



Acts 17:3b (NIV)

“This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.

Today in our Bible, we are going to a different book, after the Gospels. This book is named “The Acts of the Apostles” (sometimes we call it “The Book of Acts” or even just “Acts”). The Book of Acts tells us how the early Church grows after Jesus’ earthly life has ended. The picture shows a man teaching and traveling from town to town, spreading the Good News of Jesus. In the Gospel stories we have been reading, Jesus is alive on Earth. In the Gospels, the disciples of Jesus can see him and touch him and talk with him.

The Book of Acts shows us that after Jesus returns to heaven, His followers grow to depend on their faith and the Holy Spirit. They keep sharing the Good News of Jesus, the Son of God. They perform miracles. Everywhere they go, people ask to be baptized in the name of Jesus. One of the main characters in the Book of Acts of the Apostles is the Apostle Paul.

Paul doesn’t even become a Christian until after Jesus has died on earth. But the voice of Jesus speaks to Paul and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul becomes a traveler for Jesus.

As Acts begins, many of the disciples of Jesus are staying near Jerusalem. There is another group of Christians in a city called Antioch. Paul and an apostle named Barnabas are in Antioch together. They listen to the Holy Spirit, telling them to share Jesus’ message across the Mediterranean Sea.

So Paul makes his first long trip with Barnabas. They start from Antioch. Paul and Barnabas journey around the Mediterranean Sea, from city to city. They travel for two years, on land and by boat, even to some islands. Everywhere they go, they baptize new Christians and start more churches. Finally, they return to Antioch.

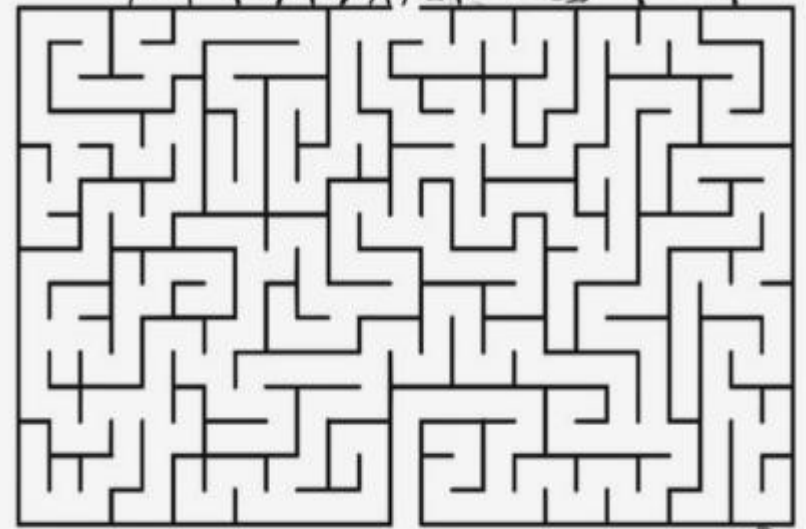
Then Paul is called to travel again. He makes his second trip with a disciple named Silas. Paul and Silas travel even farther, starting churches all the way to Greece. Following Jesus’ plan isn’t always easy. One time, Paul and Silas are put in jail. But while they are praying, an earthquake sets them free. Even the prison guard is amazed and asks to be baptized, with his whole family.

After three years, Paul and Silas finish their trip in Jerusalem. But Paul’s mission still isn’t finished. He goes back to Antioch and starts a third trip. The groups of Christians he visits again are growing larger and stronger.

Because of Paul’s travels, more of the world starts to learn about Jesus.

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF PAUL

Help Paul spread the word about Jesus.



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