

Global Witnesses



A Church-Multiplier's Guide

From the united study of the Acts of the Apostles

By Scott Griswold

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Jesus devoted three and a half years to training the twelve disciples. It was the best training possible, but it was not enough to make them faithful and effective workers. They ran away from Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and Peter denied that he knew Him.

Then Jesus died on the cross for the disciples' sins. He rose again to give them hope beyond death. Peter experienced Jesus' love in a deep way and was truly converted. This was a very important second step in the disciples' walk with God, but it was not enough to make them faithful and effective workers. Jesus said to wait for something more before they went out to preach the gospel. He said, "Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:46-49).

What was He promising? He told them in Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus knew the very best gift He could give them was the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God.

These are the three things pastors, church planters, and church members need to be faithful and effective workers for God: 1) train as a disciple of Jesus, 2) experience a true conversion based on Jesus' death and resurrection, 3) receive the Holy Spirit.

Receiving the Holy Spirit sounds simple. In fact there is so much in this great gift that we must study the Bible carefully to know more and more about what Jesus has given us. That is the purpose of the *Global Witnesses* lessons. They show clearly what happened when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples. They will help people today to experience the same.

These lessons should be taught to people who have already gone through the *Disciples of Jesus and the Cross of Christ* lessons. The format is very similar in all the lessons and includes a time for praise, prayer, review, Bible story, questions, memory texts, and commitment to act on what is learned.

Good preparation by the teacher is very important. The teacher should read the story in the Bible several times and meditate on its meaning. The teacher should write the answers to the questions in advance but expect that students will also discover other new things. When the teacher asks the questions he or she should give time for those learning to give their opinions and ideas. The teacher should affirm what they say and ask additional questions to help them dig deeper to understand more. The teacher should not talk too much.

These lessons can be used one-to-one or in a small group. The teacher must be sure that he or she also does the assignments under the commitment section along with those who are learning. The teacher should also take time to pray daily for those he or she is teaching.

The teacher's goal should be to have the students learn to teach others these same lessons. When they have finished studying together the teacher should assign the students to teach new members.

Those who cannot read or write can still be taught the stories in these lessons and the memory texts that go with them. They can use the picture books to teach others. They can memorize the Bible texts and use three summary questions for each of the stories. Those questions are:

- 1) What does this story tell you about the good qualities of a congregation filled with the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What does this story show you about how to help those who do not know Jesus?
- 3) What does this story tell you about God's character?

As the teachers and church members pray daily for more of the Holy Spirit for themselves and for their congregation, God will soon finish His work in the world, Jesus will come back, and we will go to heaven!

Here are some important statements from Ellen White,

"The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers" (Christian Service 68).

"Were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue" (Christian Service 9).

"Instead of keeping the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, let the members of the churches say to these laborers: 'Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves will carry forward the services of the church. We will keep up the meetings, and, by abiding in Christ, will maintain spiritual life. We will work for souls that are about us, and we will send our prayers and our gifts to sustain the laborers in more needy and destitute fields'" (Evangelism 382).

Global Witnesses Outline

**“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
And you shall be witnesses to Me” (Acts 1:8)**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Story</u>	<u>Qualities of Groups of Disciples</u>
1) Prepare for the Holy Spirit	The Upper Room	Spirit-filled followers of Jesus with a mission
2) Receive the Holy Spirit	Pentecost	Prayerful, worshipful, students of the Bible who are unified, generous, and evangelistic
3) Bring Healing and Hope	Healing a Lame Man	Compassionate healers who combine ministry to felt needs with the preaching of the gospel
4) Be Honest and Generous	Ananias & Sapphira	People of integrity and generosity
5) Be Faithful in Persecution	Apostles & Stephen	Spirit-inspired prayer warriors, bold to speak despite persecution,
6) Be Led by the Holy Spirit	Philip & Ethiopian	Available servants of God, led by the Spirit
7) Be Truly Converted	Saul's conversion	Deeply converted individuals who help others experience the same
8) Witness to All Ethnicities	Peter and Cornelius	Unprejudiced members who love all nationalities
9) Be Faithful to Death	James & Peter	Courageous disciples of Jesus who endure persecution and martyrdom for Christ
10) Seek God, Keep the Sabbath	Cyprus and Antioch	Individuals devoted to God through prayer, fasting, and the keeping of the Sabbath
11) Strengthen New Members	Iconium and Lystra	A family to new members, nurturing and protecting like parents and siblings

12) Solve Problems Together	Jerusalem Council	A body of believers who seek unity through the Holy Spirit, truth, and humility
13) Praise God Always	Paul & Silas in Jail	Soldiers of Christ who overcome evil spirits and discouragement
14) Preach Effectively	Thessalonica, Berea, Athens & Corinth	Preachers and teachers who lift up Jesus while adapting the message to the audience
15) Correct in Love	Apollos	Members who help each other grow by speaking the truth in love
16) Cut All Ties with Spirits	Seven Sons of Sceva	Devoted disciples with no connections to evil spirits and able to cast them out
17) Expect Great Miracles	Eutychus Raised	Mighty prayer warriors who expect great miracles, servants of God willing to help without pay
18) Be Honorable and Faithful	Paul in Jerusalem	Faithful witnesses who trust God for protection and give good back to those who do evil to them
19) Witness to the Influential	Paul before Rulers	Confident ambassadors for God to the influential
20) Trust God to the End	Paul Shipwrecked	Loyal, faithful followers to the end

Three Summary Questions

- 2) What does this story tell you about the good qualities of a congregation filled with the Holy Spirit?
- 4) What does this story show you about how to help those who do not know Jesus?
- 5) What does this story tell you about God's character?

