

# To the Ends of the Earth

## OVERVIEW

### Preparing the Teacher

After Jesus had finished His redemptive work on earth, He committed to His disciples the responsibility of spreading this good news to the rest of the world. But the Great Commission of **Matthew 28:19–20** was not intended for only the eleven apostles. Believers throughout history have been stirred by Christ's words to take the gospel to their neighbors, to their cities, to their home countries, and to the remotest parts of the world. The book of Acts describes the earliest efforts of Christ's followers to carry out God's plan for world evangelism. It is a history of love, faith, zeal, sacrifice, suffering, and victory. The early church has given us a number of examples to follow in our evangelistic efforts today.

As you prepare to teach this unit, examine your own life to determine your level of obedience to Christ's command in **Acts 1:8** to be a witness. Meditate also on Paul's charge to his son in the faith in **2 Timothy 1:6–12**. Ask for the Lord's help as you encourage your students to be trusting and effective witnesses for Jesus Christ through the power of His Spirit.

### Preparing the Materials

150: Prayer cards of a selected missionary family [O, E]

# Unit 9 To the Ends of the Earth

Theme, Memory Verse, and Principle	Lesson Number	TE Page	Worktext Page(s)	Lesson Title	Scripture or Focus	Connections
<b>Unit 9a Commissioned to Go</b>  Romans 10:9–10  <i>Trusting Christ and confessing to God brings salvation.</i>	141	300	207–9	Christ Will Come Again	Acts 1	
	142	303	210–11	Those Who Were Being Saved	Acts 2	
	143	304	212	We Cannot Stop Speaking	Acts 3:1–4:20	
	144	306	213–14	Faithful Followers: The Willeys	Biography	
	145	308		Unit 9a Activity		
<b>Unit 9b Strengthened by God</b>  Romans 10:11–13  <i>Whoever believes in Christ and calls on His name will surely be saved.</i>	146	310	215–16	Counted Worthy	Acts 4:23–5:42	
	147	312	217–18	“Lord, Do Not Hold This Against Them”	Acts 6–7	
	148	314	219–20	Faithful Follower: Kartar Singh	Biography	
	149	316	221	Prophet Focus: Habakkuk	Habakkuk 1–3	Timeline: Habakkuk
	150	318		Unit 9b Activity	Review	
<b>Unit 9c Proclaiming the Gospel</b>  Romans 10:14–15  <i>God uses people to spread the gospel to other people.</i>	151	320	222–23	Obedience Brings Reaping	Acts 8:5–40	
	152	322	224–25	In Every Nation	Acts 10	
	153	324	226–27	Faithful Follower: James Johnson	Biography	
	154	327	228	If You Were to Tell	Application Story	
	155	329		Unit 9c Activity		
<b>Unit 9d Fulfilling the Mission</b>  Matthew 28:19–20  <i>Christ commands His followers to teach and baptize all nations and promises His presence.</i>	156	330	229–30	Paul’s First Journey: Blazing the Trail for Missions Today	Acts 13–14	Timeline: Paul
	157	333	231	Paul’s Second Journey: Building Believers	Acts 15:36–18:22	
	158	335	232–33	Paul’s Third Journey: Broadcasting the Gospel	Acts 18:23–21:19	
	159	338	234–37, 304	Hero of the Faith: Martin Luther	Biography	Timeline: Martin Luther; Language
	160	341		Unit 9d Activity	Review	

Bible Doctrines	Skills/Applications
<p><b>The Doctrine of the Bible</b></p> <p><i>Proofs for Inspiration</i></p> <p>The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).</p>	<p><b>Foundational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance</li> <li>• Recognize each Christian's responsibility to witness</li> <li>• Understand that salvation comes through trusting Jesus Christ</li> <li>• Realize that Christians will suffer for Christ</li> <li>• Realize that God is faithful and will never let a believer be tempted without providing a way to overcome that temptation</li> <li>• Realize that God looks at a person's heart, not on outward appearances</li> <li>• Know that God loves all people</li> <li>• Realize that salvation is for both Jews and Gentiles</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Doctrine of Salvation</b></p> <p><i>Provision of God</i></p> <p>Christ rose from the dead (resurrection) (1 Cor. 15:3–8).</p>	<p><b>Practical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate information in the Bible</li> <li>• Interpret Scripture</li> <li>• Recall facts and details</li> <li>• Complete an outline</li> <li>• Use a Bible commentary</li> <li>• Develop an appreciation of art</li> <li>• Sequence events</li> <li>• Read a timeline</li> <li>• Read a map</li> <li>• Prepare and distribute a tract</li> <li>• Calculate income and expenditures</li> <li>• Calculate a tenth of an amount</li> </ul>
<p><i>Reception of Man</i></p> <p>A person must repent and trust in Christ (Mark 1:15).</p> <p><i>Elements of Salvation</i></p> <p>God invites people to salvation through the Word (Rom. 10:14–15).</p> <p>Sanctification is the progressive work of God's Spirit that results in a Christian more and more dying to sin and living a Christ-centered life (Rom. 6:6–14; 8:11).</p> <p>God blesses those who are in Christ (Eph. 1:3).</p>	<p><b>Personal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the Bible reading habit</li> <li>• Learn to maintain joy when people reject the gospel message</li> <li>• Learn to rely on the Holy Spirit's power for witnessing</li> <li>• Realize that being like Christ means loving the unlovely</li> <li>• Learn to rely on God's grace to be faithful in trials</li> <li>• Rely on the Word of God to overcome temptations</li> <li>• Trust in God's plan (timing, direction, circumstances, and people involved)</li> <li>• Learn to respond correctly to unjust treatment</li> <li>• Develop a concern for missions</li> <li>• Develop a biblical view of self-esteem</li> <li>• Develop a biblical view of money</li> <li>• Develop a personal budget</li> <li>• Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Doctrine of the Church</b></p> <p><i>Organization of the Local Church</i></p> <p>The membership is made up of professing believers (Acts 2:47).</p> <p><i>Functions of the Local Church</i></p> <p>Officers must preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:2).</p> <p>Members must evangelize the lost (Acts 1:8).</p>	
<p><b>The Doctrine of Angels and Satan</b></p> <p><i>Organization of Angels</i></p> <p>They were used to reveal God's will (Luke 1:13).</p>	

# Commissioned to Go

## Unit 9a

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 141: Christ rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:3–8).
- 141–42: The Bible is accurate (Num. 23:19).
- 142: A person must repent and trust Christ (Mark 1:15).
- 142: The membership of the local church is made up of professing believers (Acts 2:47).
- 142–43: God invites people to salvation through the Word (Rom. 10:14–15).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Romans 10:9–10
- Understand that salvation is a result of trusting Jesus Christ
- Develop the Bible reading habit
- Recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance
- Recognize each Christian's responsibility to witness
- Develop a concern for missions
- Develop a biblical view of self-esteem
- Locate information in the Bible
- Interpret Scripture
- Use a Bible commentary
- Recall facts and details
- Develop an appreciation of art
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

141

## Christ Will Come Again

### Materials

- Charts 1 and 15 (“The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.” and “Masterwork: *The Ascension*”)
- Unit 9 bookmark

### Music

**Introduce a unit hymn.** Songs that correlate with this unit’s theme are “Around the Corner, Around the World,” “It’s a Grand Thing to Be a Christian,” “For God So Loved the World,” “I Love to Tell the Story,” and “Lord, Send Me Anywhere.”

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:9–10

**Principle:** Trusting Christ and confessing to God bring salvation. Locate and read aloud Romans 10:9–10 as the students

read silently. [Note: Romans 10:1–4 can help us understand the significance of 10:9–10.]

- ▶ Read 10:1–4. What were the Jews trying to do? **become righteous through their actions of keeping the law**
- ▶ According to 10:2, Paul says that the Jews were zealous, but their zeal was not a result of what? **knowledge (truth)**
- ▶ How does 10:3 help us to know the wrong belief that the Jews were working according to? **They did not have the knowledge of God about how to become righteous.**
- In light of 10:2–3, why is 10:9–10 significant? **It indicates that Christ has done what is necessary for salvation and that our part is only to trust in Him and confess Him as Lord.**

Choose a volunteer to read the memory verses aloud. Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 9 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Disciples

A disciple is a follower, pupil, or imitator. The word *disciple* is used to refer to the twelve disciples throughout the Gospels. All believers are disciples of the Lord as they read His Word to learn about Him and to abide in His love.

#### Apostles

The word translated *apostle* means “one sent out.” Scripture uses this term for Christ in **Hebrews 3:1**. Jesus Christ chose twelve of His disciples for special training—to see the events of His life, death, and resurrection, and to tell others about Him. He called these twelve disciples “apostles” (**Luke 6:13**). Paul called himself an apostle in many of his writings because he was called by the Lord Himself on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:15**).

#### Author and Date of Acts

Most people believe that Luke wrote the book of Acts. The writing styles of the books of Luke and Acts are similar. Commentators have various opinions about when the book of Acts was written, but most conservatives say that Luke wrote Acts between AD 58 and AD 65, before Paul’s death.

#### Sabbath Day’s Journey

The limit of travel on the Sabbath was two thousand cubits, which is approximately eleven hundred yards, or two-thirds of a mile.

#### The Upper Room

This room was usually the largest room in the house. The walls of the smaller rooms downstairs supported the large open room. It was above the eye-level of passersby. Sometimes the room was used for gatherings, personal study, or prayer. Other times the room was rented out. Some Bible scholars believe that the place the believers were gathered on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1**; see **Acts 1:13**) was the same upper room used for the Last Supper (**Luke 22:11–12**).

### Introduce the Bible Account

**Distinguish between *disciple* and *apostle*.** Explain that, in the Gospels, the twelve men chosen by Jesus to follow Him are referred to as disciples. In the book of Acts, the author distinguishes between *disciples* as believers and the twelve called *apostles*. Later in Acts, believers or disciples of Christ began to be called Christians. Share the background information about disciples and apostles (optional).

### Teach for Understanding

Read **Acts 1** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What did the two angels promise? Christ would return the same way He left.**

## Christ Will Come Again

After His resurrection, Jesus spent forty days teaching His disciples about the kingdom of God. Then one day He gathered His apostles and told them not to leave Jerusalem. Jesus reminded them that John had baptized with water, but within the next few days, believers would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The apostles asked Him, “Lord, will you restore the kingdom to Israel at this present time?”

