

May 3, 2026

Paul's Ministry
Book of Acts

Story:

★ Introduction & Story:

Last week we talked about a man named Saul who was a Pharisee and was persecuting Christians. He thought it was what God wanted him to do. But then he had an amazing encounter on the Road to Damascus that changed his life forever. His name was Saul, but he was also known as Paul. Jesus did not change his name at the time of his conversion. But in Scripture, once it is explained that he was also known as Paul, he is never referred to as Saul again (Acts 13:9).

Paul was an amazing worker for Jesus. He went on at least three missionary journeys to spread the good news of the gospel. During those missionary journeys he had many dangerous things happen to him. *Maps are attached at the end of the lesson.* Acts 13:46 tells us that Paul spent most of his ministry time preaching the news of Jesus to Gentiles (those not born to the Israelites). Most of us are Gentiles.

He was once stoned (people threw large stones at him to hurt or kill him) because of a sermon that he preached that the Jewish people did not like. The people dragged him out of the city and left him there because they thought he was dead. But when the other believers who were with him gathered around him, he got up.

Once he was beaten and thrown into prison with his co-worker Silas (Acts 16:16-40). While they were in prison, they sang songs and hymns and praised the Lord. Suddenly, there was an earthquake that opened the prison doors, but they did not leave. The jailer knew that they could not be dangerous men. That day the jailer and his family all turned to the Lord.

Paul was a prisoner other times as well. Once, when he was a prisoner, he was on a ship that was going to Rome (Acts 27). The weather was bad and he told the ship captain that they should not sail. The captain decided to sail anyway. A big storm

came up and they were shipwrecked. Paul and the others swam to shore on an island called Malta. While they were in Malta, Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake. Though he should have been killed by the snake, God protected him and he didn't even get sick!

In Philippians 1:21 Paul said, "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." He knew that while he lived, he needed to serve Christ, but if he should die, he would be with Jesus in heaven.

Everywhere Paul went he preached about Jesus and the good news that if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved.

Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books in the New Testament. These were letters written to the various churches that he established on his missionary journeys. These letters addressed certain issues that each of the churches was having but all encouraged the believers to be firm in their faith. Many of the letters were written while he was in prison. He wrote some of the letters directly to specific men.

1. Romans	7. Colossians
2. 1 Corinthians	8. 1 Thessalonians
3. 2 Corinthians	9. 2 Thessalonians
4. Galatians	10. 1 Timothy
5. Ephesians	11. 2 Timothy
6. Philippians	12. Titus
	13. Philemon

Paul remained faithful to God and did whatever the Lord asked him to do all the days of his life.

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:**

Overall Plan Connection:

Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

Paul's role: Paul shows that Jesus is the promised Savior not just for Israel, but for Gentiles too.

Key Connections:

- Genesis 12:3 – God told Abraham all nations would be blessed
- Isaiah 49:6 – Light to the Gentiles
- Matthew 28:19 – Great Commission
- Acts – Paul carries this mission outward
- Revelation 7:9 – Every tribe and nation worships Jesus

Historical Connections:

Paul is a real person and here’s how we know. **Paul is one of the best-attested figures of the early Christian movement.**

1. We have Paul’s letters.
2. The places he mentions are real.
3. Others talk about him (both in the Bible and writings outside of the Bible)

Theology: Paul talks about a lot of theology.

A. Justification by Faith Humans are made right with God through Jesus, not works.

B. Union with Christ Believers are spiritually united with Jesus in death and resurrection.

C. The Church as One Body Jew and Gentile become one family.

D. Suffering for Christ Paul’s hardships reflect Jesus’ suffering and advance the Gospel.

Follow Up:

- ★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.
- ★ **Examine:**
 - Comprehension Questions:
 - What is “the Gospel?”
 - Even though Paul was a prisoner many times, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked and bitten by a snake, do you think that he would say that all this was “worth it” to follow Jesus?
 - Do you know which books of the Bible Paul wrote? (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon – notice when

we sing our books of the Bible songs that these are in a stack together.)

- Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
 - God calls us to share His story and plan. He doesn't call the perfect. He changes us to help us do what He wants us to do.
- Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
 - Humans are to share the Gospel of Jesus. But others - even those who claim to love God - may not like it. Not everyone is willing to follow Jesus. Following Jesus may be hard because of this.

★ **Application:** Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"

- Jesus is asking us to follow Him - even if it costs us everything. Paul had a hard life, but he brought many people to live after Jesus. Many people going to Heaven are going because Paul pointed them to Jesus. Jesus is calling us to do the same thing.

★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse Practice:

★ **Verse:** Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. -- Galatians 6:9 (CSB)

Sticky Activities:

EXPERIENTIAL (hands-on life experience)

1. Missionary Journey Passport

- Give each child a "passport"
- Stamp it at stations for places Paul traveled (Damascus, Antioch, Philippi, Corinth, Rome)
- At each stop, share a quick ministry story

2. "Shipwreck Survival" Challenge

- Recreate Paul's shipwreck (Acts 27)
 - Use boxes/blankets as boats
 - Kids work together to "survive" a storm and reach shore
-

VISUAL

1. Giant Map of Paul's Journeys

- Create a wall map
- Use yarn/string to trace Paul's missionary journeys
- Add symbols for churches, prisons, miracles

2. Before-and-After Saul to Paul Poster

- One side: Saul persecuting Christians
 - Other side: Paul preaching Christ
 - Show transformation visually
-

SMELL

1. Marketplace Spice Station

- Smell frankincense, myrrh, cinnamon, herbs
- Discuss the cities Paul visited and ancient trade routes

2. Prison Cell Smell Experience

- Smell damp cloth, stone, or earth scents
 - Discuss Paul worshiping in prison despite hardship
-

TOUCH

1. Tentmaker Station

- Let kids feel canvas, leather, rope, fabric
- Explain Paul's tentmaking work (Acts 18:3)

2. Chains and Freedom Object Lesson

- Hold plastic chains or ropes
 - Discuss Paul's imprisonments and spiritual freedom
-

MOVEMENT

1. Missionary Relay Race

- Kids carry "letters" to different city stations
- Deliver Paul's teachings

2. "Road to Damascus" Obstacle Course

- Blindfold part of the path
 - Pause at "conversion" moment
 - Emphasize changed direction
-

SOUND

1. Prison Praise Time

- Sing songs like Paul and Silas in jail
- Add shaking sounds for earthquake

2. Marketplace Noise Game

- Play city sounds while kids listen for Paul's message
 - Teaches boldness amid distraction
-

TASTE

1. Mediterranean Snack Sampling

- Bread, olives, grapes, figs (if safe)
- Discuss foods from Paul's travels

2. Shipwreck Rations

- Simple crackers and water
- Talk about endurance during travel hardship

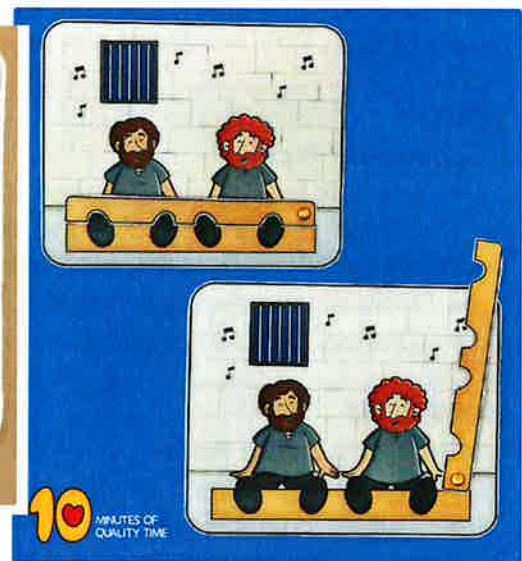
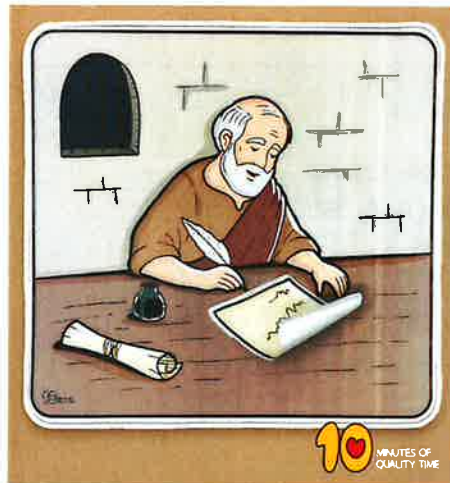
CRAFTS