Prepare for the Holy Spirit

Global Witnesses #1



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- How have you been helped by studying the Disciples of Jesus and the Cross of Christ lessons?
- The Acts of the Apostles lessons will help you grow further as a disciple of Jesus. They will teach you how to help God's kingdom grow through evangelism and the establishing of groups of disciples.

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 1 or tell the story.
 - 1) Why were the disciples supposed to wait in Jerusalem?
 - 2) What did He say would happen when the Holy Spirit came?

- 3) Which parts of your country and the world have not yet heard the gospel?
- 4) The disciples of Jesus and His brothers had failed Jesus in their betrayal, desertion, and doubt. What do you think they were doing in the upper room to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit?
- 5) What do you and your congregation need to do to prepare for the Holy Spirit to fill you in greater ways?
- 6) What qualifications did the disciples require for a person to fill Judas' position?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Luke 11:9-13 Isaiah 60:1-3

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Acts 2:38.
- This week spend extra time to search your heart and repent of any sin that could block the Holy Spirit from filling your life.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"As the disciples waited for the fulfillment of the promise, they humbled their hearts in true repentance and confessed their unbelief....The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ. Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship....These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving" (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 36-37).

Receive the Holy Spirit

Global Witnesses #2



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Luke 24:45-49; Acts 2:1-11, 22-24, and 36-47 or tell the story.
- 1) When God gave the gift of tongues what did the people hear?

- 2) How do you think Jesus feels about the many people in your country and throughout the world that do not know about His love for them?
- 3) What was the main topic of Peter's preaching (see Acts 2:22-39)?
- 4) Is Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and soon coming the main topic that you and your church members share with people in your community?
- 5) What things did the 3000 baptized and Spirit-filled people do (see Acts 2:37-47)?
- 6) Which of the qualities and actions of this first church does your congregation do well?
- 7) Which of these qualities and actions of this first church does your congregation need to do better?
- 8) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Galatians 5:22-23

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Acts 1:8.
- This week do at least one thing to help your church be more Spirit-filled like the first church.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers” (Ellen White, Christian Service 68).

“After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were so filled with love for Him and for those for whom He died, that hearts were melted by the words they spoke and the prayers they offered. They spoke in the power of the Spirit; and under the influence of that power, thousands were converted” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 23).

Bring Healing and Hope

Global Witnesses #3



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 3 or tell the story.
- 1) What do you think this lame man felt like every day he begged in Jerusalem?
 - 2) How was the lame man healed?

- 3) What did Peter preach about?
- 4) How did the miracle of healing help the people believe what Peter preached?
- 5) In what ways can you and your congregation help people through both physical healing and preaching?
- 6) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Mark 16:15-18 James 5:13-16

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Psalm 103:2-3.
- This week visit someone who is sick and help him in every way you can, such as sharing healthy food, taking him for a walk, natural treatments, praying, and sharing encouraging words.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“They should ever bear in mind that they are working for the restoration of the image of God in man. In one hand they are to carry remedies for the relief of physical suffering, and in the other the gospel for the relief of sin-burdened souls. Thus they are to work as true medical missionaries. In many hearts they are to sow the seeds of truth” (Ellen White, Counsels on Health 265).

“I saw that the reason why God did not hear the prayers of His servants for the sick among us more fully was that He could not be glorified in so doing while they were violating the laws of health. And I also saw that He designed the health reform and Health Institute to prepare the way for the prayer of faith to be fully answered. Faith and good work should go hand in hand in relieving the afflicted among us, and in fitting them to glorify God here and to be saved at the coming of Christ” (Ellen White, Counsels on Health 247).

Be Honest and Generous

Global Witnesses #4



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11; 6:1-7 or tell the story.
- 1) What did those who owned property do when other believers were in need?
 - 2) What did Ananias and Sapphira do that was wrong?

- 3) How does lying hurt our relationships at home, at work, and in our neighborhoods?
- 4) What plan did the disciples make so that the poor were taken care of?
- 5) What can your congregation do to help the poor?
- 6) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
2 Corinthians 9:6-12 Colossians 3:5-11

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Revelation 21:27.
- This week find a way to help some people who are poor by sharing some food, helping them have a job, fixing something that is broken, watching their children, praying for them, or whatever God brings to your mind.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“From the stern punishment meted out to those perjurers, God would have us learn also how deep is His hatred and contempt for all hypocrisy and deception. In pretending that they had given all, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, and, as a result, they lost this life and the life that is to come....

Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ, will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. Thus it was in the early church; and when in the church of today it is seen that by the power of the Spirit the members have taken their affections from the things of the world, and that they are willing to make sacrifices in order that their fellow men may hear the gospel, the truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 75).

Be Faithful in Persecution

Global Witnesses #5



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 4:13-31; 5:12-32; 6:8-15; 7:54-60 or tell the story.
- 1) What difficulties did the disciples meet when they told people about Jesus' death and resurrection?
 - 2) How did the disciples respond to the persecution?
 - 3) What difficulties have you faced because of following Jesus?

- 4) How has God helped you stay faithful to Him?
- 5) What happened to Stephen when he shared the truth with the Jews?
- 6) What lessons can you learn from the way Stephen responded to his persecution?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Revelation 3:10 Matthew 10:16-26

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Acts 4:31.
- This week share the good news about Jesus boldly.

Pray

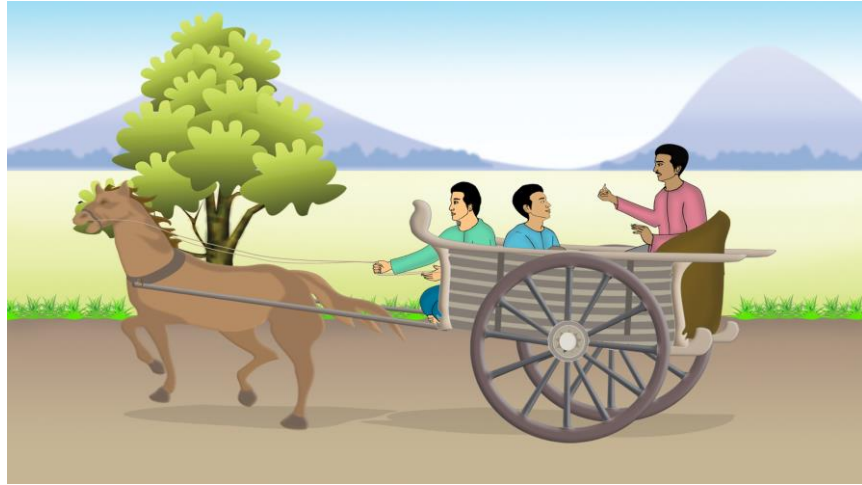
- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“What was the strength of those who in the past have suffered persecution for Christ’s sake? It was union with God, union with the Holy Spirit, union with Christ. Reproach and persecution have separated many from earthly friends, but never from the love of Christ. Never is the tempest-tried soul more dearly loved by his Saviour than when he is suffering reproach for the truth’s sake. “I will love him,” Christ said, “and will manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21. When for the truth’s sake the believer stands at the bar of earthly tribunals, Christ stands by his side. When he is confined within prison walls, Christ manifests Himself to him and cheers his heart with His love. When he suffers death for Christ’s sake, the Saviour says to him, They may kill the body, but they cannot hurt the soul” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 85).

Be Led by the Holy Spirit

Global Witnesses #6



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 8:26-40 or tell the story.
- 1) What did the Holy Spirit do in order to bring the Ethiopian and Philip together?
 - 2) Since God loves every person as much as He loved that Ethiopian, what kind of miracles do you think God will do to help the people around you?

- 3) How did Philip use the Bible to lead this man to believe in Jesus as the Son of God?
- 4) What ways have you found effective to lead the people in your country to believe in Jesus as God and Savior?
- 5) The Ethiopian asked to be baptized. What does baptism mean and why is it important?
- 6) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
John 16:7-8, 13 Isaiah 50:4 1 Corinthians 12:3

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Isaiah 50:4.
- This week ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone who is searching for answers and be ready to share with them about Jesus.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“This Ethiopian represented a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip—men who will hear the voice of God and go where He sends them....All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.

An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light and who was ready to receive the gospel, and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts....

Not upon the ordained minister only rests the responsibility of going forth to fulfill this commission. Everyone who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 109-110).

Be Truly Converted

Global Witnesses #7



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 7:58; 8:1-4; 9:1-31 or tell the story.
- 1) How did God lead Saul to a complete repentance and experience of salvation?
 - 2) What impact do you think Stephen's death had on Saul's conversion?
 - 3) Why did God send Ananias instead of telling Saul everything in more visions?

- 4) Consider what Saul was like before Jesus appeared to him. What changes occurred afterwards which show that Saul was truly converted?
- 5) What changes have happened in your life and your family since you received Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
- 6) What should we do for those who persecute Christians?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Ezekiel 36:26-27 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- This week tell somebody how you became a Christian. Watch for people that may be ready to give their hearts to Jesus and invite them to.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“As Saul yielded himself fully to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, he saw the mistakes of his life and recognized the far-reaching claims of the law of God. He who had been a proud Pharisee, confident that he was justified by his good works, now bowed before God with the humility and simplicity of a little child, confessing his own unworthiness and pleading the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour....

The prayers of the penitent Pharisee were not in vain. The inmost thoughts and emotions of his heart were transformed by divine grace; and his nobler faculties were brought into harmony with the eternal purposes of God. Christ and His righteousness became to Saul more than the whole world” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 120).

