



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 26



To the Gentiles

Acts 13:45-52

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Galatians 5:16-26
Acts 9:1-19
Matthew 28:19-20
Matthew 5:11
1 Corinthians 4:12
Matthew 10:1-15
John 3:16

Memory Verse

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that the gospel was shared with the Jews first

Understand that Paul was appointed by God to share the gospel with the Gentiles (non-Jews)

Understand that anyone who believes has eternal life

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.

What would you do if you were running a race, and running it well, but some of the people in the crowd began booing you? And what if those few people were pretty loud? Would you just quit running? Well, we are going to look at something like that from the race being run through the book of Acts and see how it applies to the race of faith that we run every day.

We first need to review what we looked at last time. Who remembers where Paul and Barnabas stopped last on their first missionary journey? They were in Psidian Antioch. What had they been doing there? They visited the synagogue there and were invited to share a message with the people. There were Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) there. Paul started with the passage from the Old Testament that had been shared and worked his way to God's gift of Jesus. He shared how Jesus had been crucified. He also shared how death couldn't stop Jesus and how He rose from the dead. He told everyone that salvation is for all people. "Through [Jesus] everyone who believes is made right with God." (Acts 13:39 NIV) As they were leaving the synagogue, the people asked if they would return the next week and share more.

"On the next Sabbath day, almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord." (Acts 13:44 NIV) There were crowds of people everywhere! The people were ready to hear what God would share through Paul and Barnabas. But "when the Jews saw the crowds, they became very jealous. They said evil things against what Paul was saying." (Acts 13:45 NIV)

Paul and Barnabas didn't shy away. They answered the Jews with boldness and told them that to be obedient to God, they had to share the good news with the Jews. The problem was that they didn't accept it. Then Paul shared, "So now we are turning to those who aren't Jews. That is what the Lord has commanded us to do." (Acts 13:46-47 NIV)

Application

Let's talk about attitudes a moment. What attitude do you see in our story today? (jealousy, anger, joy, peace, etc.) Who do we see jealousy and anger in? (The Jews.) And who do we see joy in? (The non-Jew believers.) Who exhibits peace? (Paul and Barnabas.)

Maybe you have heard of the fruit of the Spirit, but have you ever looked at the verses before that in Galatians 5 (v 16-26)?

Let's take a look. "The deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: . . . jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions. . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . ." (Galatians 5:19-20 NIV)

Which group are you in? Have you chosen to follow Christ and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit or are you living for yourself? Won't you choose Christ today?

Does that remind you of something? Think back to Paul's conversion, when he was known as Saul. Do you remember what God told Ananias about Paul? "The Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! I have chosen this man to work for me. He will carry my name to those who aren't Jews and to their kings.'" (Acts 9:15 NIV)

Well, when the non-Jews heard this they were happy. They wanted to know about Jesus. They honored the Lord. Many of the non-Jews believed and when they did, they also obtained eternal life. You see, the Good News is not just for one group of people; it is for all people. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would be His witnesses from one end of the world to the other.

While the non-Jews were very excited about this, the Jews were angry. They tried to make problems for Paul and Barnabas. "The Jews stirred up the important women who worshiped God. They also stirred up the men who were leaders in the city. They tried to get them to attack Paul and Barnabas. They threw them out of that area." Paul and Barnabas didn't like this, but they left that area and moved on to share the gospel with those who would listen. They headed to Iconium.

Review

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas speak in the synagogue? (Psidian Antioch)
2. When they spoke a second time, what happened? (The Jews became jealous and threw them out of that area.)
3. How did Paul and Barnabas respond? (They announced that they would share the Good News with non-Jews and they moved on.)

Next Week
Lystra
Acts 14:1-23

Preschool Lesson

Who remembers where Paul and Barnabas were the last time we talked about them? They were in Psidian Antioch. What had they been doing there? They visited the synagogue there and were invited to share a message with the people. There were Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) there. Paul started with the Old Testament and then shared how Jesus had been crucified. He also shared how death couldn't stop Jesus and how He rose from the dead. He told everyone that salvation is for all people. "Through [Jesus] everyone who believes is made right with God." (Acts 13:39 NIV) As they were leaving the synagogue, the people asked if they would return the next week and share more.

