young men carried her out and buried her beside her husband

What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

Lying to the Holy Spirit that they had given all in order to gain status in the Church

Why were the early Christians selling all they had?

- They all shared with one another everything they had.
- The sharing of goods clearly manifested the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church

Explain the lessons or the significance of the story of Ananias and Sapphira

- The Church is the power of God though it looks weak and just human.
- Membership in the Church must not be used to gain status.
- No one can cheat the Holy Spirit.

- Give everything that belongs to God without cheating.
- People should know that if they cheat they will die.
- The holiness of the Church was preserved

List the themes illustrated in the story

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit

MIRACLES AND WONDERS (ACTS 5: 12 - 16)

Describe the miracles and wonders that were happening

- Sick people were healed
- Evil spirits were driven out of people.
- If Peter's shadow fell on any of the sick people, they were cured

What was the result of the miracles and wonders that the apostles performed?

- More and more people were added to the group
- Sick people were carried out in the street and placed on the mat and beds so that at least *Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by to be cured.*
- Crowds of people came in from the towns around Jerusalem bringing those who were ill or who had evil spirits in them and they were healed

What theme is illustrated in the story?

Jesus uses the Church as an instrument of Salvation

THE APOSTLES ARE PERSECUTED OR THE SECOND ARREST OR PERSECUTION OF THE APOSTLES (ACTS 5: 17 - 47)

Who arrested the apostles?

- The High Priest
- Sadducees

What led to the second arrest of the Apostles? (Reasons for the arrest)

- The high priest and the Sadducees became extremely jealous of the apostles.
- The apostles continued speaking in the name of Jesus despite being warned to stop.

Why were the officials filled with jealousy?

People spoke highly of the apostles.

Who released the apostles in jail that night?

The angel of the Lord

How were the apostles released from jail that night?

- The angel of the Lord opened the prison gates, led the apostles out

Relate what the angel of the Lord said to the apostles

- Go and stand in the Temple and tell the people all about this new life

How did the apostles respond to the Angel's order?

- They obeyed and at dawn they entered the Temple and started teaching

What report did the High Priest get the following morning?

- We found the jail locked and all the guards on watch at the gates
- But when we opened the gates we found no one inside

How did the chief priest react to this report?

They wondered what might have happened to the apostles

What did the Council do when a certain man told them that the apostles were in the Temple teaching people?

The officer went off with his men and brought the apostles back without using force

Why did the officer not use force in bringing the apostles?

They were afraid people might stone them

What accusations were made against the Apostles?

- Continuing teaching in the name of Jesus despite being warned to stop doing so.
- Making the Council responsible for Jesus' death.

Narrate Peter's second speech before the Council

- We must obey God rather than man.
- You killed Jesus
- God raised him up and made him leader and saviour to give repentance and forgiveness to Israel
- We and the Holy Spirit witness this

What were the apostles witnessing to?

Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and death, his resurrection and ascension

The Council's reaction to Peter's speech

- They were very furious.
- They wanted to kill the apostles.
- Gamaliel saved the apostle.

Who saved the apostles from being put to death?

Gamaliel

Explain how Gamaliel saved the Apostles

He advised the Council to put the apostle outside and not kill them because they would be found opposing God.

Relate Gamaliel's Speech or advice

- We must learn from past experience
- Two of our fellow Jews, Theudas, and Judas, once attracted a following but their deaths meant the end of the crusades.
- Likewise if the Jesus movement is human, it will end by itself
- But if it is from God any resistance would be useless and wrong.

Mention the two Jews who once attracted a following according to Gamaliel

- Theudas
- Judas

What happened to their followers after their deaths?

They were scattered

Describe the Council's reaction to Gamaliel's advice

- They followed his advice to free the Apostles.
- They had the apostles whipped
- They ordered the apostles never again to speak in the name of Jesus
- They set the apostles free

What factors contributed towards Gamaliel's influential status in the council?

- He was a Teacher of the Law
- He was a Pharisee
- He was highly respected by the people

Describe the Apostles' reaction

They were happy.

Why did the apostles react like that?

- God had considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of Jesus
- To suffer meant to carry the cross of Jesus.
- To suffer meant they would enter God's Kingdom.
- Suffering was part and parcel of preaching the Gospel

Who was Gamaliel?

- He was a member of the Council and Teacher of the Law.
- He was a great man of respect by all people in the Council.
- He was a very influential member of the Council

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The power of the Holy Spirits Irresistible
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church

THE SEVEN HELPERS (ACTS 6: 1 - 5)

Describe the situation that led to the appointment of the seven helpers

- There was a quarrel between the Greek speaking Jews and the native Jews
- The Greek-speaking Jews claimed that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of funds

How did the apostles respond to the situation?

They asked the members to choose seven men to be put in charge of the distribution of funds

Narrate the speech the apostles made before the choice of the seven helpers

- It is not right for us to neglect the preaching of God's words in order to handle funds
- Choose seven men among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom
- We will put them in charge of this matter
- We ourselves, then, will give our full time to prayer and the work of our preaching

What proposal did the apostles make?

People to choose 7 men to be put in charge of the distribution of funds

What was the reaction of the group of believers to the apostles' proposal?

The whole group was pleased with the proposal

Suggest reasons for appointing the helpers

- To assist in the distribution of funds.
- The apostles wanted to find enough time to preach.
- To devote much time to prayer on the part of the apostles.
- The number of people was increasing hence need for someone assistance.
- To solve the quarrel that arose between the Greek speaking Jews and the native Jews.

Describe the quarrel between the Greek speaking Jews and the Native Jews

The Greek speaking Jews complained that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of funds.

How was the quarrel solved?

The apostles proposed that the people should appoint seven helpers to assist in the daily distribution of funds.

List the qualifications of the helpers

- Be full of the Holy Spirit
- Be full of wisdom.
- Be full of faith
- Be of good reputation.

List the names of the helpers

- Stephen who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit
- Prochorus
- Timon
- Nicolaus who was a Gentile from Antioch who had earlier been converted to Judaism
- Philip
- Nicanor
- Parmenas

What did the apostles do after the appointment of the seven helpers?

- They prayed
- They placed their hands on the chosen helpers

Outline the themes illustrated in this story

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The Importance of prayer in the life of the Church
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit.

THE MINISTRY, ARREST AND DEATH OF STEPHEN (ACTS 6: 8 – 8: 1)

What special gifts did Stephen have?

- He was richly blessed by God and full of power
- The power to perform miracles and wonders among the people

Who opposed Stephen?

Members of the synagogue of the Freedmen

Who argued with Stephen?

- Cyrenians (Jews from Cyrene)
- Alexandrians (Jews from Alexandria)

Mention the accusation made against Stephen

- Speaking against Moses
- Speaking against God (blasphemy)

- Speaking against the Temple by saying that Jesus would tear down the Temple
- Speaking against the Law and customs of Moses

Narrate the speech of Stephen in defence of his accusation

- He stressed that circumcision and staying in the Holy Land and even the Temple were not important.
- Israel always resisted the Spirit of God
- Resistance of the Spirit continued in the murdering of prophets and finally in the murder of Jesus

Which group was irritated by Stephen's speech? Members of the Council

How did the council react to Stephen's speech?

- They became furious
- They ground their teeth at him in anger

What assertions in Stephen's speech angered the Jewish leaders?

- They had always resisted the Holy Spirit.
- They had killed Jesus whose coming was prophesied by the prophets killed by their (Jewish) ancestors.
- They have not obeyed God's Law.

What did Stephen prove in his speech?

- The Jewish institution like the Temple, the Law, Sabbath and Circumcision are not necessary for salvation.
- The Jews had always rejected God's messages; no surprise they rejected the Messiah.

How did Stephen die?

He was dragged out of the city where he was stoned to death

Narrate the death of Stephen

- Stephen said that he saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right side of God
- The members of the Council covered their ears with their hands
- Then they all rushed at him at once
- They threw him out of the city and stoned him to death

What did Stephen see as he was speaking to the Council members?

- He saw God's glory
- He saw the Son of Man, Jesus, standing at the right hand side of God.
- He saw the heavens opened

Narrate the words spoken by Stephen as he was dying

- Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
- Do not remember this sin against them (Forgive the sin against these people).

Mention the young man at the scene of Stephen's death
Saul (Paul)

Describe the role played by Saul or Paul

He took care of the cloaks (clothes) of the people stoning Stephen

- a. He witnessed and approved Stephen's death.

Explain the importance of the Stephen's teaching and death for the spreading of the gospel

- His speech attacks the claims that first of all one should become a Jew by following all Jewish laws that was barrier to Gentile citizens.
- His arguments against the unbelieving leaders and his Holy death must have set Saul on the road to his conversion that was followed by his call to preach Jesus to Gentiles.

- Stephen's death unleashed a persecution, Christian who fled Jerusalem brought the good news wherever went.

Outline the similarities between the death of Stephen and that of Jesus

- Both prayed before dying.
- Both of them cried with loud voices.
- Both prayed for those who persecuted them to show the spirit of love and concern.
- Burial for both was by the sympathizer.

Who was the first Christian martyr?

Stephen

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible.
- The Church shares in Jesus' Suffering
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus work through Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit Guides the Church
- Prayer is vital for the life of the Church

UNIT 3

THE CHURCH SPREADS OUTSIDE JERUSALEM

SAUL PERSECUTES THE CHURCH (ACTS 8: 1 - 3)

How did the persecution lead to the spread of the Gospel?

The persecutions forced the believers to be scattered throughout the provinces of Judea and Samaria and preach the gospel

How did Saul persecute the Church?

- Dragged the believers house to house.
- Threw believers in jail.

List the themes illustrated in this story

- The Power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The Church shares Jesus' sufferings
- The Church's mission is universal; She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED IN SAMARIA (ACTS 8: 4 - 25)

Who preached the Gospel in Samaria? Philip

What prompted Philip to preach the Gospel in Samaria?

The persecution that arose after the death of Stephen forced many disciples to flee.

Describe the effects of Philip's preaching in Samaria

- Many people listened to him, believed Philip's message and got baptized.
- Evil spirits come out from many people.
- Many paralyzed and lame people got healed.
- There was great joy in the city

Who astounded the Samaritan with his magic? Simon the magician

How did Simon attract people's attention?

- He astonished them with his magic
- He was regarded as *"That power of God known as 'The Great Power'"*

How did Simon the magician respond to Philip's preaching?

- He believed Philip's message
- He got baptized
- He stayed close to Philip and was astounded when he saw the great wonders and miracles that were being performed

What did the apostles do when they heard of the conversion of the people of Samaria?

They sent Peter and John to lay hands on the people

Suggest reasons for sending Peter and John to Samaria

- To pray for the believers so that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
- To preach the Word of God.

Mention the two apostles who were sent to Samaria?

- Peter
- John

Who was "The Great Power" in Samaria? Simon the Magician

How did Simon the magician react when he saw that the Spirit had been given to the believers after Peter and John placed their hands on them?

He offered money to Peter and John so that he would be given the power they had

What request did Simon the magician make to Peter and John?

To buy the power of the Holy Spirit so that whoever he laid hands on should receive the Holy Spirit

Narrate Peter's response to Simon's request

- May you and your money go to hell for thinking that you can buy God's gift with money.
- You have no part or share in our work because your heart is not right in God's sight.
- Repent then of this evil plan of yours.
- Pray to the Lord that he will forgive you for thinking such thing as this.
- You are full of bitter envy and are a prisoner of sin.

What did Simon the magician say to Peter and John after Peter's response?

Please pray to the Lord for me, so that none of these things you spoke of will happen to me

What was Simon's reaction to Peter's response?

He asked Peter and John to pray for him so that none of what Peter spoke of would happen to him.

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of Salvation
- Prayer is vital for the life of the Church
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- The Church's mission is Universal : She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

**PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL
(ACTS 8: 26 - 40)**

Who commanded Philip to go to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza?

The Angel of the Lord

Relate what the Angel of the Lord said to Philip

Get ready and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza

How did Philip respond to the Angel's words?

He got ready and went

Why did the Angel command Philip to go to that place?

To meet the Ethiopian Eunuch and explain the passage he was reading

What was the position of this Ethiopian Eunuch?

He was in-charge of the treasury of the Queen of Ethiopia

What was the Ethiopian Eunuch doing at this time?

- He was on his way back home from Jerusalem where he went to worship God
- He was reading from the passage that talks about the suffering servant in the Book of Isaiah

Who commanded Philip to go close to the carriage of the Ethiopian official?

The Holy Spirit

Relate what the Holy Spirit told Philip on this occasion

Go over to that carriage and stay close to it

How did Philip respond to the words of the Holy Spirit?

- He ran over and heard the Ethiopian official reading from the Book of Isaiah
- He asked the official if he understood what he was reading

What question did Philip give the Ethiopian official?

Do you understand what you are reading?

How did the Ethiopian official respond to Philip's question?

- How can I understand unless someone explains to me
- Climb up and sit in the carriage with me

Relate the passage that the Ethiopian official was reading

- Like the sheep that is taken to be slaughtered, like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off, he did not say a word
- He was humiliated, and justice was denied him
- No one will be able to tell about his descendants, because his life on earth has come to an end

What text was the Ethiopian official reading?