Jesus answered that it wasn’t for them to know the times or the seasons that the Father controls. He told them that they would receive power after the Holy Spirit came on them, and then they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

When Jesus had finished speaking, His apostles watched as He was lifted up and taken by a cloud into heaven. As the apostles stood gazing up into heaven, two angels dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and told them some exciting and encouraging news. They said that this same Jesus who had gone up into heaven would come back in the same way.

The apostles traveled a Sabbath day’s journey from the Mount of Olives back into the city of Jerusalem. There they gathered in an upper room.

*Present the background information about a Sabbath day’s journey and the upper room.*

The disciples were united in prayer, along with some women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers, so that they totaled about 120 people. Peter stood up among them and quoted the prophecy saying that one was to be chosen to take the place of Judas, the disciple who had betrayed the Lord Jesus.

*Select a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 109:8.*

They chose two men—Matthias and Joseph Justus, who was called Barsabas—to decide between. Then they prayed and cast their lots, and Matthias was chosen to be with the eleven.



- ▶ What was one blessing the disciples received during those forty days? **Christ taught them.**
- ▶ What did Christ teach them about? **the kingdom of God**
- 🕒 What do you think He meant by that? **Answers will vary, but based on the instructions and writings in the epistles in the New Testament, Christ probably taught them what kinds of things they could expect and how to live for God’s glory: know His Word, trust God, tell others about Him, and love and obey Him.**
- 🕒 How do we know that Christ did not tell them specifics about when God would restore the kingdom of Israel? **When they asked Him about that, He said they did not need to know.**

**Get the Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

BIBLE STUDY SKILL

Have a special time set aside each day to read your Bible. If possible, make it the same time every day.

Ask God to teach you from His Word. Remember to thank Him for helping you to understand and apply it.

Be still and pay attention to what you are reading.

Investigate the Scripture by asking yourself questions about it.

Take time to look up words and ideas you do not understand.

**After you have read the Scripture for each day, write the date in the box.**

God ordained preaching as a means to bring people to Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:17–21	God has made Christians ambassadors to tell the world to be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:18–21	If you believe in Christ's resurrection and confess Him as Lord, you will be saved. Romans 10:8–10	Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:11–13	People will not be reached for Christ without Christians spreading the gospel. Romans 10:14–17
Godly Christians will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:10–12	Christians always have hope, even when they suffer. 2 Corinthians 4:8–9	When Christians suffer, they identify with Christ, and His life is seen in them. 2 Corinthians 4:10–11	Suffering should not keep Christians from testifying of the gospel. Acts 20:22–24	Christians should conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel. Philippians 1:27–30
The gospel is the power of God; Christians should never be ashamed of it. Romans 1:14–16	Those that God has called to preach are obligated to preach the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14–16	Christians should proclaim the gospel not to please people, but God. 1 Thessalonians 2:1–4	Christians should give the gospel from a heart of love. 1 Thessalonians 2:5–8	Christians should keep their lives pure and blameless to be effective witnesses. Philippians 2:14–16
Jesus intended that the gospel reach the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Romans 15:8–12	Christians should help others hope in God. Romans 15:13–14	Spreading the gospel is accomplished by God's grace working through Christians. Romans 15:15–19	The gospel should be preached everywhere. Romans 15:20–21	Christians should pray fervently for and fellowship with missionaries. Romans 15:30–32

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 141 207

**Prayer Promises**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The disciples marveled when they saw a fig tree wither at the words of Jesus (Matt. 21:18–20). They were probably even more startled when He told them that they could move mountains with prayer. However, Jesus told them there was a condition that had to be met before their prayers were answered. The prayer had to be in *faith*, with no doubt. Looking at God's promises stated in His Word will help Christians to pray in faith. God gives grace by giving us the Holy Spirit to meet these promises.

**Read each Scripture. Complete the chart by writing the condition or promise.**

	Condition (If you...)	Promise (Then...)
Isaiah 40:31	... wait on God and place your hope and trust in Him,	<b>God will give you strength.</b>
Jeremiah 33:3	... call to God,	God will answer and tell you great and mighty things.
Matthew 6:14	... forgive others,	God will forgive you.
John 14:14	... ask in Jesus' name,	God will answer your prayer.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

208 Lesson 141

Redemption: God's Grand Design

© BJU Press. Reproduction prohibited.

- **Read 2 Peter 1:2–4. Though we have never seen Christ, how is it possible for us to live as victoriously for Christ as those who saw Christ's ascension? We have all the knowledge about God and Christ that we need through His great promises (the Bible).**
- **According to 2 Peter 1:2, what can we have multiplied to us even though we have never seen Christ? His grace and peace**
- **How was another apostle chosen to replace Judas? The apostles cast lots in order to seek God's direction.**
- **Point out that Christ's last words before He ascended into heaven were a promise and a command. What was His promise? What was His command? His apostles would receive the power of the Holy Spirit and His power; they were to be His witnesses to all the earth.**
- **What does it mean to be witnesses for Christ? to tell others the gospel**
- **Encourage the students to be witnesses by recounting a recent opportunity you have had to tell somebody about Christ.**
- **What exciting and encouraging promise did the two angels give? that Christ would return the same way He left**

## Masterwork: *The Ascension*

**Develop an appreciation of art.** Read and discuss the information about the masterwork and artist from the reproducible

pages from the Teacher's Toolkit CD. Display Chart 15 (or reproduction) for reference throughout the unit.

## Worktext page 207

**Develop the Bible reading habit.** Encourage each student to do the Bible reading. Display Chart 1 ("The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.") as a reminder to the students as they do their Bible reading (optional).

## Worktext page 208

**Discuss promises of prayer.** (*Note:* Praying in Jesus' name does not necessarily mean always saying those words. It means that we should not ask anything that would be contrary to Christ's character and purpose.)

## Worktext page 209

**Recall details from the Bible account.**

**Last Words**  
Acts 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles many times before ascending into heaven. On the day of His ascension, Jesus gave His apostles a promise and a command before He returned to heaven.

Write the letter of the correct definition next to each word.

**B** 1. apostles  
**D** 2. resurrection  
**A** 3. ascension  
**C** 4. disciples

A. Christ's going upward into heaven  
B. the term used for the men who had been closest to Christ  
C. the word used for followers of Christ  
D. act of coming to life again

Answer the questions.

5. What was the promise Christ gave His apostles before He ascended? (Acts 1:8)  
**They would receive power from the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit.**

6. What was the command Christ gave the apostles before He ascended? (Acts 1:8)  
**"Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the whole earth."**

After Christ's ascension, the remaining eleven apostles chose another man to join them so that the group would once again have twelve.

Circle the names of the twelve apostles in the Book of Acts.

**Peter**   **Judas**   **Simon**   **Silas**   **Andrew**  
**Bartholomew**   **Barsabas**   **Matthias**   **James**   **Justus**  
**Barnabas**   **John**   **James**   **Philip**   **Thomas**  
**Joseph**   **Matthew**

**Did You Know?** Before the Holy Spirit came, the casting of lots was sometimes used to determine God's will. It is not known exactly what casting lots involved. Some believe that small marked pebbles were tossed during the selection process. We are reminded in Proverbs 16:33 that although lots might be used, God controls all things.

Redemption: God's Grand Design      Lesson 141      209

## LESSON 142 Those Who Were Being Saved

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:9–10

Practice the memory verses. Locate Romans 10:9–10 and select volunteers to read the verses aloud.

Review the memory verse questions from Lesson 141.

- What do these verses assume that a person has already believed about Jesus? **that Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay the penalty for that person's sins**
- Read aloud Romans 4:3–5. How does Romans 10:9–10 relate to Abraham's faith? **Abraham believed God, and on that basis God gave him righteousness (forgiveness of sins).**
- What does Romans 4:3–5 teach about the relationship of faith and works? **Only faith in God can save a person. A person's good works have no part at all in saving a person from the penalty of sin.**

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Day of Pentecost

This was an annual feast. *Pentecost* means "fifty." It was held on the fiftieth day (the day after seven weeks) after the Passover. It was also called the Feast of Firstfruits (*Lev. 23:15–22*).

#### Prophecy Fulfilled

**Joel 2:28–32** prophesies the coming of the Holy Spirit, which was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. In **Psalm 16:8–11**, David prophesied about Christ's resurrection.

### Introduce the Bible Account

Review Christ's last words.

- What instruction and promise did Christ give the apostles before He ascended into heaven? **to wait in Jerusalem until the power of the Holy Spirit came on them**
- What command did Christ give the apostles? **After they received the power of the Holy Spirit, they were to become witnesses for Christ to all the earth.**

### Teach for Understanding

Read Acts 2 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What did the Lord do every day? added saved people to the church**

## Those Who Were Being Saved

Christ's disciples were gathered together on the day of Pentecost. Suddenly the sound of a strong, rushing wind filled the house. What seemed like tongues of fire sat on each disciple, but no one was burned. All the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. They started speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them the ability.

During this time of the Feast of Firstfruits, there were many religious Jews from other nations worshiping in Jerusalem. Many people heard the commotion and came to see what was happening. They were amazed at what they heard. There were at least fifteen different nations represented by people and languages, but everyone present understood what was being said.

Some people ridiculed the disciples, saying that they were drunk. Peter stood up and with a loud voice assured the people that the disciples speaking in different languages were not intoxicated. He pointed out that what was taking place was the fulfillment of a prophecy; then Peter quoted what God had foretold through the prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.... And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (**Joel 2:28, 32**).

Peter told the people about Jesus, whom God had approved and through whom God had worked miracles and given signs. Peter told them that they were responsible for the death of Jesus at the hands of wicked men. But Peter

## Using a Bible Commentary

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Commentaries are written by Bible scholars to help readers understand Scripture. Often commentators give background information about the setting and define words as they explain or make comments on verses.

Use information from the commentary below to answer these questions.

