

Family Worship

*The Good News
Reached Europe*

29.11.2020

Opening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m9oU>

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around



Catechism Time!

Bible truths for teaching children

Question 27

Q: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

A: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

Nevertheless, God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

Bible verse (Romans 5:17)

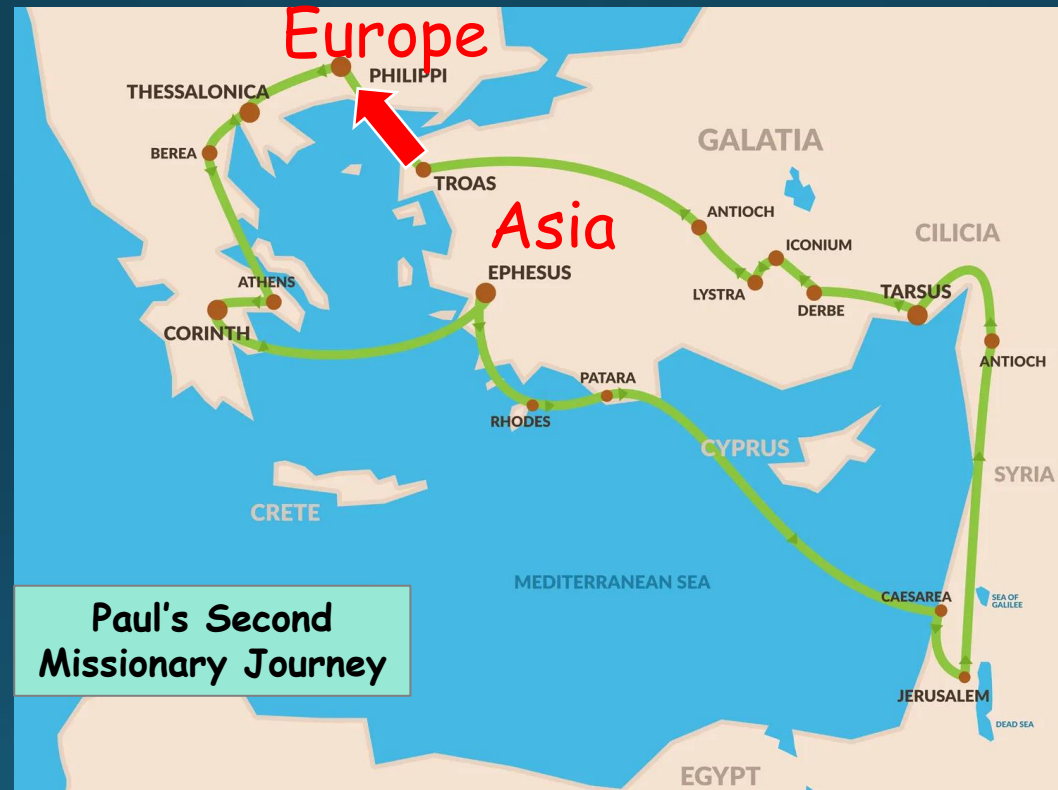
For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

- ❖ *Have you ever gone on a trip with your family?*
- ❖ *Did someone in the family plan the trip on a map (or Google map) and mark out the places to visit?*
- ❖ *Once upon a time, the Apostle Paul went on a trip. The Holy Spirit was his GPS.*
- ❖ *Well, the world was never the same after that...*

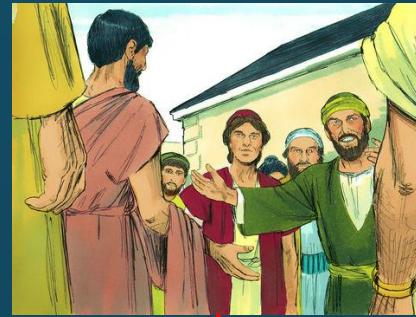
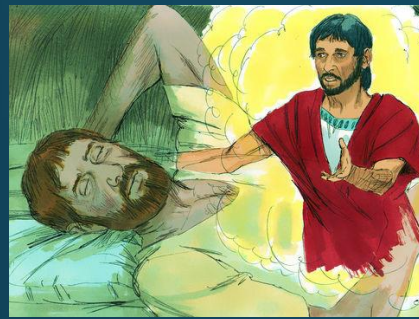


Acts 16 & 17

Let's join Paul on his exciting trip...and watch how he took the Good News from Asia into Europe!