- The text that talked about the suffering servant.

What indications show that the Ethiopian official was a God-fearing man?

- He had come to Jerusalem to worship.
- He was reading the Prophet Isaiah on his return.
- He responded to Philip's preaching believing and receiving Baptism.
- He adhered to the Jewish faith but could not become a full member of the Jewish community as he was castrated.

How did Philip interpret the text?

He said that the passage was about the Good News of Jesus.

How was the text that the Ethiopian officials was reading applicable to Jesus?

- It was God's will that Jesus suffered.
- Jesus was arrested, sentenced and led off to die.
- Jesus was so disfigured that he hardly looked human.
- Jesus was treated harshly but endured the suffering humbly.

How did the Ethiopian official respond to Philip's preaching?

He believed the message and asked for baptism which he received

What happened soon after Baptism?

The Spirit of the Lord took Philip away to Azotus. The official continued on his way full of joy.

Who took Philip away soon after baptizing the Ethiopian official?

The Spirit of the Lord

Where was Philip taken to?

Azotus

Mention the themes illustrated relevant to the story

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews first then to the Gentile

What theme is best illustrated by the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch?

The Church's mission is universal

Give the meaning of Salvation in the Book of Acts

- Belief in Gospel.
- Being convinced of the gospel, Baptized in Jesus name.
- Rescue from the bondage of sin.

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL (ACTS 9: 1 - 19)

Narrate the conversion of Saul

- Paul asked the High Priest to give him letters to go to Damascus at the synagogue *to arrest the disciples of Jesus*.
- Suddenly, a light from the sky flashed round him.
- He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?"
- When Saul asked who the speaker was, the voice said "I am Jesus whom you persecute. But get up and go to the city where you will be told what you must do.
- His companions stopped, heard the voice but could not see anyone. They led Saul by hand to Damascus for he could not see anything.

How did Saul persecute Christians?

- He kept up his violent threats of murder against followers of the Lord
- He aimed at bringing all the followers of the Lord to Jerusalem for trial
- He moved from house dragging out the believers.
- He threw the believers into jail.

Why was Saul going to Damascus?

To arrest followers of the Way of the Lord and bring them to Jerusalem

Describe Saul's experience on his way to Damascus

- A light from the sky flashed round him.

- He fell to the ground.
- He heard a voice saying "Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?"

What was Saul's reaction?

He asked "Who are you Lord?"

What response did Saul get?

- I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.
- Get up and go into the city (Damascus) where you will be told what you must do.

What did the men who were travelling with Saul experience on this occasion?

- They heard the voice but could not see anyone.
- They saw that Paul had fallen to the ground.

How did the men react?

- They stopped.
- They never said a word, were speechless.
- They took Paul by hand and led him into Damascus.

What happened to Saul after the vision?

- He became blind or was unable to see for three days.
- He did not eat or drink anything during the three days.

Who welcomed Saul in Damascus?

Judas.

Relate the words of the Lord to Ananias in the vision

- Get ready and go to Straight Street at the house of Judas and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul
- He is praying and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he might see again

What was Ananias's response to the Lord's message?

- Lord, many people have told me about this man and about the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem
- He has come to Damascus to arrest all who worship you

Describe the Lord's response to Ananias' reply

- He, the Lord, had chosen Saul to serve him, to make his name known to Gentiles and Kings and to the people of Israel.
- He, the Lord, will show Saul all that he must suffer for Jesus' sake.

What did Ananias do to Saul?

- He opened Saul's eyes.
- He baptized Saul.

What did Ananias say to Saul?

- Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me – Jesus himself who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here
- He sent me so that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit

Who was Saul or Paul?

- Saul was Hebrew name which was Paul in Greek.
- He was born at Tarsus and was brought up by Jewish parents of the tribe of Benjamin.
- He was a student of Gamaliel. Apart from studying Scriptures he learned how to make tents.
- He was a Roman citizen by birth.
- He joined the Pharisees and became so prominent that he was in a position to cast his vote against Christians who were tried for their faith.
- He persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it. He approved of the stoning of Stephen and dragged men and women of the Way to Prison

Explain how Paul might have been prepared and encouraged for a U-turn in his Religion from Judaism to Christianity

- He was a student of Gamaliel who advised caution in judging The Way.
- He was probably a Rabbi or Pharisee in the Council: he then heard Stephen's speech which may have influenced his opinion about "The Way"
- He witnessed how Stephen died a holy death, praying for the killers
- He must have been touched when Ananias welcomed him, the persecutor. "Brother Saul".

Mention the themes illustrated in this story

- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- The importance of prayer in the life of the Church
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

SAUL PREACHES IN DAMASCUS (ACTS 9: 20 - 25)

Where did Saul preach first soon after conversion?
Damascus

To whom did Saul preach first?

The Jews

What was Saul's message?

- Jesus is the Son of God (Messiah)

How did people react when they saw Saul preaching in Damascus?

- They were amazed.
- The asked that is he not the same person who was killing believers in Jerusalem and had come to Damascus to arrest believers.
- Some Jews wanted to kill Paul.

Why did some Jews want to kill Saul?

He was preaching about Jesus as the Messiah.

How was Saul saved?

- Saul's followers took him and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket at night

Mention the themes illustrated in this story

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Church shares in Jesus' sufferings
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles : To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

SAUL IN JERUSALEM (ACTS 9: 26 - 31)

How did the disciples in Jerusalem react when Saul tried to join them?

- They would not believe that he was a disciple
- They were all afraid of him

Who helped Saul at this time?

Barnabas

How did Barnabas help Saul at this time?

- Took Saul to the apostles
- Explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him
- Told them how boldly Saul had preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus

Describe Saul's work in Jerusalem

- Preaching boldly in the name of the Lord
- Talking and disputing with the Greek-speaking Jews

What challenge did Saul face in Jerusalem?

Greek-speaking Jews tried to kill Saul

How was Saul saved?

- The believers took Saul to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus

Outline the themes illustrated in the story

1. God saves mankind through Jesus
2. Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
3. The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
4. The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans

PETER IN LYDDA (ACTS 9: 32 - 35)

Why did Peter go to Lydda?

To visit God's people

What miracle did Peter perform in Lydda?

Healing Aeneas the paralyzed man who had not been able to get out of bed for 8 years

Describe Peter's miracle in Lydda

- He told Aeneas, the paralyzed man that Jesus Christ makes him well.
- He told him to get up and make his bed.
- At once Aeneas got up and was healed.

How did the people react to the miracle?

- a. They turned to the Lord

What themes are illustrated in the story?

- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- God saves mankind through Jesus

PETER IN JOPPA (ACTS 9: 36 - 43)

Why did Peter go to Joppa?

He was called by the people of Joppa when Tabitha was dead.

What miracle did Peter perform in Joppa?

He raised Tabitha or Dorcas from the dead.

What does the name "Dorcas" mean?

Deer

What was Dorcas' occupation?

She was making shirts and coats.

What message did the two men from Joppa give Peter in Lydda?

- Please hurry and come to us

What did the widow do after Peter had arrived?

They crowded round him, crying and showing him all the shirts and coats that Dorcas had made while she was alive.

Describe the miracle Peter performed in Joppa

- Tabitha (Dorcas) had become ill and died.

- Her body was washed and laid in a room upstairs.
- Peter put the widows out of the room, and knelt down and prayed.
- He then turned to the body and said "Tabitha, get up!"
- She opened her eyes and when she saw Peter she sat down
- Peter reached over and helped her get up
- He then presented her alive to the believers including the widows

What impact did this miracle have?

Many people believed in the Lord

At whose house did Peter stay while in Joppa?

Simon the tanner of leather

What was the main reason why people were saddened over the death of Tabitha?

She did a lot of charity works

What themes are illustrated in the story?

- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- Prayer is important or vital for the life of the Church
- God saves mankind through Jesus

PETER AND CORNELIUS (ACTS 10: 1 - 48)

Who was Cornelius?

- He was a Gentile.
- He was a Roman, living at Caesarea, which was the seat of Roman administration in Judea.
- He was a captain in the Roman regiment called *The Italian Regiment*, in charge of the Italian cohort (100 men).
- He was a benefactor in that he did much to help the Jewish poor people.
- He was a man of prayer in that he constantly was praying to God.

Relate the vision of Cornelius

- Cornelius saw the Angel of the Lord who told him that God is pleased with his prayers and works of charity and is ready to answer him.
- The Angel told him to send some men to Joppa to look for Simon Peter, a guest in the house of Simon the tanner living by the sea.

What was the Angel's message to Cornelius?

- God was pleased with his prayer and works of charity.
- God is ready to answer his prayers.
- Send some men to look for Simon Peter, a guest in the house of Simon the tanner

Why was God pleased with Cornelius?

- Because of his prayers.
- Because of his works of charity.

What did Cornelius do after the vision?

- He called two of his house servants and a soldier, a religious man and briefed them his experience.
- He sent them off to Joppa to look for Peter.

Relate the vision of Peter

- Peter was praying and he was hungry
- He saw heaven opened and a large sheet containing all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds being lowered by its four corners to the earth.
- The voice told him to get up kill and eat.
- Peter refused because he had never eaten anything ritually unclean or defiled.
- Then the voice said: Do not consider anything unclean that God has declared clean.
- This happened for three times.

What lessons can be learnt from Peter's vision?

- Christianity is universal even to the uncircumcised Gentiles.
- Peter should not worry about ceremonial Law of eating with Gentiles because his mission was divine directly by God.
- The repeating of the vision three times indicates its importance.

What happened as Peter was trying to understand the vision

The Spirit said that 3 men were looking for him and he should get ready and go to meet them

What did the Spirit tell Peter?

- Three men are here looking for you
- Get ready and go down
- Do not hesitate to go with them for I have sent them

What did Simon Peter do thereafter?

- He told the men that he was the man they were looking for and asked them why they were looking for him
- He invited them in the house and persuaded them to spend the night there
- The next day he got ready and went with them together with some Jewish believers to Cornelius' house

Of what significance was Peter's decision to take some Jewish believers?

They would be witnesses to whatever would happen there

What did Cornelius do when Peter arrived?

- He fell at Peter's feet
- He bowed down before Peter

How did Peter react to what Cornelius did upon his arrival?

- He made Cornelius rise
- He told him to stand up for he was only a man

What did Peter say to the people gathered in Cornelius' house?

- He reminded them that a Jew is not allowed by his religion to visit or associate with Gentiles
- He told them that God had shown him that he should not consider any person ritually unclean or defiled, that's why he was there
- He asked Cornelius why he sent for Peter

Who directed Peter to go to the house of Cornelius?

The Holy Spirit

What did Cornelius do thereafter?

- He briefed Peter of the vision he had

Narrate Peter's speech in the house of Cornelius

- I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis
- Those who worship him and do what is right are acceptable to him
- We are witnesses to what Jesus did after John's preaching, he was anointed by the Holy Spirit, healed all who were oppressed by the devil.
- Jesus was killed, God raised him up, we ate with him,
- Jesus is judge of the living and the dead.
- Everyone who believes is forgiven through his name.

What strange thing happened in Cornelius' house while Peter was still speaking?

The Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles who were listening to his message

How did the Jewish believers who had come with Peter react to what had happened?

They were amazed that God had poured out His gift of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles also

How did the Jews realize that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit?

They heard the Gentiles speaking in strange tongues and praising God's greatness

Describe Peter's reaction to the strange thing that had happen to the Gentiles

- He spoke that God had accepted the Gentiles as his children.
- He ordered them to be baptized with water.

What did Peter say upon seeing that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit?

- These people had received the Holy Spirit just as we also did
- Can anyone, then, stop them from being baptized with water

Suggest reasons why Peter went to Cornelius' house

- He was told by the Holy Spirit that he should not hesitate to go with Cornelius messengers.
- Some men sent by Cornelius from Caesarea asked him to go there

What lessons can be learnt from this story?

- God shows no partiality.
- Everyone who does right in every nation is acceptable by God.
- No man should be called common.

How did Peter's speech to the Gentiles differ to the speech made to his fellow Jews?

- Peter never quoted from the Old Testament teachings unlike speeches to his fellow Jews who were aware of the Old Testament teachings.
- He never said anything linked to David unlike in his speech to his fellow Jews in which he said that David their ancestor spoke about the resurrection of the Messiah.
- He told them that Israel was a means of sending the saviour unlike to the Jews who thought the Messiah or Saviour was meant for them only.
- He said that God did not favour one particular nation above other nations unlike the Jewish belief that their nation was the only favoured one.

What was Peter's emphasis in the speech?

- God shows no partially.
- Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

How did the Holy Spirit prove Peter's emphasis in his speech?

- It was unheard of that Gentiles could receive the Holy Spirit hence that reception meant that even Gentiles regarded as unclean were God's children.
- The coming of the Holy Spirit showed that there should be no discrimination between Jews and Gentiles.

How did Cornelius resemble the Army Officer in Luke's Gospel?

- Both sent messengers to their needed persons, Jesus as well as Peter.
- Both were God fearing.

Mention the Themes Illustrated

- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The Author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The importance of prayer in the life of the Church
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument for salvation.
- Jesus works through the Holy spirit
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

**PETER'S REPORT TO THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM
(ACTS 11: 1 - 18)**

What accusations were made against Peter?