Acts 2

1. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
2. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2 Exposition

1. Pentecost: the Coming of the Spirit, vv. 1-13.

There were three great yearly festivals that brought crowds of pilgrims and worshippers to Jerusalem: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after the Passover (Lev. 23:15-17). It was also known as the feast of the firstfruits because the first-ripe harvest was then brought to the temple. Thus, it was the day when the Lord began His spiritual harvest of souls (John 4:35). "And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all gathered together in one place" (v. 1). [See also v. 2:1.] This assembly included the 120 apostles and leaders, as well as others from Galilee who had come for the festival. On this special occasion the Lord sent His Holy Spirit upon the church (John 16:7). There were two outward signs of His coming: one of sound and one of sight. "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty zephyr, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting" (v. 2). This is a deliberate contrast between words for power and a word that denotes the gentlest breath of air that could be detected (Trench, *Synonyms*, pp. 275-78). A zephyr is a light breath of air that could be detected on the cheek, but it is not strong enough to cause leaves to move. This is a beautiful image of the working of the Spirit of God. He is the infinite Spirit of almighty power, but He works with compassionate kindness, never crushing people into line, but like a dove, gently wooing men to the love of God. The as makes clear that there was no wind, just the sound.

4. According to the verses at the top of the commentary page, what was the sound the people heard? **a rushing mighty wind**

5. What word does the commentator substitute for *wind* when he translates the verse? **zephyr**

6. How is this word defined? **a light breath of air that could be detected on the cheek but not strong enough to cause leaves to move**

7. Does the commentator think the people felt the wind or only heard the noise from it? **They only heard it.**

© BJU Press. Reproduction prohibited.

210 Lesson 142

Redemption: God's Grand Design

added that God had raised Jesus from the dead, and that he and the other apostles were all witnesses of it.

"Therefore," Peter said to the Jews, "let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (**Acts 2:36**).

Those listening to Peter were convicted and asked, "What shall we do?"

Peter urged them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. That day about three thousand of them trusted Christ. All the believers stayed together and continued in the apostles' doctrine. They sold their belongings and gave to others according to their needs.

The believers met together every day, learning and eating together, praising God, and helping others. Every day the Lord added to the church people who were being saved.



- What were the reactions to the Holy Spirit's coming and causing the disciples to speak in different languages? **Some people ridiculed them and accused them of being intoxicated; others marveled and were later saved.**
- What did Peter say that the Jews did to Jesus? What was their reaction? **He said that they crucified and killed Him; they asked what they should do.**
- How many were saved on the Day of Pentecost? **about three thousand**

## Sharing Salvation

Acts 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The day of Pentecost was a time of festival in Jerusalem. Many Jews from the surrounding countries came to the city to celebrate and worship. God chose this special day to send the Holy Spirit to believers.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, believers were able to share the gospel in the native languages of the unsaved visitors. God used Peter to preach and declare that whoever called on the name of the Lord would be saved. Nowadays, just as on the day of Pentecost, God uses Christians as He did Peter to share the truth of the gospel with unbelievers.

Answer the questions.

1. The people heard the sound of a rushing wind when the Holy Spirit came. What was seen above the heads of the believers? (Acts 2:3) **fire**
2. Does the Bible say whether anyone could feel the heat or get burned by the fire? **no**
3. What brought others to the believers? (Acts 2:5-6) **the news of what God was doing**
4. The people were surprised when they came to the believers. What did they hear that surprised them? (Acts 2:6-12) **They heard Galilean believers speaking about the works of God in their own languages.**
5. What prophet did Peter refer to as he preached? (Acts 2:16) **Joel**
6. After the people heard Peter's sermon, what did they do? (Acts 2:37-41) **Three thousand received the Word and were baptized.**



As Galileans, Peter and the other believers would not have known the fifteen or more foreign languages represented by the visitors in Jerusalem. Those who listened expressed their astonishment and recognized this miracle as from God (Acts 2:7-12).

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 142 211

- What did the Lord do every day? **added saved people to the church**
- How did the believers get along with each other? **They stayed together, praising God and helping each other.**
- Read Philippians 2:14. Why do you think God wants people in a church to get along like this? **Answers may include that it shows love for each other and helps others (Matt. 22:37-39).**

## Worktext page 210

Use a Bible commentary.

## Worktext page 211

Recall facts about the Bible account.

LESSON

143

## We Cannot Stop Speaking

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

## Memory Verses: Romans 10:9–10

Practice the memory verses. Locate Romans 10:9–10 and select a student to read the passage aloud.

- ➊ Read Romans 4:19–25. How does Romans 10:9–10 relate to Abraham's faith? How do these truths relate to us?  
**Abraham believed that God would do what was humanly impossible; he was completely sure that God would fulfill His promise. We are also considered righteous by God if we trust in Him—that He resurrected Jesus, the one who died for our sins so that we could be justified.**
- ➋ How would you sum up the relationship that good works and faith have in obtaining salvation? **Faith is the only basis on which God justifies a person. Our work or our efforts have no part in our receiving salvation.**

Ask students to restate Romans 10:9–10 in their own words.

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Solomon's Porch

Solomon's Porch was a portico (with columns) running the length of the east side of the outer court along the eastern wall of the temple (**John 10:23; Acts 3:11; 5:12**).

#### The Sadducees

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of any person. They also denied the existence of angels or spirits. The Sadducees were primarily of the wealthy class and sought approval of the Roman government.

### Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss sharing good news.

- ➊ Have you ever had exciting news to share with others—like the birth of a baby in your family, a new pet, or winning an award?
- ➋ Do you generally keep exciting news a secret? **no**
- ➌ Do you tell only one person? What do people usually do when they have good news? **No. They usually tell lots of people.**

Remind the students that salvation through Christ is the most important good news that a person can ever have. Christians should tell the good news of the gospel just as they tell about other exciting news.

### Teach for Understanding

Read Acts 3:1–4:20 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What was the last thing the religious leaders told Peter and John? not to speak or teach in Jesus' name**

## We Cannot Stop Speaking

Every day a lame man was taken to the temple gate called Beautiful to beg for money. At three in the afternoon, the hour of prayer, Peter and John went to the temple. When they came near the lame man, he asked them for some money.

Peter told the man that they didn't have any silver or gold. But he said they would help him with what they did have. Then Peter said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Peter reached out and took the man by his right hand and lifted him up. The lame man's feet and ankles became strong again, and he could walk! Everyone was amazed to see that the man who had been lame was walking around. But not just that: he was leaping and praising God!

The lame man went with Peter and John to Solomon's Porch, where people were amazed at the healing of this lame man.

Peter asked the crowd, "Why are you so shocked at this and looking at us with such curiosity, as though it was our own power or holiness that made this man able to walk?" Peter pointed out that the God of their fathers had glorified His Son Jesus. The lame man was healed by faith in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter reminded the people that they had told Pilate not to release Jesus, asking for Barabbas to be set free instead. Peter recognized that though these people and Israel's leaders did these things ignorantly, it was by Christ's suffering that God fulfilled His Word.

"Repent, therefore, and be converted," Peter said, "so that your sins may be blotted out."

Peter reminded the Israelites that God had made a covenant with His people that pronounced blessing on Abraham's descendants. God sent Jesus to bless His people and to turn them away from their sin. Many people who heard trusted in Jesus. (There were now about five thousand Christians in Jerusalem, just counting the men.)

The priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees arrested Peter and John and put them in jail for preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The next day, the religious leaders put Peter and John on trial, demanding to know by what power they had healed the lame man.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, told them that the one they had crucified, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, was the one who healed the lame man. Peter proclaimed that it is impossible for salvation to come through anybody else because there is no other name under heaven through which people can be saved.

The religious leaders realized that even though Peter and John were not well educated, they were fearless and had been with Jesus. The leaders asked each other what they could do with the apostles because it was obvious to everybody in Jerusalem that Peter and John had performed a remarkable miracle. The leaders decided to command Peter and John to not speak or teach in Jesus' name.

But Peter and John did not agree to these conditions. They answered the leaders, "You can decide for yourselves whether you think it's right in God's sight for us to obey you rather than God, but we must speak about the things which we have seen and heard." Then the leaders warned Peter and John again and let them go since there was no reason to punish them.



- ▶ How did Peter help the lame man who asked for money? **Peter healed him.**
- ❖ How can Christians make opportunities to witness? **Answers may include praying for and looking for opportunities to speak about Christ to others.**
- ▶ How did one opportunity to witness lead to another? **A crowd gathered and listened, and the religious leaders heard the gospel when they arrested Peter and John.**
- ▶ How did Peter and John respond to the religious leaders' command to not teach or speak in Jesus' name? **Peter and John chose to obey God rather than men and said they would keep telling others about Christ.**
- ❖ Do you think God was pleased with the apostles' decision to keep speaking? Why? **yes, because Jesus had told them to tell the whole world (Matt. 28:19–20; Acts 1:8)**
- ❖ How could a Christian's friends know that he has been with Jesus? **Answers may include that a Christian should spend time in God's Word and in prayer every day; the effects of this should be obvious in the believer's Christlike words and actions (2 Cor. 3:18).**

Point out that God gives Christians a motivation to witness for Him. They should constantly remind themselves that God's amazing love for them was demonstrated when Christ died in their place. Knowing *that* truth and having been changed by the miracle of salvation should motivate Christians to tell others about the great God of salvation. Christians are ambassadors for Christ. Their responsibility is to witness to others about Christ. Select a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, 20.

## Worktext page 212

Recall facts about the Bible account and interpret Scripture.

LESSON

144

## Where Next, Lord?

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:9–10

**Practice the memory verses.** Ask volunteers to recite the verses. Ask students (who did not participate in this in Lesson 143) to restate Romans 10:9–10 in their own words.

## Faithful Followers: The Willeys

### Introduce the Biography

**Discuss the Willeys' background.** Explain that Thomas and Mabel Willey were missionaries who served God faithfully in Panama during the 1950s. However, when the government forced them to leave Panama, the Willeys began looking for another place of ministry.

### Ambassadors for Christ

Acts 3:1–4:30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Jews set aside three times each day to pray in the temple (9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 3:00 p.m.). Peter and John were going to the temple to pray one afternoon when they met a lame beggar. The followers of Christ took every opportunity to point others to their Savior.

Answer the questions.