Witness to All Ethnicities

Global Witnesses #8



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 10 or tell the story.
- 1) What was the nationality and job of Cornelius?
 - 2) How did Jews normally act towards people of other nations?

- 3) What was Peter's vision about and what was its meaning (see especially Acts 10:15, 28)?
- 4) What ethnicities or types of people does your ethnicity not normally spend time with?
- 5) What did God do in this story to show that He joyfully accepts all people equally?
- 6) What was the message about that Peter preached to Cornelius and his household?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Colossians 3:11 Galatians 3:26-29 1 Corinthians 12:13

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Acts 10:34-35.
- This week befriend someone in your community that other people normally do not associate with. Help him or her see that God loves all people equally.
- Pray for God to give dreams and special experiences that will lead people to you and your church that they may know Him.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"Pride and prejudice have built strong walls of separation between different classes of men. Christ and His mission have been misrepresented, and multitudes feel that they are virtually shut away from the ministry of the gospel....Caste is hateful to God. He ignores everything of this character. In His sight the souls of all men are of equal value....Without distinction of age, or rank, or nationality, or religious privilege, all are invited to come unto Him and live. 'Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference.' 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free.' 'The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the Maker of them all.' 'The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' Acts 17:26, 27; Galatians 3:28; Proverbs 22:2; Romans 10:11-13" (Ellen White, The Desire of Ages 403).

Be Faithful to Death

Global Witnesses #9



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 12:1-24 or tell the story.
- 1) What happened to Jesus' disciple James?

- 2) How did God set Peter free from prison?
- 3) In what ways can prayer help those who are being persecuted?
- 4) Why do you think God does not always deliver His witnesses from death?
- 5) What happened to King Herod?
- 6) How does the story of James, Peter, and King Herod encourage you in your service to God through various trials?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Matthew 10:27-33 Psalm 91 Psalm 72:14

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Hebrews 13:6.
- This week share your faith boldly and pray for those who are persecuted for following Jesus in various countries.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“To the worker for God the record of these angel visits should bring strength and courage. Today, as verily as in the days of the apostles, heavenly messengers are passing through the length and breadth of the land, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the impenitent, to win the hearts of men to Christ. We cannot see them personally; nevertheless they are with us, guiding, directing, protecting....

We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angels. It would be well to remember that every true child of God has the co-operation of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim, and angels that excel in strength, stand at God's right hand, 'all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.' Hebrews 1:14” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 152, 154).

Seek God, Keep the Sabbath

Global Witnesses #10



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 13 or tell the story.
- 1) What happened at the church in Antioch that led to Saul and Barnabas going on a missionary journey?

- 2) In what ways have you seen prayer and fasting help the gospel move forward effectively?
- 3) How did God use Saul, who is also called Paul, to overcome the tricks of Elymas the sorcerer?
- 4) According to Paul's sermon, how can people be forgiven for their sins?
- 5) In this story, what ethnic groups came together to worship God on the seventh-day Sabbath?
- 6) Some people think those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath are trying to win their way to heaven by their good deeds. Why do you think the disciples and the Gentiles kept the Sabbath?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Mark 9:28-29 Isaiah 58:13-14 Ephesians 2:8-10

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Genesis 2:3.
- This week consider your own habits and put aside any work or worldly activities that you may have been doing on the Sabbath. Invite someone to stop working and join you to enjoy a full day of rest on the seventh-day of the week.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us—a day when we should lay aside all our secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven.

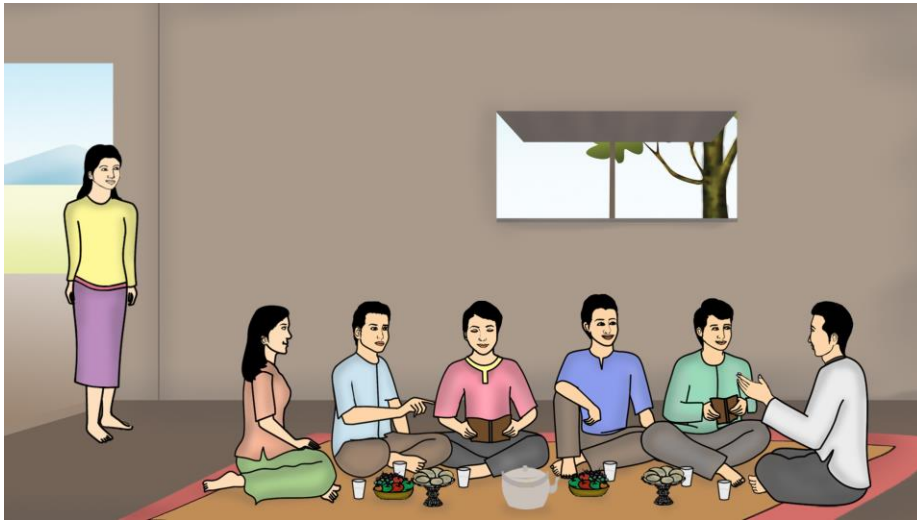
When the Sabbath commences, we should place a guard upon ourselves, upon our acts and our words, lest we rob God by appropriating to our own use that time which is strictly the Lord's. We should not do ourselves, nor suffer our children to do, any manner of our own work for a livelihood or anything which could have been done on the six working days....God requires not only that we refrain from physical labor upon the Sabbath, but that the mind be disciplined to dwell upon sacred themes. The Fourth Commandment is virtually transgressed by conversing upon worldly things or by engaging in light and

trifling conversation....

