

# PARTS OF THE PRAYER

Match the parts of the prayer with their corresponding verses. Each part of the prayer may be used more than once. After you finish, complete the second activity below.

- A. PRAISE**
- B. SCRIPTURE QUOTATION**
- C. PETITIONS**
- D. RECOUNTING GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICES**



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- \_\_\_ Verse 24a. When they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God
- \_\_\_ Verse 24b. and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,
- \_\_\_ Verse 25a. “who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,
- \_\_\_ Verse 25b. “Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?
- \_\_\_ Verse 26. “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—
- \_\_\_ Verses 27, 28. “for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.
- \_\_\_ Verse 29. “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,
- \_\_\_ Verse 30. “while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

# IMPROVING YOUR PRAYERS

Write a prayer asking God for boldness in witness for the week ahead. Use the four categories of *praise*, *Scripture quotation*, *petitions*, and *recounting God's sovereign choices* (but not necessarily in that order) as appropriate. Pray your prayer each day in the week ahead.



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# TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

When Ananias and Sapphira were caught lying, they suffered the most severe consequences! Entering either T or F on the lines below, sort out the *true* from the *false* regarding Acts 4:34-37; 5:1-10.

- \_\_\_ 1. Because of the generosity of others, none lacked for anything really needed.
- \_\_\_ 2. The apostles let the Christians know that anyone who owned property was expected to sell it.
- \_\_\_ 3. When the apostles distributed help to people, they made sure everyone received the same amount.
- \_\_\_ 4. Joseph was nicknamed Cyprus by the apostles because he was so good at encouraging others.
- \_\_\_ 5. Barnabas and Ananias brought money from the sale of their respective properties and laid it at the apostles' feet.
- \_\_\_ 6. Ananias's sin was in not giving the whole amount of the sale, as Barnabas had done.
- \_\_\_ 7. Ananias and Sapphira agreed to lie to Peter about how much money they had received for their property.
- \_\_\_ 8. Peter rebuked both Ananias and Sapphira for thinking they could lie to the apostles.
- \_\_\_ 9. When Sapphira came to see Peter three hours after her husband had died, she already knew that he was dead.
- \_\_\_ 10. When Sapphira dropped dead, the young men who had buried her husband arrived in time to carry her out and bury her.

## PRIVATE PROPERTY?

1. In the earliest days of the church, what attitude did the Christians have toward their personal possessions? (See also Acts 2:44, 45.)

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2. What were the results of this attitude? (See Acts 2:47; 4:34, 35.)

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3. How does that compare and contrast with Christians' attitudes today toward personal possessions? How do we improve in this area?

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# READ THE HEADLINES!

If each of the verses from today’s text were written as a headline, they might look something like the ones below. See if you can identify the best fits from the verses on the left (from Acts 5:27-29, 33-42) with the headlines on the right. Each verse is to be used only once.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Headline</u>
27	___ 1. Mad Enough to Kill!
28	___ 2. Meeting of the Minds!
29	___ 3. You Blaming This on Us?!
33	___ 4. Galilean’s Revolt Crushed!
34	___ 5. Christians Still Preach and Teach!
35	___ 6. Expert’s Final Caution!
36	___ 7. Expert Wants Privacy!
37	___ 8. Pain & Shame for the Name!
38	___ 9. Suspects Get a Hearing!
39	___ 10. 400 Slain!
40	___ 11. Expert’s First Caution!
41	___ 12. Obey God, Not Men!
42	___ 13. You Fight with God, You Lose!



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# TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK

The apostles refused to be silenced by the Sanhedrin. We know we should have the same kind of courage, but often we don’t. Which of the following are most likely to keep you from speaking out for Jesus?



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- \_\_\_ Fear of rejection      \_\_\_ Not sure what to say
- \_\_\_ Being too timid      \_\_\_ Not wanting to hurt a friendship
- \_\_\_ Waiting for just the right moment

What you should do next is obvious: pray for God to help you overcome the reason for your silence! After you do, make plans to present the gospel this week to someone who needs to hear it. Make a commitment in that regard below.

***This week I will talk to \_\_\_\_\_.***

# RESPONDING IN A CRISIS

Today's text reveals how a godly leader responded in a crisis situation, and the Bible records many other crisis responses as well. Look up the passages below to identify the leader, the nature of the crisis, the nature of the leader's verbal response (tactful? confrontational? etc.), and the outcome.