"On the next Sabbath day, almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord." (Acts 13:44 NIV) There were crowds of people everywhere! The people were ready to hear what God would share through Paul and Barnabas. But "when the Jews saw the crowds, they became very jealous. They said evil things against what Paul was saying." (Acts 13:45 NIV)

Paul and Barnabas weren't shy! They answered the Jews with boldness and told them that to be obedient to God, they had to share the good news with the Jews. The problem was that they didn't accept it. Then Paul shared, "So now we are turning to those who aren't Jews. That is what the Lord has commanded us to do." (Acts 13:46-47 NIV)

Well, when the non-Jews heard this they were happy. They wanted to know about Jesus. They honored the Lord. Many of the non-Jews believed and when they did, they also obtained eternal life. You see, the Good News is not just for one group of people; it is for all people. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would be His witnesses from one end of the world to the other.

While the non-Jews were very excited about this, the Jews were angry. They tried to make problems for Paul and Barnabas. "The Jews stirred up the important women who worshiped God. They also stirred up the men who were leaders in the city. They tried to get them to attack Paul and Barnabas. They threw them out of that area." Paul and Barnabas didn't like this, but they left that area and moved on to share the gospel with those who would listen.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Make a "Fruit of the Spirit Tree." Decorate the fruit with each characteristic listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

Sing "The Fruit of the Spirit," "I've Got Joy," "I've Got Peace Like a River," etc.

Play a relay game with fruit.

Share stories of great athletes who were ridiculed or scorned, but who persevered and succeeded. Some examples: Jim Thorpe, Jackie Robinson, Eric Liddell, etc.

Bring several translations of the Bible. Read the memory verse in each translation and discuss what each part of the fruit means.

Dig a little deeper. Look at and discuss Galatians 5:16-26. Then, continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, and discuss how it applies to Galatians 5:16-26.



But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22-23

Racing Riddles

Fill in the spaces with the "fruit" that fits as well as the reference for the verse.
 Done correctly, it will vertically spell out the answer to the question "Who produces this kind of fruit in our lives?"

— — — — () — — — — — — — —

— — () — — — — — —

() — — —

— — ()



— — — — — — — — () —

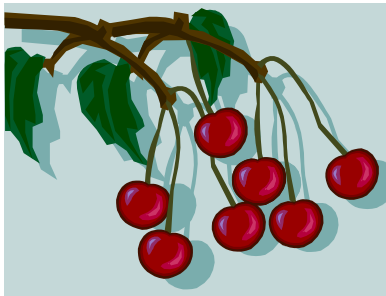
() — — — — —

— () — — — — — — —

— — — — — — — — () — —

— — — () — — — — —

— — — — () — — — — — 5 : 2 2 - 2 3



Racing Riddles

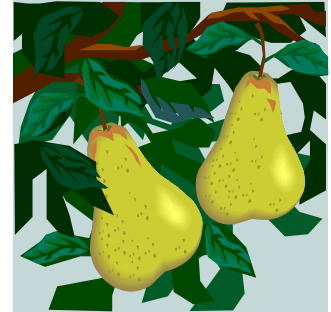
Fill in the spaces with the “fruit” that fits as well as the reference for the verse.
Done correctly, it will vertically spell out the answer to the question “Who produces this kind of fruit in our lives?”

F A I T H F U L N E S S

G O O D N E S S

L O V E

J O Y



G E N T L E N E S S

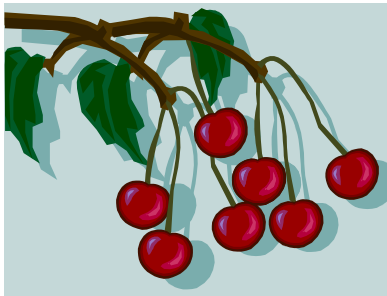
P E A C E

K I N D N E S S

S E L F - C O N T R O L

P A T I E N C E

G A L A T I A N S 5 : 2 2 - 2 3



Word Search

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

love

joy

peace

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

self-control

Word Search

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

love

joy

peace

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

self-control