- Being a guest in the house of uncircumcised Gentile.
- Eating with Gentiles.
- Admitting Gentiles into the Church.

Why did the circumcision party (Judaizers) accuse Peter?

- Most of them thought Christianity was an improvement of Judaism.
- They wanted Gentiles to accept Jewish ways of life before being baptized.
- They wanted the converts to accept Jewish food Laws, cleansing and circumcision.

Narrate Peter's defence

- He narrated his vision story in which he shows divine guidance to his action and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Cornelius and his household.
- He had six witnesses during the time.
- He quoted the words of Jesus that John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- He could not stop baptizing Gentiles because God had given them the Holy Spirit just as Jews received at Pentecost, showing God's approval.

What were the reactions of the circumcision Party (Judaizers) to Peter's defence?

- The Circumcision party was silenced and stopped their criticism.
- They admitted that Gentiles can also receive repentance and life from God.
- They praised God

Suggest reasons why the Circumcision Party (Judaizers) reacted like that to Peter's defence

- Peter had baptized a few Gentiles.
- They hoped that Jesus would come back soon hence the problem of uncircumcised believers would be solved automatically.
- They expected that Cornelius and other Gentiles would become a member of the Jewish community by circumcision and start following their Law and traditions.

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The Church's mission is universal: she is sent to the Jews and Gentiles
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH (ACTS 11: 19 - 30)

How did the Church spread to Antioch?

Some of the believers scattered by the persecution went there to proclaim the message to Gentiles

What was the effect of this work in Antioch?

A great number of people believed and turned to the Lord

How did the Church in Jerusalem respond to the news of the conversion of the people of Antioch?

They sent Barnabas to Antioch

What did Barnabas do upon arriving in Antioch?

He urged the people to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts

Why sending Barnabas and not somebody else? OR What made Barnabas the right person to be sent to Antioch?

- He was a good man
- He was full of the Holy Spirit
- He was full of faith
- Barnabas came from Cyprus and could understand the Jews living in Antioch.
- Barnabas was able to understand and help new converts.

What was Barnabas' message to the people of Antioch?

He urged the people to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Whom did Barnabas choose as his helper?

Saul

Why did Barnabas choose Paul as his helper?

Paul could speak Greek, the language of people in Antioch.

Where were the believers first called Christians?

At Antioch

What name were the believers known with before?

Followers of the Way

Why were the disciples called Christians?

- They were Christ's people different from the Jewish community.
- Jews and Gentiles were now equal before the Church.

Mention one prophet at Antioch?

Agabus

What role did the prophet play?

He predicted that a severe famine was about to come over all the earth

How did the believers respond to this prophecy?

- The disciples decided that they would each send as much as they could to help their fellow believers living in Judea
- They sent the money to the Church elders

Who collected the relief aid to Jerusalem?

- Barnabas
- Saul

When was this prophecy fulfilled?

During the time of Emperor Claudius

Outline the themes illustrated in the story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

MORE PERSECUTION OR THE IMPRISONMENT OF PETER OR HEROD'S PERSECUTION (ACTS 12: 1 – 19)

Mention the apostle who was arrested in this passage
Peter

Who arrested the apostle?
King Herod Agrippa I

Mention the apostle killed by the same King?
James the brother of John

Who was the first apostle to die?
James the brother of John

How did James die?
He was put to death by the sword

Why did Herod arrest Peter?

- Herod saw that James' death pleased the Jews
- Peter had admitted Gentiles in the Church and Herod was protecting Judaism from integration.
- The friction between pure Jews and those who mixed with Gentiles could lead to unrest and riots in his territory.
- He wanted to please the Jews.

Describe how Peter suffered at the hands of Herod

- He was arrested
- He was put in jail
- He was handed over to be guarded by 4 groups of 4 soldiers each
- Herod planned to put him on trial in public after the Passover

When was Peter arrested?
During the Festival of Unleavened Bread

What was Herod's plan?
To put Peter on trial in public after the Passover

What was the reaction of the believers to the arrest?
They prayed earnestly to God for him

Who rescued Peter from jail?
The Angel of the Lord

Narrate the miraculous release of Peter

- The night before Herod was to try Peter, the Angel came to Peter and a light shone in the cell
- The angel shook Peter by the shoulder, woke him up
- He told Peter to hurry and get up

- At once the chains fell off Peter's hands
- Then the Angel told Peter to fasten his belt and put on sandals. Peter did that.
- Thereafter, the Angel told Peter to put on his cloak and follow him
- Peter followed him out of the prison and thereafter the Angel left Peter

Describe Peter's experience in jail

- The Lord's Angel suddenly stood there.
- A light shone in the cell.
- The chains fell off Peter's hands when the Angel shook him by the shoulder.

Narrate Angel's words to Peter in jail

- He told Peter to hurry and get up.
- He told Peter to fasten his belt and put on his sandals
- He told Peter to put on his cloak and follow him.

Describe Peter's reaction to the event

- a. At first Peter thought it was a mere vision.
- b. Then he realized that whatever had happened to him was real

What happened when the cell where Peter was put was found empty?

- There was great confusion among the guards
- They asked what had happened to Peter
- Herod gave orders to search for Peter
- Herod ordered the guards to be questioned
- He ordered them to be put to death and left Judea for Caesarea

Where did Peter go to after the release?
To the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark

What was happening in that house at this time?
The believers were praying for Peter

Why were the people praying at this time?

- To bring men of God close together.
- To do something that cannot be done ordinarily.

Describe what happened at the house of Mary the mother of John Mark

- Many people were praying in the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark when he went there.
- Peter knocked at the door and a servant named Rhoda came to answer it
- She recognized Peter's voice and was so happy that she ran back on without opening the door to announce that Peter was standing outside
- The people inside called her mad but Rhoda insisted that it was true

- At last they opened the door and when they saw him they were amazed
- Peter he explained to them how the Lord had brought him out of prison

Who announced Peter's arrival?

Rhoda.

What was the reaction of the people in the house?

- They said that Rhoda was mad.
- They said that the one knocking was Peter's angel.

Suggest a reason for reacting like that

They could not believe it that Peter could have a chance of escaping since he was heavily guarded.

What relates Peter's suffering to Jesus' passion?

- Both Peter and Jesus were arrested during the time of the Passover Festival.
- Both Peter and Jesus were handed over to Soldiers.

How is the power of evil highlighted in the story?

- Peter was handed over to be guarded by many soldiers so that he could not escape.
- Even at night Peter was heavily guarded so that he could be put on trial after the Passover.

Identify the similarity between the unbelief in Peter's rescue and that in Jesus' resurrection

People did not believe the message of Peter's release announced by Rhoda as well of Jesus resurrection announced by the women: Mary Magdalene, Joanna and the Mary the mother of James.

List the themes illustrated in the story

1. The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
2. The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
3. Prayer is vital or important in the life of the Church
4. Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of Salvation

THE DEATH OF HEROD (ACTS 12: 20 - 23)

Describe the events that led to the death of Herod

- Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon.
- They convinced Blastus, the man in-charge of the palace, that he should help them
- They went to Herod and asked him for peace because their country got its food supplies from the King's country
- On a chosen day, Herod put on his loyal robes, sat on his throne and made a speech to the people.
- The people shouted that it was not a man speaking but a god
- At once, the Angel of the Lord struck Herod down because he did not give honour to God
- He was eaten up by worms and died

Whose help did the people of Sidon and Tyre ask to meet Herod?

Blastus

What was the position of that person in society?

He was in charge of the King's palace

Why did the people of Tyre and Sidon ask for peace with Herod?

Their country got its food supplies from the King's country

How did the people react to Herod's speech?

They shouted that it was not a man speaking but a god

How did King Herod die?

- The Angel of the Lord struck Herod down
- He was eaten up by worms and died

Why did Herod Agrippa I die?

- He did not give honour to God
- He wanted people to take him as a god when he was addressing them
- Because of his disobedience to God which was irreverence

UNIT 4

THE CHURCH TO THE GENTILES

PAUL'S THREE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (CHAPTERS 13 AND 14)

BARNABAS AND SAUL ARE CHOSEN AND SENT (ACTS 13: 1 - 3)

List the Prophets and Teachers at Antioch

- Barnabas
- Simon called the Black.
- Lucius from Cyrene.
- Manaen who had been brought up with Herod.
- Saul.

Who chose Barnabas and Saul?

The Holy Spirit

Relate what the Holy Spirit said to the Church in Antioch

Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul to do the work to which I have called them

What were the members of the Church doing?

- They were serving the Lord
- They were fasting

Why were Barnabas and Saul sent?

The Holy Spirit told them so, to go into missionary journey

What did the Church do before Barnabas and Saul took off? OR What was the response of the Church to the words from the Holy Spirit?

- They prayed
- They fasted
- They placed their hands on them
- They sent them off

Describe three ways in which the Church in Antioch was very important

- It organised relief funds when prophet Agabus predicted for severe famine
- It sent missionaries to preach the Gospel
- It was where followers of Jesus were first called Christians

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The Holy Spirit Guides the Church
- The Church's mission is universal : She is sent to Jews and Gentiles : To the Jews first, then to the Gentiles

- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- Prayer is vital or important in the life of the Church

PAUL AND BARNABAS IN CYPRUS (ACTS 13: 4 - 13)

What territories did Barnabas and Saul go through before reaching Paphos?

- Seleucia
- Cyprus
- Salamis

What did they do at Salamis?

- They preached the word of God in Synagogues
- They had John Mark with them to help in the work

Who joined Barnabas and Saul at Salamis?

John Mark

Mention the magician who claimed to be a prophet at Paphos?

Bar-Jesus or Elymas

Why did the governor call Barnabas and Saul?

He wanted to hear the word of God

What challenge did Barnabas and Saul face in Paphos?

They were opposed by the magician, Bar-Jesus or Elymas who tried to turn the governor away from the faith

Describe how the magician tried to resist the power of the Holy Spirit

He tried to turn away the governor, Sergius Paulus, from receiving the gospel

How did the magician try to resist the Holy Spirit?

- He tried to prevent the governor Sergius Paulus from being baptized.
- He withstood Paul and Barnabas seeking to turn away Sergius Paulus from the faith.
- He was a false prophet.

Narrate Paul's speech in reaction to the Magician's resistance

- You son of the devil.
- You are the enemy of everything that is good.

- You always kept trying to turn the Lord's truth into lies.
- You are full of all kinds of evil tricks.
- Lord's hand would make you blind for a time.

What happened to Bar-Jesus?

He became blind.

Describe how the magician became blind

- He felt dark mist cover his eyes
- He walked about trying to find someone to lead him by hand

What was the effect of Paul's reaction to the magician's resistance on the Governor?

He believed for he was greatly amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

OR

- The governor believed
- He was greatly amazed at the teaching about the Lord

What was Paul's miracle at Paphos?

He caused blindness to Bar-Jesus the magician.

Describe Paul's miracle at Paphos

- Paul said that the Lord's hand would make Bar-Jesus, the Magician blind for a time
- Then the magician felt dark mist cover his eyes
- He walked about trying to find someone to lead him by hand

Outline the themes illustrated

- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of Salvation
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first, then to Gentiles
- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans

IN ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA (ACTS 13: 13 - 52)

What happened when Paul and his companions went to Perga?

John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem

Suggest reasons that might have made John Mark to leave Paul and his companions

- He did not want to travel into the dangerous interior of Asia Minor
- He might have objected to Paul becoming more important than his cousin Barnabas

- He might not have realised how much missionary work was going to be directed to the Gentiles
- He might have been home-sick
- He saw that the journey was ferocious

What led Paul to begin to speak in the Synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia?

They were asked by the official of the Synagogue to speak if they had a message of encouragement

Narrate Paul's first speech to Jews and God Fearers in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia

- The coming of the Messiah has been prepared in the Old Testament.
- Jesus is the descendant of David, the Messiah promised in the Old Testament whose coming was prepared by John the Baptist.
- Jesus was rejected by the Jews of Jerusalem, crucified and buried, raised from the dead by God and appeared to his apostle.
- The apostles are the witnesses of his resurrection prophesied in the Old Testament.
- Those who believe in Jesus have their sins forgiven and are saved.

How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus according to Paul?

- Preaching that people should turn from their sins and be baptized
- Announcing the coming of the greater one, Jesus
- Calling the Jews back to Jesus.

Describe the reactions of the people to Paul's speech at Antioch of Pisidia

- At first many Jews were friendly.
- The Gentiles became converted
- The Jews then became jealousy of the many conversions among the Gentiles
- The Jews started to persecute Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their district.

Describe the reaction of the Gentiles to Paul's speech

- They were glad and praised the Lord's message.
- They believed and became converted.

Describe the reaction of the Jews

- They became jealousy of the many conversions among the Gentiles.
- They started to persecute Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of the district.

Explain how the jealous Jews persecuted Paul and Barnabas

They stirred up the leading men of the city and the Gentile women of high social status to persecute Paul and Barnabas.

What warning did Paul give Jews against rejecting the offered salvation?

- He warned them that they had decided not to be worthy of eternal life.
- He told them that from the on the message would go to Gentiles.
- He reminded them that God has made them a light for the Gentiles.