- What did Peter and John do for the man begging for money? (Acts 3:6) ***They healed him in the name of Jesus Christ.***
- After accusing the crowd of rejecting Christ and killing Him, what did Peter tell them they needed to do? (Acts 3:14–15, 19) ***repent and be converted***
- Even though the religious leaders could not say anything against the healing of the lame man, they did not want anyone to preach about Jesus. How did Peter and John respond to this restriction? (Acts 4:16–20) ***They said they could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard.***

An ambassador is someone who is chosen to represent a person, organization, or nation. The United States has ambassadors to most other nations of the world. These ambassadors are appointed to represent the president and the country to the nations in which they serve. Many other nations have ambassadors which represent their governments in America. While ambassadors are in other countries, they display the flag of their country at the embassy building in which they work. The biblical use of *ambassador* includes the idea of a messenger delivering a message. Peter and John were ambassadors for Christ. They represented Christ with the message of salvation as they witnessed to those around them.

Write the letter for the matching reference next to the correct description of an ambassador for Christ.

- |                |                        |  |   |
|----------------|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>E</b> _____ | 4. Acts 1:8            |  | A. is blameless and pure; shining as a light in the world |
| <b>D</b> _____ | 5. Acts 20:24          |  | B. is not ashamed; is bold and courageous                 |
| <b>B</b> _____ | 6. Philippians 1:20    |  | C. shows love for the lost by sharing the gospel          |
| <b>F</b> _____ | 7. Philippians 1:27    |  | D. is selfless; thinks of Christ, not self                |
| <b>A</b> _____ | 8. Philippians 2:15    |  | E. has power from the Holy Spirit                         |
| <b>C</b> _____ | 9. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 |  | F. stands together with other believers                   |

212 Lesson 143

Redemption: God's Grand Design

© BJU Press. Reproduction prohibited.

### Teach for Understanding

Read the following account based on the ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Willey. Listening question: How did the Lord use the Willeys? **The Lord used them to lead many people to Christ and establish and build strong churches to continue making disciples.**

## Where Next, Lord?

"Lord, where do You want us to go next? Argentina? Brazil? Chile?" Thomas and Mabel Willey prayed faithfully for the Lord to show them where to go. The Lord kept impressing their hearts with the island country of Cuba. Although the Willeys did not know why the Lord wanted them to go to Cuba, they obeyed God and went.

They arrived in Pinar del Río, a city of almost two hundred thousand. As soon as they were settled, Mr. Willey preached the gospel to people who were interested and established a church.

One day after church, a young man approached Mr. Willey. "Señor Willey, do you see those mountains over there?" he asked, pointing to the mountains in the distance.

"I look at them every day," Mr. Willey said. "I grew up in the mountains; I love to see them."

The young man continued, "In those mountains are thousands of people who have never once heard about Jesus Christ. They farm in the valleys and come into town about once a year."

"Doesn't anyone ever go to visit them?"

The young man shook his head. "Never! Missionaries come from the United States, but they always stay in the city where there are doctors and medicines. No one cares about the mountain people of Cuba."

Mr. Willey put his hand on the young man's shoulder and said, "God cares, and I'm willing to go tell them about Christ. But how can I get there?"

"Only on foot or on horseback," the man answered.

Mr. Willey was getting too old to make such a long journey on foot, so he bought a horse. Because there was no electricity in the mountains, he made plans to go to the mountain people during the next full moon.

Mr. Willey set out on his journey and rode all night through the mountains until his horse suddenly stopped.

"What's the matter, boy?" Mr. Willey asked, patting his horse. "It's not time to stop yet; it's barely daybreak. I know it's hard to see through this fog, but it won't hurt us." He squeezed the horse's sides with his heels.

Just as the horse started to move, the fog parted, and Mr. Willey could see down into a valley on his left. Several small huts were scattered in the valley, and Mr. Willey heard voices coming from them.

"Thank You, Lord, for stopping the horse," he whispered. "Otherwise I would have missed these people."

The missionary rode down into the village, but by the time he got there, he couldn't see or hear anyone. He got off his horse, thinking to himself, "They're scared, I guess, and hiding somewhere." Then he noticed a movement behind one of the huts.

"There you are," he called out in Spanish. "Come on out—I saw you behind that building."

An old man stepped out from the hut and walked toward him slowly. In a shaky voice, the man said, "Forgive us—we were frightened. We do not know who you are, where you come from, or why you have come."

"I came from Pinar del Río to tell you some good news. Have you ever heard about Christ?"

As Mr. Willey read the Bible and witnessed to the old man, other people appeared through the fog and gathered around them. Mr. Willey began preaching the good news of salvation to the crowd. He preached all day as the people sat still and listened in amazement.

When Mr. Willey finished preaching, the old man trusted Jesus as his Savior. Not long after, his wife also trusted Christ.

It was getting late. As Mr. Willey got ready to leave, the elderly couple begged him to come back. "Come back next full moon. We will tell many other people so they also can come hear you."

Mr. Willey returned to preach to the mountain people many times; each time he went back, more people trusted Christ as their Savior.

During one of Mr. Willey's visits, one of the villagers approached him. "Señor Willey, we want to build a building to worship God in."

They built a church in the village and many more churches in the surrounding areas. The Willeys continued in faithful service for the Lord until Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. They were then forced to leave and were not permitted to take anything with them; they had to leave behind all their personal possessions. They also left behind 150 growing, well-established churches in the mountains.

Although the Willeys did not know why the Lord wanted them to go to Cuba when they left Panama, they were able to look back and see how God had used them to establish many of the mountain people in the Lord.

As a result of following God's leading, the Willeys were able to lead many people to Christ and establish and build strong churches to continue making disciples.



- Why did the Willeys go to Cuba? They had to leave Panama because the government forced them to leave, and God impressed them to go to Cuba.
- How did Mr. Willey begin ministering to the mountain people? A young believer told Mr. Willey about the many unreached people in the mountains. Mr. Willey bought a horse and rode into the mountains. The horse stopped near some villagers. Mr. Willey witnessed to the people, and several trusted in Christ. He returned, and many were saved.
- ➊ How did the Lord use the Willeys? The Lord used them to lead many people to Christ and establish and build strong churches to continue making disciples.
- ➋ When God commanded Christians to tell others about salvation through Christ, were some people outside of His plan because of where they lived, how they lived, what language they spoke, or what they looked like? Explain. No. God does not show partiality. He loves all mankind and sent Jesus to die to pay for the sins of all the world and desires for every person to hear the gospel and trust Him as Savior (Acts 10:34; Matt. 28:19; 1 Tim. 2:3–4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- ➌ If you had to immediately leave your home and not return, what things would you miss the most?

Remind the students that they need to be careful of becoming attached to material things—even good things. Point out that peoples' need for reconciliation with God was the only reason Jesus died.

## What Does God Say About My Self-Esteem?

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### Do you love yourself?

According to the Bible, you do. You will do whatever you think is best to take care of yourself and satisfy your desires. The world calls this love you have for yourself **self-esteem**. In fact, you love yourself so much that Jesus sets up your self-love as a standard for loving others. He tells you that in order for you to fulfill His second great commandment, you should love your neighbor as much as you already love yourself (Matt. 22:39).

**Read Ephesians 5:29 and summarize it in your own words.** *Answers will vary.  
Nobody hates himself, but, just as Christ takes care of the church, we all carefully feed and take care of ourselves.*

### Face reality!

God created you with a special purpose in mind. He loved you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for your sins. Your value as a person does not come from you, your talents, or your personality. It comes from the fact that you are made in the image of God, and He loves you. Everything you have is a gift from God for which you can take no credit. Do not deceive yourself about who you really are.

God created you for Himself. He loves you. Love and serve Him.

**Read the passages and write a description about yourself from each verse.**

Who am I before I trust in Christ?	Who am I after I trust in Christ?
1. Jeremiah 17:9 <b>deceitful and wicked</b>	2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 <b>new creation</b>
3. Ephesians 2:1 <b>dead in trespasses</b>	4. Colossians 2:13 <b>made alive</b>
5. Luke 15:24 <b>dead; lost</b>	6. Luke 15:24 <b>alive, found</b>
7. Isaiah 64:6 <b>unclean, filthy rags</b>	8. Isaiah 64:8 <b>child of God, work of God's hand</b>
9. Romans 5:10 <b>enemy of God</b>	10. 1 John 3:10 <b>child of God</b>

© B&H Publishing Group. Reproduction prohibited.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 144 213

## Something to Think About

My Self-Esteem

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### How do you view yourself?

Humanistic Worldview	Biblical Worldview
Focus on feeling good about yourself.	Die to yourself and follow Christ.
Make pleasing yourself your first priority.	Make pleasing Christ your priority.
Look for ways to do things for <i>you</i> .	Look for ways to serve others.
You are a basically good, self-sufficient person.	You are a sinner in need of God's saving grace.
Happiness comes from getting what you want.	Happiness comes from obedience to God.

**Study the differences in the chart above between what the world says and what God's Word says about how you should view yourself. Read the following verses and answer the questions:**

- Philippians 2:3—What should be my attitude in the way I treat others? *Answers will vary.  
I should be humble and treat others as more significant than myself.*
- Galatians 6:3—When are you deceiving yourself?  
*when I think more highly of myself than I should*
- Luke 12:19—According to the world, what brings you happiness?  
*getting what I want*
- Romans 3:23—The world says that people are basically good. How does the truth of God's Word show that that philosophy is wrong? *The Bible declares that people are sinners.*

### What About Me?



#### The World vs. The Word

When you have confidence in yourself, the world says you have good self-esteem. It contradicts the view of yourself that the Word of God teaches. Your value as a person comes from God, not you. Do not focus on yourself or on trying to make yourself happy. Instead, focus on loving God and becoming more like Christ.

**Take time at home to think about the following questions.**

**Be honest in your evaluation of yourself.**

Does my attitude toward others demonstrate a proud, selfish heart?

Do I look for ways to get what I want, or do I focus on loving God?

Do I think more highly of myself than I should?

Do I realize that all I have comes from God and do I give Him the credit for it?

Do I pray for God to change my proud heart?

Do I seek His will over my own ambitions?