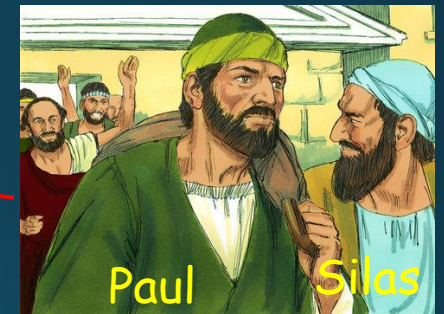


(3) One night Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us!' (Macedonia was in Europe)



(2) They went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. The churches were strengthened and grew larger every day. (Remember what the church leaders agreed last week?)

Paul, Silas & Timothy concluded that God was calling them to preach the Good News there. They packed up at once and sailed from Troas to Philippi. (Can you find Troas and Philippi?)



(1) Paul teamed up with Silas and set off from Antioch. Timothy joined them at Lystra (Can you find Lystra on the map?)



(4) In Philippi, on Sabbath day they went to the river and spoke with some women there. Lydia was a merchant of purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.** She and the members of her household were baptised.

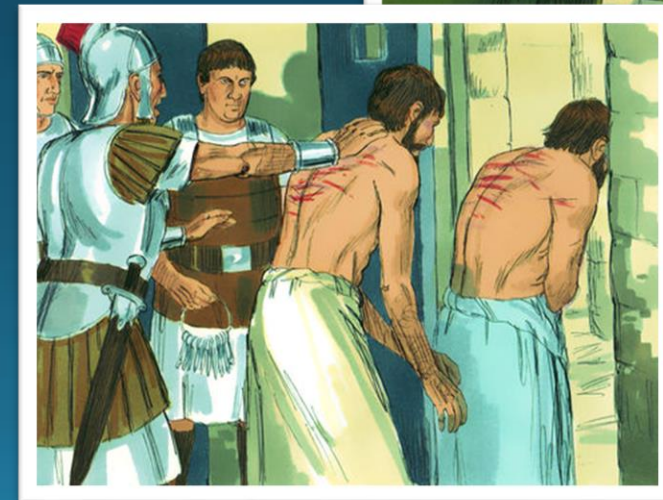
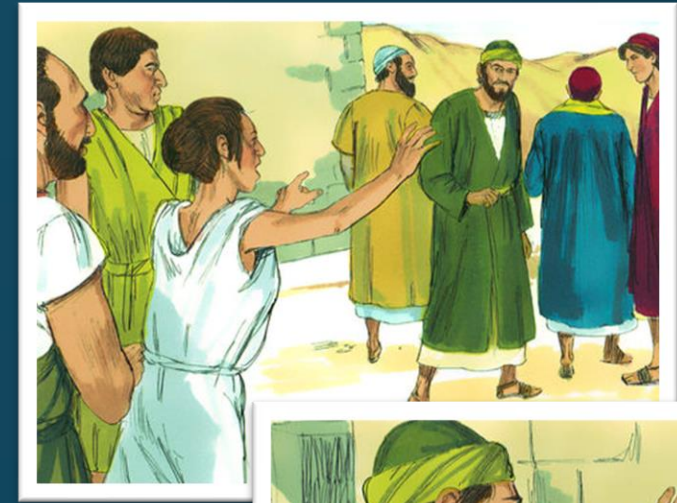
(5) After lots of adventures in Philippi, Paul and his companions then went to Thessalonica. There they were attacked by some Jews, so they went to Berea. Timothy and Silas stayed in Berea while Paul went to Athens (6).

*Now let's dig deeper into what
happened in Philippi and Athens...*

In Philippi, they were followed by a slave girl who was possessed by a demon. This demon gave her powers as a fortune-teller and she earned a lot of money for her masters. She chased after them shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.'