Why did Paul preach to the Jews first?

The Lord had made Jews a light for the Gentiles so that the entire world may be saved.

What sign did Paul and Barnabas offer to turn his attention to the Gentiles?

They shook the dust off their feet in protest against the people and went on to Iconium.

What was the reaction of the people as Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue?

- They invited them to come back the following Sabbath and tell them more about those things
- Many Jews and Gentiles who had been converted to Judaism followed them

What did the missionaries do when they saw such a reaction?

- They spoke to them
- They encouraged them to keep on living in the grace of God

What did the Jews do when they saw that nearly everyone in the town came to hear the Word of the Lord?

- They were filled with jealous
- They disputed what Paul was saying
- The insulted Paul

What did Paul and Barnabas say in response to the insults by the Jews?

- It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you
- But since you reject it and do not consider yourself worthy of eternal life, we will leave you and go to the Gentiles
- The commandment from the Lord is that we are a light to the Gentiles so that all the world would may be saved

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation

- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles : To the Jews first, then to Gentiles
- God saves mankind through Jesus Christ
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- Prayer is vital or important in the life of the Church

PAUL AND BARNABAS IN ICONIUM (ACTS 14: 1 - 8)

To whom did Paul and Barnabas preach first at Iconium?

The Jews in the Synagogue

What problem did Paul and Barnabas face in the city?

The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and turned them against the believers

How did the Lord prove that the apostles' message about grace was true?

By giving them the power to perform miracles and wonders

Describe the people's response to the work of Paul and Barnabas

They were divided in that some were for the Jews, others for the apostles

What plot did the unbelieving people make against the apostles?

They decided to ill-treat the apostles and stone them

How were the apostles saved from the evil plot?

They fled to Lystra and Derby where they preached the Good News

List the themes illustrated in the story

- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The Church's mission is universal: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles
- God saves mankind through Jesus

PAUL AND BARNABAS AT LYSTRA (ACTS 14: 8 - 20)

What miracle did Paul perform in Lystra?

Healing a lame man

Describe how Paul healed the man

- The man sat down and listened to Paul's words
- Paul saw that the man believed and could be healed
- He told the man to stand up straight on his feet
- The man jumped up and started walking around

How did the people react to this miracle?

- They started shouting: The gods have become like men and have come down to us
- They gave Barnabas the name Zeus and Paul the name Hermes because he was a chief speaker
- The priest of the god Zeus brought bulls and flowers to offer sacrifices to the apostles

How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the people's reaction?

- They tore their clothes
- They run into the middle of the crowd and shouted: we ourselves are only human beings like you and not gods
- They told the people to turn away from their false gods

Relate what Paul and Barnabas told the people

- We are only human beings like you
- Turn away from your false gods
- There is one true God, creator of all
- He allowed you to live in ignorance, but did not stop showing the power and love by giving the rain and harvest

Describe how Paul suffered thereafter

- Some Jews came from Antioch in Pisidia and Iconium and stoned Paul
- They dragged Paul out of the town, thinking that he was dead

Why was Paul named Hermes?

He was a chief speaker

Describe what happened for the people to say that "*The gods have become like men and have come down to us!*"

They had seen Paul healing a lame man

What did Paul do when the believers had gathered round him?

- He got up and went back into the town
- The next day he and Barnabas went to Derby

Describe the respect that was accorded to Paul and Barnabas at Lystra?

- The people likened them to gods Barnabas as Zeus and Paul as Hermes.
- The priest of god Zeus wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

How were the apostles forced to leave Lystra?

Some Jews from Antioch in Pisidia and some crowd stoned Paul and dragged him out of the town thinking he was dead.

Why dragging Paul out of the Lystra?

They thought Paul was dead.

What themes are illustrated in the story?

- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The Church mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first, then Gentiles

**THE MEETING AT JERUSALEM
(ACTS 15: 1 - 35)**

Describe circumstances that led to the call for the Jerusalem Council

- Some men from Judea went to Antioch and started teaching the believers that they cannot be saved unless they were circumcised as the Law of Moses requires
- Paul and Barnabas argued much on this
- To resolve the matter, the Church at Antioch decided to consult apostles on the matter in Jerusalem and sent Barnabas and Paul and others to Jerusalem
- In Jerusalem the circumcision party (Judaizers) who were the Pharisees insisted that Gentiles should be circumcised

What was the main argument of the circumcision party (Judaizers)?

Gentiles had first to be circumcised in order to become Christians

What were the main arguments of the opponents of the circumcision party (Judaizers)?

- The condition of becoming a Jew would make Judaism important as faith in Jesus
- Faith in Jesus is enough for one to be saved
- Salvation would not be for all mankind but only for the Jews and those who become Jews if circumcision is a condition

Narrate Peter's speech or contribution to the meeting

- God chose him in order to preach the Good News to the Gentiles
- Gentiles believed and they were baptised
- The Holy Spirit was given to them
- God made no difference between Jews and Gentiles
- We should not lay a burden on the Gentiles by asking them to be circumcised
- We believe and are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are

Explain the contribution of Paul and Barnabas to the meeting

They related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Narrate James' speech

- I agree with Simon Peter because the Scripture supports his views
- We must not impose our Law on the Gentiles
- We must write them to abstain from any food that is ritually unclean because it has been offered to idols, to keep themselves from sexual immorality, not to eat any animal that has been strangled, or any blood
- The Gentiles will not be surprised or burdened by these rules for they know that they are our religious convictions

How was the matter resolved? OR What was the decision of the Council?

- The Council should write a letter to the Gentile Christians
- The Gentiles should not eat any food that is ritually unclean because it had been offered to idols
- They should keep themselves from sexual immorality
- They should not eat any animal that has been strangled
- They should not eat any blood

What conditions were made for the Gentile Christians at the meeting?

- Not to eat any meat that had been offered to idols
- Not to eat blood
- Not to eat a strangled animal
- To abstain from sexual immorality

Who carried the letter that contained the Council's resolutions to the Gentile Christians?

- Paul and Barnabas
- Judas Barsabbas and Silas, the messengers

What was the reaction of the Gentile Christians?

They were filled with joy by the message of encouragement

How did James as the Leader of Jerusalem Church show that he was concerned about the unity of the Church?

- He did not forbid the Judeo-Christians who were Zealous of the Law to observe it as long as they would not impose it on Gentiles.
- He demanded the Gentile Christians that they respect the feelings of their fellow Christians Jews by following the holiness codes.

- He saw to it that the Jewish Christians who believed Christ had made them free from the old Law would not offend Jewish Christians who believed the old Law could not be abolished.

Narrate the support of Peter's speech from the Scripture (Amos 9; 11-12)

- The Lord said he would rebuild the dwelling of David which had fallen.
- He said that the rest of people might seek the Lord.
- All the nations (Gentiles) that are called by his name will cause this to happen.

Describe the contents of the letter to the Gentiles

- The letter expressed regret over the trouble caused by the Jews.
- The letter encouraged Gentiles to be considerate of their Jewish brothers by abstaining from
 - ✓ Meat offered to idols.
 - ✓ Meat with blood in it.
 - ✓ Blood.
 - ✓ Fornication.

Why did the Jerusalem Church not command the Antioch Church?

All churches by then were equal.

Why was the Jerusalem Council necessary?

- There was a danger of a split in the Church; the party of the Pharisees maintained that the Gentiles had to follow the Law of Moses while other Christians were convinced that this was not necessary.
- The Christian Jews felt uncomfortable with their fellow Gentile Christians as long as the Gentile did not follow the so-called holiness rules.
- The authority of Peter was diminished as long as he was under attack by the circumcision party.
- The mission to the Gentiles was halted as long as the conditions of their admission to the Church were not settled.
- The Gentile Christians felt unaccepted by those Jewish Christians who believed they had to follow the Law of Moses.

List the themes illustrated in the story

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to both Jews and Gentile: To the Jews first then to the Gentile

THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS 15: 36 – 18: 22)

PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATE (ACTS 15: 36 - 41)

Suggest the reason for the separation

They did not agree whether to take John Mark with them Barnabas wanted to take John Mark while Paul did not.

Why did Paul not want to take John Mark?

John Mark was unreliable since he had not stayed with them to the end of their mission but had turned back and left them in Pamphylia.

Describe the separation that occurred

- Barnabas with Mark went to Cyprus
- Paul and Silas went to Cilicia.

Suggest reasons why Paul wanted Silas

- Silas was an able and wise man.
- Silas would be helpful in the Churches where there were Jews who caused trouble.
- Silas was a Roman citizen like Paul therefore would be an advantage to the Gentiles.

Mention the main theme illustrated in the story
The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

TIMOTHY GOES WITH PAUL AND SILAS (ACTS 16: 1 - 10)

Why was Timothy an appropriate companion?

All the believers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him

Why was Timothy's circumcision necessary?

- To make Timothy live and work with Jews easily.
- For practical purpose since many Jews knew that Timothy had a Greek father.

Narrate Paul's vision at Troas

- Paul saw a man of Macedonia standing and begging him and asking him to come over to Macedonia to help them.

What was the meaning of Paul's vision at Troas?

God had called them to preach to Macedonia.

How did they respond to the Paul's vision?

They got ready to leave for Macedonia

Why did they take that decision?

Because they decided that God had called them to preach the Good News to the people in Macedonia

Outline the themes illustrated in the story

- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to the Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first, then to the Gentiles

PAUL, SILAS AND LUKE IN PHILIPPI (ACTS 16: 11 – 40)

Who was converted in Philippi?

Lydia

Relate the conversion of Lydia

- On one Sabbath Paul, Silas and Luke went to the riverside to pray.
- There was a woman, Lydia from Thyatira who heard them and she was baptized with her household.

Describe circumstances that led to the arrest of Paul and Silas at Philippi

- Paul had healed a young servant woman who had an evil spirit that enabled her to predict the future.
- After being healed, it meant that her owners had no more chances of making money.
- Hence, they got angry and arrested Paul and Silas.

What miracle did Paul perform at Philippi?

She ordered the evil spirit that enabled the woman to predict future events to come out of her

Describe the miracle Paul performed at Philippi

- When Paul and Silas were in Philippi, they met a servant woman who had an evil spirit that enabled her to predict the future.
- She earned a lot of money for her owners by telling fortunes.
- She followed Paul and friends shouting that the men were servants of the Most High God and that they announce to people that they can be saved.
- Paul got upset, that he turned round and removed the evil spirit in her

What did the young servant woman say about Paul and Silas?

- These men are servants of the most High God.
- They announced to people how they can be saved.

Describe Paul's reactions to what the young woman said

- He became upset.
- He ordered the evil spirit to come out of her.

Describe reactions of the owner of the young servant woman

- They got angry.
- They arrested Paul and Silas and dragged them to the Roman authorities.

Suggest reasons for arresting Paul and Silas

He owners realized that they had no more chances of making moneys.

How were owners making money?

They collected payment after the young servant woman had told the people's fortunes.

What did the owners of the young servant woman say after dragging Paul and Silas to the Roman authorities?

- These men are Jews, and they are causing trouble in our city.
- They are teaching customs that are against our Law, we are Roman citizens, and we cannot accept these customs or practise them.

Describe the reactions of the Roman officials after hearing what the people said against Paul and Silas

- They tore the clothes off Paul and Silas.
- They ordered Paul and Silas to be whipped.

What accusations were made against Paul and Silas?

- Causing trouble in the city
- Teaching customs that were against the Law

How did Paul and Silas suffer before being jailed?

- Their clothes were torn off.
- They were whipped or beaten severely.
- They were attacked

How did Paul and Silas suffer in Philippi?

- They were dragged to the authorities in the public square
- Their clothes were torn off by the officials of Philippi
- They were severely beaten
- They were thrown into jail
- They were thrown into the inner cell
- Their feet were fastened between heavy blocks of wood

Describe what happened when Paul and Silas were in prison

- Paul and Silas were praying in the prison and singing hymns to God
- There was a violent earthquake that made the foundation of the prison shake
- At once the doors opened
- The chains fell from the prisoners

What did the jailer decide to do when he saw that the prison doors were open?

He decided to kill himself

What did Paul say to the jailer?

- Don't harm yourself
- We are all here

How did the jailer respond to Paul's words?

- He called for light
- He rushed and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas
- He led them out
- He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

How did Paul and Silas respond to the jailer's question?

- They said "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your family"
- They preached the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house
- They baptized the jailer and all his family

What did the jailer do thereafter?

- He took them and washed their wounds
- He took Paul and Silas to his house where he gave them some food to eat

How did the jailer react when he saw all that had happened?

- He woke up and wanted to kill himself thinking that the prisoners had escaped
- He released Paul and Silas.
- He asked Paul and Silas what he would do to be saved.

What did Paul and Silas tell the jailer?

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your family.

How did the jailer treat Paul and Silas after releasing them?

- He took them to his house.
- He washed their wounds.
- He gave them food to eat.

What reward did the jailer get?

He and his family were filled with joy.

Suggest a reason for being filled with joy

They now believed in God.

What message did the Roman authorities send the following morning?

To let Paul and Silas go

What did the jailer say in reporting the Roman authorities' message to Paul and Silas?

