LESSON 15

THE CHURCH SENDS OUT MISSIONARIES



Aim: **To teach the children that the church sent out Paul and Barnabas as messengers of the Gospel, and that this task has not been completed yet.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 13:1–3, 9**

Memory Verse: **1 Corinthians 9:16a … I am compelled to preach.**

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Have you ever felt that your heart was telling you you just had to do something, even though nobody else was forcing you to do it? Give an example from your own experience or make up a story to illustrate the driving force of an inner conviction. Example: A boy was playing with his friends when he saw an old woman struggling to carry a bundle of firewood. He stood up and went to help the woman, because he just knew he would feel bad if he ignored the prompting of his heart.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. When Paul accepted Jesus as his Saviour, the Lord told him he was to become an apostle who would take the Gospel to many different nations. Paul began to teach a new group of believers in a city called Antioch. Another Christian, called Barnabas, helped Paul to establish the church there.
2. The church in Antioch had members of different nationalities (eg Jews and Gentiles), of different races (eg black and white), as well as from different levels of society (eg rich and poor) (Acts 10:1).
3. The teachers of the church fasted and prayed together, and the Holy Spirit directed them to send Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. This means they were to be sent to people who had never heard the Gospel (10:2).
4. **Show Picture 15.** The Christians in Antioch obeyed (9:3). When the church leaders laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas, they were blessing them for their task as messengers of the good news. They would support them in prayer.
5. Today, the church still sends missionaries to people who have not heard the good news of Jesus.

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Our Response to the Story

Pastor Peter Mualuko from Kenya heard God calling him to take the Gospel to the Taposa people. It took him many years to get permission to preach to them, but eventually he was allowed to do so for a short time. In order to fulfil his task he had to learn a new language and leave behind his wife and children. His reward was that many people heard the Gospel.

Pastor Sirisio is a Sudanese who knows God has called him to take the Gospel to the Boya people. He has prepared for this by going to Bible school and missionary training college. He is ready to leave his own people and go live amongst the Boya in order to win them for Christ.

There are still many tribes in the world who have not heard the Gospel. **Do some research beforehand so that you are able to name at least one such tribe.** Let us pray for missionaries to go there, and for those people to accept the message of salvation.

Is there an unreached tribe or some people belonging to such a tribe living in your area?

Instil the Memory Verse



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