



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

**You Will Be
My Witnesses:**

Running the Race

Lesson 30



Follow God's Lead

Follow God's Leaders

Acts 16:6-15

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Isaiah 55:8-9

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.

Memory Verse

Follow my example,
just as I follow
the example of Christ.
1 Corinthians 11:1 (NirV)

What do you do when given instructions, whether you are running a race, playing a game, taking classes at school, or performing a task at work? Do you do what you're asked to do? Do you discuss a better way to do things or do you do things your own way? Let's see what Paul did.

Lesson Goals

- Understand that God's ways don't always make sense to us
- Understand that it is important to follow God's lead
- Understand the importance of following God's leaders

So far on this second missionary journey, we have seen that Paul and Barnabas disagreed and separated. They each went their own way. Paul chose Silas to travel with him. They met Timothy in Lystra and asked him to travel with them as well. "They traveled all through the area of Phrygia and Galatia." (Acts 16:6 NirV) These regions were in Asia Minor, what is now known as the country of Turkey. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit prevented Paul, Silas, and Timothy from preaching the word in this whole area. "They came to the border of Mysia. From there they tried to enter Bithynia. But the Spirit of Jesus would not let them. So they passed by Mysia. Then they went down to Troas." (Acts 16:7-8 NirV) Troas was a port city on the Aegean Sea. Luke, the writer of the gospel of Luke as well as the book of Acts, joined them there.

Paul hadn't come across anything like this in his journeys so far. He tried to enter Bithynia but God wouldn't let him. Along with that, Paul usually preached in each place that he traveled to, but here the Holy Spirit had stopped them. Even if Paul didn't understand why, he followed God's lead. But why would God do that? Let's see if what happens next gives us a clue!

The night that they were in Troas, the port city, Paul had a dream, or vision. In his dream, he saw a man from Macedonia, the northern part of Greece. The man was begging Paul. "Come over to Macedonia!" the man said. "Help us!" Could this be why God stopped Paul and his companions from going anywhere else? After Paul had seen the vision, Luke, Silas, and Timothy helped him get ready to go. They all decided "that God had called [them] to preach the good news there." (Acts 16:10b NirV) Not only was Paul

Application

“Follow my example, just as I follow the example of Christ.” (I Corinthians 11:1 Nlrv)
Do you follow Christ’s example? Do you follow God’s lead in your life? If you don’t know him, or if you are like Lydia and worship God but have never given your life to His son, Jesus Christ, ask me how to do that today.

But, if you are a believer, are you being obedient by following His example? If you truly love Him, you will obey Him. Are you at a point where you can say with Paul, “Follow my example”? Paul followed Christ’s example so well that he could encourage people to do things the way he did. Can you do that?

Will you commit today to be the example to others that God wants you to be?

following God’s lead, but Luke, Silas, and Timothy were following the lead of the leader God had given them.

So they got into the boat and sailed to the island of Samothrace. From there they went to the Greek port city of Neapolis. And from there they traveled to the Roman colony of Philippi. Philippi was a very important city. Paul, Luke, Silas, and Timothy stayed there a few days. On the Sabbath day, they looked for a place of prayer. They went outside of the city and walked down to the river. They found a group of women who were gathered there. “One of those listening was a woman named Lydia.” (Acts 16:14 Nlrv) Lydia was a business woman. She sold purple cloth. Lydia was from Thyatira, in Asia Minor, where Paul and his companions had come through but not been allowed to stay. Lydia worshipped God, but didn’t know His son, Jesus. While Paul and his companions were speaking to these women, God “opened her [Lydia’s] heart to accept Paul’s message. She and her family were baptized.” (Acts 16:14b-15a Nlrv)

Then Lydia invited them all to her home. They were welcomed into her home and stayed there with her.

Review

1. What happened to Paul and his companions in Asia Minor? (God’s Holy Spirit prevented them from preaching or from entering Bithynia.)
2. What happened in Troas? (Paul had a dream/vision.)
3. Where was the man from in Paul’s dream? (Macedonia)
4. What was Paul’s dream about? (God was directing Paul to Macedonia.)
5. What did Paul do? (Paul obeyed God.)

Next Week
A Jailer is Freed
Acts 16:16-40

Preschool Lesson

Paul, Silas, and Timothy continued their travels, but God kept them from going to some of the places they wanted to go. Paul didn't understand why, but he followed God's lead. They went to Troas. Troas was a city on the Aegean Sea. Luke, the writer of the gospel of Luke as well as the book of Acts, joined them there.

That night, while they were in Troas, Paul had a dream. In his dream, he saw a man from Macedonia, the northern part of Greece. The man was begging Paul, "Come over here and help us!" After Paul had seen the vision, Luke, Silas, and Timothy helped him get ready to go. They all decided that God had called all of them to tell about Jesus there. Not only did Paul follow God's lead, but Luke, Silas, and Timothy followed the lead of the leader God had given them.

So they got into the boat and sailed to a small island. From there they went to the country of Greece. Then they traveled to the Roman colony of Philippi. Philippi was a very important city. Paul, Luke, Silas, and Timothy stayed there a few days.

On the Sabbath day, they looked for a place of prayer. They went outside of the city and walked down to the river. They found a group of women there. One of them was a woman named Lydia. Lydia was a business woman. She sold purple cloth. Lydia was from the city of Thyatira. Lydia worshipped God, but didn't know His son, Jesus. While Paul and his companions were speaking to these women, God "opened her [Lydia's] heart to accept Paul's message. She and her family were baptized." (Acts 16:14b-15a NIV)

Then Lydia invited them all to her home. They were welcomed into her home and stayed there with her.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Trace your feet onto construction paper. Write the verse, phrase by phrase, on each footprint. Tape the footprints throughout your study area and encourage your students to follow the footprints. Help them practice the verse as they go.

Sing “I Will Run the Race,” “Footsteps of Jesus,” “He Leadeth Me,” “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” “I Surrender All,” or “Let Others See Jesus in You.”

Provide maps of Paul’s Second Journey. Review the lesson and use the map to find each place that Paul and his companions traveled through or stopped at. If you are still using a wall-sized map, mark these on that map, as well, with a different color.

Play “Follow the Leader.”

Practice weaving. This can be done with yarn or strips of construction paper. Talk about Lydia and how she sold purple cloth.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, focus on verse 2 “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed.” (MSG) Discuss what it means to study how Jesus did it. Talk about ways to follow Jesus’ example, to run the race as He ran it.



Follow my example,
just as I follow
the example of Christ.

I Corinthians 11:1

Racing Riddles

Place the letters below in order to complete the memory verse.



_____ my example,
just as I _____
the example of Christ.
I Corinthians 11:1

Word Search

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

Paul

Silas

Timothy

Luke

Asia Minor

Troas

dream

Macedonia

Philippi

place of prayer

by river

Lydia

Word Search

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

Paul

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