- The officials have sent an order for you and Silas to be released
- You may leave, then, and go in peace

Describe Paul's response to the message

- We had been beaten in public without being condemned and thrown into prison yet we are Roman citizens, why being released secretly.
- Let Roman authorities come to let us out.

Describe the reactions of the Roman authorities to what Paul said

- They were afraid.
- They apologized to Paul and Silas.
- They led Paul and Silas out of the prison
- They asked Paul and Silas to leave the city

Suggest the reasons for apologizing

- It was against the Roman Law to jail somebody without being condemned
- Paul and Silas were Roman citizens as such could not receive that punishment

Where did Paul and Silas go to after being released?

They went to Lydia's house

What did Paul and Silas do at that house?

They spoke the words of encouragement to them and left thereafter

State the themes illustrated in the story

- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

PAUL AND SILAS IN THESSALONICA (ACTS 17: 1 - 9)

Why did Paul go first to the Synagogue?

Salvation was first to the Jews then to the Gentiles

What did Paul do in the Synagogue?

- Held discussions with the people
- Quoted and explained the Scriptures
- Proved from Scriptures that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from death
- Pointed out that the Jesus he announced to them was the Messiah

What was Paul's message to the people?

- This Jesus whom I announce to you is the Messiah

What success did the discussions in the Synagogue yield?

- Some of the audience were convinced
- So did many of the leading women
- A large group of Greeks who worshipped God also believed

What was the reaction of the Jews in Paul's success in Thessalonica?

- They became jealous
- They gathered worthless loafers from the street and formed a mob
- They set the whole city in uproar
- They attacked the home of Jason in an attempt to find and bring Paul and Silas out to the people

What did the Jews do when they did not find Paul and Silas in Jason's house?

They dragged Jason and some other believers before the city authorities.

Mention the charges made on Jason and his companions

- Causing trouble everywhere
- Keeping believers in his house
- Breaking the Laws of the Emperor by saying that there is another King called Jesus

Describe the reactions of the Roman authorities to the accusations

- They, together with the crowd were thrown in an uproar
- They made Jason and other believers pay the required amount and let them go

List the accusations against Paul in his absence (They took Jason and others)

- Causing riots, acting against the Roman Laws.
- Proclaiming another King, Jesus besides Emperor Caesar.

What was the authorities' judgment?

Jason and others had to pay and be released.

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- Prayer is important or vital in the life of the Church
- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans

PAUL AND SILAS IN BEREA (ACTS 17: 10 - 15)

When they arrived there, where did they go first?

To the Synagogue

What was the difference between the people of Berea and those of Thessalonica?

The people of Berea were more open-minded than the people of Thessalonica

How did the people of Berea prove to be more open-minded?

- They listened to the messages with great eagerness
- They studied Scriptures every day to see if what Paul taught was really true
- Many of them believed including many Greek women of high social standing and many Greek men

What problem did Paul and his companions face in Berea?

The Jews from Thessalonica went there and started exciting and stirring the mob

What was the reaction of the believers to that problem?

- They sent Paul away to the coast
- Both Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea until they were asked to join Paul in Athens

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- Prayer is vital in the life of the Church

PAUL IN ATHENS (ACTS 17: 16 - 34)

Describe Paul's experience in Athens

- He was greatly upset when he noticed how full of idols the city was

What did Paul do in reaction to what he noticed?

- He held discussions with the Jews and Gentiles who worshipped God, and also in the public square every day with by-passers
- Certain Epicureans and Stoic teachers also debated with Paul

Who debated with Paul in Athens?

- Epicureans
- Stoic teachers

What was the reaction of the hearers to Paul's message?

- Certain Epicureans and Stoic teachers debated with Paul
- Some asked: *What is this ignorant show off trying to say?*
- Others answered: *He seems to be talking about foreign gods*
- They brought Paul before the Aeropagus, The City Council

Why did the people bring Paul before the City Council?

- They wanted to know Paul's new teaching
- Some of what Paul said was strange to them hence wanted to know what they meant

Explain the obstacles or problems Paul faced in Athens

- Paul's culture is thought to be inferior so his listeners are prejudiced against him calling him a babbler.
- As the people are used to worshipping many gods, they presumed that Paul talked about two gods when he mentioned Jesus and the resurrection.
- The people were not serious and listened only out of curiosity as one listens to gossip.

Narrate Paul's speech at the Aeropagus (The Athenian Council) in Athens

- You are very religious, worshipping even unknown God
- God is the creator, not the created, so he does not need a place or sacrifices
- God is in control. He gives empires their times of grandeur, but the human race is one, for all are this offspring and have their being in him
- God has given to all a desire to find him but in their search for God men have erred because of ignorance as is shown in the worship of idols
- The time for ignorance is now over. Repent, now because there will be judgement
- God has appointed a man as judge. We are sure of this because God raised this man from the dead

Describe the reactions of the people when they heard Paul speak about resurrection

- Some made fun of him
- Others asked him to speak again
- Some men joined him and believed and among whom was Dionysius, a member of the Council and a woman named Damaris

How did this speech differ from the speech he made at Antioch of Pisidia?

- He did not mention that Jesus is the promised Messiah.
- He did not say anything about the suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection
- He did not mention that the apostles are the witnesses of Jesus' resurrection
- He never quoted the scriptures to prove his point

Suggest reasons for the differences

- He was addressing Gentiles who had no knowledge of the scripture.

- He was addressing Gentiles, who had never heard anything about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as well as the apostles' witness.

List the themes illustrated in the story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Jesus uses the Church as an instrument of salvation
- The Church's mission is universal

PAUL IN CORINTH (ACTS 18: 1 - 17)

How did Aquila and his wife Priscilla help Paul?

- They allowed Paul to stay with them
- They worked with Paul because he also earned his living by making tents just as they did

How did Aquila and Priscilla earn a living?

By making tents

How did Paul earn his living?

By making tents

Suggest a reason why Aquila and Priscilla migrated from Italy to Corinth?

Emperor Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome

Describe the activities that Paul undertook in Corinth

- Holding discussions in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to convince both Jews and Greeks
- Preaching the message, testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah
- Making tents to earn his own living

What success did Paul register in Corinth?

- Crispus, the leader of the Synagogue together with his family believed
- Many other people believed and were baptized

How did the unbelieving people react to Paul's message?

- They opposed him.
- They said evil thing about him.

Narrate Paul's speech to the people who opposed his message in Corinth

- If they are lost, they must be blamed for it.
- He was not responsible for their lack of saving information
- From then on he would go to Gentiles.

Relate the Lord's message to Paul in a vision he had in Corinth

- Do not be afraid
- Keep on speaking

- Do not give up for I am with you
- No one will be able to harm you, for many in this city are my people

Why would no one harm Paul in Corinth?

Many in the city were the Lord's people

What problem did Paul experience In Corinth?

- The Jews got together and seized Paul
- They took him into court

Who was the Roman Governor of Achaia at that time?

Gallio

What accusation was made against Paul?

Trying to persuade people to worship God in a way that is against the Law

How did Gallio defend Paul?

- He said that it was not a matter of some evil crime or wrong that was committed, so he would not be patient with the Jews
- Since it is an argument about words and names and of the Jewish Law, the Jews had to settle the matter
- He drove them out of the court

Describe the reaction of the Jews to Gallio's words

- They seized Sosthenes, the leader of the Synagogue
- They beat him in front of the court

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- Prayer is vital in the life of the Church
- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles : To the Jews first then to the Gentiles
- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS 18: 23 - 20: 38)

APOLLOS IN EPHESUS AND CORINTH (ACTS 18: 24 - 28)

Describe the qualities that Apollos had

- He was an eloquent speaker
- He had thorough knowledge of the Scriptures
- He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord

Who explained to Apollos more correctly about the Way of the Lord?

- Aquila
- Priscilla

How did Apollos prove to be very helpful to the believers in Achaia?

With his arguments he defeated the Jews in public debates by proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah

What role did Apollos play in the spread of the Gospel?

He proclaimed and taught correctly facts about Jesus

What shortfall did Apollos have in his ministry?
He knew only the Baptism of John

How did Aquila and Priscilla help Apollos?

- Took him home with them
- They explained to him more correctly the Way of God

How did the believers in Ephesus help Apollos?
By writing to the believers in Achaia, urging them to welcome him

How was Apollos helpful to the Church in Achaia?

He defeated the Jews in public debates by proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah

What is known about Apollos?

- A Jew born in Alexandria
- An eloquent speaker
- Had thorough knowledge of Scriptures
- Had been instructed in the Way of the Lord
- With great enthusiasm he proclaimed and taught correctly the facts about Jesus
- However he only knew the baptism of John, not of the Holy Spirit

Mention the main theme illustrated in the story
God saves mankind through Jesus

PAUL IN EPHEBUS (ACTS 19: 1 - 12)

How did some disciples in Ephesus benefit from Paul's visit to Ephesus?

- He baptized them in the name of Jesus
- He placed his hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them

What indicated that the people had received the Holy Spirit?

- They spoke in strange tongues
- They proclaimed God's message

Why did Paul baptize the people?

- They had not received the Holy Spirit
- They had received the Baptism of John only
- They had not been baptized in the name of Jesus

What activities did Paul undertake in the Synagogue of Ephesus?

- For 3 months he spoke publicly with the people
- He held discussions with the people trying to convince them about the Kingdom of God

Describe what Paul did when some of his hearers could not believe

- He left them
- He held discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus for two years

How did God use Paul to perform unusual miracles in Ephesus?

The handkerchief and aprons he had used cured illnesses and cast out evil spirits

What did Paul tell the disciples about the baptism of John the Baptist?

- John's baptism was that of repentance.
- John told the people to believe in the one who was coming after him, Jesus.

Outline the themes illustrated in the story

- The Church's mission is universal: She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentile
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation

THE SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA (ACTS 19: 13 - 20)

What did the seven sons of Sceva do?

They travelled round and drove out evil spirits using the name of Jesus

What did they say to the evil Spirits?

I command you in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches

Describe what the evil spirit said in response to their command

- I know Jesus and I know Paul
- But you - who are you

Describe what happened to them when they tried to drive out demons in the name of Jesus who they did not know?

- The man who had evil spirits attacked them with such violence
- He overpowered them all
- They ran away from his house, wounded and with their clothes off

Describe the response of the people who heard about it

- They were all filled with fear
- They gave the name of the Lord Jesus great honour
- Many believers came in public admitting and revealing what they had done
- Many magicians brought their books together and burnt them in public

Explain what the people did to show their repentance

- Many believers came in public admitting and revealing what they had done
- Many magicians brought their books together and burnt them in public

Mention the main themes illustrated in the story

- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

THE RIOT IN EPHEBUS (ACTS 19: 21 - 41)

What was the “Way of the Lord?”

The belief in and practice of Jesus’ teaching

Who organised the riots against Paul in Ephesus?

Demetrius and his fellow silversmiths

Why did Demetrius and his fellow silversmiths oppose Paul’s preaching?

- Paul’s message that man-made gods are not gods angered them since it meant a downfall of their business, selling the shrines of goddess Artemis.
- There was a danger that the temple of Artemis would become useless due to Paul’s message.
- Their business would become very notorious.

Narrate the speech made by Demetrius to the fellow silversmiths

- We make our living by selling shrines of Artemis
- Paul turns our customers away from the worship of Artemis
- Our business will get a bad name
- The temple of Artemis may also lose its importance
- Ephesus would attract fewer visitors.

How did people react to Demetrius’ speech?

- They became furious.
- They started shouting, “Great is Artemis of Ephesus”
- They seized Gaius and Aristarchus Paul’s companions from Macedonia and brought them to the Theatre.

Relate the speech made by the Town Clerk

- Everyone agrees that Ephesus is the keeper of Artemis temple and of the sacred stone that fell down from heaven.
- These men you have brought have not robbed temples or said evil things about our goddess.
- If Demetrius and his workers have an accusation against anyone, the courts are open and charges can be made there.
- There is a danger that we will be accused of riot.

What did the Town Clerk do after delivering his speech?

He dismissed the meeting

Outline obstacles Paul faced as he preached the Gospel in Ephesus

- The pagan beliefs were very strong.
- The silversmiths opposed the spread of the gospel.
- The possible accusation that Christianity was a cause of unrest, threatening Law and Order.

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The Author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans

PAUL GOES TO MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA (ACTS 20: 1 - 6)

What problem did Paul face in Achaia?

Jews were plotting against him

How did Paul respond to the problem?

He decided to go back through Macedonia

Who went with Paul on this occasion?

- Sopater son of Pyrrhus
- Aristarchus
- Secundus
- Gaius
- Tychicus
- Trophimus

Mention the main theme illustrated in the story

The Author of Acts shows Sympathy for the Romans

PAUL’S LAST VISIT TO TROAS: THE SLEEPY EUTYCHUS (ACTS 20: 7 - 12)

What miracle did Paul perform in Troas?

Raising Eutychus

What happened to Eutychus when Paul visited Troas?

He slept and fell from the third storey to the ground and died

What was Paul doing in the house at this time?

- He was speaking to the people
- He was having a fellowship meal

What did Paul do when they discovered that Eutychus was dead?

