



The Apostle Paul

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Lesson Goal

Students will see that they should imitate the Apostle Paul's way of life.

Lesson Objectives

Student will be able to:

1. See the Apostle Paul's concern for world evangelism
2. the Apostle Paul's view concerning time
3. How the Apostle Paul wasn't thinking about himself.

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 4:16 – “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.”

Application

Adopt the Apostle Paul's Mindset



Teacher Planning Sheet

Prepare

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____

Point

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

Proclaim

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____

Practice

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____



Lesson

In the Bible, there is a man who God used significantly. Outside of Jesus, this man was probably the most crucial figure in your New Testament. His name was the Apostle Paul. Several times in your Bible, the apostle Paul stated that believers should follow or imitate his life. Look at these verses.

I Corinthians 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. I Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

I think the Apostle Paul wanted us to follow his life. So if we are then going to follow the Apostle Paul, then we have to know what way of thinking the Apostle Paul had. That is the purpose of this lesson, for you to understand the mindset of the Apostle Paul then for you to imitate it. Now let's get on with our lesson.

Once upon a time, there was a man that had a unique upbringing; his name was Saul. Saul was born in a city that was multicultural and was influenced by many different countries and peoples. It was a town that prided itself on education. The city name was Tarsus, and this special man was born into a Jewish and Roman family. Saul was Jewish, from the tribe of Benjamin, and he was a Roman citizen. (Acts 22:3, Philippians 3:5 and Acts 22:27-28) Saul was an educated man, he was taught in Jerusalem all about the Old Testament and then the traditions of the Pharisees by a well-known teacher, Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3) With all this knowledge, Saul was extremely zealous or passionate about what he believed. It was like he was all in with whatever he did. There was no apathy with Saul, and he even bragged that his passion surpassed or was more significant than his peers. (Acts 22:3, Galatians 1:14) Saul was the man in his time; one commentator said, "Saul of Tarsus was destined for greatness."

It is easy to look at others and say there is no way that I add up. There is no way that I could be a Saul. I am not a passionate or zealous person. I believe that every Christian should be a zealous and passionate person. In the book of Revelation, Christ told the Church at Laodicea that it was neither hot or cold (Revelation 3:15) to change. Christ spoke to those that He loved, his people, and told them to BE Zealous. (Revelation 3:19) That was his command to get passionate and zealous about Christ.



Well, this passionate Jewish Pharisee that was a Roman Citizen whose name was Saul heard something one day. He heard of this crazy sect or religious group that was spreading new teaching around a Nazarene named Jesus. They were claiming that Jesus was the Messiah, the son of God, and if you believed that Jesus was God and the Messiah, then you would have your sins forgiven and the Holy Ghost living in them. (Acts 2:36-38, Acts 6:9-10) Saul was in certain synagogue one day when he heard a man speak on this subject of Jesus and it made the whole town of Jerusalem upset. This man, whose name was Stephen in Saul's mind, seemed to speak out against the Jewish tradition. The belief system that Paul had given himself too. In anger and zeal, Saul had this man put to death and then made havoc on this group that assembled themselves together, that we call the Church. (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; Acts 22:4-5; Galatians 1:13,23 and Philipians 3:6) Saul's life was given to destroy this way or this Church. But something happened as Saul went to persecute people of this Church in Damascus. Jesus changed the life of Saul and what change it was. Saul got saved, and now it is time for you, the student, to see a man that is worth mimicking. A mindset that is worth imitating. A life worth following.

After Saul's conversion, his salvation, Saul was very concerned about the spread of the gospel. Saul's mindset was that he had to proclaim the message that changed his life. Look what he did after he got saved and received his sight. Acts 9:20 "And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God." Immediately Saul got busy preaching the gospel where he was. How about you? Are you telling others your story and the good news about Christ? Paul's life was centered around; I have to get this gospel message out immediately. When Paul was in a major city like Athens, the false worship of idols bothered Paul so much that he proclaimed in the gospel message in the Synagogue and markets DAILY. Look at Acts 17:16-17. How about you? Does the fact that there are billions of people in the world that are worshipping False gods, does it do anything to your heart? Over 300 million false gods in India are worshiped. How is your Spirit? Does that bother you at all? The fact that in South America, the worship of Mary is prominent that it is a way of life and so deeply rooted in their culture. Does stir your spirit? People all around this world are worshipping false gods. The Apostle Paul couldn't take it He had to do something about it. Everywhere Saul or Paul, as we will now call him, he was proclaiming the name of Jesus that radically changed his life, Acts 18:4. These feelings got ahold of Saul so bad that he thought that he was in debt, that means he owed, Greeks, barbarians, wise and unwise the gospel. Look at Romans 1:14-16. The apostle Paul had a mindset like this, "woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16) Paul had to get his message out.