The value of the Sabbath as a means of education is beyond estimate. Whatever of ours God claims from us, He returns again, enriched, transfigured, with His own glory" (Ellen White, Child Guidance 529, 535).

Strengthen New Members

Global Witnesses #11



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 14 or tell the story.
- 1) What happened to Paul (Saul) and Barnabas in Iconium?
 - 2) What exciting and terrible things happened in Lystra?

Solve Problems Together

Global Witnesses #12



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 15 or tell the story.
- 1) What did the men of Judea want to require all the new believers of other nations to do?
 - 2) When Paul and Barnabas strongly disagreed with them, what did they decide to do to solve their problem?

- 3) What kinds of disagreements have you seen in your congregation or other churches?
- 4) How did they solve the disagreement at Jerusalem?
- 5) What did they conclude that the people of other nations should still follow from Moses' teachings (see Acts 15:28-29)?
- 6) When Paul refused to allow John Mark to travel with them, how did Paul and Barnabas solve their disagreement?
- 7) What are some things you have learned about solving disagreements in order to seek unity but not lose what is truthful and right?
- 8) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Romans 12:16-21 John 17:19-23 Matthew 18:15-20

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 17:21.
- This week pray for your church to be unified. Ask God to help you do anything you can to bring greater reconciliation between members of your congregation.

Pray

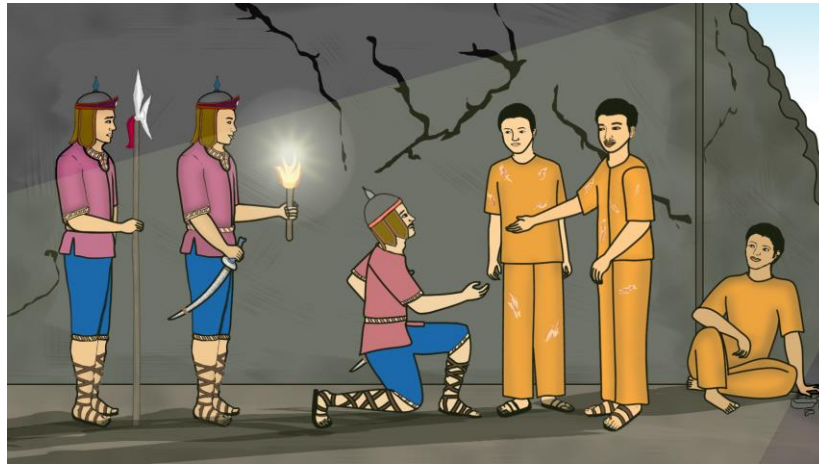
- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"When differences arise among brethren as to the understanding of any point of truth, there is one Bible rule to follow. In the spirit of meekness and love for God and one another, let brethren come together, and after earnest prayer, with sincere desire to know God's will, study the Bible with the spirit of a little child, to see how closely they can draw together, and not sacrifice anything but their selfish dignity. They should regard themselves as in the presence of the whole universe of God, who are watching with intense interest as brother tries to see eye to eye with brother, to understand the words of Christ, that they may be doers of the word" (Ellen White, 1888 Materials, 1008-1009).

Praise God Always

Global Witnesses #13



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 16:11-40 or tell the story.
- 1) What good and bad things happened at Philippi in relation to the women that were there?
 - 2) How did Paul and Silas respond to the beatings and imprisonment?
 - 3) How should you respond to the trials that you face as a Christian?

- 4) What things influenced the jailer to ask how he could be saved?
- 5) How did Paul and Silas answer the jailer's question about salvation?
- 6) How will others be helped by the way you respond to trials and temptations?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Hebrews 13:15 1 Peter 1:6-9 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 16:33.
- This week say something you are thankful for every time you are tempted to complain or think something negative. Worship God with joy!