This went on day after day until Paul got so annoyed that he turned and said to the demon within her, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' Instantly it left her.

When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they got **Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned**. The jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. He put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.



About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake. The foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose!



Hey man...Don't harm yourself! We're all here!



The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'

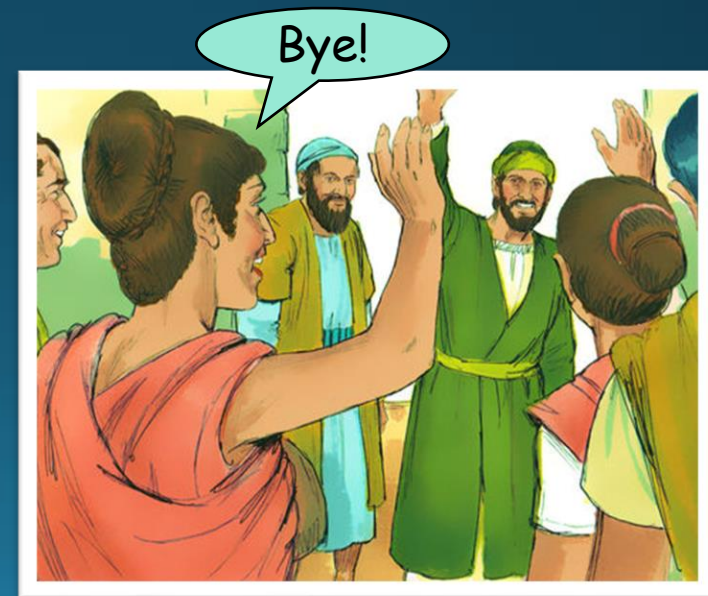
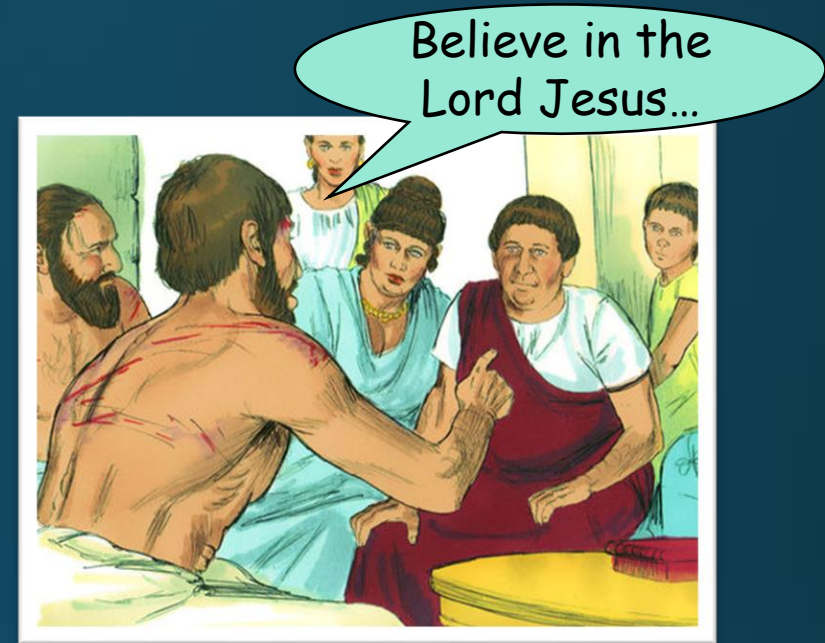
The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.' Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised.

