

Church Beginnings

Activity (for when meeting in person):

Have the servants bring items as if they were going on a camping trip as a family. They do not need to bring enough tents to sleep everyone, but one tent would be good, so the youth get the concept. At the end of the previous lesson, the servants can ask all the youth to bring a camping or portable chair with them to class the following week. If not, they can just use church chairs, but it would give them a more realistic feeling as if they are on a camping trip if they brought camping chairs.

Items to bring:

1. Tent and footprint
2. Sleeping bags (at least 2)
3. Sleeping pads (at least 2)
4. Find a rock somewhere on church grounds or bring a hammer
5. Camping stove or grill and fuel
6. Utensils
7. Cooking supplies to make an easy meal with the youth at the end
8. All ingredients for the meal
9. Mess kits for everyone (plate, fork, spoon, napkin, cup)
10. Camping chair
11. 3 dish buckets to wash everything at the end
12. Towels
13. Soap
14. Sponge
15. Portable table
16. Flashlight
17. Lantern
18. Map of their church area to take a walk with the youth emulating the disciples traveling to minister
19. Compass

They start off their lesson with setting up camp. Then once the tent has been set up, the camping stove, washing area, etc., they can start the lesson. When they get to the part about the apostles and disciples ministering to others, they distribute maps to everyone and take them on a short walk using the map to navigate. They can tie this in with how they need to be prepared so that they do not get lost.

When they return to their campsite, then they complete the lesson tying in how important it is to be knowledgeable about camping for it to be successful just like it is important to be knowledgeable about theology in order to lead the life of Christ and minister to others.

Then end the meeting with a camp out meal. It could be as easy as hot dogs or fancier as hamburgers, taco salad, etc. The youth would be on the duty roster to be the ones who do the cooking and cleaning with the supervision of the servants. (Note: I usually pair up the youth who usually don't hang out together so that they can get to know more people and not just stick with their little circle of friends).

Activity (when on Zoom format):

Split the class into four groups into different breakout rooms with a servant in each breakout room. Each group gets the paragraph associated with the mission they need to map as a group on Google Docs. Give each group a map without the route on it and assign them to draw the path of St. Paul's travels using Google Draw. Each group will be given the paragraph associated with their mission so that they can read where he traveled. Some of the paragraphs are tougher than the others; thus, if they need help figuring out the path, they can seek the assistance of the servant. However, I would suggest letting them try to figure it out on their own for as long as possible without them getting too frustrated or quitting.

Empty map to be used for all of St. Paul's Journeys



St. Paul's First Missionary Trip

The first journey of St. Paul begins when St. Paul, Barnabas, and St. Mark set out from Antioch (Acts 13:4). This journey started after 44 AD and ended a "long time" (Acts 14:28) before 50 AD. They left Antioch for Seleucia and sailed to Cyprus, large island 100 miles off Syrian coast. There they went to Salamis and Paphos where St. Paul met Bar-Jesus the sorcerer (Acts 13:4-6). Then they sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, which is now southern Turkey. From here, St. Mark returns to Jerusalem. At Antioch in Pisidia (not to be confused with the one in Syria), St. Paul and Barnabas turn to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46). Then it was on to Iconium, where they abode a "long time" (Acts 14:3), Lystra, where St. Paul is stoned, but lives (Acts 14:19), and Derbe. Then they retraced their steps back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (in Pisidia) (Acts 14:21). St. Paul and Barnabas went throughout Pisidia, Pamphylia, then to Perga, Attalia, and sailed back to Antioch in Syria (Acts 14:24-26) The first journey ends in Antioch, Syria, where St. Paul and Barnabas stay there a long time (Acts 14:28)



St. Paul's First Missionary Journey (Answer Key)

St. Paul's Second Missionary Trip

The second journey begins, possibly in the spring of 51 AD. St. Paul takes Silas through Syria and Cilicia (now southeastern Turkey). They came to Derbe and Lystra, where they find Timothy, who goes with St. Paul and Silas throughout Phrygia and Galatia. But they are forbidden by the Spirit to go into Asia or Bithynia. They passed through Mysia to Troas, the island of Samothracia, and then to Neapolis in Macedonia (now northern Greece). At Philippi, God opens the heart of Lydia and the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:14-34). Passing through Amphipolis and Appolonia, they came to Thessalonica, where St. Paul taught for 3 weeks. After teaching some in Berea, St. Paul departed ahead of Silas and Timothy, southward into Achaia (now southern Greece), to Athens, possibly for the winter of 51-52 AD (Acts 17:14-15). St. Paul then makes his first visit to Corinth where he stays a year and a half (Acts 18:5). This may have been from the spring of 52 AD to the fall of 53 AD. Here, St. Paul met Aquila and Priscilla, who had just come from Rome, from which Claudius Caesar had banished all Jews. Silas and Timothy rejoin St. Paul. First Thessalonians was written from here in about 52 AD (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, 6). We know that it was written from Corinth, and not from Athens, because Silas and Timothy had already rejoined St. Paul (1 Thessalonians 1:1 and Acts 18:5). Second Thessalonians was also written from Corinth. We know that it was soon after the first letter, because like the first letter, Silas was with St. Paul when second Thessalonians was written. After St. Paul leaves Corinth, there is no further mention of Silas traveling with St. Paul. St. Paul left by boat with Aquila and Priscilla to Cenchrea and then across the Aegean Sea to Ephesus. Aquila and Priscilla stay there where they would later meet Apollos (Acts 18:19 and 26). St. Paul sails on to Caesarea and then goes up to Antioch in Syria, where the second journey ends. St. Paul stayed a while (Acts 18:23). This may have been the winter of 53-54 AD.



St. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Answer Key)

St. Paul's Third Missionary Trip

The third journey begins with Galatia (central region of Turkey) possibly in the spring of 54 AD and then Phrygia (Acts 18:23). Then St. Paul arrives at Ephesus where he stayed for 3 years (Acts 20:31) probably from the fall of 54 AD to the fall of 57 AD. St. Paul meets disciples of John the Baptist. He preached in the synagogue for 3 months (Acts 19:8). He disputed daily in the school of Tyrannus for 2 years (Acts 19:9-10), so that all that dwelt in Asia heard the word. St. Paul sent Timothy and Erastus ahead into Macedonia, but St. Paul stayed in Asia for a season (Acts 19:22). St. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians near the end of this stay in Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:8,19), probably in 57 AD. It was not written with Timothy, who St. Paul had sent ahead into Macedonia (Acts 19:22). St. Paul foresaw his route of travel for the next four or so years in Acts 19:21-22. This agrees with his plans in 1 Corinthians 16:1, 3, 5, 8-10. Note how the "great door" opened to St. Paul and "many adversaries" in verse 9 compares with the events in the Ephesian amphitheater in Acts 19:23-41. In 1 Corinthians 3:6 St. Paul says "Apollos watered". This refers to Apollos teaching in Corinth when St. Paul was at Ephesus, (Acts 19:1).

St. Paul had rejoined Timothy when Second Corinthians was written (2 Corinthians 1:1). St. Paul had come to Troas and continued to Macedonia (2 Corinthians 2:12-13 and 7:5), which seems to correspond to Acts 20:1. St. Paul also talks of a third visit to Corinth in 2 Corinthians 13:1 and 12:14. So Second Corinthians was most likely written in the fall of 57 AD from somewhere in Macedonia (northern Greece), possibly Philippi. In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, St. Paul says 14 years ago I ascended into heaven. From 57, going back 14 years to 43 AD, this puts us back before St. Paul's first journey, probably when he was at Antioch in Syria. After going through Macedonia (northern Greece), St. Paul came to Achaia (southern Greece) where he stayed 3 months (Acts 20:2-3), making third visit to Corinth. This is where he spent the winter of 57-58 AD (1 Corinthians 16:5-8). Romans was written at this time (Romans 15:23-26 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-3). Going back to Macedonia (Acts 20:1), they were at Philippi (northeastern Greece) in the spring of 58 AD in the "days of unleavened bread" (Acts 20:6).

Then they sailed to Troas, where a young man fell out of a window, and St. Paul raises him from the dead (Acts 20:7-12). Then St. Paul went to Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Trogylium, and Miletus (now in southwestern Turkey). From here, St. Paul addresses Ephesian elders whom he had called to meet him (Acts 20:17-38) in the spring of 58 AD (Acts 20:16). Sailing to Coos, Rhodes, Patara, and passing on the south side of Cyprus, they came to Tyre (which is now in Lebanon) where they stayed one week. Then they went south to Ptolemais and to Caesarea where they stayed many days (Acts 21:10). Then St. Paul goes to Jerusalem, where the third journey ends.



St. Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Answer Key)

St. Paul's Trip to Rome

The voyage to Rome begins – St. Paul, still a prisoner, sails to Sidon with Luke and Aristarchus (Acts 27:1-2) on the way to Italy. They sailed to Myra (now southern Turkey) and on to Lasea, a large island of Crete, 50 miles southeast of Greece, where much time was spent (Acts 27:7-13). In the fall of 60 AD, they reached Melita, a small island south of Sicily. St. Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake but lived. St. Paul healed the father of Publius and others. St. Paul (still captive) spends the winter of 60-61 AD (Acts 28:11) on the island with his captors. In the spring, they sailed on to Syracuse (on the island of Sicily), then to Rhegium (on the southern tip of Italy), then to Puteoli (on the western coast of Italy). The voyage to Rome ends – St. Paul spends 2 years in his own hired house (Acts 28:30) as a prisoner in Rome from 61-63 AD. During this time he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.



St. Paul's Journey to Rome (Answer Key)