



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

**You Will Be
My Witnesses:**

Running the Race

Lesson 18



Revival in Samaria

Acts 8:4-25

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3

Acts 1:8

2 Timothy 3:12

2 Timothy 4:1-8

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

2 Corinthians 4:5

2 Corinthians 10:13-18

Galatians 1:10-12

1 Peter 1:13-25

Memory Verse

Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people's mistakes. Warn them. Cheer them up with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully.
2 Timothy 4:2 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that those who desire godly lives will suffer.

Understand that even in the suffering, God's word is to be preached.

Understand that sin is not to be ignored. We must correct and warn each other and be patient with each other.

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

When you run a race well and tell others what a great thing it is, others want to run, don't they? Not everyone will choose to run, but many will. And in this life of faith we are running, the same applies. We are called to preach the word. Sometimes with the preaching comes the need to lovingly correct others. Let's see what we can learn from the apostles and all that happened after Stephen's death.

On the day that Stephen was killed, "the church in Jerusalem began to be attacked and treated badly. All except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria." (Acts 8:1 NirV) The believers who were scattered didn't run and hide. They did exactly what they had been doing in Jerusalem; "they preached the word everywhere they went." (Acts 8:4 NirV) They were doing what Jesus had said they would do; "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other." (Acts 1:8 NirV)

Philip was one of those. He went to one of the cities in Samaria. A man named Simon lived in this city. He practiced evil magic there and all the people were amazed. He believed himself to be a very important person. The people believed that he had the power of God, and they followed him.

But Philip preached about Jesus Christ there. He shared "the good news of God's kingdom." (Acts 8:12 NirV) The crowds listened to him. They saw him perform miracles and they paid close attention to what he said. He even commanded demons to come out of many of the people. "So there was great joy in that city." (Acts 8:7 NirV) And when Philip preached the name of Jesus Christ, people believed! Simon, the evil magician, also believed. They were all baptized.

Application

And how is it with you?
Are you a believer?
Have you given your life
to the God of the uni-
verse who loves you so?
If not, you must know
that you are a sinner.
(Romans 3:23) For your
sin, you deserve a
death sentence.
(Romans 6:23) But
while you were still
sinning, Jesus Christ
died for you. (Romans
5:8) If you will let Him
have control of your
life, believing that He is
the Son of God, risen
from the dead, you can
be saved! (Romans
10:9) Would you like to
do that know?

And if you are a
believer, are you being
obedient? Do you need
correction and warning?
God is ready to forgive
you, if you will ask.

How are you doing at
telling others about
Jesus? And when you
see someone messing
up, are you patient
with them? Do you
correct and warn them?
Ask God to give you
boldness to obey.

When the apostles heard that the people in Samaria had accepted God's word, they sent Peter and John. The believers in Samaria hadn't received God's Holy Spirit immediately, so Peter and John placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Simon, who had been following Philip around, watched as the apostles did this and saw that the Holy Spirit was given to them. He offered money to Peter and John in exchange for the power to do the same. But Peter corrected Simon and told him that his heart was not right with God. Peter also told him to turn away from his sin and to pray to God for forgiveness. Then Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the good news all the way home.

Our memory verse says, "Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people's mistakes. Warn them. Cheer them up with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully." (2 Timothy 4:2 NIV) That is what we see on display in our lesson today. Even in the bad times of suffering and persecution, the believers preached God's word. When God's word is preached, people believe. But believers aren't always obedient to God. When that happens we are to be patient with them, but we are also to correct them and warn them and cheer them up!

Review

1. How did the believers of the early church respond to persecution? (They preached God's word everywhere they went.)
2. What did Philip do? (He went to a city in Samaria and preached the name of Jesus Christ.)
3. What happened when Philip preached? (People believed, even Simon, the evil magician.)
4. What happened with Simon? (He wanted to pay for the power of God.)
5. What did Peter and John do? (They corrected him and warned him.)

Next Week
Philip and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:25-40

Preschool Lesson

On the day that Stephen died, “the church in Jerusalem began to be attacked and treated badly. All except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” (Acts 8:1 NIV) The believers who were scattered didn’t run and hide. They did exactly what they had been doing in Jerusalem; they preached God’s word. They were doing what Jesus had said they would do; “you will be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8 NIV)

Philip was one of those witnesses. He went to one of the cities in Samaria. A man named Simon lived in this city. He practiced evil magic and the people followed him.

But Philip preached about Jesus Christ. He shared the good news of God; He sent Jesus to die for our sins. The crowds listened to him. And when Philip preached the name of Jesus Christ, people believed! Even Simon, the evil magician, believed. They were all baptized.

When the apostles heard that the people in Samaria had accepted God’s word, they sent Peter and John. While they were there, Simon did a bad thing. He offered money to Peter and John in exchange for power like they had.

Peter corrected Simon and told him that his heart was not right with God. Peter also told him to turn away his from sin and to pray to God for forgiveness. Then Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the good news all the way home.