What about you, dear student? How do you view the gospel message that God has entrusted you? Is it optional for you to talk about it? Are you looking for ways to get the Gospel out? Are you telling everyone you possibly can? AND NOT JUST THAT!!! But are you concerned about the world and those that do not have the gospel message? Are you worried about others outside of your own family and community? Do you think about the billions that are around the world that have never heard about the gospel message? The Apostle Paul said this in 2 Corinthians 10:16, "To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand." The mindset that the Apostle Paul had, is a mindset of I HAVE TO GET THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD. What about you, student? What about you, teacher? Are you following Paul's example?

From the beginning, the Apostle Paul was worried about getting the gospel message out because he knew his time was short. Please make sure that you read this verse, 1 Corinthians 7:29 "But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;" In this story that Apostle Paul is encouraging others not to marry because the time is short. We don't have much time to live, and we must live it for Christ. That is the idea Paul is giving off here. I need to say this; IT IS NOT WRONG TO MARRY. What Paul is stating is this. Live for Jesus now; you don't have much time!! There is only a short about of time that we get in this life. You need to live for Jesus now. Paul realized that the truth of the Bible. Tomorrow is not promised. Your time is precious. You have to live with the end in mind. You can't live for yourself today and think you will live for God tomorrow. That is not the mindset that the Apostle Paul had, and that is not the teaching of the Bible. The apostle Paul lived in urgency. When giving the gospel, it was NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. You need to get saved today. 2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) That is the way the apostle Paul lived. We can't wait for tomorrow. Paul told the brethren there in Colosse that they were to walk in wisdom and redeeming the time. They were to make the most of every opportunity. Paul told Timothy that he should be ready to preach at any time or season, look at the first part of verse two in 2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;" That is how the Apostle Paul viewed his time and those he sought to influence. WE DON'T HAVE THE OPTION TO WAIT. Time is valuable, and it is short. We have to get busy now.



What about you, student? How do you view your life and time? Is there an urgency in getting the gospel to your friends, family, coworkers, and THE WORLD? It seems like I find it easy in my life to put off things. I sometimes adopt the "Que será será" mentality. Whatever will be will be. I lose sight of the truth that is found in God's word. My life is but a vapor. James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. I think that there is time, and I don't have to be as time-sensitive as I should be. There is always tomorrow. Therefore, I don't do like I should. I forget what the Psalmist told me to do. Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. I need to realize that my days are numbered and what God has told me to do I need to do now. You see, if you and I began to think about time like the Apostle Paul and what the Bible says, then all our lives will be different. The way we invest our money. How we view children and what we raise our kids to do. What we talk about and give our lives too. If we would think the way the Apostle Paul did about the time it might sound a lot more like, Romans 13:11 "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." If you would think like the Apostle Paul, how urgent would you be about getting the gospel around the world? Are you redeeming your time wisely? Or is your life being lived for yourself? It's not too late to start thinking as the Apostle Paul did about your time.

The final mindset that Apostle Paul had that we will discuss today is this; the Apostle Paul realized that if the world was going to be reached with the gospel, then he couldn't be thinking of himself. The apostle's mindset was not on himself, meaning he wasn't selfish in his thinking. Look at this verse found in the book of Philippians. Philippians 1:12 "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;". While the Apostle Paul was in prison, where was his mind? What did the Apostle Paul tell the readers of Philippians 1:12 that they should understand or mind? That all the trials that had gone on in Paul's life were for the advancement of the gospel. That is a mind that is not focused on self.

Paul could have told his story and got a whole bunch of sympathy. He could have become extremely bitter because of what happened to him. But that did not happen. What happened was the Apostle Paul was focused on what the Lord wanted and realized that his mind was not to think about himself but about others. Philippians 2:4-5 "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:". You see, the mind that Paul had is the one that he learned from Christ. He wasn't supposed to look at himself but rather what God wanted.