- He went down
- He threw himself on him
- He hugged him
- He told the people not to worry for he was alive

Describe the miracle that Paul performed at Troas

- One Saturday evening after the fellowship meal, Paul spoke to the people until midnight
- Eutychus sitting on the window got sleepier and sleepier until he finally went sound asleep
- He fell from the third storey to the ground. He died.
- Paul however assured the people that Eutychus was still alive.

What did Paul do after performing the miracle?

He went back upstairs, broke the bread and ate

List the themes illustrated in the story

1. Jesus uses the Church as his instrument of salvation
2. Prayer is vital for the life of the Church

**PAUL'S FAREWELL SPEECH TO THE ELDERS OF EPHEBUS
(ACTS 20: 17 - 38)**

Where did Paul meet the elders of Ephesus?

At Miletus

Narrate Paul's farewell speech to the elders of Ephesus

- You know how I worked for the people of Ephesus, Jews and Gentiles
- The Holy Spirit urges me to go to Jerusalem telling me that I shall suffer
- From now on you are responsible for the Church at Ephesus
- Take care, there will be false teachers
- Trust in God and remember my example: instead of begging I worked for my own living so that I could help others
- Help the weak remembering the words that there is more happiness in giving than in receiving

What point did Paul want to emphasize by saying that "there is more happiness in giving than receiving"?

He urged the leaders to help the weak

What did Paul do after finishing speaking?

He knelt down with them and prayed

What was the reaction of the elders to what Paul had said and done?

- They were all crying as they hugged him and kissed him
- They were sad because he had said they would never see him again
- They went with him to the ship

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church
- Prayer is vital for the life of the Church
- Jesus works through the Holy Spirit
- God saves mankind through Jesus

UNIT 5

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT

PAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM (ACTS 21: 1 - 16)

What important events happened in Tyre?

- Through the Spirit, the people at Tyre told Paul not to go to Jerusalem.
- As Paul was leaving the city, the people all knelt and prayed

Mention the themes illustrated in events at Tyre

- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- Prayer is vital for the life of the Church
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church

What important events happened in Caesarea?

- Prophet Agabus took Paul's belt, tied up his own feet and hands with it and said that the Holy Spirit says the owner of this belt will be tied up in this way by the Jews in Jerusalem and will hand him over to the Gentiles (*Agabus predicted Paul's arrest in Jerusalem*)
- The people at Caesarea warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem where prison awaited him but he refused to follow this warning "the will of the Lord be done".

Occasions Agabus had been active in the Church

- He predicted about the famine that would come.
- He foretold that the Jews would deliver Paul to the Romans.

At whose house did Paul stay while in Caesarea? Philip, one of the seven helpers

How did prophet Agabus prophesy about Paul's arrest?

- Took Paul's belt, tied up his own feet and hands with it
- He said: This is what the Holy Spirit says: the owner of this belt will be tied up in this way by the Jews in Jerusalem and they will hand him over to the Gentiles

How did people react to Agabus' prophecy?

- They begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem

What was Paul's response to people's request?

- What are you doing, crying like this and breaking my heart?

- I am ready not only to be tied up in Jerusalem but even to die there for the sake of the Lord Jesus

How did the people react to Paul's response?

- They gave up
- They said: May the Lord's will be done

What was the people's warning to Paul?

Not to go to Jerusalem.

Suggest a reason for such a warning

Prison was waiting for Paul.

Describe Paul's reaction to the warning

He said that he would not follow the instruction, would go to Jerusalem and that the will of the Lord be done.

At whose house did Paul and his companions stay when they arrived in Jerusalem?

Mnason

Mention the themes illustrated in the events in Caesarea

- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans.
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering

PAUL VISITS JAMES (ACTS 21: 17 - 26)

What did Paul do when he visited James?

- He greeted all the Church elders who were there
- He gave a complete report of everything that God had done among the Gentiles through his work

How did the Church elders react to Paul's presentation?

- They all praised God
- They told Paul that thousands of the Jews had become believers and how devoted they all are to the Law
- They told Paul that the devoted Jews had been told that Paul had been teaching the Jews in Gentile countries to abandon the Law of Moses on circumcision
- They advised Paul to join four men in the ceremony of purification, then to pay expenses. Then they will be able to shave their heads indicating that there is no truth in any of the things that they have been told about Paul

What did the elders say to Paul on this occasion?

- They told Paul that thousands of the Jews had become believers and how devoted they all are to the Law
- They told Paul that the devoted Jews had been told that Paul had been teaching the Jews in Gentile countries to abandon the Law of Moses on circumcision
- They advised Paul to join four men in the ceremony of purification, then to pay their expenses. Then they will be able to shave their heads indicating that there is no truth in any of the things that they have been told about Paul.

What advice did the elders give Paul?

- They advised Paul to join four men in the ceremony of purification
- Then Paul had to pay their expenses.
- Then they will be able to shave their heads indicating that there is no truth in any of the things that they have been told about Paul.

Of what significance was that piece of advice to Paul?

In this way, everyone would know that there is no truth in any of the things they have been told about Paul, that he was discouraging people from following the Law of Moses

How did Paul respond to that advice?

- He took the men and the next day performed the ceremony of purification with them
- He went into the Temple and gave notice of how long it would take until the end of the purification period when a sacrifice would be offered for each one of them

What did James instruct Paul to do? OR what advice did James give Paul?

- He advised Paul to join four men in the ceremony of purification
- Then Paul had to pay their expenses.
- Then they will be able to shave their heads indicating that there is no truth in any of the things that they have been told about Paul.

What was Paul's reaction to James' suggestion?

He followed James' suggestion by joining the purification ceremony.

Suggest reasons why it was difficult for the circumcision party (Judaizers) to accept Paul

- The gift Paul had carried from Antioch was unclean since it was touched by Gentiles hence he too had become unclean.
- They were not happy with Paul's association with Gentiles.

- They heard that Paul taught the Gentiles not to keep the Law of Moses traditions of their ancestors

List the main theme illustrated in the story

The Church's mission is universal; She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

**PAUL IS ARRESTED IN THE TEMPLE
(ACTS 21: 27 - 22: 29)**

When was Paul arrested in the Temple?

When the seven days of purification were just coming to an end

Who arrested Paul?

Some Jews from the province of Asia

Describe how Paul was arrested in the Temple

- When some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul in the Temple, they stirred up the whole crowd and seized Paul
- They dragged Paul out of the Temple
- At once the Temple doors were closed
- The mob was trying to kill Paul

How did the Jews stir the whole crowd in the Temple?

- They shouted, "Help!"
- "This is the man who goes everywhere teaching everyone against the people of Israel, the Law of Moses, and this Temple.
- Now he has even brought some Gentiles into the Temple and defiled this holy place

What accusations did the circumcision party (Judaizers) make against Paul? OR Why did the people attack Paul?

- Teaching people against the people of Israel
- Telling Gentiles to abandon the Law of Moses
- Telling the Gentiles not to circumcise their children
- Telling people not to follow Jewish customs
- Defiling the Holy Place, the Temple because they saw him with Trophimus, the Ephesian Gentile

What were the reactions of the people who were stirred up by the Jews from the province of Asia?

- The people all ran together
- They seized Paul
- They dragged Paul out of the Temple and closed the Temple doors
- The mob tried to kill Paul

What report went to the Commander of the Roman troops?

All Jerusalem was rioting

How was Paul rescued from the mob?

- The report went to the Commander of the Roman troops that all Jerusalem was rioting
- The Commander with some soldiers rushed down to the crowd
- When the people saw the Commander, they stopped beating Paul
- The Commander arrested Paul, and ordered him to be bound with two chains
- He ordered Paul to be taken into the fort

How did the Commander of the Roman troops rescue Paul from the mob?

- He took some officers and soldiers and rushed down to the crowd
- When the people saw the Commander, they stopped beating Paul
- He arrested Paul and ordered him to be bound with two chains
- He ordered his men to take Paul up into the fort

Why did the soldiers have to carry Paul?

The mob was so wild

Narrate Paul's defence speech before the Jewish multitude

- He was a Zealous Jew.
- He was called by God to serve him.
- He was brought up a Jew and educated under Gamaliel but converted by risen Jesus.
- He learnt of God's purpose for him to bring the Gospel everywhere.
- He wanted the Jews to hear the Gospel but when they rejected the Gospel, God sent him to preach to the Gentiles.

Describe the reaction of the People to Paul's defence

- They were screaming, "Away with him! Kill him! He is not fit to live!"
- They were waving their clothes
- They were throwing dust up in the air

What did the people say as they shouted after Paul's speech?

- Away with him
- Kill him
- He is not fit to live

How did the Commander respond to people's reactions?

- He ordered his men to take Paul into the fort
- He told them to whip Paul

Why did the Commander order that Paul be whipped?

He wanted to find out why the Jews screamed that Paul should be killed

What did Paul say when he was about to be whipped

Is it lawful for an officer to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried for any crime?

OR

- He revealed that he was a Roman citizen
- He asked if it was lawful to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried.

What did the commander do upon hearing that Paul was a Roman citizen?

- He was frightened
- He arranged a trial before the Council to know the real reason why the Jews accused him.

Why did the Commander react like that?

It was not lawful for Roman citizen to be put in chains.

What did the men who were going to question Paul do upon hearing that Paul was a Roman citizen by birth?

They drew back from him

Of what significance was it that Paul mentioned the following points about his life during his defence?

- ***His birth place.***
To prove that he was a Roman citizen hence could not be in chains.
- ***His conversion***
Paul had thought he was defending God's cause of persecuting Christians.
He now realizes that Jesus had been truly vindicated by God and is the heavenly patron of the persecuted Christians since he identified himself with them.
- ***His being a Jew***
Paul portrays himself and his work in terms of Jewish Messianic expectation, specifically the Pharisaic hope in the resurrection.

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The Church's mission is universal; She is sent Jews and Gentiles; To the Jews first then to the Gentiles.

PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL (SANHEDRIN) (ACTS 22: 30 – 23: 11)

Why did Commander Claudius Lysias bring Paul to the Council?

He wanted to find out what the Jews were accusing Paul of

Relate Paul's defence before the Council

My conscience is perfectly clear about the way in which I have lived before God to this very day

How did the High Priest react to that statement by Paul?

He ordered those who were close to Paul to strike him on the mouth

Why did the High Priest Annas react like that?

Paul said he had lived before God in all conscience up to that day which was great insult for there were reports that Paul told Gentiles to abandon circumcision and the Law.

What did Paul say to the High Priest later on?

- God will certainly strike you – you whitewashed wall
- You sit there to judge me according to the Law, yet you break the Law by ordering them to strike me!

How did the men close to Paul respond to Paul's words to the High Priest?

You are insulting God's High Priest

How did Paul show disrespect for the High priest?

- He said that God would strike Annas the whitewashed wall.
- He said that Annas had sat there to judge Paul according to the Law yet he, Annas broke the Law by ordering that Paul be struck on the mouth.

How did the High Priest break the Law according to Paul?

As a Roman citizen, Paul was not supposed to be beaten before being found guilty.

What did Paul do after realizing that he was insulting the High Priest of God?

- Paul confessed that he did not know that the person was the high priest of God.
- He quoted the Scriptures that state that one must not speak evil of the ruler of the people.

What was the composition of the Council?

- The High Priest
- Pharisees
- Sadducees

How did Paul make use of the composition of the Council to his advantage?

He caused division by declaring that he was a Pharisee and that he is on trial because of the hope he has that the dead will rise to life

How did Paul cause turmoil or division in the council?

He declared that he was on trial because as a Pharisee, he believed in the resurrection of the dead, a belief rejected by the Sadducees.

Narrate Paul's speech before the Council

- He declared that he was a Pharisee, the son of the Pharisees.
- He said that he was on trial because of the hope that the dead will rise to life.

Why did Paul declare that he was a Pharisee?

He wanted to divide his judges so that they could not convict him.

Describe the reactions of the listeners to Paul's declaration that he was a Pharisee

- The Pharisees and Sadducees started the quarrel, and the group was divided
- The Pharisees said: we cannot find anything wrong with this man! Perhaps a spirit or an angel really did speak in him
- The quarrel between Pharisees and Sadducees became so hot that it appeared Paul was going to be torn to pieces by the two factions.

How was Paul saved at this time?

The commander was afraid that Paul would be torn into pieces, ordered the soldiers to get Paul away from the Council and take him to the fort

Why did the Commander save Paul?

He was afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces.

Why was there a quarrel between the Sadducees and the Pharisees?

There was a difference in the beliefs between the Sadducees and Pharisees.

Outline differences between the Sadducees and the Pharisees

- The Pharisees believed in life after death while the Sadducees did not.
- The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead while Sadducees did not.
- The Pharisees believed in the existence of angels while Sadducees did not.
- The Pharisees believed in the existence of spirits while Sadducees did not.
- The Pharisees believed in the divine providence while the Sadducees did not.

Why did the council failed to give a fair judgment to Paul?

- Paul was a Jew, native of Tarsus.
- Paul knew the Law and tradition as taught by Gamaliel.

Relate what the Lord said to Paul in a vision that night

- Do not be afraid
- You have given your witness for me here in Jerusalem
- You must also do the same in Rome

Mention the themes illustrated in the story

- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Church's mission is universal; She is sent to Jews and Gentiles; To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

**THE PLOT AGAINST PAUL'S LIFE
(ACTS 23: 12 - 22)**

Who plotted against Paul's life?