Pray

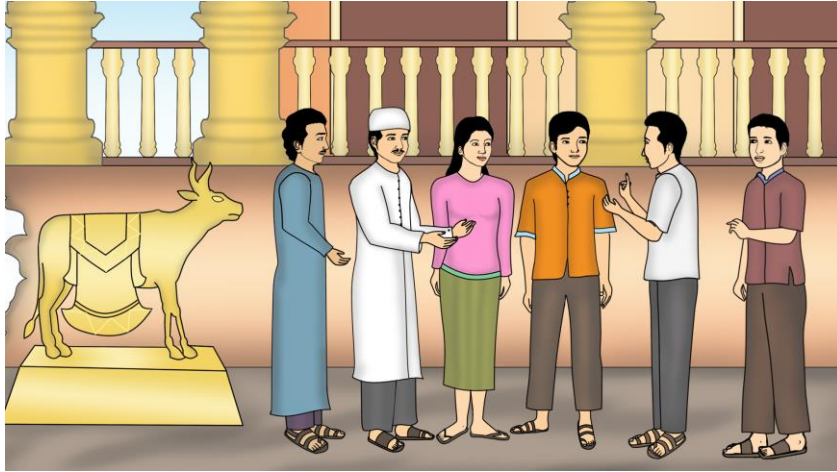
- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"We need not keep our own record of trials and difficulties, griefs, and sorrows. All these things are written in the books, and heaven will take care of them....If you do not feel lighthearted and joyous, do not talk of your feelings. Cast no shadow upon the lives of others. A cold, sunless religion never draws souls to Christ. It drives them away from Him into the nets that Satan has spread for the feet of the straying. Instead of thinking of your discouragements, think of the power you can claim in Christ's name. Let your imagination take hold upon things unseen. Let your thoughts be directed to the evidences of the great love of God for you. Faith can endure trial, resist temptation, bear up under disappointment. Jesus lives as our advocate. All is ours that His mediation secures" (Ellen White, Ministry of Healing 487-488).

Preach Effectively

Global Witnesses #14



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 17; 18:1-17 or tell the story.
- 1) What are some of the places in which Paul preached (see Acts 17:10, 17, 22; 18:11)?
 - 2) In what places have you tried to tell people about Jesus?

- 3) What lessons can you learn from the way the people at Berea received the word of God (see Acts 17:11)?
- 4) What do you like about Paul's sermon to the people of Athens (Acts 17:22-31)?
- 5) Why do you think very few people in Athens responded to the gospel?
- 6) How was Paul's preaching different when he went to Corinth (see 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 Acts 18:9-10 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize 1 Peter 3:15.
- This week share your testimony and/or the story of Jesus with at least two people in different settings. Ask if they want to study the Bible. Adapt the message to their needs.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"Paul's words [at Athens] contain a treasure of knowledge for the church. He was in a position where he might easily have said that which would have irritated his proud listeners and brought himself into difficulty. Had his oration been a direct attack upon their gods and the great men of the city, he would have been in danger of meeting the fate of Socrates. But with a tact born of divine love, he carefully drew their minds away from heathen deities, by revealing to them the true God, who was to them unknown....

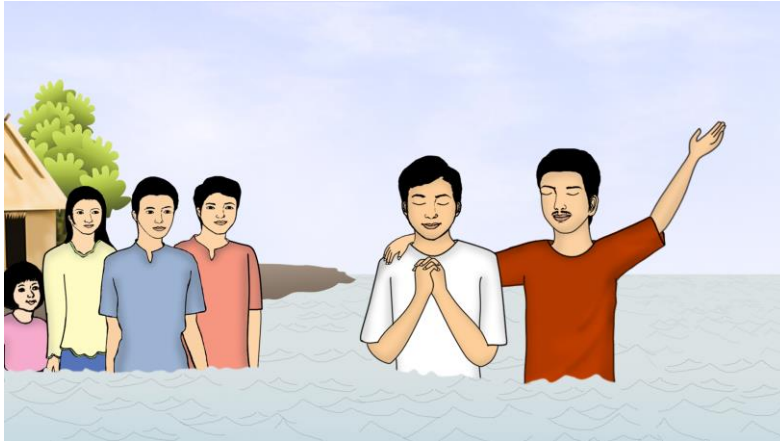
As he thought of the time thus spent, and realized that his teaching in Athens had been productive of but little fruit, he decided to follow another plan of labor in Corinth in his efforts to arrest the attention of the careless and the indifferent. He determined to avoid elaborate arguments and discussions, and 'not to know anything' among the Corinthians 'save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.' He would preach to them 'not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.' 1 Corinthians 2:2, 4....

In the power of the Spirit, Paul related the story of his own miraculous conversion and of his confidence in the Old Testament Scriptures, which had been so completely fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. His words were spoken with solemn earnestness, and his

hearers could not but discern that he loved with all his heart the crucified and risen Saviour” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 241, 245, 247).

Correct in Love

Global Witnesses #15



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 18:24-28;19:1-10 or tell the story.
- 1) What was lacking in the teaching of Apollos?
 - 2) How did the other church members correct Apollos?
 - 3) How should we correct and teach those who are wrong?

- 4) What kind of gifts and abilities does the Holy Spirit bring to the church (see Acts 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:4-8)
- 5) What kind of characteristics does the Holy Spirit bring to the church (see Galatians 5:22-23)?
- 6) Does the Holy Spirit have personality and feelings like God the Father and God the Son (see Ephesians 4:30; John 15:26)
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
John 14:16-17 John 16:7-13

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Luke 11:13.
- This week help someone in your church to understand more of God's truth. Pray daily for a greater amount of the Holy Spirit.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"God's servants are to work together, blending in kindly, courteous order, 'in honor preferring one another.' Romans 12:10. There is to be no unkind criticism, no pulling to pieces of another's work; and there are to be no separate parties. Every man to whom the Lord has entrusted a message has his specific work. Each one has an individuality of his own, which he is not to sink in that of any other man. Yet each is to work in harmony with his brethren. In their service God's workers are to be essentially one. No one is to set himself up as a criterion, speaking disrespectfully of his fellow workers or treating them as inferior. Under God each is to do his appointed work, respected, loved, and encouraged by the other laborers. Together they are to carry the work forward to completion" (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 275-276).