Colossians 3:1-2 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Paul would be a giver of his money. Why, because he wasn't caring for himself. Acts 20:33-34 "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. 34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me." Paul wasn't out for himself but others. He wasn't minding or thinking about himself. 2 Corinthians 12:15 "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." He could love others and give to others and not want anything in return. Why, it can be seen in 1 Corinthians 10:33 "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." He wasn't thinking about himself but rather the mission.

What about you, student? Where is your mind today? Is it on your self and your things? How much of your life and thoughts are spent on yourself or things in your possession? How many times do you think about the job that God has given you to do? Take the gospel to the world that is your job while you are here on this earth. Where is your mind today? What are you thinking about? What are you concerned about? I am going to make a statement; this is my opinion, so it is not worth much. But I believe that the reason why the Gospel is not going throughout all the world as it should is that God's people are too focused on themselves and not their Lord and the task He has given them. Paul's life was not about Paul. It was about something much bigger. Student, if you don't get that, then you are missing out on a wonderful life. A life that, in the end, you can say I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Stop thinking about yourself and start thinking of the millions that are living in darkness. Start thinking about the wonderful heavenly Father that you have and how He gave His Son to rescue the world. He gave it all to the world because He loves the world. So start thinking like the Apostle Paul.

We could go on and on for a long time talking about the mindset of the Apostle Paul. But right now, you and your church are gearing up for missions conference. You are seeking to set your minds on what is on God's heart. The Bible is pretty clear that the Apostle Paul is our example for us to follow in the church. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit at least three times in scripture, the Bible states that we are to follow Paul's life. The way you do that is you have to adopt the mindset or the attitude that the Apostle Paul had. So I give you three mindsets that the Apostle Paul had, and I want to reiterate them. Number one is this, "Are you concerned about the furtherance of the gospel?" Do you think it is your responsibility to make sure people in India, China, Indonesia, South America, Europe, North America, and Africa hear the gospel? The Apostle Paul said he was a debtor to them.



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You need to ADOPT this mindset. Secondly, “How do you view your time?” Do you realize that the time is short, and we must get the gospel out now? Today is the day of Salvation. Thirdly, “Do you think about yourself or the Lord and His task?” Don’t get caught up with the world’s way of thinking. They want you to think about what you can get right now for you and your own. As a believer in Jesus Christ, we have been delivered from that way of thinking. You currently are to think about others. You are to think and focus on what Jesus wants.

Today the choice is yours. You can continue with the way you have been thinking, or you can change and follow Paul’s example. If you would, please pray and ask God to help change the way you have been thinking. We can see this world reached with the gospel message, but to do so, we are going to need men and women, and young boys and girls to start thinking like the Apostle Paul. Would you change your way of thinking? Would you start thinking like the Apostle Paul?



The Apostle Paul

1 Corinthians 4:16

Name _____

1. Write 1 Corinthians 4:16. _____

2. What kind of family did Saul come from? (two answers)?

3. Just because Saul was passionate and zealous about his religious beliefs, did that make him a Christian? _____
4. What did Saul set out to do with his life before he was saved?

5. What changed Saul's life? _____
6. What did Paul dedicate his life to after his salvation? _____
7. How soon after he got saved did Paul start preaching? _____
8. When Paul saw the people worshipping idols, how often did he share the gospel with them? _____

9. Every Christian should be p_____ and z_____.



Self-Examination

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;” - 2 Timothy 4:2

How do you view the gospel message that God has entrusted you?

Is it optional for you to talk about it? _____

Are you looking for ways to get the Gospel out? _____

Are you concerned about the world and those that do not have the gospel message?