Some 40 Jews

Give a brief account of the plot against Paul

- 40 Jews took a vow that they would not eat nor drink until they had Paul killed.
- They planned to ask the Council to send a message to the Roman Commander to bring Paul down to the Council pretending that they wanted to get more accurate information about him
- But they were ready to kill him even before he got there

To whom did the 40 Jews disclose their plan?

- Chief Priests
- Elders

Relate what these 40 Jews told the Chief Priests and the Elders

- We have taken a solemn vow together not to eat a thing until we have killed Paul
- You and the Council send the word to the Roman Commander to bring Paul down to you pretending that you want to get more accurate information about him
- We will be ready to kill him before he ever gets here

How was this plot discovered?

- Paul's nephew **OR** Son of Paul's sister heard about the plot
- He went to the fort and told Paul
- Paul sent the boy, accompanied by an officer, to the Commander, Claudius Lysias

Who uncovered the plot to kill Paul?

Paul's nephew **OR** Son of Paul's Sister who heard about it

What did Paul's nephew do?

- He went to the fort and told Paul
- He briefed the Commander of the plot

How did the plot fail OR how was Paul saved?

Paul's nephew heard about the plot and reported to Paul who directed him to report to the commander who sent Paul with maximum security to Felix.

What did Paul tell the officer?

- Take this young man to the Commander
- He has something to tell him

What did the officer do in response to Paul's words?

- He took Paul's nephew and led him to the Commander
- He told the Commander: The prisoner Paul asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to say to you

What did the officer say to the commander?

The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, because he has something to say to you.

Narrate what Paul's nephew told the commander

- The Jewish authorities have agreed to ask you tomorrow to take Paul down to the Council, pretending that the Council wants to get more information about him.
- But do not listen to them, because there are more than 40 men who will be hiding and waiting for him. They have taken a vow not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are now ready to do it and are waiting for your decision.

Describe the reactions of the Commander to what Paul's nephew told him

- He told the nephew no tell anyone that he had reported to him.
- He safely moved Paul to Felix in Caesarea.

What order did the Commander give Paul's nephew?

Don't tell anyone that you have reported this to me.

How did the Commander react to what Paul's nephew told him?

- He told Paul's nephew not to yell anyone that he had reported of the plot to him
- He secretly transferred Paul to Governor Felix under maximum military protection

Why is Claudius Lysias put in good light in this passage?

- He saved Paul.
- He provided Paul with a horse.
- He allowed Paul to address the Jews.
- He had a sense of justice.

Identify themes illustrated in the story

- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

PAUL IS SENT TO GOVERNOR FELIX (ACTS 23: 23 - 35)

To whom did the Commander transfer Paul?
Governor Felix in Caesarea

Why did the Commander transfer Paul?

- To protect him from the Jewish plot to kill him
- Perhaps Claudius sensed that Paul brought him much trouble and so before something worse happened he passed Paul's case on to Felix the Roman governor.

What instructions did the Commander give his two officers in reaction to the report about the plot?

- Get 200 soldiers ready to go to Caesarea
- Take 70 horse men and 200 spearmen
- Be ready to leave by 9 O'clock tonight
- Provide some horses for Paul to ride
- Get him safely through to Governor Felix

Outline the contents of the letter Claudius wrote to Felix about Paul

- The Jews seized Paul and were about to kill him.
- I rescued him because I learnt that he was a Roman citizen
- At the Jewish Council I found out that he had not done anything for which he deserved to die or be put in prison
- The accusations had to do with questions about their own Law
- When I knew that there was a plot against him, I decided to send him to you
- I have told the accusers to make their charges against him before you

What did the soldiers do that time?

- They got Paul and took him that night as far as Antipatris
- The next day the foot soldiers returned to the fort and left the horsemen to go on with Paul
- They took Paul to Caesarea

What did the soldiers do upon arriving in Caesarea?

- They delivered the letter to the governor
- They handed Paul over to the governor

What did Governor Felix do upon Paul's arrival?

- He read the letter from Claudius.
- He asked Paul what province he was from.
- When he heard that Paul was from Cilicia he said he would hear him when his accusers arrive.
- He ordered that Paul be kept under guard in the governor's headquarters.

State the main theme illustrated in this story
The author's sympathy to the Romans

THE CASE AGAINST PAUL (ACTS 24: 1 - 27)

Who charged Paul?

- The High Priest Annas
- Elders

Mention the lawyer the Jews engaged to charge Paul in this case
Tertullus

Narrate what Tertullus said in accusing Paul

- We find this man to be a dangerous nuisance
- He starts riots among Jews all over the world
- He is a leader of the party of the Nazarenes
- He tried to defile the Temple and we arrested him
- If you question this man, you will learn from him all the things that we are accusing him of

What accusations or charges were made against Paul?

- Paul starts riots among the Jews all over the world
- He is a leader of the party of the Nazarenes which operates without government approval
- He tried to defile the Temple
- He is a dangerous nuisance

Narrate Paul's defence to the accusations

- He denied to have stirred up anyone and challenged Felix to investigate.
- He denied to have defiled the Temple as he had carried out the ceremony of purification.
- He believed in the resurrection of the dead as many Jews.

- He also brought relief aid to Jerusalem.
- He admitted that he was a follower of “The Way” the true continuation and completion of the old Jewish Religion.

What was Felix’ opinion on the case?

- He saw that Paul was innocent
- He did not release Paul because he was afraid of the Jews therefore he kept Paul in prison for 2 years

What was the reaction of Felix after hearing the presentations from both Tertullus and Paul?

- He brought the hearing to a close **OR** adjourned the case
- He said he would decide Paul’s case when Lysias, the commander arrives
- He ordered the Officer in charge of Paul to put Paul under guard
- He ordered the officer to give Paul some freedom and allow his friends provide for his needs

How does the author put show sympathy for Governor Felix?

- The governor ordered that Paul be given some freedom
- The governor ordered that Paul’s friends be allowed to provide for his needs

Why did Felix not release Paul?

- He feared the Jewish revolt that would have led to his demotion.
- He hoped to receive a bribe from Paul.
- To gain favour with the Jews

What favours did Paul enjoy while in prison?

- Paul enjoyed some freedom while under guard.
- His friends could provide for his needs.

Why did Felix have interest in Paul?

- He wanted to know more about Paul’s Christian beliefs.
- He hoped to receive a bribe from Paul.

Why did Felix become uncomfortable with Paul later on?

- Paul talked about goodness.
- Paul talked about self-control
- Paul talked about the coming Day of Judgement

How did Felix react when he became uncomfortable with Paul?

- He told Paul to leave
- He said he would call Paul when he got the chance

Identify the themes illustrated in the story

- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans.
- The Church shares in Jesus’ suffering
- The Church’s mission is universal; She is sent to Jews and Gentiles: To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

PAUL APPEALS TO THE EMPEROR (ACTS 25: 1 - 12)

Who was the governor of the area at this time?
Festus

Who brought charges against Paul before Festus?

- Chief Priests
- Jewish Leaders

Where did Festus meet these Paul’s accusers?
At Jerusalem

What favour did Paul’s accusers beg from Festus?
Bringing Paul to Jerusalem

Why did Paul’s accusers beg that favour?
They had made a plot to kill him on the way

What was Festus’ response to what Paul’s accusers had begged him?

- Paul is being kept a prisoner in Caesarea and I myself will be going there back soon
- Let your leaders go to Caesarea with me and accuse the man if he has done anything wrong

What did Paul say in defence to the serious charges brought against him this time?

I have done nothing against the Law of the Jews or against the Temple or against the Roman Emperor

What did Festus request or suggest to Paul?
Would you be willing to go to Jerusalem and be tried on these charges before me there?

Why did Festus make such request or suggestion?
He saw no reason to condemn Paul to death

Relate Paul’s response to the request by Festus

- I am standing before the Emperor’s own court of judgement where I should be tried
- I have done no wrong to the Jews as yourself know
- I do not ask to escape if I have broken the Law or done something for which I deserve death

- But if there is no truth in the charges they bring against me, no one can hand me over to them
- I appeal to the Emperor

How did Paul respond to Festus' suggestion?

- He refused to be sent to Jerusalem
- He appealed to Caesar

How did Festus respond to Paul's appeal?

You have appealed to the Emperor, so to the Emperor you will go

Suggest a reason why Festus agreed with Paul's appeal

Probably to get rid of the case

Why were the Jews willing to have Paul brought to Jerusalem?

They had made a plot to kill him on the way

Relate events that led Paul to appeal to the Emperor

- When Paul was standing in Festus' court, he was accused of so many serious charges which the Jews could not prove
- When Paul proved his innocence, Festus asked the Jews if they were willing to bring the case to Jerusalem where Paul would be tried
- Paul denied this and preferred to be tried and sentence in Caesarea if he had committed crime.
- Eventually he appealed the Emperor in Rome
- When Festus had conferred with advisors, he accepted Paul's appeal to the Emperor

Identify the themes illustrated in the story

- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA AND BERNICE (ACTS 25 13 – 26: 32)

Why did Agrippa and Bernice go to Caesarea?

They were paying a visit of welcome to Festus

Relate what Festus said to King Agrippa

- There is a man here who was left a prisoner by Felix
- The Jewish chief priests and elders brought charges against him and asked me to condemn him

- I told them that Romans do not hand over anyone accused of a crime before he met his accusers face to face and defend himself
- The accusers did not accuse him of what I expected except about their religion and a man named Jesus whom Paul claims is alive
- When I asked Paul to be tried in Jerusalem he appealed to the Emperor

Why did Festus consult Agrippa on Paul's case?

To get valuable advice to formulate political charges against Paul needed by the judges in Rome

Why was Paul happy to have his case heard by Agrippa?

Agrippa had knowledge of the Jewish customs and would understand his presentation

What verdict did Agrippa give after Paul's presentation?

- Paul had done nothing deserving death or imprisonment
- Paul could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar, the Emperor

Why could Festus not hand Paul over to the Religions Leaders?

It was not in the habit of Romans to handover anyone accused before the accused person is given a chance to defend him.

Narrate Paul's speech before Agrippa

- He acknowledged the given opportunity to speak before King Agrippa since the King knew the Jewish religion hence he would understand.
- He wondered why he was accused of having faith in the resurrection a faith shared by all Jews.
- He said that he actively opposed the way until when he was converted on the journey to Damascus.
- He preached to the Jews at Damascus in Jerusalem, in Judea and to the Gentiles, a reason why his fellow Jews try to kill him.
- He declared that he still testified that Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and their witnesses were the fulfilment of Law and Prophets.

Why did Paul speak out before King Agrippa?

- He wished to win King Agrippa II to Christ knowing he had some measure of faith in the Jewish religion.

- He knew King Agrippa II to be living a higher moral life than other kings of this day.

Describe the reaction of Festus to Paul's defence
He thought Paul was mad.

What was the reaction of King Agrippa to Paul's defence?

- He wondered if Paul was trying to make him a Christian.
- He said that Paul was innocent: there was no reason to die or be in prison.
- He said that Paul could have been released if he had not appealed to the Emperor.

How did Paul's appeal to Caesarea hinder him from being released?

Paul's wisdom in preaching had won the official over to believe he was innocent but there was nothing the official could have done since he had appealed to Caesar.

What was the effect of Paul's defence on the officials?

None was able to find Paul guilty of any crime.

Why was it important for Paul to appeal to Caesar?

- Paul's case could be heard without dangerous interference from the Jews
- It would give chance for Christianity to be proved that it was politically innocent
- It would make true Jesus' words that Paul would testify for Jesus in Rome
- It would fulfil God's plan that the Gospel be spread to the end of the earth

How did Paul's defence show that he was a brave man?

No one was able to find Paul guilty of any crime

What was the judgment passed by King Agrippa and Festus?

No judgment was passed since *Paul had already appealed to Caesarea.*

Identify the themes illustrated in the story

- The Author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- God saves mankind through Jesus
- The Church's mission is universal; She is sent to Jews and Gentiles; To the Jews first then to the Gentiles

UNIT 6

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

PAUL SAILS FOR ROME (ACTS 27: 1 - 44)

Who was in charge of Paul on his way to Rome?

Julius, an officer in the Roman Regiment

What name was given to the Roman Regiment?

The Emperor's Regiment

How was Paul treated on the way to Rome?

Julius, the Roman officer was kind to Paul

How did Julius treat Paul?

- He allowed him to go and see his friends at Sidon, to be given what he needed
- When the other soldiers suggested killing all prisoners, he objected in order to save Paul

Why did they sail on the sheltered side of the island of Cyprus?

The winds were blowing against them

What advice did Paul give the people?

Not to continue with the journey since at that time the weather was not good

Suggest Reasons for that advice

- There would be great damage to the cargo and the ship.
- There would be loss of life.

Narrate Paul's advice to the people

- I see that our voyage from here on will be dangerous
- There will be great damage to the cargo and loss of life as well

What was the officials' reaction to Paul's advice?

They ignored Paul's advice and sailed on.

THE STORM AT SEA

Describe the problem that they faced while sailing to Rome

- There was great storm at sea

- The North-Easter wind blew down from the island of Crete
- People had gone a long time without food

What did the crew do to try to solve the problem?