Our memory verse says, “Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people’s mistakes. Warn them. Cheer them up with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully.” (2 Timothy 4:2 NIV) That is what we see in our lesson today. Even in the bad times of suffering and persecution, the believers preached God’s word. When God’s word is preached, people believe. But believers aren’t always obedient to God. When that happens we are to be patient with them, but we are also to correct them and warn them and cheer them up!

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Divide the memory verse, phrase by phrase, and print on large strips of poster board. Distribute the strips to your students, encouraging them to show the class what they have. Choose students to help order the verse.

Sing “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” “Tell the Good News,” “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations,” “The Mission,” and “Get All Exited.”

Share the Roman Road of Salvation with your students, being sensitive to those who are ready to accept Christ. Teach your students how to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around them.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, illustrate it as a wall mural on butcher paper or as a cartoon, using as many “frames” as necessary.

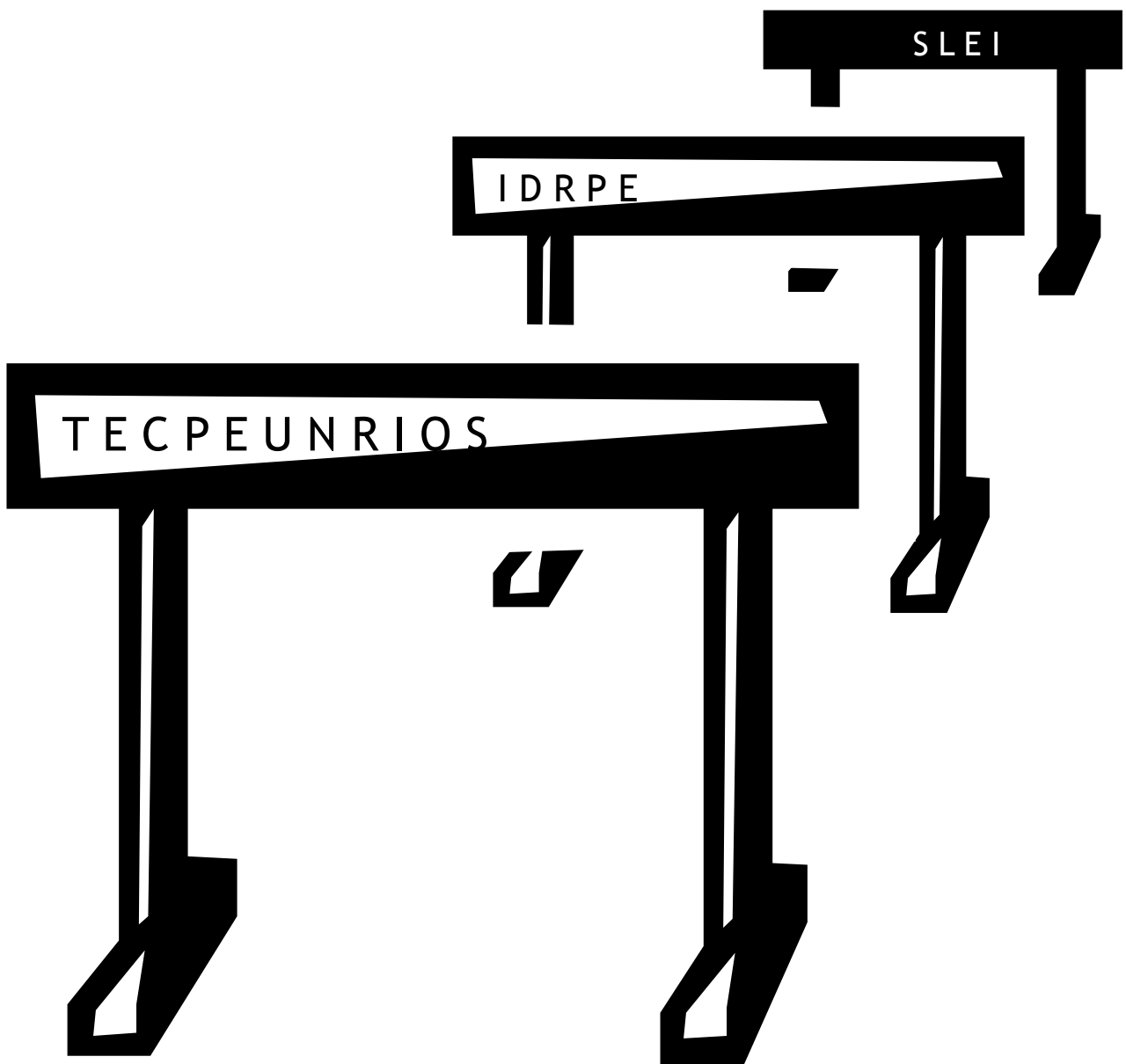