	Leader	Nature of Crisis	Nature of Response	Outcome
A. Judges 8:1-3				
B. Judges 12:1-6				
C. Daniel 2:12-23				
D. Luke 3:7-18				
E. Acts 4:1-21				
F. Acts 5:17-42				
G. Acts 23:1-3				
H. Acts 23:4-12				

# PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

What are some ways to learn about, pray for, and encourage fellow Christians who are persecuted for their faith? Jot your ideas below.

*How I can learn about persecuted Christians:*

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*How I can pray for persecuted Christians:*

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*How I can encourage persecuted Christians:*

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# OF SORCERERS AND SORCERY

The Bible warns against the practices of sorcerers, witches, and others of their ilk. Match these Bible texts with the truths stated to the right. Use each answer once and only once.



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## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

- \_\_\_ 1. Exodus 7:11
- \_\_\_ 2. Jeremiah 27:8-10
- \_\_\_ 3. Acts 8:9-11
- \_\_\_ 4. Acts 13:6-11
- \_\_\_ 5. Revelation 21:8

## TRUTH ABOUT SORCERERS

- A. They risk God's immediate punishment.
- B. They can sway people to follow them.
- C. They can replicate some of God's miracles by Satan's power.
- D. They will be consigned to Hell, excluded from Heaven.
- E. They tell lies.

# OF MOTIVES AND MINISTRY

God endows us with spiritual gifts to use for service. Desiring spiritual gifts is appropriate (see 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1), but using them selfishly violates their purpose. In today's text, Simon reveals his selfish motives with the words *me* and *I* (v. 19). Considering the spiritual gift(s) God has given you, can you affirm the following as an expression of your motive?

**I SEE MY GIFT(S) AS BEING**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE WAY I SEE THAT MY GIFT(S) CAN  
BEST BE USED TO HELP OTHERS IS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I COMMIT TO FULFILLING GOD'S PUR-  
POSE IN GRANTING ME THE GIFT(S).**

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_

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# MORE THAN AN S AND A P

When Saul was convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and the Messiah (Acts 9:20-22), more than his name ended up being changed (Acts 13:9)! Examining today's text, choose from the words at the bottom to fill in these changes Saul/Paul made.

- He changed from E \_\_\_\_\_ to P \_\_\_\_\_.
- He changed from F \_\_\_\_\_ to F \_\_\_\_\_.
- He changed from H \_\_\_\_\_ to P \_\_\_\_\_.
- He changed from P \_\_\_\_\_ to H \_\_\_\_\_.
- He changed from O \_\_\_\_\_ to I \_\_\_\_\_.
- He changed from C \_\_\_\_\_ to E \_\_\_\_\_.
- He changed from F \_\_\_\_\_ to L \_\_\_\_\_.



**Censor, Evangelist, Enforcer, Foe, Feared, Friend, Humble, Hunter, Insider, Loved, Outsider, Preacher, Prey, Proud**

Can you explain your choices, based on the text?

# A LEOPARD AND ITS SPOTS



The prophet despairingly wondered if a leopard could change its spots (Jeremiah 13:23). But with God all things are possible! God can change us if we allow him to. Use the ideas expressed in the following texts to write a praise and thanksgiving statement about changes in your own life: Psalm 1; Isaiah 1:18; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

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# CORNELIUS OR PETER?

One word is incorrect in each of the following statements. Your tasks are to (1) cross that word out, (2) replace it with a word that makes the statement correct, and (3) indicate in the blank whether the corrected statement applies to Cornelius (C) or Peter (P).

- \_\_\_ 1. His giving of alms gained Satan's attention.
- \_\_\_ 2. He saw a man in dark clothing.
- \_\_\_ 3. He spoke of God's anointing Jesus of Bethlehem.
- \_\_\_ 4. He was told to sit.
- \_\_\_ 5. He was staying at the house of John, a tanner.
- \_\_\_ 6. God showed him that he should not call anyone clean.
- \_\_\_ 7. He had been praying at the sixth hour.
- \_\_\_ 8. He learned that God does not show favoritism.



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# PERSONAL INVENTORY ON BIAS

Take the following inventory to check your biases. When you finish, jot one idea for self-improvement at the bottom. (The teacher will not collect these.)