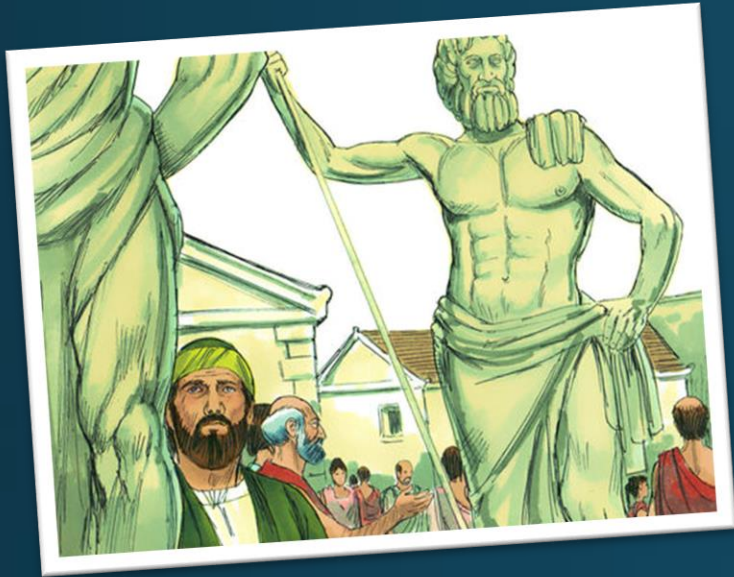
The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them. He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God - he and his whole household.

The next morning when the city officials learned that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed and apologised to them. Paul and Silas encouraged the believers and left Philippi.



Paul in Athens...

Paul in Athens



Paul waited for Silas and Timothy in Athens. He was troubled because he saw that the city was full of idols.

He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who were there.

(The Athenians liked to spend time discussing the latest ideas.)



He also debated with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, 'What's this babbler saying with these strange ideas?' Others said, 'He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.'

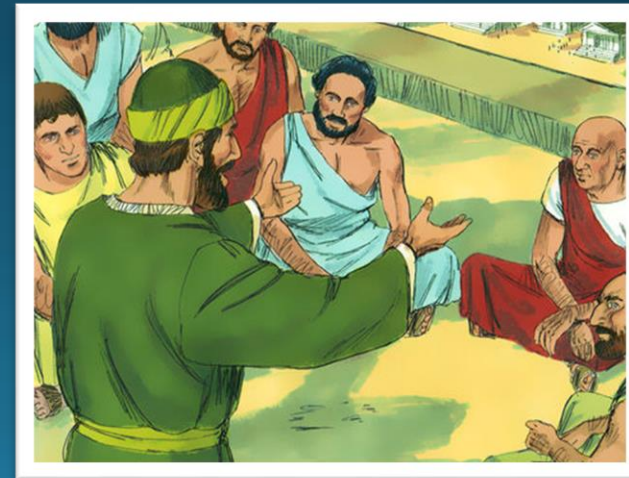
They took Paul to the high council of the city (Areopagus) who asked, 'Tell us about these strange things and new teaching.'

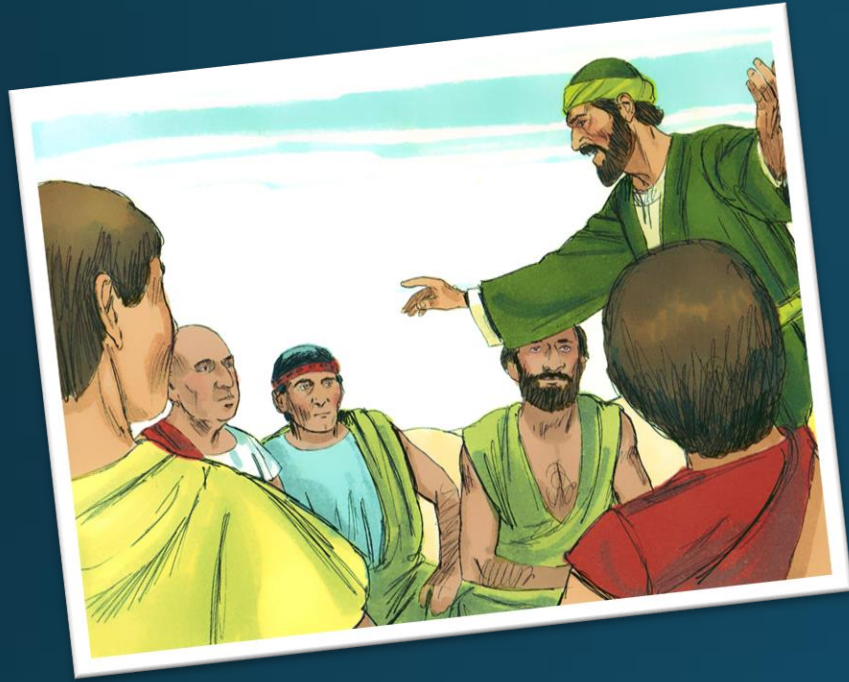
Paul stood and addressed the council:

'Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines.