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2 Timothy 4:2

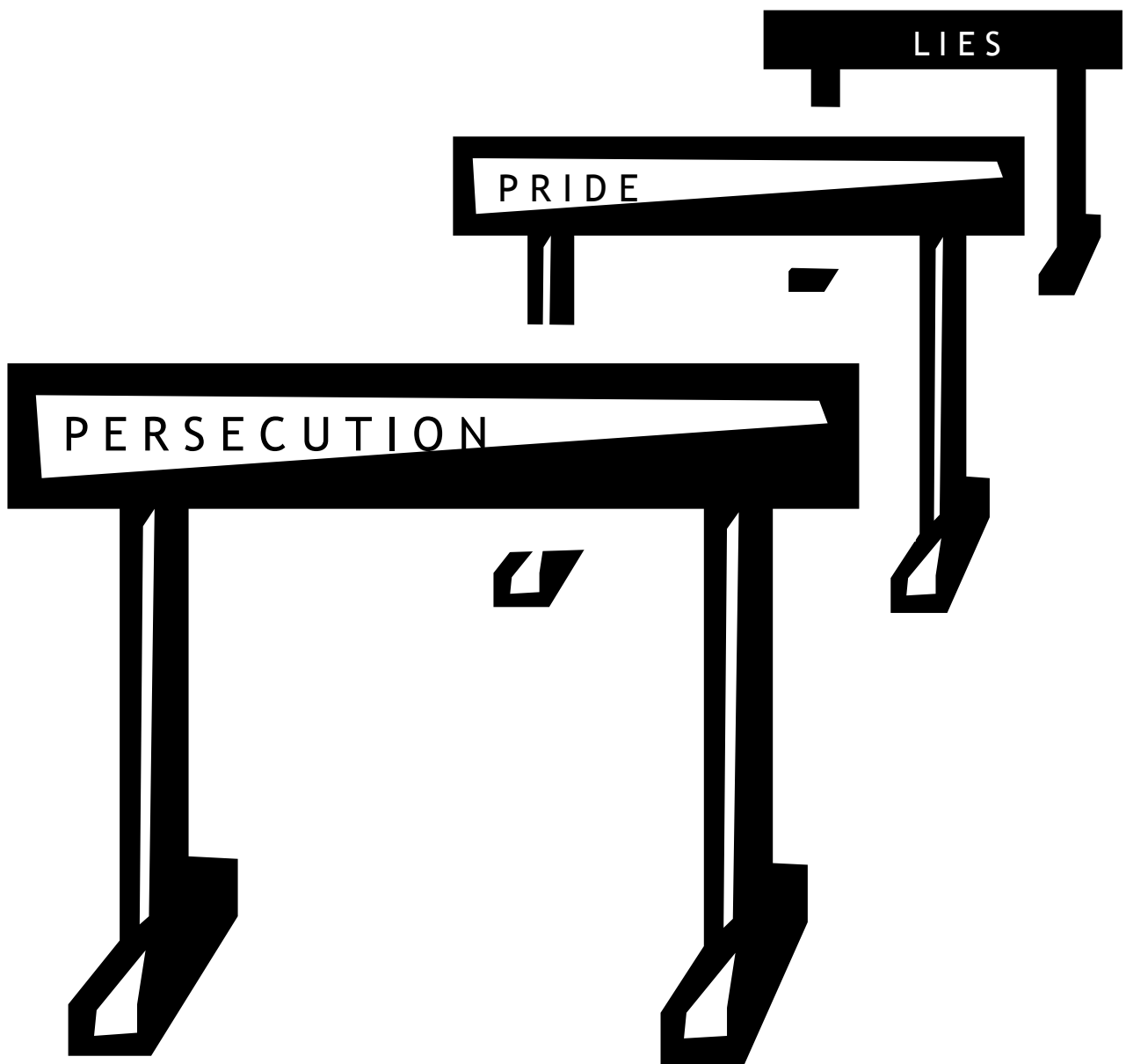
Racing Riddles

What “hurdles” did the apostles and believers have to surmount to be obedient to Christ?
Unscramble the letters to find the answer.



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What “hurdles” did the apostles and believers have to surmount to be obedient to Christ?
Unscramble the letters to find the answer.



Word Search

e b n o l a n n o m i s e l
e k o g y e g o w a a m e w
v b a p t i z e f g t g e l
e t l t l u m j y i p m i d
d r o w s d o g h c a e r p
c o r r a i i h p i b a a u
e i t a p r m c n a b t d r
e p a t e b n t o n i i n e
r e t e p u l e c e o u s e
p s n e i g r e n e t p m h
e t c s l e s c r a r p i c
t e v e i l e b e t i r s e
n e j o h n e r e d e s o h
a s t s p n p r e a c h e c

Philip

Simon

magician

preach God's word

Peter

John

believe

baptize

correct mistake

warn

patience

cheer up

Word Search

e b n o l a n n o m i s e l
e k o g y e g o w a a m e w
v b a p t i z e f g t g e l
e t l t l u m j y i p m i d
d r o w s d o g h c a e r p
c o r r a i i h p i b a a u
e i t a p r m c n a b t d r
e p a t e b n t o n i i n e
r e t e p u l e c e o u s e
p s n e i g r e n e t p m h
e t c s l e s c r a r p i c
t e v e i l e b e t i r s e
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