© B&H Publishing Group. Reproduction prohibited.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

## LESSON 145

## Unit 9a Activity

### Materials

- Chart 25 ("God's Word: General Letters")
- Bible book cards for the Gospels, History, Paul's Letters, and General Letters

### Background Information

#### Hebrews (Christianity Exalted Above Judaism)

The book of Hebrews reveals why Christianity is superior to Judaism. Christianity possesses a better hope, a better promise, a better sacrifice, and a better resurrection. All of that is based on the fact that Christ Himself is the fulfilment of the Old Testament sacrificial system of Judaism.

#### James (Active Faith)

The book of James is a letter from James, the brother of Jesus. It teaches that believers should make their faith in Christ evident in all areas of life.

#### 1 Peter (Suffering and Glory)

Peter wanted Christians to know that they will suffer persecution before they are glorified with Christ, who suffered more than anyone else.

#### 2 Peter (Knowing and Growing)

Peter wrote a second letter to remind believers that the result of knowing God and His Word should be spiritual growth.

### **1 John** (Fellowship)

When a believer has sin in his life, he loses fellowship with God because God is perfect and cannot fellowship with sin. John encourages believers to keep sin out of their lives and to stay in fellowship with God.

### **2 John** (Truth and Love)

Truth and love need to be kept in balance. John wrote to remind believers that truth without love is lifeless and that love without truth will excuse sin.

### **3 John** (Helpers in Truth)

All believers can spread the truth of the Word of God by showing hospitality (friendly treatment of guests). John encourages hospitality by giving examples of those who demonstrated it.

### **Jude** (Contending for the Faith)

Jude was concerned about false teachers who had invaded the church. He tells believers to contend, or stand, for the truth and not to listen to false teachers.

**Review the General Letters.** Select students to read each book name and theme from Worktext page 281 (“God’s Word—General Letters”). Share the background information for Hebrews; James; 1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2, and 3 John; and Jude (optional).

**Practice the order of the New Testament books.** Explain that knowing the book that comes before and the book that comes after each book in the Bible is helpful when looking up Bible verses. Display the Bible book cards for the New Testament. Divide the students into teams and ask questions such as the following:

- ▶ Which book comes before?
- ▶ Which book comes after?
- ▶ Which division is this book in?

Award points for correct answers. Display Chart 25 (“God’s Word—General Letters”) for reference and review.

# Strengthened by God

## Unit 9b

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- **147:** Sanctification is the progressive work of God's Spirit which results in Christians more and more dying to sin and living a Christ-centered life (Rom. 6:6–14; 8:11).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Romans 10:11–13
- Realize that God is faithful and will never let a believer be tempted without providing a way to overcome the temptation
- Use the Word of God to overcome personal temptations
- Trust in God's timing and God's plan
- Realize that God looks at people's hearts, not on outward appearances
- Know that God loves all people
- Realize that Christians will suffer for Christ
- Learn to rely on God's grace and strength to be faithful in times of trial
- Learn to respond correctly to unjust treatment
- Sequence events
- Recall facts and details
- Read a timeline
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

146

## Counted Worthy

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:11–13

**Principle:** Whoever believes in Christ and calls on His name will surely be saved. Read aloud Romans 10:9–11. Explain that “the scripture” (10:11) refers to the Old Testament. Read aloud Isaiah 28:16. Read aloud Romans 10:11–13.

❸ Why do you think that Christians, especially in Bible times, needed to be assured that God would save Jews and Gentiles? There was a great deal of disdain and distrust between the Jews and the Gentiles, and Christ had come initially to His own people—the Jews.

❹ Who is included in the word *everyone*? everybody of every nation

### Is anybody excluded? no

Direct each student to read Romans 10:11–13 several times. Direct him to mark the location with his Unit 9 bookmark and to highlight the verses in his Bible (optional).

### Bible Account

#### Preview Background Information

##### Religious Leaders

Annas was the high priest from AD 6 to AD 15 (Luke 3:2; John 18:13–24). Caiaphas, the son-in-law of Annas, served as high priest from about AD 15 to AD 38.

##### Obeying Authorities

Remember that Christians are responsible to obey those in authority unless their commands contradict God's Word (Acts 4:19).

##### Gamaliel

This Jewish rabbinical teacher was well-acquainted with Paul. Acts 22:3 points out that Paul had studied under Gamaliel.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss suffering.** Read aloud **Philippians 3:7–8, 10**. Point out that every Christian who truly desires to know Christ will suffer in this world. Remind the students that God's grace is sufficient in every trial (**2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9**). Tell the students that in this account they will hear how God's grace has always been sufficient for His people.

## Teach for Understanding

Read **Acts 4:23–5:42** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **How did the apostles respond to imprisonment, punishment, and the command to not speak of Christ? They continued to speak about Christ; they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ's name; they obeyed God.**

### Counted Worthy

Peter and John thanked the Lord for showing His power and asked for boldness to speak in spite of the religious leaders' threats. After they prayed, the building they were in shook, and the believers were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

The apostles powerfully witnessed about Christ's resurrection, and God gave them all the grace they needed. The believers shared everything they owned. No one lacked anything because those who had houses and property sold them and gave the money to the apostles. The money was divided to give to any person in need. Barnabas was one of those who sold land and gave the money to the apostles.

Ananias and his wife Sapphira also sold some land. When Ananias gave some of the money to the apostles, he lied, saying that they were donating all the money from the sale. Peter confronted Ananias, "You have not lied to people but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down dead. Later, when Sapphira was questioned, she also lied and fell down dead. Everyone who heard what had happened was filled with fear.

The apostles continued to preach about Jesus and to perform miracles in His name. Crowds of men and women were saved. People came from other cities, bringing those who were sick, and everyone who came was healed.

This healing activity and preaching about Christ made the high priest and the other religious leaders angry. They arrested the apostles again and put them in prison. But the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors that night and released them.

The angel said, "Go, stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this new life." So they went and did what the angel told them.

In the morning when the religious leaders gathered together to put the prisoners on trial, there was no one in prison! The officers reported that even though the prison was securely shut and guards were at the doors, when they opened the prison, the prisoners were not there.

Then someone told the religious leaders that the men they had arrested were preaching in the temple. So some

officers went and arrested the apostles again! The apostles were rebuked for teaching in Christ's name and for filling Jerusalem with their doctrine.

Peter and the other apostles answered, "We have to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead. The one you crucified has now been exalted by God. He is God's Prince and the Savior who will bring Israel to repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things for Him, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

The religious leaders were furious and talked about killing the apostles. But a well-known and respected Pharisee named Gamaliel spoke to the council. He reminded them of a previous leader named Theudas. He had four hundred followers at one time, but they scattered and his teaching was pretty much forgotten after he was killed.

"Don't have anything to do with these men," Gamaliel said. "If their teaching is merely human, it won't amount to anything. But if it is from God, you won't be able to stop it."

The religious leaders agreed. So they only beat the apostles, commanded them to not speak in Jesus' name, and then let them go. The apostles left, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ's name. Every day in the temple and in private homes, they continued to preach and teach Jesus Christ.



- ▶ Why were Peter and John persecuted? **because they were preaching, teaching, and healing in Jesus' name**
- ▶ When did the apostles speak with power? **After Peter and John were released from prison, they asked God for boldness, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ How many times were the apostles imprisoned, and how were they released (including Lesson 143)? **Three times; Peter and John were released by religious leaders; the apostles were released by the angel of the Lord; later they were re-arrested and then released by the religious leaders.**
- ▶ How did the apostles respond to imprisonment, punishment, and the command to not speak about Christ? **They continued to speak about Christ; they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ's name; they obeyed God.**
- ⌚ Did the apostles let their rough treatment interrupt their fellowship with God? **No. They continued to serve the Lord with joy and vigor.**
- ▶ How did persecution affect the results of the apostles' preaching? **The number of people who trusted Christ increased.**
- ⌚ How should Christians react when they are treated unjustly? **Answers may vary, but emphasize that Christians should always be obedient to God. Christ instructs Christians to love and pray for their offenders (Matt. 5:44).**

**Strength to Suffer**  
Acts 4:23–5:42

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Jewish leaders did not approve of the apostles' preaching. They were concerned about the growing number of people following the apostles. Each time an arrest was made, the apostles spoke boldly about Jesus as the Savior. Their preaching to the Jewish council at their trials brought conviction to the hearts of the leaders. This conviction angered the leaders and caused them to want to put the apostles to death. God repeatedly protected and strengthened the apostles and the newly formed church as they continued to explain the gospel to others.



Number each set of events in order. The first one in each set has been done for you.

- 2 A. The apostles continued to heal the sick and preach about Christ against the wishes of the Jewish leaders.
- 4 B. The angel of the Lord released them from prison.
- 1 C. Ananias and Sapphira died because they lied about the amount they gave to the church.
- 3 D. Some disciples were arrested and placed in prison.
- 4 E. After considering the words of Gamaliel, the council had the apostles beaten, then released.
- 1 F. The council sent officers to bring the apostles from the temple to their trial.
- 2 G. Peter and the apostles told the council about Christ, and the council wanted to kill them.
- 3 H. Gamaliel told the council that if the preaching of the apostles was of God, there was nothing they could do to stop it.

**Think About It**

Compare Peter in Matthew 26:33, 57–75 to Peter in Acts 3:4–8 and 4:1–13. What made the difference?

**In Matthew 26, Peter trusted in himself and failed. In Acts 3–4, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Ask God to provide the strength you need to be bold and obey.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 146 215

**Persecution Then and Now**  
Acts 4:23–5:42

Peter and other early Christians were often persecuted for preaching the gospel and telling others about Christ. They faced their trials on earth by looking to their future home in heaven. Their attitudes toward things and circumstances on earth changed as they grew closer to God. Today's Christians may not have the same trials and difficulties as those the early Christians experienced, but they still fight the temptation to choose their own comfort rather than helping others to know the gospel.



Read the following verses and write what you learn about the person(s) mentioned.

1. the religious leaders (Acts 5:17–18, 33, 40)  
***They were brutal people who beat the apostles and wanted to kill them for teaching about Christ.***
2. the apostles (Acts 4:29, 33; 5:3–4, 29, 41–42)  
***The power of God was with them; they were concerned about people hearing the gospel, doing right, and obeying God.***
3. God (Acts 4:31; 5:19–20)  
***He is powerful; He blessed the apostles' preaching and helped them.***

Persecution is the expression of opposition. It can come in different forms and from different sources. Sometimes it results in death, bodily harm, changed lives and schedules, and fear. Other times it can be such things as nonthreatening but annoying comments or pranks. The source can be unbelievers who hate the message of the gospel or people who are "religious" but do not understand the gospel message (Acts 5:30–31). No matter the source or extent, Christians must trust the Holy Spirit to help them be strong in God's grace to be faithful servants (2 Cor. 9:8; 2 Tim. 2:1).

