

LESSON EIGHT

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Paul, the Missionary.

AIM:**TIME: 60 minutes**

General: 1. To show how St. Paul is sent out by the Holy Spirit and the Church leaders and experiences rejection as well as success.

2. To look at the first missionary journey of Paul.

Personal: To inspire the students through the example of Paul and to lead them to imitate him: his perseverance, boldness, courage and commitment.

Text used: Selected passages from Acts Chapters 1 to16.

I. STARTER: [10 minutes] **Review of Story**

- Those of you who watch a T.V. serial like ‘Shaktimaan’ can tell me...before the new incident of the story is shown, what do they show? (*Flashbacks of the story in brief*)
- What is the purpose of these flashbacks? [*To make sure that we know the story so that we can follow the next incident.*] Let’s have a quick flashback of the story of Acts: We must not tell the whole story, but show one scene quickly, like it is done on T.V.

(Quickly divide the class into 6 groups and one by one, give them a slip of paper a reference:

[1] Acts 1:4-5. [2] Acts 2:1-4. [3] Acts 2:46, 47. [4] Acts 3:19,20. [5] 7:59, 60. [6] Acts 9:4-5.

Give the students only half a minute to look up the reference. Immediately, one or two members of the group come up and act the scene. They should act only the verse given- no more! No time for planning or practising is allowed. Do not give out all the slips together, or else the students will not pay attention to what is being acted: their minds will be preoccupied with their act.)

II. DEVELOPMENT: [35 minutes]

Let us get on with the story of Saul. Once he met the Lord he led quite an adventurous life. He made three missionary journeys and won over many people to the Lord.

- Where was he when we last saw him? In which city? [*Look up 9:22-25*] *He was in Damascus.*

From Damascus he escaped through the city wall and he went to Jerusalem. After that he was again in danger because of his bold arguments and once more he was taken away, this time to Tarsus -his home town. Let us see what happened to him next.

(Give out handouts and let students read the passages and try to trace Saul’s first missionary journey. They do this by drawing a line with arrows on the map.)

Note that there are two Antiochs: one is called Antioch in Pisidia. You may also notice that in the middle of the story Saul is called Paul. This is the Gentile form of his name.

. [When the students have finished, go over the places Paul went to on the map.]

III. PRAYER: [15 minutes]

[Let the students sit in the same groups formed earlier and read Acts 16:16-35. Ask them to:]

1. Reflect on the passage in silence for 2 minutes and then write down the qualities they admire in Paul.
2. Share with their group one quality of Paul’s that they like.
3. Write a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the strength to be like Paul. They could read it aloud.

YOU WILL NEED: Slips with the references for starter; Good News Bibles; One handout per student.
ASK THE STUDENTS TO INVITE THEIR PARENTS FOR THE QUIZ- PRESENTATION NEXT SUNDAY.