Cut All Ties with Spirits

Global Witnesses #16



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 19:11-20 or tell the story.
- 1) Why did the evil spirits respect Paul but attacked the seven sons of Sceva?
 - 2) What do you and your church members need to do in order for God to use you more effectively to set people free from the power of evil spirits?

- 3) Why did the people of Ephesus burn their books about magic?
- 4) What are some of the things that people must get rid of and stop doing in order to stay free from the power of evil spirits?
- 5) What was the result of this display of God's power and the people's total commitment?
- 6) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Revelation 12:10-11 Ephesians 6:10-18

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Acts 26:18.
- This week search your heart and home to get rid of anything that is connected to evil spirits including amulets, magic writing, booklets about fortune-telling, and video games or television programs about ghosts and spirits. Help other church members do the same.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"These treatises on divination contained rules and forms of communication with evil spirits. They were the regulations of the worship of Satan—directions for soliciting his help and obtaining information from him. By retaining these books the disciples would have exposed themselves to temptation; by selling them they would have placed temptation in the way of others. They had renounced the kingdom of darkness, and to destroy its power they did not hesitate at any sacrifice. Thus truth triumphed over men's prejudices and their love of money" (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 288-289).

Expect Great Miracles

Global Witnesses #17



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 20:7-38; 21:1-14 or tell the story.
- 1) What terrible tragedy and amazing miracle happened while Paul was preaching?
 - 2) What amazing miracles have you seen God do to help the gospel go forward?

- 3) Why could Paul say that he was innocent of the blood of all men (Acts 20:20-21, 26-27)?
- 4) How did Paul have money to live on as a gospel worker (Acts 20:33-35)?
- 5) How can we encourage members to witness joyfully without receiving pay?
- 6) When prophets warned Paul about the dangers ahead of him what was his response (Acts 20:24; 21:12-13)?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Jeremiah 33:3 Matthew 6:28-34 Ephesians 3:14-21

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Acts 20:35.
- This week find someone who is in need and do everything you can to help him and pray for God to do a miracle to help him believe.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

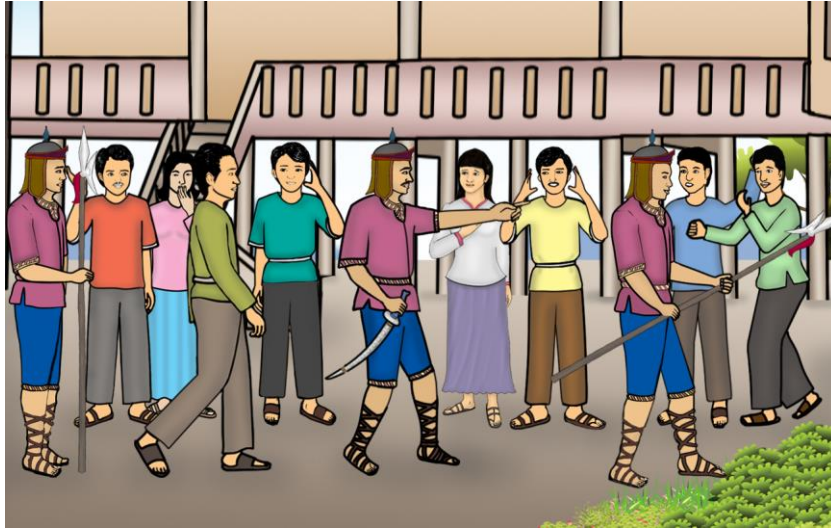
“Before he became a disciple of Christ, Paul had occupied a high position and was not dependent upon manual labor for support. But afterward, when he had used all his means in furthering the cause of Christ, he resorted at times to his trade to gain a livelihood. Especially was this the case when he labored in places where his motives might have been misunderstood....

Paul sometimes worked night and day, not only for his own support, but that he might assist his fellow laborers. He shared his earnings with Luke, and he helped Timothy. He even suffered hunger at times, that he might relieve the necessities of others. His was an unselfish life....

No fear of giving offense, no desire for friendship or applause, could lead Paul to withhold the words that God had given for their instruction, warning, or correction” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 347, 351, 394).

Be Honorable and Faithful

Global Witnesses #18



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 21:15-40; 22:22-30; 23:1-24 or tell the story.
- 1) Why did the Jews arrest Paul in Jerusalem?
 - 2) What story and words did Paul use to answer his accusers?
 - 3) How do you feel when people falsely accuse you?

