

## Bible background

Acts 16:1-15

## Aim of lesson

To tell children that God guided Paul.

## Preparation required

You will need scissors, glue and a map.

## Suggested outline of lesson

- 1 Explain briefly who Paul was and what God wanted him to do.
- 2 Journeys today entail travelling in cars, boats or planes using detailed and accurate maps. Compare Paul's journeyings to ours.
- 3 You can focus on the area in which Paul was to preach using a map and relating it to where the children live and have travelled to on holiday. (Very young children will not understand maps.)
- 4 Use the activity sheet map as you tell the story, cutting out the pictures to position on the map. Stress God's guidance.
- 5 Start with Paul and Silas arriving in Lystra, and describe Timothy's immediate response to their request for his company on their long journey. Get the children to imagine what sorts of things Paul would have warned Timothy could happen to them and how he would be leaving his home and family for a long time.
- 6 Follow the journey using the map. Relate the length of the journey (400 miles) to distances the children can understand. Describe the views of the sea as seen from Troas - perhaps this was Timothy's first view of the sea - always an exciting view.
- 7 Tell the children about Paul's dream and how they sailed over the sea and met up with Lydia the following day.
- 8 Tell them about Lydia, her job, her conversion and her hospitality.

## Alternative activities

- 1 Role-play. Make a boat for the children from a mat, blanket or chairs. Get them to help load the supplies, hoist the sail, row, keep a lookout etc.
- 2 Make different types of 'transport' for Paul out of Plasticine e.g. horse, donkey, boat.
- 3 Have a collection of pictures or objects to illustrate means of transport. Each child takes a turn to pick one and talk about it. Have they used this type of transport? Do they think Paul used it? Sort the pictures or objects into 2 sets, 'ways Paul could travel' (e.g. people walking, boat, horse) and 'ways Paul couldn't travel' (e.g. car, bike, train etc)
- 4 Make a collage picture of Paul meeting Lydia by the river. (Perhaps she has some of her special purple cloth with her!)

## Relevance to the children's lives

The journey can have meaning in terms of weariness involved in a holiday journey, or in a long walk.

## Prayer

'Help us to listen when we hear about Jesus at home, at school and at Sunday School.'

## Verse

'And how can they hear without someone preaching to them.' Romans 10:14.