	<u>NEVER</u>	<u>SOMETIMES</u>	<u>OFTEN</u>	<u>ALWAYS</u>
1. I tend to generalize about people of other ethnicities or cultures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I avoid having conversations with people of ethnic or cultural backgrounds not my own.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I jump to conclusions regarding likely perpetrators when I hear of crimes committed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I am suspicious of those who have academic backgrounds that differ markedly from my own.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I am selective regarding those whom I share the gospel with and those I do not take the trouble to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ONE WAY I WILL IMPROVE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WOULD YOU EAT IT?

Which of the following items would you *not* eat?

- |                                     |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> parsnips   | <input type="checkbox"/> okra         | <input type="checkbox"/> squash blossoms        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> venison    | <input type="checkbox"/> pickled eel  | <input type="checkbox"/> chocolate covered ants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rutabaga   | <input type="checkbox"/> goat's milk  | <input type="checkbox"/> pickled pig's feet     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> frog legs  | <input type="checkbox"/> caterpillars | <input type="checkbox"/> snails                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> horse meat | <input type="checkbox"/> cat food     | <input type="checkbox"/> vinegar pie            |

Other than taste, what principles determine your responses?

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How do those principles differ from Peter's in Acts 11:8?

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## THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL

On this map, put a ✝ (for the cross) in areas of the world where you believe the gospel has significant penetration. Put an O (for omission) for the opposite. (To improve your knowledge in this regard, see websites such as [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net) or [peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org).) What can your class do for the areas most unreached?



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✧ Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 8, "Peter Defends His Actions" (Acts 11:1-18a, ESV) ✧

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# DIVINE RESCUE

How much do you remember from today's text? Take this True/False quiz to find out!

- \_\_\_ 1. Herod killed James by crucifixion.
- \_\_\_ 2. The prison gate that swung open was made of iron.
- \_\_\_ 3. Herod's actions against James displeased the Jews.
- \_\_\_ 4. The angelic rescue of Peter happened so rapidly that Peter had no time to get dressed.
- \_\_\_ 5. Peter was asleep when the angel appeared.
- \_\_\_ 6. The angel that appeared to Peter announced that his name was Gabriel.
- \_\_\_ 7. During Peter's rescue, the apostle at first thought it was a vision.
- \_\_\_ 8. The church used four squads of four prayer-warriors to pray for Peter.
- \_\_\_ 9. Before disappearing, the angel walked with Peter for three city blocks.
- \_\_\_ 10. Peter was bound with two chains.

TRUE?

FALSE?

# EARNEST PRAYER

Write below the name of someone whose life is at risk because of his or her witness for Christ. Keep this in a prominent place to remind you to pray for this person daily until the danger abates.

\_\_\_\_\_, who is a \_\_\_\_\_ serving Christ in the dangerous area of \_\_\_\_\_, needs my prayer support!

I will pray not only for this person's physical safety and deliverance, but also for the following:



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# THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

This sketch dramatizes events just before and during the Jerusalem Council. Parts include Narrator, Judean Man, Paul, Barnabas, James, Believing Pharisee, and Peter.

**Narrator:** [foreboding tone] Men came from Judea to Antioch to protest the baptism of uncircumcised Gentiles.

**Judean Man:** [skeptical, accusatory tone] Paul and Barnabas, what are you doing letting these Gentiles think they are saved? You shouldn't baptize them until they are circumcised and have pledged to obey the Law of Moses.

**Paul:** [strongly] Certainly they are saved! Salvation is God's gift to us based on the grace of Jesus Christ, not based on keeping the law. There is no need for them to be circumcised!

**Barnabas:** [kindly] We have preached to and baptized many Gentiles, and God has granted them salvation. He has shown by many miracles that he accepts them.

**Judean Man:** [still skeptical] Why don't we take this issue to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem and see what they have to say about it?

**Paul and Barnabas:** We agree. Let's go.

**Narrator:** So Paul and Barnabas, along with other believers, set out to meet with the church leaders in Jerusalem to resolve the dispute. When they arrived, church leaders there were delighted to see them.

**James:** [warmly] Paul, Barnabas, everyone—welcome! We can't wait to hear what's happening in Antioch.

**Believing Pharisee:** [condemning tone] I, for one, have heard enough already; this is very disturbing! These two should know better: the way to Jesus goes through the synagogue. Gentile men need to become circumcised converts to Judaism first; then they can be baptized into Christ.

**Peter:** [firmly] Brothers, you know very well that I experienced firsthand the opportunity to present the gospel to Gentiles. God showed he accepted them by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did with us! Why should we put a burden on Gentiles that we Jews ourselves can't handle? It's by the grace of the Lord Jesus that we are all saved.

