LESSON 20

CONFLICT IN CORINTH



Aim: **To encourage the children to keep on witnessing for Jesus even when they meet with opposition.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 18:1–17**

Memory Verse: **Acts 18:9–10a**
"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you …"

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What do you like to talk about when you meet with your friends? **Have some suggestions ready to get them thinking if they do not offer some answers straight away.** Do you ever talk about Jesus at home or among your friends, or tell the stories you hear at Sunday school?

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul liked to talk about Jesus. He often talked about Jesus to his friends with whom he worked in the city of Corinth (18:2–3).
2. He discussed his faith with the people of his own tribe, the Jews. However, most of them did not want to hear about Jesus the Messiah. (Messiah is a Hebrew word meaning "Saviour".) So, Paul left their synagogue and went to share the good news with the Gentiles in Corinth. He even went to live in the house of a Gentile, something no religious Jew would have done (18:5–7).
3. The Jews not only rejected Paul's message; they actively opposed him and even abused him. However, some did accept Jesus as their Saviour. Among those who became Christians were their most important religious leader and his whole household. That made the other Jews even angrier at Paul (18:8).
4. One night Paul had a vision in which Jesus spoke to him, encouraging him to keep on witnessing. **Read the memory verse out loud (18:9–10).**
5. Paul stayed in Corinth for over a year and kept on telling people about Jesus, even though he met with opposition (18:11).
6. The Jews became so angry that they took Paul before the Roman ruler of the province of which Corinth was the capital city. **Show Picture 20.** They accused Paul of teaching the people ways of worship that were against Jewish law (18:12–13).
7. The ruler of the province refused to listen to such a case and sent them away, so Paul was not harmed. However, the Jews attacked their former religious leader who had become a Christian and beat him (18:14–17).
8. Paul obeyed the Lord Jesus and did not remain silent about him. **Read the memory verse again.** The Lord was indeed with Paul.

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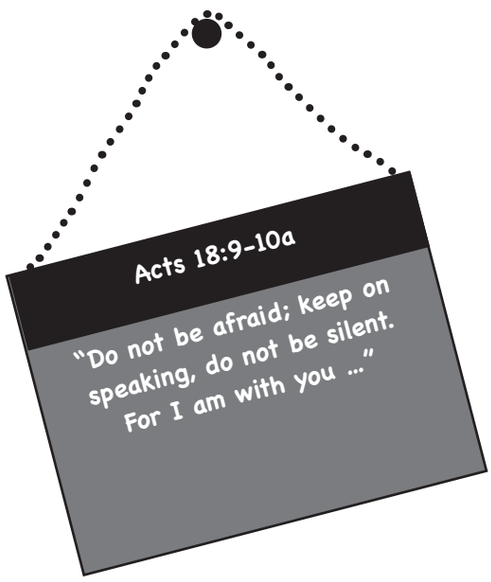


Our Response to the Story

We should not remain silent about Jesus, but share the good news. The Lord has promised to be with us, too. Those who believe in him are filled with his Holy Spirit. **This lesson would have more meaning if you have a contemporary real-life story to share about someone who continued to witness for Jesus even when he or she had to face opposition.**

John is an evangelist. One day he and some other people were captured by armed men and made to carry loads for them. After a few kilometres they stopped. They now had to listen to the propaganda talk of one of the armed men. At the end, the leader asked the captured men if they had anything to say. Everyone kept quiet, as they were too frightened to say anything – everyone, except for John. He told their captors, "You have told us what you want to do about the future of this country, but have you thought about your personal future? Do you know where you are going when you die?" The armed men listened and said they would think about what John had said. John could speak out because the power of Jesus strengthened him. If he had kept silent, those men would not have heard the Gospel.

Instil the Memory Verse



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