One of your altars had this inscription on it: To an Unknown God. This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about.

He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn't live in man-made temples.

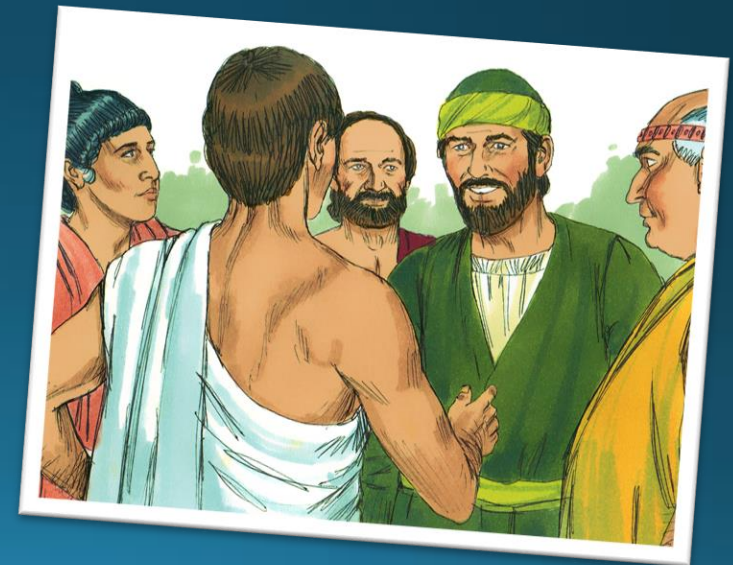




He gives life to everything. From one man He created all the nations. He controls when nations rise and fall. God wants us to seek and find him. It is in Him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring." God is not an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

God commands everyone to repent of their sins and turn to Him. For He has set a day when the world will be judged by Jesus whom He has raised from the dead.'

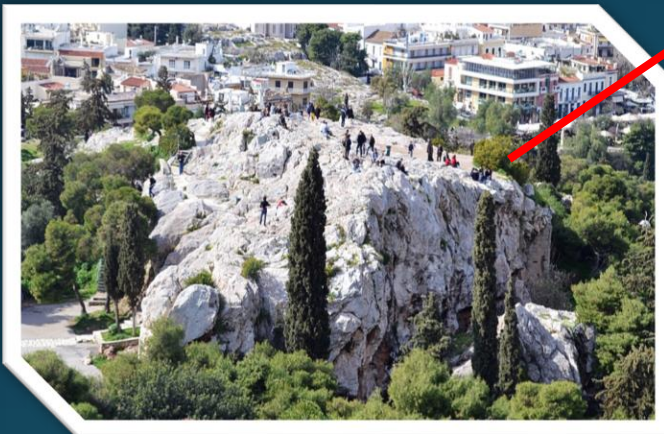
When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, 'We want to hear more about this later.' That ended Paul's discussion with them. Some, however, became believers including Dionysius, a member of the council and a woman named Damaris.