**Narrator:** Then those gathered listened in amazed silence as Paul and Barnabas told of all the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

## FINDING THE WAY

In the word-search puzzle below, find the names of the 11 places mentioned in today's text. They may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.

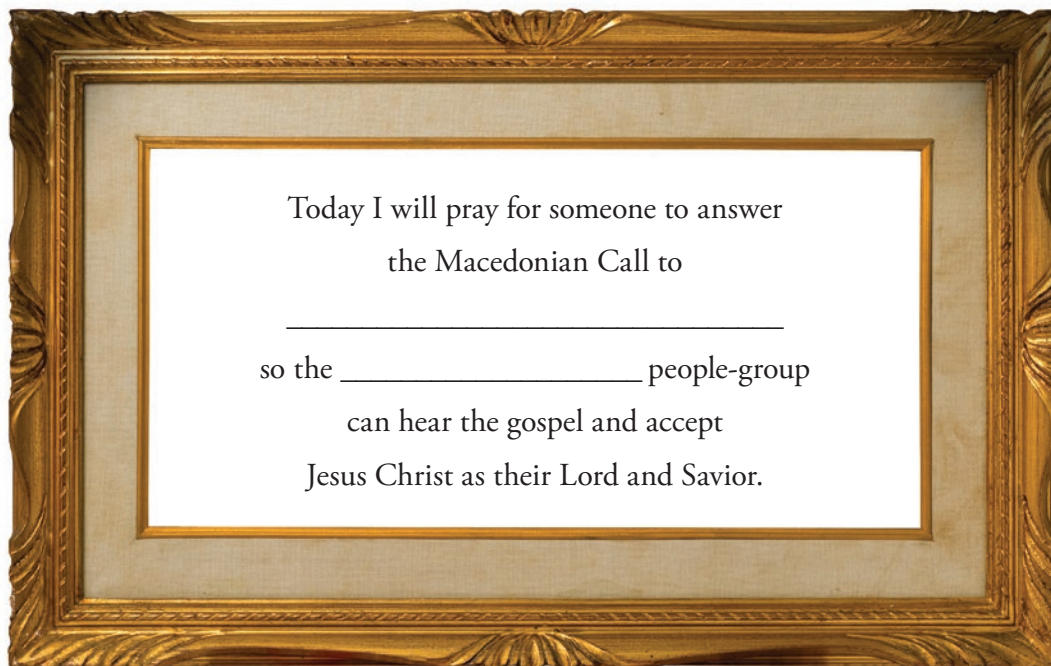
E M G Y D N A A Q C Z S Y B N  
 E B J Q M E P I W I E F E A I  
 H B R Q I A X N M L P A P C M  
 A A R D V P C O Y L W J O E N  
 A E U E A O J D B Y X N L Q T  
 W J C V D L Q E Z S I A P E A  
 A F U A U I E C T U S V I A A  
 S Z T Z R S L A M U B C D I T  
 A C H H Z H F M R A R T S Y L  
 O F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



Derbe  
 Iconium  
 Jerusalem  
 Lystra  
 Macedonia  
 Mysia  
 Neapolis  
 Philippi  
 Samothrace  
 Thyatira  
 Troas

## MACEDONIAN CALL

Visit the Joshua Project at [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net) and select an unreached people group. For the next 30 days, pray that there will be Christians who will answer the call to take the gospel to this group. Cut out the reminder below and place it in a prominent place in your home.



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~ Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 11, "From Derbe to Philippi" (Acts 16:1-5, 8-15, ESV) ~

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# AREOPAGUSES IN MY DAY

What serves as Areopaguses today—places where people spend time discussing new things (Acts 17:21, 22)? Write your descriptions of these in terms of national, state, and local levels. These “Areopaguses” may be either physical or virtual.

## Paul's Areopagus



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## My Areopaguses

National level: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State level: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Local level: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now that you have identified your Areopaguses, what will you do with this information? Jot ideas below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THREE POINTS

Ravi Zacharias identifies three crucial points in Paul’s message to the philosophers in Athens: a point of *reference*, a point of *relevance*, and a point of *disturbance*. Read Acts 17:22-32 and see if you can identify those three points.