- Running with the wind.
- Throwing some of the cargo overboard.
- Throwing some of the main equipment of the ship.

What did Paul say on the problem faced?

- He criticised the crew for not listening to his warning of not continuing with the voyage at that time
- He begged them to take heart for no one would lose life
- He told them that an angel of God told him not to be afraid, he would stand for the Lord before the Emperor and that God had spared the life of everybody
- But they will be driven ashore on some island

How did Paul encourage the people during this storm?

- He begged them to take heart for no one would lose life
- He told them that an angel of God told him not to be afraid, he would stand for the Lord before the Emperor and that God had spared the life of everybody
- But they will be driven ashore on some island

What did the Angel of God tell Paul in a vision?

- Don't be afraid Paul
- You must stand before the Emperor
- God in goodness to you has spared the lives of all those who are sailing with you

How did the people react when they discovered that the waters were still too deep to anchor?

- They were afraid that the ship would go on the rocks

- They lowered 4 anchors from the back of the sheep
- They prayed

What did the sailors plan to do amidst this problem?

They tried to escape from the ship

Describe what the sailors planned to do amidst this problem?

- They tried to escape from the ship
- They lowered the boat into the water and pretended that they were going to put some anchors from the front of the ship

What did Paul tell the army officer and the soldiers?

- If the sailors don't stay on board, you have no hope of being saved

How did the soldiers respond to what Paul said?

- They cut the ropes that held the boat and let go

What did Paul beg the people to do just before dawn?

To eat some food

Describe what Paul begged the people to do just before dawn

- You have been waiting for 14 days now and all this time you have not eaten anything
- I beg you then, eat some food
- You need it in order to survive
- Not even a hair of your heads will be lost

What did Paul do after begging people like that?

- He took some bread
- He gave thanks to God before them all
- He broke it and began to eat

How did the people respond to what Paul did?

- They took heart
- Every one of them also ate some food
- They lightened the ship by throwing all the wheat into the sea

How did Paul prove to be very helpful to others on their way to Rome?

- He foretold that their voyage would be dangerous
- He encouraged them to take heart for no one would lose life
- He warned the soldiers that if the sailors escape then all the remaining would not survive.

- He encouraged them to eat food after going without food for 14 days

How did Paul encourage the people during the entire storm period?

- He told the people that the Angel told him that no life would be lost hence, they would reach the Island.
- He warned the soldiers that if the sailors escape then all the remaining would not survive.
- He encouraged the people to eat something

Who was the real leader of the ship during the storm?

Paul

How did Paul assert his leadership in the crisis?

By warning the sailors not to flee

THE SHIPWRECK

Describe how the shipwreck happened

- The ship hit a sandbank and went aground
- The front of the ship got stuck and could not move
- The back part was being broken into pieces by the violence of the waves

What did the soldiers plan to do?

To kill all the prisoners

Why did the soldiers come up with that plan?

To keep the prisoners from swimming ashore and escape

How did the army commander respond to the plan?

- He stopped the soldiers from killing all the prisoners
- He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and swim ashore, the rest were to follow holding on to the planks or to some broken pieces of the ship

Why did the army commander respond like that?

He wanted to save Paul

What would have been the consequences if prisoners escaped?

The soldiers would have been executed or punished by death according to the Roman Law for allowing the prisoners to escape

How was Julius kind to Paul?

He saved Paul's life when he discouraged the soldiers' plan of killing all prisoners during the shipwreck.

Why did the soldiers want to kill prisoners?

They feared to be punished by death if the prisoners escaped.

Mention the themes illustrated

- The Author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

**PAUL AT THE ISLAND OF MALTA
(ACTS 28: 1 - 10)**

How were Paul and his companions received on the island of Malta?

- The natives were very friendly
- They lit a fire for them
- They made them all welcome
- They gave them many gifts

Explain what happened for Paul to be referred to as a murderer

- Paul gathered up a bundle of sticks and was putting them on fire
- A snake came out on account of the heat
- It fastened itself to his hand
- When the natives saw the snake hanging on Paul's hand, they said: This man is a murderer but fate will not let him live even though he escaped from the sea.

Describe what happened for Paul to be referred to as a god

- Paul shook the snake that was hanging on his hand off into the fire without being harmed at all
- The people were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead
- But after waiting for a long time and not seeing anything unusual happening to him, they changed their minds and said, "He is a god".

Briefly explain why the natives of Malta referred to Paul as a god

- They saw a snake hanging on Paul's hand and expected him to die
- But when they saw nothing unusual happening to him they called him a god

How did the people react when they saw a snake hanging on his hand?

They said, "This man must be a murderer, but fate will not let him live even though he escaped from the sea"

What did Paul do thereafter?

He shook the snake off into the fire without being harmed at all

What was the people's expectation?

- They were waiting for him to swell up
- They were waiting for him to suddenly fall down dead

Who was the chief official of the Island?

Publius

How did the Chief Official of the Island treat Paul and his friends?

He welcomed them kindly

Describe the miracle Paul performed on the island of Malta

- Publius' father was in bed, sick with fever and dysentery
- Paul went into the room
- He prayed, placed his hands on him and healed him

What miracle did Paul perform at the island of Malta?

He healed Publius' father

What was Publius' father suffering from?

- Fever
- Dysentery

Who was healed by Paul at Malta?

Publius' father

How did Paul heal the person?

- He went into his room
- He prayed
- He placed his hands on him
- And healed him

What happened soon after this miracle?

- All other sick people on the island came and were healed
- Paul and his friends were given many gifts

Account what happened in the house of Publius' father?

- Publius' father was in bed, sick with fever and dysentery.
- Paul went into his room, prayed, placed his hands on him, and healed him

How were Paul and his companions treated in the house of Publius' father?

They were welcomed kindly

What gesture of kindness was Paul's group accorded by the people of Malta?

- They gave them many gifts

- They put on board what they needed for the voyage

Identify themes illustrated by what happened at the island of Malta

- Jesus uses the Church as an instrument of salvation
- Prayer is vital for the life of the Church
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible
- The author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans

PAUL IN ROME (ACTS 28: 16 - 31)

Describe the freedom accorded to Paul while in Rome

- He was allowed to live by himself with a soldier guarding him
- People were able to visit him freely.
- A Roman soldier guarded him so that none could harm him.

How did Paul make use of this freedom?

- He called the local Jewish leaders to a meeting after three days
- He preached to the Jews about Christ.
- He wrote letters to various Christian communities like Corinth, Thessalonica

Narrate Paul's speech to the local Jewish leaders

- I was made a prisoner yet I did nothing wrong against our people or customs
- After questioning me, the Romans wanted to release me because of innocence
- The Jews opposed this
- I was forced to appeal to the Emperor
- I am bound in chains for the sake of him, (Jesus) for whom the people of Israel hope

How did Paul spend his time in Rome?

- He preached about the Kingdom of God
- He taught about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and freedom.

- He wrote letters to various Christian communities like Corinth, Thessalonica

How was Paul encouraged in Rome?

- Paul was welcomed warmly by Christians.
- The authorities allowed Paul to be a prisoner in his own house enjoying freedom and rare privilege.

Suggest reasons why Paul enjoyed some freedom in Rome

- Julius might have reported how helpful Paul was during the storm.
- Julius might have reported how helpful Paul was when they had to abandon the ship.

Describe the results of Paul's preaching in Rome
Some Jews believed while others did not.

What was Paul's final word to the unbelieving Jews?

- He quoted from the account of Isaiah vision in the Temple in which God told the prophet that his mission would not be successful.
- He declared that salvation would therefore go to the Gentiles.

Why did Paul quote Isaiah in response to the reaction of the Jews in Rome?

To show that their rejection was foretold by the prophets, that God makes their rejection part of his salvation plan since having been rejected by Jews salvation will go to Gentiles.

Identify the main themes illustrated in the story

- The Author of Acts shows sympathy for the Romans
- The Church shares in Jesus' suffering
- The Church mission is universal; She is sent to Jews and Gentiles; To the Jews first then to the Gentiles
- The power of the Holy Spirit is irresistible

UNIT 7

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Explain how the Old and New Testaments are related**1. The Old testament gets fulfilled in the New Testament**

- The prophecies that were made in the Old testament resulted into getting fulfilled in the New Testament
- For example, the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, the King prophesied by prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 9: 1 – 7) got fulfilled in the New Testament (John 1: 49)

2. Both the Old and New Testaments give similar message or content

- Isaiah 7: 14 and Matthew 1:23 talk about “Immanuel”
- Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:7 talk about Bethlehem as the birth place of the ruler (Messiah)
- Isaiah 6: 9 – 10 and Mark 4: 11 – 12 talk about:
- No matter how much you listen you will not understand
- No matter how much you look, you will not know what is happening

Isaiah 42: 1 – 4 and Matthew 12: 17 talk about how God assisted the servant to carry out his work

THE BELIEFS ABOUT GOD**Explain the biblical beliefs about God****1. God is father**

- He loves his people by the fact that he is the Father
- He cannot give his people anything harmful

2. God is the provider

He gives his people their needs such as food, protection, liberty

3. The incarnation

God is the Spirit that becomes the body

4. The Messiah

Jesus is the Chosen God’s Messiah

5. God is Spirit

God is spirit that becomes the body

6. He is the creator

God makes things out of nothing

7. He is the judge

God judges accordingly and that nobody can escape his judgement

8. God is the saviour

He save his people

9. He is the resurrection

- Jesus rose to life from death

10. He is the ascension

- Jesus ascended from earth to heaven

BIBLICAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES**Describe the beliefs that people have expressed within the Bible****1. Belief in second coming (Parousia)**

Jesus had come and will come again

2. Belief in salvation and judgement

- God will judge his people at some moment to come
- God will save those who obey and trust him

3. Belief in life after death

Just as Jesus rose to life, Christians believe that there is another life in heaven after this one

Define the term “Biblical Practices”

The kind of behaviours that are shown or done during certain religious activities

Describe the biblical practices as people’s expression of their belief in God**1. Baptism**

- Baptism with water also called baptism of John
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Baptism in the name of Jesus

2. Holy communion

- The book of Exodus talks about the Passover and how it was prepared, celebrated and its results
- Mark and Luke talk about the Lord’s supper

3. Marriage

- God instituted marriage in Genesis 2: 18 – 24
- *Marriage is the union between man and woman under God’s instruction*

4. Naming and circumcision

Practices like giving gifts, carrying the baby in the hands may be attached to naming and circumcision

Describe practices that are attached to the process of getting married**1. Bride price**

Jacob had to work (to pay) for Rachel and Leah

2. Abstinence

- Joseph wanted to privately divorce Mary because she was found pregnant before marriage

3. *Celebration*

- Drinking and dances may be attached to marriage

Suggest reasons why people pray

- As thanksgiving to God
- Asking for protection
- To adore or praise God
- Asking for wisdom
- For guidance, asking God to direct them on certain matters
- To worship God which includes giving honour and gifts to the Lord but with truth of hearts

CHRISTIAN APPROACHES TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

What are “Contemporary Issues”?

These are issues that concern the present time, the present situation

Give examples of contemporary issues that need Christian approaches

- Environmental degradation
- The Church and State relationship
- HIV/AIDS
- Drug and substance abuse
- Gender

Define environment

Anything that surrounds something

Define environmental degradation

The destruction of the surroundings

Suggest practices that may lead to environmental degradation

- Trees are being wantonly cut
- Water is polluted by chemicals, rubbish
- Air is polluted by smoke
- Wildlife being poached leading to their extinction
- Vegetation being destroyed by bush fires

Suggest Christian approaches to environmental degradation

- Afforestation
- Avoid pollution of water and air
- Control poaching and overfishing
- Rear own flock and construct fish ponds

- Set fire breaks

Describe the Church and State relationship

The Church affects the behaviour change of people on moral and religious values while the state influences the behaviour of citizens to be economically independent

What does the Bible say on HIV/AIDS?

- Proverbs 11 – 27 has a warning against certain behaviours that lead to the contraction of HIV/AIDS
- Proverbs 6: 20 – 35 has a warning against adultery, a practice that may lead to contraction of HIV/AIDS
- 1 Thessalonians 4: 3 – 8 talks about sexual immorality which can encourage the contraction of the virus
- Matthew 22: 34 – 40 talks about the greatest love, the love of God and the love of neighbour that eliminates sexual immorality

What does the Bible say on drugs and substance abuse?

The Bible disapproves drug and substance abuse

Describe situations that teach negatively on drug and substance abuse

- Lot got drunk and had sexual intercourse with his two daughters
- Isaiah says “Why spend money on what does not satisfy?”
- Ephesians 5: 18 rebukes the habit of getting drunk with or addicted to alcohol
- 1 Corinthians 15: 33 encourages on the maintenance of good character
- Psalms 1: 1- 2 says do not follow the examples of the sinners or follow their advices

How is the concept of gender equality achieved in the Bible?

What a man is doing a woman is also doing in the Bible

Explain how the Bible stories present men and women as playing major roles in making the word of God come true

- Both men and women accompanied Jesus and spread the word of God
- Men and women prayed for the guidance in the choice of Judas’ successor
- Deborah was a judge