When should you be ready to share the gospel? _____

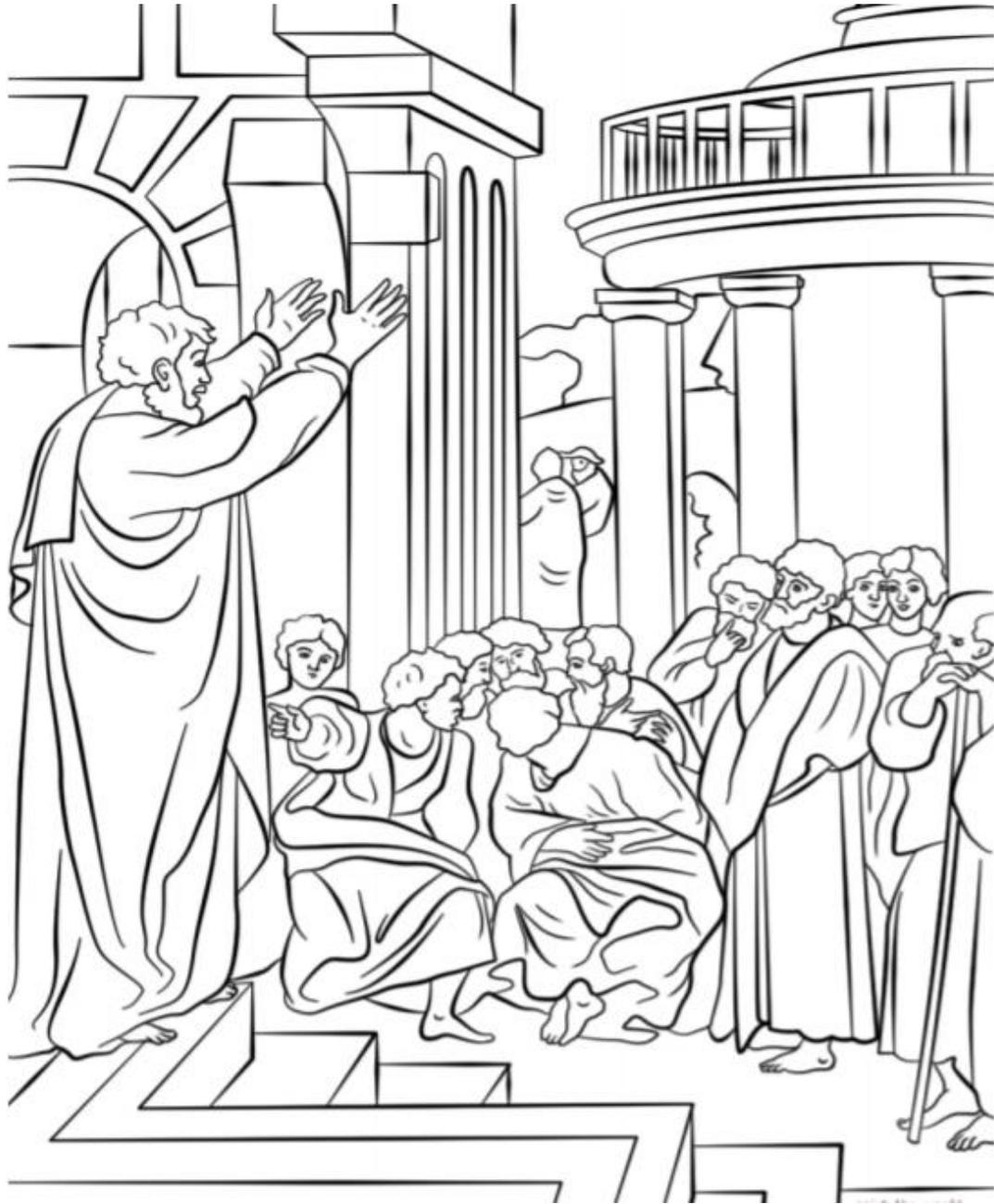
“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” - James 4:14

How many times do you think about the job that God has given you to do? _____

How do you view your time? Do you realize that the time is short, and we must get the gospel out now? _____

Are you telling others your story and the good news about Christ? _____

Who do you know that you could share the Gospel with? _____



“And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”

Acts 9:20



PAUL THE APOSTLE

A L N B X R T O I Q Z X H S O T S B B Q
L Y S T R A G O B B I I E Q M D L I Q S
I T Z S B W M L R Q E Z Q G A A F A O N
X A I F H A E P B A I N Y U L M U W M X
V R E K T I R V K J H Y J N T A P M C M
V S N I O Y P N Q B E T P N A S M V O V
G U A J Q Q V W A L U J E I I C Q M R R
A S I D X O P O R B V K X A C U D J I Z
L P H R V P D X C E A R X H C S W E N D
A X F Y Q K I F C V C S O A Z H Q L T I
T E E R T C S K S Q X K J M O J E I H S
I F X N D Y C B X X B O E C E U S R K R
A K S E M V I F Q T T F V D B G R T Y A
F Z Y U F C P D O R Q C B Y N L P U Y E
M M J B E S L O M H M Y H N Y P W F E L
K B F M U D E N B J S G H D Y A Q E S I
F K U A X W S C P R I S O N C U R A H T
A N T I O C H D Z X N Q K A Q L H J U E
J V L U I Z Z G J Y F E P H E S U S A V
T S Y N A G O G U E F O Y L B W L D O G