Read Psalm 46. Think about verses 1, 7, and 10–11, and then think about a time when you faced opposition as a result of your Christian testimony. In the space below, write how these Bible truths and this one command can help you next time you face opposition to the gospel.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 146 216

## Worktext page 215

Sequence events, and understand the difference in Peter.

## Worktext page 216

Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

# LESSON 147 “Lord, Do Not Hold This Against Them”

## Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

## Memory Verses: Romans 10:11–13

Practice the memory verses. Locate and read aloud Romans 10:11–13.

- **Read 1 John 2:25, 28; 4:14–17. When those who have trusted Christ as Savior die and appear before Him, will they be disappointed or ashamed that their faith in Christ was not sufficient? No. Salvation in Christ through trusting in Him and calling on His name is a sure thing. Everybody who has that relationship with Him is saved for sure.**

Encourage the students to believe God's Word.

- **What does Romans 10:12 say about Jews and Gentiles? Concerning salvation, they are both alike before God.**

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Blasphemers

God commanded that blasphemers be put to death. The first instance of God punishing those who cursed and blasphemed is recorded in Leviticus 24:10–16.

#### A Prophet Like Moses

Deuteronomy 18:15–18 records both God's words and Moses' words about Christ coming as a prophet. Peter, as well as Stephen, associates this prophecy with Christ as the Prophet (Acts 3:22–23).

#### Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss ministries in the church.** Explain that ministries of the local church that help people with physical and financial needs are important, but they should never replace or take away from the teaching of the Word of God. Point out that this was the concern for the growing church among the Jewish believers and the Greek-speaking Christians, who thought no one was helping their widows. The apostles talked to the disciples and told them that the Word of God and prayer could not be neglected in order to serve in other ways. Explain that the following Bible account tells what the apostles decided to do and how it affected others.

## Teach for Understanding

Read Acts 6–7 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What did Stephen request of God concerning his persecutors? "Do not hold this sin against them."**

### "Lord, Do Not Hold This Against Them"

As the number of disciples continued to increase, the apostles could not take care of everyone's spiritual and physical needs. The apostles called together the assembly of disciples and told them to choose seven men to help serve the people while the apostles continued to pray and preach the gospel. They were to choose honest men who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

The disciples were glad to do this and chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas. They brought these men to the apostles, who prayed for them and laid their hands on them. God's Word spread more and more, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased. Even a large number of priests believed and became disciples of Christ.

Stephen, one of the chosen men, was full of faith, power, and the Holy Spirit, and he did great miracles among the people. Certain religious leaders debated with Stephen, but they could not oppose the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

The religious leaders decided to find false witnesses who would speak against Stephen. These witnesses lied, saying that they had heard Stephen blaspheme, or curse, Moses and God. They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they all caught Stephen and took him to the council.

In the presence of the council, the liars accused Stephen, saying, "This man has spoken blasphemous words against this holy place and the law. We even heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth would destroy the temple and change the customs that Moses gave to us."

When the council looked at Stephen, his face appeared like the face of an angel. The high priest asked him, "Is what these men are saying true?"

Stephen answered by preaching to the council. He reminded them of how God told Abraham to leave his country to go to the place God would show him. God promised to give Abraham and his descendants the land even though at that time Abraham didn't even have a child.

God said that Abraham's descendants would wander as pilgrims in a strange land and that they would suffer for four hundred years. Yet God promised that He would judge the nation that held His people in bondage, and God would bring His people back to the land that He had promised to them.

Stephen reminded the council that God was with Joseph and delivered him and promoted him to the office of governor of Egypt. God restored Joseph to his father by bringing a famine on the land. Centuries later, when a new king who did not know about Joseph came to power in Egypt, that king treated the Israelites cruelly and commanded that their newborn male infants be killed.

Moses, adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, tried to defend his people. The Israelites didn't respect his leadership, and fearing for his life, Moses ran away to the wilderness. Forty years later, the Lord sent Moses back to Egypt to deliver the Israelites.

Stephen repeated what Moses had said: that God would raise up a prophet from the Israelites who would be like Moses, and that the people would listen to him. But not all the Israelites submitted to God. Some Israelites began to worship false gods while Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments.

Stephen accused the council of also rejecting God. "You are stiffnecked and act as though you don't know God. You resist the Holy Spirit just as your ancestors did," Stephen continued. Then he accused them of betraying and murdering their Messiah, who was sent by God.

Stephen's audience was filled with fury! But Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit, and when he looked up, he could see into heaven. He saw God's glory and Jesus standing on God's right hand. Stephen told the council what he saw, and they shouted and closed their ears. They grabbed Stephen and took him outside the city. After laying down their outer garments at the feet of a man named Saul, they stoned Stephen.

Stephen called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He knelt down, and right before he died, he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against these men."



- ▶ Why was Stephen brought before the council? **Stephen was preaching and doing miracles.**
- ▶ How did God strengthen Stephen? **God filled him with the Holy Spirit and encouraged him by allowing him to see a glimpse of heaven. God gave him the grace to forgive those who persecuted him.**
- ▶ What did Stephen request of God concerning his persecutors? **"Do not hold this sin against them."**
- 🕒 Does it seem that Stephen's unjust death sentence because of some liars interrupted his fellowship with God or his view of God? **No. He continued to trust in God's grace.**
- 🕒 How could Stephen maintain such an attitude toward God even as they were stoning him? **God's grace is sufficient to help us be faithful to God in all circumstances (2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9–10).**
- 🕒 How does God strengthen Christians when they face hard circumstances? **Possible answers include that He gives them the grace to bear difficulties (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 9:8).**
- 🕒 What is the result of Christians facing difficulties by God's grace? **God is glorified (1 Pet. 1:6–7; 2:12; 4:16); some unsaved people may trust Christ (1 Pet. 3:1–2); and the Christian is blessed (1 Pet. 3:14; 4:12–14; 5:10).**
- 🕒 What lesson(s) can we learn from Stephen? **Answers may include that Christians belong to the Lord, and as He gave His life for us, we should be willing to give our lives in service to Him. On the more routine day-to-day level, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and led by His Word for worship and service.**

## Strength to Die

Acts 6–7

Name \_\_\_\_\_

As the early church grew, the apostles needed help meeting the material needs of the believers while still preaching the Word. The disciples chose seven men to help the apostles. One of the men chosen was Stephen.

Fill in the circle beside the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. Stephen was chosen because he was full of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 6:5).  
 grace and truth     faith and the Holy Spirit     wisdom and godly knowledge
2. As the Word of God spread and the number of disciples grew, many \_\_\_\_ also trusted Christ (Acts 6:7).  
 priests     Pharisees     Sadducees
3. Men from the synagogue knew that Stephen spoke with wisdom and the Spirit, but they convinced false witnesses to say that Stephen had \_\_\_\_ God and Moses (Acts 6:9–11).  
 told the truth about     said he was equal with     blasphemed
4. When Stephen spoke to the council, his face looked like the face of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 6:15).  
 an angel     a demon-possessed man     John the Baptist
5. The high priest asked Stephen if the accusations against him were true. Stephen answered by explaining the history of the Jews and how they had repeatedly turned away from God. Stephen then accused the religious leaders of being like their forefathers and \_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51).  
 following     resisting     blaspheming
6. As the religious leaders attacked him, Stephen looked \_\_\_\_ and saw Christ at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55).  
 toward heaven     at the crowd     at the altar
7. The men laid their coats at the feet of \_\_\_\_ while they stoned Stephen (Acts 7:58).  
 the Pharisees     Stephen     Saul
8. Before Stephen died, he prayed that the Lord would \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 7:59–60).  
 condemn them     not hold this sin against them     save him from death



Write one thing about Stephen's trial or punishment and his response that shows Stephen was trusting God.

Possible answers include that he was not upset or angry during his arrest and trial; he boldly spoke of Christ when he knew the reason for his arrest; he boldly accused the council of their sins; and he forgave those stoning him.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 147 217

© BJU Press. Reproduction prohibited.

## Not Ashamed

Romans 10:9–13

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Some religious leaders believed on Christ but were not willing to make it public for fear of being turned away from the synagogue. They were more concerned about what others thought than about what God thought of them (John 12:42–43). Others, such as Stephen, willingly spoke the truth of the gospel to all who would hear. Stephen chose to die rather than deny that Jesus is Lord.

Read Romans 10:9–14a and answer the questions.

1. What must be confessed? **the Lord Jesus [that Jesus is Lord]**
2. What about Jesus must be believed? **that God raised Him from the dead**
3. What is the result of confession and trusting in Jesus alone without any dependence on our good works? **salvation**
4. Does the Lord think differently about Jews than Greeks? **no**
5. Do you think the Lord looks at any ethnic group differently today? **no**
6. The Lord is rich with abundant blessings. Who does He bless? **all who call on Him**
7. Who is saved? **everyone who calls on (trusts in) the name of the Lord**

Underline the sentence that you think is the most important in the paragraph below.

Although we often look at the many physical differences between people, the Lord looks only at one difference—their spiritual conditions. God's focus is not on what people look like, how much money they have, or what kind of grades they make. The Lord sees each person as a soul either having or needing salvation. The Lord looks for those seeking salvation and His blessings. He gladly receives all who trust in Him and call on His name.



Answers will vary.

© BJU Press. Reproduction prohibited.

218 Lesson 147

Redemption: God's Grand Design

## Who was the main figure in all that was taking place in this account? God

God controls everything for His glory and our good (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28–29).

## Worktext page 217

Recall facts about the Bible account.

## Worktext page 218

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

LESSON  
148

## Faithful Follower: Kartar Singh

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:11–13

Practice the memory verses. Locate Romans 10:11–13, directing each student to read the verses silently. Ask some volunteers to recite Romans 10:11–13 and others to say 10:9–10, and then lead the class in saying the entire passage together.