***The point of reference***, which established common ground: \_\_\_\_\_

***The point of relevance***, which established subject-matter importance: \_\_\_\_\_

***The point of disturbance***, which bothered the audience: \_\_\_\_\_

How would the content of these three points be tailored to various audiences today? Jot ideas below:

1. For an audience of \_\_\_\_\_, I would \_\_\_\_\_

2. For an audience of \_\_\_\_\_, I would \_\_\_\_\_

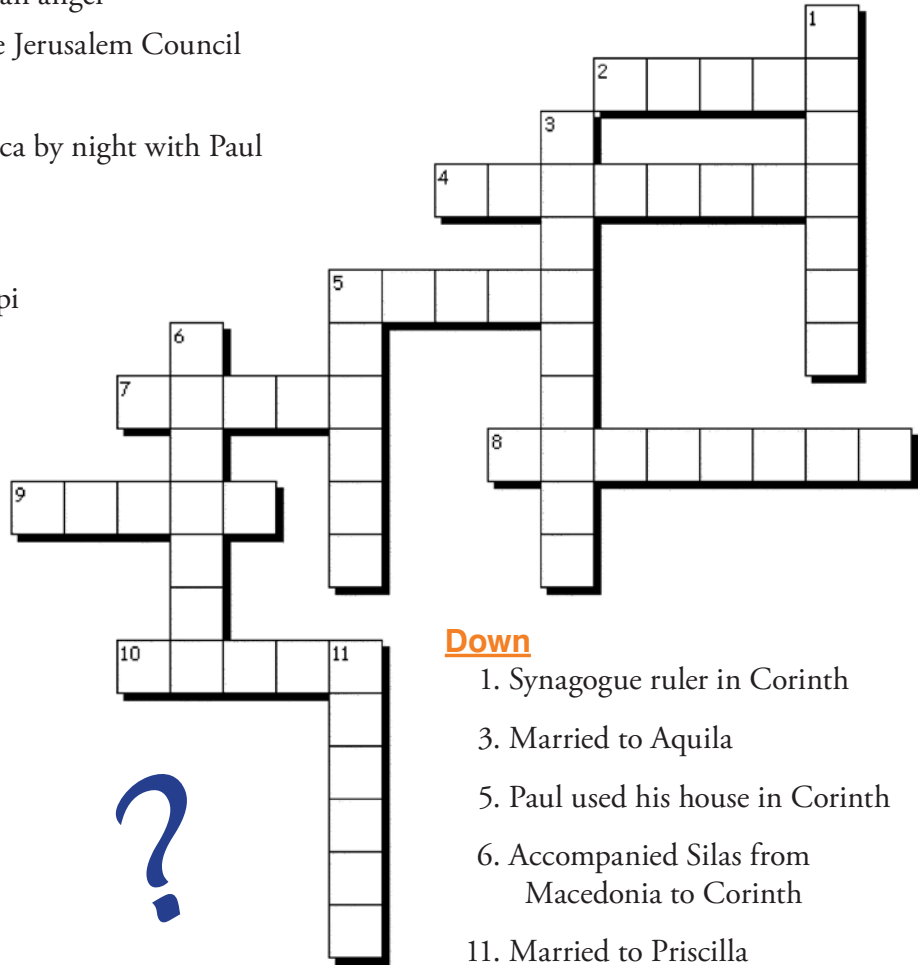
3. For an audience of \_\_\_\_\_, I would \_\_\_\_\_

# WHO AM I?

Solve the crossword puzzle to reveal the names of 12 individuals for the five lessons in November. You will have an advantage if you have read the text for today's lesson in advance!

## Across

2. Escorted from prison by an angel
4. Accompanied Paul to the Jerusalem Council
5. Killed by Herod
7. Escaped from Thessalonica by night with Paul
8. Roman Emperor
9. Had Peter arrested
10. Seller of purple in Philippi



## Down

1. Synagogue ruler in Corinth
3. Married to Aquila
5. Paul used his house in Corinth
6. Accompanied Silas from Macedonia to Corinth
11. Married to Priscilla

## ENCOURAGEMENT!

Paul received encouragement from the Lord in a vision, and workers for Christ today need encouragement too! After your teacher announces a name, take a minute to write a note to him or her to the left. Your teacher will collect these for delivery to the intended recipient(s).

Don't forget to pray for him or her in the week ahead!

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## Lesson 1

*Parts of the Prayer.* **A**—Praise, verse 24a; **B**—Scripture Quotation, verses 25b, 26; **C**—Petitions, verses 29, 30; **D**—Recounting God’s Sovereign Choices, verses 24b, 25a, 27, 28.