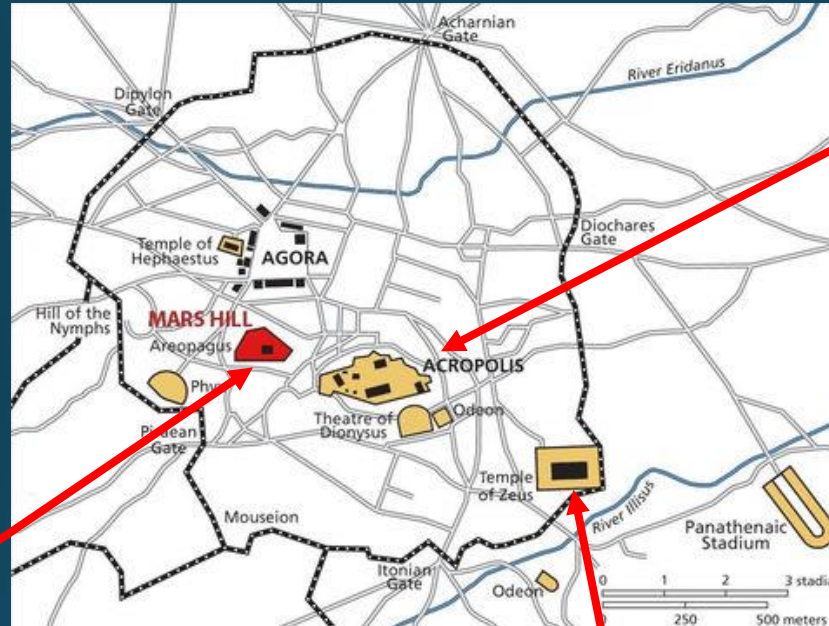
Athens



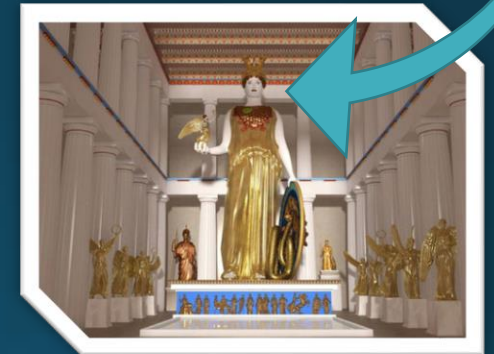
In the Palatine museum in Rome is an altar to 'Agnostos Theos', Greek for 'Unknown God' that Paul spoke about.



"Areopagus" means Hill of Ares, or Mars Hill. It was where the high council of Athens met. **Paul preached there.**



The Parthenon (temple at the top) housed the idol goddess Athena



Inside the Temple of Zeus was a statue made of ivory and gold. Zeus was the god of sky and thunder who ruled as king of the gods.

Family Discussion

1. As Paul and his companions traveled, was God with them? Give examples to support your view.
2. Paul and Silas were beaten up badly and were thrown into jail. But they were p _____ and s _____ h _____.
 - How could they behave like this when they were in such a rotten state?
3. Much happened in one night in Philippi
 - Why did the jailer try to kill himself after the earthquake?
 - What was Paul's answer to his question "What must I do to be saved"?
 - The jailer almost killed himself. How could he be "filled with joy" moments later?
 - Does your faith give you joy? (Everyone shares)
4. What were the 3 types of response from people after Paul's speech in Athens? Have you shared the Good News of Jesus with others and what was their response?

Key Elements of Paul's Missionary Efforts

1. Paul and companions relied on God's **power and guidance**
 - God called them to bring the Good News to Europe through a dream
 - God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message
 - God enabled them to cast out a demon
 - God delivered them from jail through an earthquake
 - God saved the jailer and his family through them
2. They led a life of **prayer and praise**
 - To them, prayer and praise was a habit of the heart
 - They could praise God even in their suffering
3. God gave Paul **knowledge and wisdom** to do His work
 - Athens was a centre of learning (many philosophies & religions)
 - Paul applied knowledge and wisdom to address a learned audience, even quoting their poets

Actually, these 3 points are key to everything we do.

Christianity in Europe

- ❖ God called Paul to bring the Good News from Asia to Europe
- ❖ Paul obeyed, even though he was attacked, beaten up, jailed, laughed at...
- ❖ But God had a plan. As Paul said "*He controls when nations rise and fall...God wants us to seek and find him.*" God is the God of history. He directs nations and empires such that all may get to know Him.
- ❖ Within 300 years after Paul first set foot in Europe, the Roman Emperor Constantine allowed Christians to freely practice their faith in the Empire. From then on, Christianity enabled Europe's culture to flourish over the next 1700 years, including science and technology, art and music
- ❖ One man's obedience to God transformed a civilisation

God can use your obedience
to do big things

Family Prayer Time

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

He is Exalted - I Exalt Thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM3DCuDvafY>

