

WITNESS? OR MISSIONARY?

In today's lesson, you have heard two important words: *witness* and *missionary*. These words are similar, but different.

WITNESS: Someone who tells others what he or she has seen or experienced. A Christian **witness** tells others what God has done and what He means to him or her.

MISSIONARY: A person called by God and sent by the Church to take the gospel to people of other countries or cultures.

Most middle-elementary boys and girls cannot be missionaries right now. But you can all be witnesses. On the notebook page, write one or more paragraphs. Tell what you know about Jesus and about becoming a Christian.

CHALLENGE—BE A WITNESS

This week, pray about what you have written. Ask God to help you share this with someone who doesn't know Jesus. And remember: that person may not become a Christian. But you will have obeyed Jesus' command to be a witness for Him.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH PAUL

JUNE 2, 2019

MAN ON A MISSION

Hello. My name is Paul. I am a very well-known person in the New Testament. What do YOU know about me? Shade in the true statements on this page.

I am a tentmaker as well as a preacher and missionary.

I made three long missionary trips.

As a young man, I was a Pharisee.

I was one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

I have written many letters that are now books in the New Testament.

I am a fisherman as well as a preacher and missionary.

These days, most people call me Paul. However, my Hebrew name is Saul.

Even after I became a follower of Jesus, many Christians were afraid of me.

I am a Roman citizen.

I tried to stop the Jews from having Jesus put to death on the Cross.

I became a believer after traveling to Damascus to destroy Jesus' followers.

I used to hate Christians. I had many of them put in prison and killed.

God chose me to take the gospel of Jesus to Gentiles as well as Jews.

I stood and watched while Stephen was stoned to death.

IT HAPPENED AT THE RIVERBANK

Acts 16:6-15

ROVING REPORTER RUFUS: Good evening. This is Roving Reporter Rufus of station KXYZ in Philippi. Today, I'm speaking to a new man in town, Paul. Tell us something about yourself.

PAUL: Thank you, Rufus. I am an apostle of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. God has sent me out to tell others how Jesus can change their lives forever if they will believe in Him and become His followers.

ROVING RUFUS: Hmm. I don't believe I've ever heard about Jesus of Nazareth. Who's He?

PAUL: That is exactly why I'm here, Rufus. My partners and I were traveling from city to city, visiting churches we had organized on our first missionary journey. When we finished, we tried to go to new towns to tell about Jesus. But every time we set out for a new place, the Lord stopped us.

RUFUS: (*rolling his eyes*) Oh, come on, Paul! Do you expect us to believe that your God tells you "Go here," or "Don't go there?"

PAUL: That's what happened. Finally, we headed to Troas, and that night I had a dream. I saw **a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging me, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."**

RUFUS: Well, if that's true, I bet that man was my neighbor. He's always begging *me* for something.

PAUL: Somehow, I kind of doubt that, Rufus. But anyway, this was all we needed. **We got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to the people here. We stopped at Neapolis.**



From there we traveled to Philippi since this is a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed here several days.

RUFUS: OK, but what exactly attracted you to the banks of the Gangites River, just outside Philippi?

PAUL: We quickly discovered that there was no synagogue in Philippi, so we decided to look other places for worshipers.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

RUFUS: Is it true that you met one of the leading merchants of Philippi there?

PAUL: That's right. **One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to my message.**

RUFUS: And how, exactly, did she uh . . . (*Rufus seems to be thinking*) "open her heart" to your message?

PAUL: She simply believed that God loves everyone and sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins. She repented of her sins, and gave her heart and life completely to God.

RUFUS: Amazing! Never heard of anything like it in all my 30 years of street reporting.

PAUL: And there's more. After Lydia became a Christian, **she and the members of her household were baptized.** Then, **she invited us to her home.** Her exact words were, **"If you consider me a believer in the Lord . . . come and stay at my house."** **And she persuaded us.** She has been very kind. But now, Rufus, I have a question for you. After hearing about my ministry and the choice Lydia made, wouldn't you like to consider giving your heart and life to Jesus? He can change your life too.

RUFUS: (*very nervous*) Uh . . . uh . . . Well, folks, time's up. I hope you enjoyed this fascinating interview with the Apostle Paul. Where will we find Paul next? Be sure to tune in to station KXYZ for our next exciting interview.

Words in color are from Acts 16:9-15.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE APOSTLE PAUL?

Use your figure of Paul walking to trace his journey from Antioch to Troas on your map from *Connections*. Your teacher will give you information about some of these places. Then glue the figure of Paul in a ship between Troas and Neapolis. Finally, glue the figure of Paul walking at Philippi.



SOMETHING
TO THINK
ABOUT

IF YOU HAD BEEN RUFUS, WOULD PAUL'S INTERVIEW HAVE MADE YOU AT LEAST THINK ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN? WHY OR WHY NOT?