## Lesson 2

*Truth or Consequences.* 1—True; 2—False; 3—False; 4—False; 5—True; 6—False; 7—True; 8—False; 9—False; 10—True.

## Lesson 3

*Read the Headlines!* 1—v. 33; 2—v. 40; 3—v. 28; 4—v. 37; 5—v. 42; 6—v. 38; 7—v. 34; 8—v. 41; 9—v. 27; 10—v. 36; 11—v. 35; 12—v. 29; 13—v. 39.

## Lesson 4

*Responding in a Crisis:* **A**—Gideon / Ephraimites felt excluded / tactful / decreased tensions. **B**—Jephthah / Ephraimites felt excluded / confrontational / deaths of 42,000 Ephraimites. **C**—Daniel / angry king / tactful / bought needed time. **D**—John the Baptist / the need to repent / confrontational / many repented and were baptized, but also John was beheaded (Mark 6:17-29). **E**—Peter and John / the Sanhedrin wanted preaching to stop / confrontational / Sanhedrin released Peter and John. **F**—Peter and the other apostles / the Sanhedrin wanted preaching to stop / confrontational / continued preaching after being beaten. **G**—Paul / before the Sanhedrin after a near-riot at the temple / confrontational / struck on the mouth. **H**—Paul / same as G / tactful / division among the accusers and the Romans’ rescuing Paul.

*Persecuted Christians* (suggestions): **Learning possibilities**—Research websites (example: “The Voice of the Martyrs,” [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)), subscribe to Christian magazines, etc., that address the topic. **Prayer possibilities**—For persecuted Christian specifically by name rather than “in general.” Organize locally a day of prayer in conjunction with the annual International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (coming up in early November; see [www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org)). **Encouragement possibilities**—The website [www.prisoneralert.com](http://www.prisoneralert.com) has ideas. Regarding missionaries, work through local church’s mission outreach to learn the best approach, since some Christian missionaries work “under cover” in cultures hostile to Christianity.

## Lesson 5

*Of Sorcerers and Sorcery.* 1-C; 2-E; 3-B; 4-A; 5-D.

## Lesson 6

*More Than an S and a P.* Enforcer to Preacher; Foe to Friend; Hunter to Prey; Proud to Humble; Outsider to Insider; Censor (one who wants to stop words) to Evangelist; Feared to Loved.

## Lesson 7

*Cornelius or Peter?* 1—replace “Satan’s” with “God’s,” C (v. 31); 2—replace “dark” with “shining,” C (v. 30); 3—replace “Bethlehem” with “Nazareth,” P (v. 38); 4—replace “sit” with “stand,” C (v. 26); 5—replace “John” with “Simon,” P (v. 32); 6—replace “clean” with either “impure” or “unclean,” P (v. 28); 7—replace “sixth” with “ninth,” C (v. 30); 8—replace “unfavoritism” with “favoritism,” P (v. 34).

## Lesson 9

*Divine Rescue.* 1—False; 2—True; 3—False; 4—False; 5—True; 6—False; 7—True; 8—False; 9—False; 10—True.

## Lesson 11

*Finding the Way*

+ + + + N + A + + + + + +  
E + + + + E + I + + + + + I  
+ B + + + A + N + + + + C M  
+ + R + + P + O + + + + O E +  
+ E + E + O + D + + N L + +  
+ + C + D L + E + + I A + + +  
+ + + A + I + C + U S + + + A  
S + T + R S + A M U + + + I +  
A + + H + H + M R A R T S Y L  
O + + + Y + T E + + + Y + + +  
R + + + + A J O + + M + + + +  
T + + + + T + M + + + + + +  
P H I L I P P I + A + + + + +  
+ + + + + + + R + S + + + + +  
+ + + + + + + + A + + + + +

## Lesson 12

*Areopaguses in My Day.* Many responses are possible, but obvious ones are college campuses (academia), the Internet, and newspaper editorial pages.

*Three Points.* **Point of reference** (common ground) is verses 22, 23; **point of relevance** (importance of the subject matter) is verses 24-30; **point of disturbance** is verse 31 (note the mockery that immediately follows).

## Lesson 13

*Who Am I?* **Across:** 2—Peter, 4—Barnabas, 5—James, 7—Silas, 8—Claudius, 9—Herod, 10—Lydia. **Down:** 1—Crispus, 3—Priscilla, 5—Justus, 6—Timothy, 11—Aquila.