CORINTH
TORAH TEACHER
PAUL
ANTIOCH
ROME
SYNAGOGUE

LYSTRA
EPHESUS
BARNABAS
GALATIA
PRISON
ISRAELITE

SHIPWRECKED
DAMASCUS
TARSUS
DISCIPLES
YESHUA
MALTA



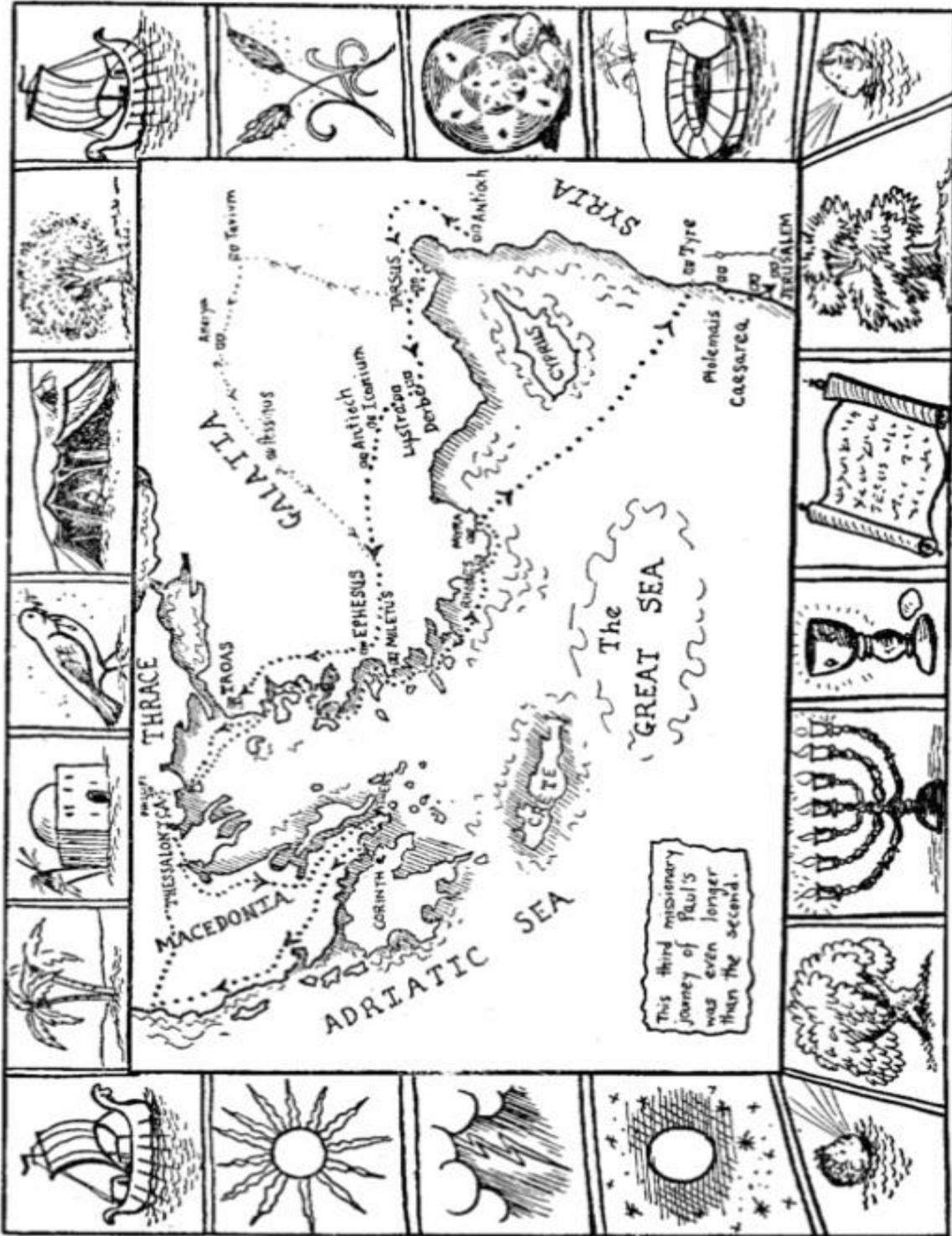
PAUL THE APOSTLE

List the thirteen letters that Paul wrote in the New Testament,
and then color the page.



Paul wrote these letters:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____



This is a map of some of Paul's journeys.