

THE STORY

Read The Story. Experience the Bible.

"Paul's Mission"

Included is the cast of characters & some study questions.

Chapter 29 (Acts 13-20; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Romans 1, 2-6, 8, 12, 15; 1 Corinthians 1, 2, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 15-16; Galatians 1, 3, 5-6)

Cast of Characters:

Alexander. Spoke for the Jews in the Ephesus riot.

Apollos. A Jew from Alexandria; influential teacher in the early church; knew scripture well; learned from Aquila and Priscilla.

Aquila. Married to Priscilla; a Jewish Christian; capable of teaching others in the faith; friend and supporter of Paul.

Aristarchus. Christian from Thessalonica; traveled and spent time in jail with Paul; name means "best ruler."

Barnabas. Jewish Christian; helped oversee the church in Antioch; friend and companion of Paul on missionary journeys; name means "son of encouragement."

Chloe. Hosted a church in her home in Corinth; directly referenced by Paul in 1 Corinthians.

Claudius. Caesar, the emperor of Rome.

Crispus. Synagogue leader in Corinth; baptize by Paul after his conversion.

Demetrius. A silversmith in Ephesus; led a riot against Paul; name means "belonging to Demeter."

Elymas. Also called Bar-Jesus; Jewish sorcerer and false prophet; served Dergius Paulus, proconsul in Paphos; blinded by Paul.

Female Slave. Unnamed character; afflicted with a demon and supposedly predicted the future; set free when Paul cast out the demon.

Gaius. Travel companion of Paul; seized in the Ephesus riot.

Gallio. Proconsul of Achaia; dismissed complaints against Paul lodged by Jewish leaders.

Jailer. Unnamed character; leader of a prison in which Paul was held; saved from suicide by Paul; he and his whole family converted.

Jason. Christian from Thessalonica; hosted Paul and Silas in his home; name means "healing."

John Mark. Nephew of Barnabas; part of Paul's first missionary journey; abandoned the journey at Asia Minor, leading Paul's refusal to travel with him in the second missionary journey; eventually reconciled to Paul; wrote the gospel of Mark.

Lucias. A leader in the church at Antioch.

Luke. A physician; traveling companion of Paul; author of the gospel that bears his name and Acts of the Apostles; name means "luminous."

Lydia. Business woman from Thyatira; seller of dyed goods; converted through Paul's ministry; extended hospitality to Paul and Silas.

Manaen. A leader in the church at Antioch; "brought up with Herod," perhaps a person with political stature.

Paul. Originally called Saul ("demanded"); a highly educated Pharisee; a zealous man who initially opposed the Way of Jesus; radically converted when he encountered the risen Lord; planted churches throughout the first-century world; helped lead the church in Antioch; traveled with Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, and Luke, among others.

Priscilla. Married to Aquila; a Jewish Christian; capable of teaching others in the faith; friend and supporter of Paul.

Sceva. A Jewish chief priest.

Sceva's Seven Sons. Attempted to cast out demons in "the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches"; embarrassed in the attempt.

Sergius Paulus. Roman proconsul in Cyprus impacted by Paul's ministry.

Silas. Traveled with Paul during most of his second missionary journey; prominent part of Jerusalem church;

helped carry the decree of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15); referred to as Silvanus in Paul and Peter's letters; name means "wood dweller."

Sosthenes. Leader in the synagogue at Corinth.

Timothy. Son of a heathen Greek father and a Jewish mother, Eunice; Paul's most well-known convert, disciple, traveling companion; gave significant leadership to the early church; name means "honoring God."

Titus Justus. A "worshiper of God"; provided a place for Paul to teach.

Tyrannus. Ephesian; had a lecture hall where Paul preached the gospel.

Questions to think about as You Read this week

1. How would you describe the balance between being "led by the Spirit" and being "led by good sense" in Paul's ministry?
2. How was Paul's ministry similar to the ministry of Jesus? In what ways are they different? What accounts for the difference?

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