## What is the promise in 10:13? Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## Faithful Follower

### Preview Background Information

#### Yak

The yak is a long-haired ox found throughout the Himalayan region of south Central Asia, the Tibetan Plateau, and as far north as Mongolia and Russia.

### Introduce the Biography

**Introduce Kartar Singh.** Explain that from the time Kartar Singh was young, he demonstrated his intelligence by excelling in school. He came from a wealthy family, and his father had high hopes of his son becoming a great man in India. In school, Kartar began reading books about various religions.

### Teach for Understanding

Read the following account based on the life of Kartar Singh. Listening question: What does the author call a testimony of God's grace and saving power? **Kartar's death**

## Grace and Peace

"Well, what are you studying today?" one of Kartar Singh's classmates asked.

Kartar said, "The teachings of Mohammed."

"Last week it was the teachings of Confucius. What are you looking for, Kartar?"

Kartar answered thoughtfully, "Peace, my friend, and I will continue to search until I find it."

A few days later, his friend asked, "What are you studying now?"

"The Bible—the book of the Christians," Kartar answered.

"And then what?"

Kartar smiled and said, "I need no more. I have finally found what I have been looking for."

"In Christianity?" asked the friend.

"No—in Christ!" Kartar replied.

However, Kartar's father was furious when his son told him that he had accepted salvation through Christ.

His father shouted, "How dare you bring disgrace on our family by accepting a foreign religion!"

"Father, I am sorry you are displeased, but since I have trusted Christ in my heart, He has given me peace."

This made Kartar's father even angrier. He demanded, "Kartar, you must give up your false religion!"

Kartar's father used several tactics to get his son to renounce his new faith. First, he used money. "Kartar, think of what I am offering you—position, wealth, fame. You can have everything a person could want."

Although Kartar was tempted, he refused. "But I would not have the peace I now have in my heart."

Next, his father threatened to cut him off from the family. "I will declare you dead, and you will lose your inheritance. You will wander the country like a beggar, and you will never see your mother again."

Again, Kartar struggled with his decision but said, "Father, I cannot give up Christ."

His father even arranged a marriage for Kartar. The bride-to-be met Kartar secretly and said, "I know it is not customary for us to meet before our wedding, but I am honoring your father's wishes. I would make a good wife for you. I would make you happy—if you will only give up this religion of yours."

Kartar gently replied, "You would make any man very happy, but I have only one heart, and I have already given it to Jesus Christ. I cannot marry someone who could not share my relationship with Christ."

When all of these plans failed, Kartar's father ordered him to leave the house. "You will never be allowed to come back," his father said. "As far as I'm concerned, you are dead!"

Kartar left his home with nothing but his Bible. Later, he traveled to Tibet, a rugged, dangerous country, to preach the gospel.

Kartar had heard that sometimes Christians there were tortured to death, but he did not fear the people or even death; he preached and witnessed faithfully to the Tibetans.

Several times Kartar was warned to either stop preaching or leave the country, but he ignored these warnings and obeyed Christ's command to preach the gospel.

Finally, Kartar was arrested and brought to court. The judge said, "Mr. Singh, we have ordered you to leave Tibet many times. You knew it was against the law to preach Christianity when you first came here, but you have persisted. You have even dared to baptize some of our people as Christians. We cannot tolerate such disobedience any longer. You are now sentenced to die by torture."

As Kartar was led to the place of execution, he said, "You have sentenced me to a physical death, but you face eternal death. Jesus Christ is your only hope; turn to Him, and He will save you."

*Share the information about yaks.*

Kartar's execution consisted of having the skin of a yak that had been soaked in water for hours sewn around his body. Kartar was then dragged into the hot sun. As the yak skin dried, it shrank and slowly squeezed the life out of Kartar.

One government official came to watch him die. He became curious about Kartar Singh, and in talking with him he found out about Kartar's past. The man was amazed that during the three days of agonizing torture, Kartar never complained. Instead, he sang and prayed.

On the fourth day, Kartar knew he was about to die. He asked for his right hand to be freed for a few moments. When this was done, he wrote some words in the front of his Bible. Then he said to the watching crowd: "You came to see death. Well, come see the death of a Christian! No, this is not really death because death has been conquered by Jesus Christ. . . . Lord Jesus, forgive those who torture me. . . . Receive my soul!" The government official was amazed at Kartar's courage under torture and at his spirit when he died.

After Kartar Singh's body was taken away, the official took Kartar's Bible. He began to read it and found what Kartar had once searched for. This man trusted Jesus as his own personal Savior. He was so excited about his newfound peace that he began to preach Christ to his people, but they tortured him even worse than they had Kartar. When they thought he was dead, they threw his body on the garbage dump. But by God's grace, he survived. Because of his miraculous recovery, he was allowed to preach as much as he wanted. He continued the work that Kartar had started, and as a result, many people in Tibet trusted Christ as Savior for eternal life.

Kartar faced great persecution for the cause of Christ. But despite mockery, rejection of his family, loss of his fortune, and torture, he remained faithful to his Lord. Even though Kartar Singh died at a young age, God used his death to open a door for the preaching of the gospel in Tibet. What seemed like a cruel, meaningless death was actually a testimony of God's grace and saving power, as well as an open door for the gospel.



**What Does God Say About Temptation?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



A temptation is anything that has the power to attract you to do something wrong. Every person faces temptations. Many choose to give in to these temptations. Christians do not have to give in. They have the power of the Holy Spirit to resist. Remember: Satan is clever and can deceive you by making sin look very good. After all, he wants you to fall for it. He would like to destroy you and your walk with God.

**Read James 4:7 and answer the questions.**

1. What are you to do when the Devil tempts you to do wrong? resist him
2. What will happen if you resist the Devil? He will flee.

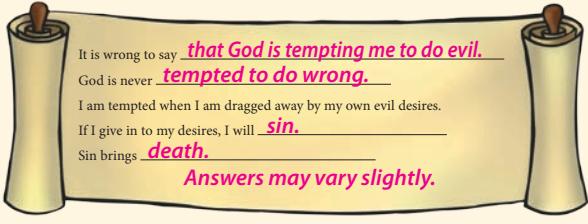
While temptations are real and powerful, God will give you the victory over them. His Word provides the keys to victorious Christian living.

**Read the verses and match them to the correct statement about temptations.**

<b>D</b>	3. God knows how to deliver me from temptations.	A. James 1:12
<b>A</b>	4. God will bless me if I endure temptations and trials.	B. Matthew 26:41
<b>B</b>	5. I must watch out for temptations to keep from falling.	C. Hebrews 2:18
<b>C</b>	6. Because Jesus was tempted, He is able to help me fight temptation.	D. 2 Peter 2:9

The Bible also teaches that your own sinful heart is deceitful and is capable of tempting you to sin against God.

**Read James 1:13–16 and complete the statements below.**



It is wrong to say that God is tempting me to do evil.  
God is never tempted to do wrong.

I am tempted when I am dragged away by my own evil desires.  
If I give in to my desires, I will sin.  
Sin brings death.

**Answers may vary slightly.**

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 148 **219**

**Something to Think About**

Temptation

Name \_\_\_\_\_



You should be ready for battle when you begin to fight temptation! It can be an exhausting struggle! God has promised Christians the victory over temptation if they will choose to trust Him to help them bear or escape it.

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and complete the statements to give advice to someone who needs encouragement to fight temptation.** **Answers will vary.**

1. You are not the only one who is fighting this temptation.
2. God is faithful.
3. God will never let you be tempted more than you are able to handle.
4. Every time you are tempted, God will provide a way to escape that temptation.
5. He will help you to be able to bear it or stand up under it.

**Use the Word of God to fight your battle!**

Ephesians 6:17 calls the Word of God your sword. Any soldier who is getting ready to win a battle must learn to use his weapon effectively. This is also true for you. If you want to win, memorize the Word of God and have this sword of truth ready to use against the attacks of temptation. You have been given everything you need to fight temptation, and there is no excuse for you to lose.

**Read the scenarios and verses. Then write the correct reference on the sword to fight that temptation.**

**Psalm 101:3**  
Proverbs 16:18  
Ephesians 4:25

  
**Ephesians 4:25**

  
**Psalm 101:3**

  
**Proverbs 16:18**

When Michelle's mom asked her if she had completed her work, Michelle was tempted to say that she had because she really wanted to talk with Kristin.

Rachel was curious about the new program on TV because she had heard kids at school talking about it. She knew that the characters on the show talked about witchcraft and had a wicked worldview.

Joey does better than his brother and sister in math, and he is sure that they must be jealous. He is tempted to be proud because they do not do as well on their school work.

**What About Me?**

Take time at home to write out an effective plan of victory for the next time you are attacked by a personal temptation.

A temptation I sometimes face: \_\_\_\_\_

A verse to remember as I trust God to help me: \_\_\_\_\_ (scripture reference)

How I will handle this temptation in the future: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember to pray, trust, and obey!**

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 148 **220**

© B&H Kids. Reproduction prohibited.

- Who rejected Kartar because of his faith in Christ? **his father and Tibet's government**
- How did Kartar endure torture? **He endured by God's grace. He knew that he had obeyed God in proclaiming the gospel and that death was not the end to his life.**
- What methods were used to try to get Kartar to stop serving Christ? **an offer of position, wealth, fame; the threat of having no further relationship with his family and losing his inheritance; the possibility of marriage to an unsaved woman**
- ❸ Which one of those temptations—position, riches, fame, close friendships—would be the hardest for you to turn down?
- ❹ Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. How can Christians have victory? **by trusting God's faithfulness (Rom. 5:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Pet. 1:2–10)**
- What does the account call Kartar's cruel and seemingly meaningless death? **a testimony of God's grace and saving power, and an open door for the gospel**
- How did Kartar's trust in God for obedience allow the gospel to spread? **A government official was impressed that Kartar was not afraid and did not complain during the torture. He read Kartar's Bible and trusted Christ. This man spread the gospel, and many people in Tibet trusted Christ.**

## Worktext pages 219–20

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 150 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop a biblical view of temptation.** Read page 219 and discuss what God says about temptation. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture references.

**Make a personal evaluation of the battle with temptation.** Discuss the scenarios on page 220 together to learn how a Christian can fight against temptations. Encourage each student to take time at home to write out his plan to overcome personal temptations.