- 4) How did Paul respond when he found out he was talking to the high priest (Acts 23:1-5)?
- 5) How should we respond to false accusations and mistreatment?
- 6) How did Paul escape the plot of the forty men who pledged to not eat or drink until they killed him?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
John 16:33 1 Peter 2:21-25 Romans 13:1-3, 7; 12:19

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 16:33.
- This week think about those who have hurt or offended you. Forgive them in your heart, pray for them, and if possible show kindness to them.

Pray

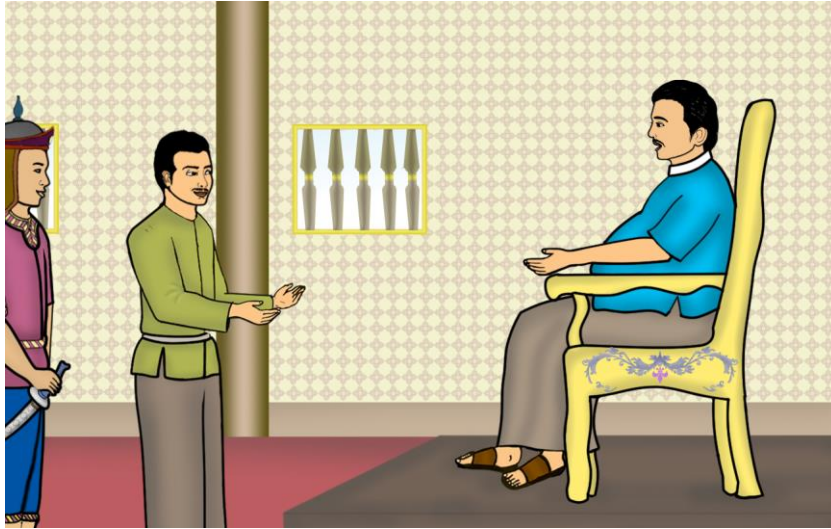
- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“Not in freedom from trial, but in the midst of it, is Christian character developed. Exposure to rebuffs and opposition leads the follower of Christ to greater watchfulness and more earnest prayer to the mighty Helper. Severe trial endured by the grace of God develops patience, vigilance, fortitude, and a deep and abiding trust in God. It is the triumph of the Christian faith that it enables its followers to suffer and be strong; to submit, and thus to conquer; to be killed all the day long, and yet to live; to bear the cross, and thus to win the crown of glory” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 468-469).

Witness to the Influential

Global Witnesses #19



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 24-26 or tell the story.
- 1) Despite the many charges against Paul, what did he tell Felix the governor that he was really on trial for (Acts 24:19-21)?
 - 2) Why is it dangerous to be like Felix and not follow the conviction of the Holy Spirit (Acts 24:25-27)?

- 3) Why do you think Paul wanted to be tried by Caesar in Rome rather than in Jerusalem (Acts 25:9-12)?
- 4) How were the great leaders Festus and King Agrippa affected by Paul's courageous speaking (Acts 26:24-32)?
- 5) Why is it important that we seek to reach the wealthy and influential and not just the poor?
- 6) How can we have greater courage to speak with the wealthy and influential?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Matthew 10:18-20 Matthew 19:23-26

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Matthew 19:26.
- This week find a way to meet someone who is wealthy or influential. Pray for God to open his or her heart to believe the good news as you joyfully share about Jesus.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

“That which will reach them effectually is a consistent, unselfish presentation of the gospel of Christ...If those who are workers together with Him will do their duty bravely and faithfully, God will convert men who occupy responsible places, men of intellect and influence....When it is made plain that the Lord expects them as His representatives to relieve suffering humanity, many will respond and will give of their means and their sympathies for the benefit of the poor. As their minds are thus drawn away from their own selfish interests, many will surrender themselves to Christ” (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 213, 216).

Trust God to the End

Global Witnesses #20



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- Read Acts 27-28 or tell the story.
- 1) What did Paul warn would happen if they set sail on the ship?
 - 2) Why do you think the centurion later listened to Paul and did his best to keep him alive?

- 3) In what ways have you seen how the patience and love of Christians under trial can reach the hearts of unbelievers?
- 4) What happened to Paul when the boat was shipwrecked and when the snake bit him?
- 5) Knowing that God is completely able to protect His followers, how does this help you be confident and courageous to witness for Him?
- 6) How was God able to use Paul at Rome even though he was a prisoner?
- 7) Read these promises and talk about the ways you can partner with God to help church members be strong and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
Hebrews 10:22-25 Romans 16:20 Luke 10:17-20

Commit

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Philippians 1:6.
- This week spend some extra time thanking God for the ways He has helped you and protected you. Share your stories of God's goodness with others.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

Special Quote

"For fourteen days they drifted under a sunless and starless heaven. The apostle, though himself suffering physically, had words of hope for the darkest hour, a helping hand in every emergency. He grasped by faith the arm of Infinite Power, and his heart was stayed upon God. He had no fears for himself; he knew that God would preserve him to witness at Rome for the truth of Christ. But his heart yearned with pity for the poor souls around him, sinful, degraded, and unprepared to die. As he earnestly pleaded with God to spare their lives, it was revealed to him that his prayer was granted" (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles 442).