LESSON

**149**

## Prophet Focus: Habakkuk

### Materials

- Timeline and picture of Habakkuk

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:11–13

Practice the memory verses. Choose three volunteers to each read aloud a verse from **Romans 10:11–13**. Allow volunteers in

different group arrangements to recite the verses. Ask volunteers to explain the meaning of these verses.

Review memory verse questions from Lessons 146–48.

## Prophet Focus

### Introduce the Biography

**Introduce Habakkuk.** Explain that Habakkuk lived in Judah, probably a few years before the invasion by the Babylonians and the capture of Daniel and many others.

### Teach for Understanding

Read **Habakkuk 1–3** or use the following account of the prophet Habakkuk's ministry. Listening question: **Though all else might go wrong, what did Habakkuk determine to do? rejoice in the Lord**

### Joy in God

The prophet Habakkuk was burdened by all the sin of the people of Judah. He didn't understand why those who persisted in sin were not being judged and punished, and sometimes ended up even prospering.

Habakkuk complained to God and questioned Him about what he saw. He wanted answers to these questions: Why did God allow the wicked to prosper? Why didn't God punish evil?

God told Habakkuk that He was still in control and had a plan. He knew that the people were living in sin and said that He would eventually punish them. God was going to use the dreadful Babylonian (Chaldean) army to judge Judah's wickedness. The invading Babylonians would destroy the land and capture the people.

God's plan prompted another question in Habakkuk's mind. Why would God use the enemy, people who were more wicked than those in Judah, to judge the sin of God's own people? But even at that, Habakkuk praised God for His holiness and control over all things. So Habakkuk went up into his watchtower to watch and wait for God's answer.

God answered Habakkuk and reminded him that "the just shall live by his faith" (**Hab. 2:4**). God assured Habakkuk that evil people would not ultimately prosper. Though God may allow the enemy to do evil for a time, He would not allow it to continue forever. What the enemy did to others would be done to him. Habakkuk was told to write God's message for others to see; then Habakkuk himself waited to see what the Lord would do.

The Lord declared the following five woes, or sorrows, on the Babylonians and those who sin against Him and His principles:

1. Woe to him who becomes wealthy and powerful from goods that are not his (**2:6**).
2. Woe to him who trusts the splendor and protection of buildings (**2:9**).

3. Woe to him who builds a town on the bloodshed of others and establishes it on wickedness (**2:12**).

4. Woe to him who is friendly to others only to take advantage of them (**2:15**).

5. Woe to him who trusts in idols instead of the Lord in His holy temple (**2:19**).

After receiving answers from the Lord, Habakkuk prayed or sang a song of praise. Determined to find joy in God even though the national situation looked bleak, the prophet said, "I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord is my strength" (**3:18–19**). Habakkuk trusted God because he knew that God's way and timing are perfect.



- ▶ **What did Habakkuk complain to God about? God was not judging and punishing evil people. They were prospering instead.**
- ▶ **Why was Judah not being punished for their sin? God had a plan to punish them, but His timing was different from what Habakkuk thought it should be.**
- ▶ **Why did Habakkuk question God about using the Israelites' enemies to bring punishment on their sin? Their enemies were even more wicked than the people of Judah.**
- ▶ **God told Habakkuk that "the just shall live by his faith." Who are the just that God is referring to? believers—those God has declared righteous by their saving faith in Him**
- ▶ **Though all else might go wrong, what did Habakkuk determine to do? rejoice in the Lord**
- 🕒 **What should Christians remember to do when things seem to be going wrong? trust the Lord for His timing; believe that He knows everything and will do what is best; rejoice in Him**
- 🕒 **Habakkuk went from complaining to God to rejoicing in God. How did this change come about? He heard from God and got God's perspective on the present and the future.**
- 🕒 **Are you complaining about things in your life? Are there things going on that you don't understand? How can a fearful, complaining person's spirit change to one of confidence and rejoicing in the Lord? by doing what Habakkuk did—getting God's perspective by knowing Him through His Word**  
Mention that the Bible reading H.A.B.I.T. can help with this.

Point out that God knows the past, present, and future. We can only try to remember the past, understand present circumstances, and believe what God has told us about the future. Remind the students that Christians should trust God completely in all things. They should rejoice and thank the Lord in everything because He knows what is truly best for His glory. Select a volunteer to read aloud **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**. Point out that God's will is that Christians rejoice, pray, and give thanks. If students have been doubting God and complaining about what He is allowing in their lives, encourage them to confess this to God as sin, and ask for His help in believing His Word.

**Prophet Focus**  
Habakkuk (608 BC)

Habakkuk was troubled that, although Judah had become wicked, the nation seemed to prosper. He thought Judah deserved punishment rather than prosperity. If Habakkuk could see the wickedness of the people, surely God could. The Lord calmly answered Habakkuk's frustration by telling him that He knew the wicked heart of the nation. It was His plan to bring them back to Him by using the mighty

Babylonians (Chaldeans) to take Judah captive.

Even though Habakkuk praised God's holiness, he questioned why God would use a nation more wicked than Judah as He judged them for their sin. God assured Habakkuk that wickedness would be punished in His time. Habakkuk was to write God's message for others to see and then wait patiently and watch the Lord work.

The Lord declared five woes or sorrows to the Babylonians and those who sin against Him and His principles.

1. Woe to him who becomes wealthy and powerful from goods that are not his.
2. Woe to him who trusts the splendor and protection of buildings.
3. Woe to him who builds a town on the blood-shed of others.
4. Woe to him who is friendly to others only to take advantage of them.
5. Woe to him who trusts in idols instead of the Lord in His holy temple.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

After receiving answers from the Lord, Habakkuk confirmed his trust in God and His wisdom with a prayerful psalm. Habakkuk proclaimed that he would rejoice in the Lord and trust Him for strength.

**Underline the answers in the reading and then write them below.**

1. What two things did Habakkuk think God was not handling properly concerning Judah?  
**that they were prospering and that they were not being judged for their sin**

2. What was God's plan for punishing the sin of Judah?  
**He would use the Babylonians to take Judah captive.**

3. When did God plan to punish the wickedness?  
**in His time**

4. How did Habakkuk react to God's answers?  
**with a psalm of praise (or prayer)**

5. Although the "woes" were directed toward the Babylonians (Chaldeans), do you think Judah was guilty of any of these sins? If so, write the numbers of the ones you think Judah had committed.

**Yes; number answers will vary.**

© B & H Print. Reproduction prohibited.



Do you ever feel that God is not handling a situation the way you want? What two things can you remember about God's answers to Habakkuk that can help you when you feel this way?

**God has a plan. God will handle the situation in His time.**

God is holy. Humble yourself before Him (Hab. 2:20).

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 149      221

**Materials**

- Missionary prayer card [O, E]

**Encourage the students to get to know missionaries.** Gather information about a missionary family, preferably with children who are the age of the students. If possible, invite them to class to tell how God led them to serve Him and how He directed them to their particular field. Ask the missionary family how you as a class can help them. Distribute a prayer card to each student, and pray daily with your students for this missionary family.

**Minister to a missionary family.** Continue communicating with the missionary family:

- Invite each student to write a letter to the missionary family.
- Ask the missionary family about their needs and collect money weekly from your students to buy some of the items suggested or encourage the students to bring in some of the items your missionary family needs (i.e., candy, gum, and small food items [spices, mixes] that they cannot obtain in their country).
- Find out how much Bibles or tracts cost in their language. Plan to send money to the missionaries so they can order what is needed.
- Purchase a magazine subscription the missionary family can enjoy all year. Make sure you investigate overseas rates if applicable. (Note: If shipping to another country, check on size limits and duty costs for the package. It is important that the missionary not have to pay more to receive the package than the value of the items in the package.)
- If you are sending the package overseas, pray daily with the students that the package will arrive safely and quickly.

**Timeline**

**Add Habakkuk to the timeline.** Select a student to attach the card for Habakkuk (ca. 608 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Habakkuk picture to his individual timeline.

**Worktext page 221**

Recall facts about the prophet Habakkuk. Apply Habakkuk's principle of trust to everyday life.

**Unit 9a–9b Review**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

1. At the ascension of Christ, what did the two men dressed in white tell the disciples? [Lesson 141]
  - a. The kingdom of Israel would be restored in the 1900s.
  - b. The Roman Empire would regain its power.
  - c. Christ will return. **(c)**
  - d. Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.
2. On the day of Pentecost, three thousand people repented and trusted Christ as Savior. The Christians continued to meet every day for teaching and fellowship. What did God do every day during that time? [Lesson 142]
  - a. God appeared to the church members in the form of different angels to show them His majesty.
  - b. God added saved people to the church. **(b)**
  - c. God made the sun stand still.
  - d. God gave all the visiting Jews the ability to speak the Greek language.
3. The religious leaders told Peter and John to not teach or preach about Christ, but the apostles continued to proclaim Christ's death and resurrection. What lessons can we learn from this account? [Lesson 143]
  - a. Governmental leaders are the Christian's highest authority.
  - b. A Christian should continue to obey God even when governmental authority directly goes against God's authority. **(b)**
  - c. Archaeologists have discovered that the method of fishing used in New Testament times caused fishermen to be hard of hearing.
  - d. Telling about Christ's death and resurrection is a Christian's very high priority. **(d)**
4. As a result of some lies, the officials ordered Stephen to be stoned to death. Stephen died full of faith in God, graciously asking forgiveness for those who were killing him. How could Stephen do that? [Lesson 147]
  - a. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. **(a)**
  - b. He was from the tribe of Israel that produced brave warriors.
  - c. It was prophesied in the Old Testament that he would die saying those exact words.
  - d. He wanted to be sure that he would be accepted into heaven.
5. What topic do the Unit 9 memory verses (Rom. 10:9–13) deal with?
  - a. Christian service and sanctification.
  - b. God's omniscience and a Christian's persistence.
  - c. trusting in Christ for salvation **(c)**
  - d. God's power to keep Christians from sinning.

## Unit 9a–9b Review

**Lead a review of Lessons 141–50.** A reproducible copy of the review questions (without answers) is available on the Teacher's Toolkit CD under Half-Unit Reviews. The answers are also on the CD.