1. Paul's Journey Scroll

- Make scrolls showing key ministry events
- Conversion, journeys, prison, Rome

2. Letter Writing Craft

- Kids create "epistles" to encourage others
- Inspired by Paul's letters



Send Home Page: See attached

Fill in the Blanks

Let us _____ get _____ of
doing _____, for we will
_____ at the proper _____
if we don't _____ up.
-- Galatians 6:9 (CSB)

Paul promises that we will reap good things if we don't give up. What is he promising?

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Acts 27

Paul's Ship Wrecks in a Storm

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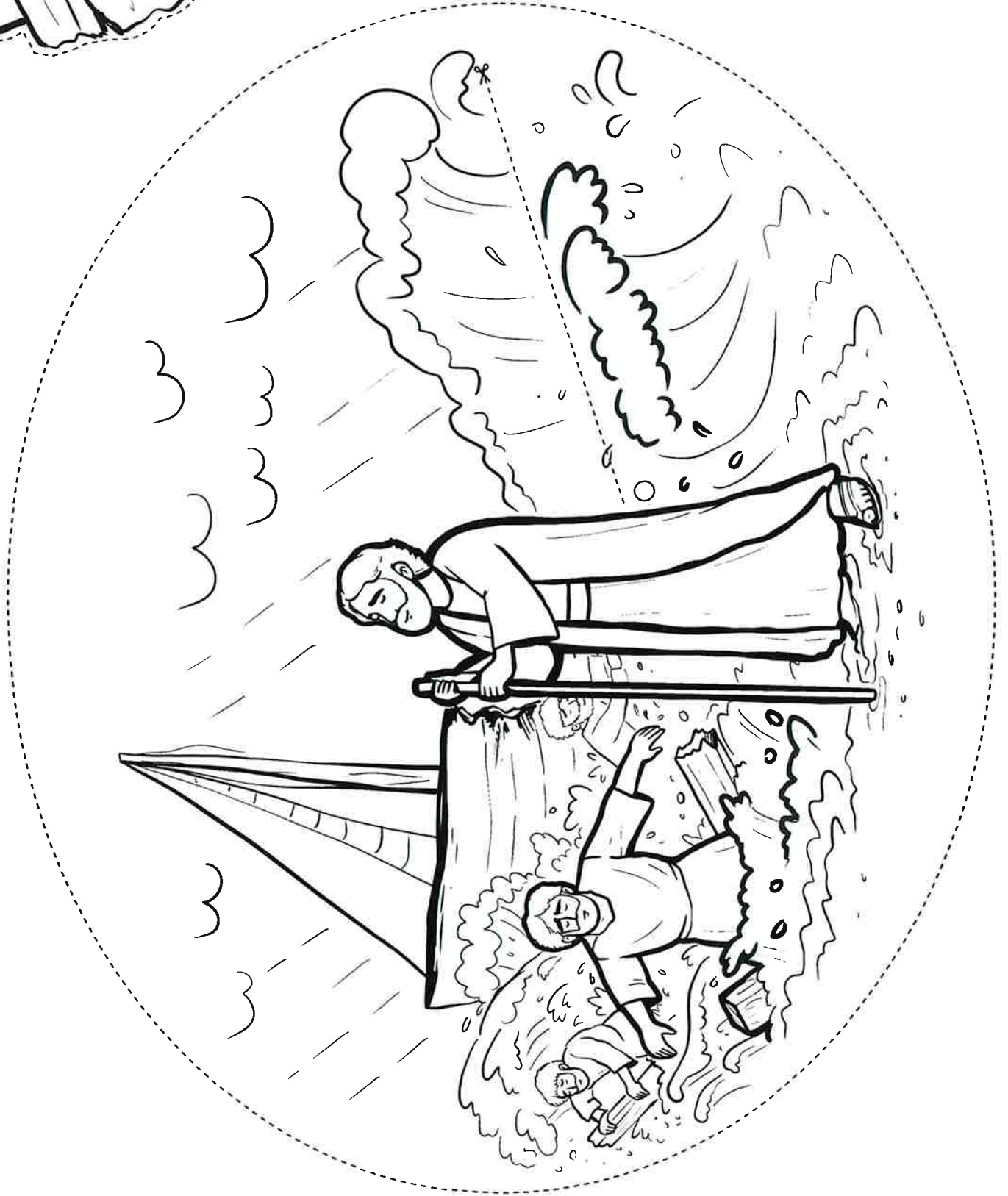
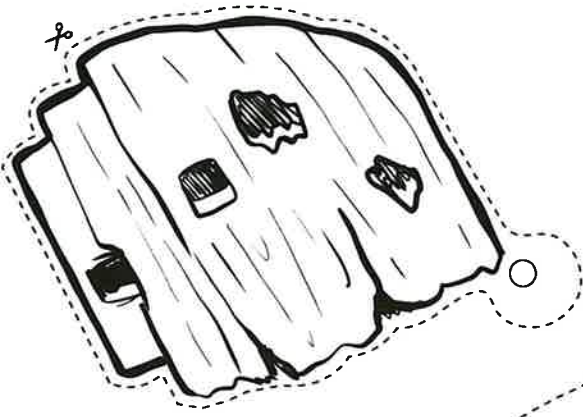
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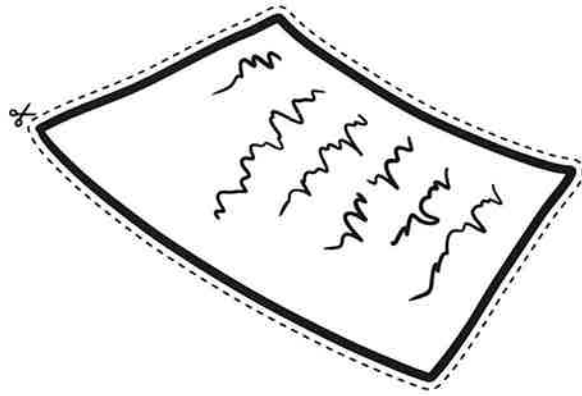
Paul and many other people climbed onto a big ship. Paul knew it would not be safe to travel on the sea at this time. He told the people on the ship, "If we sail now, we'll have problems." But the people didn't listen. The wind began to blow. It blew the ship out to sea.

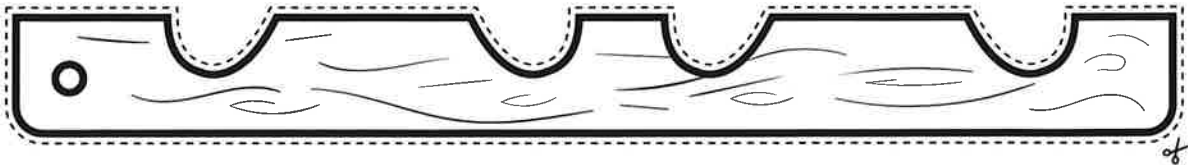
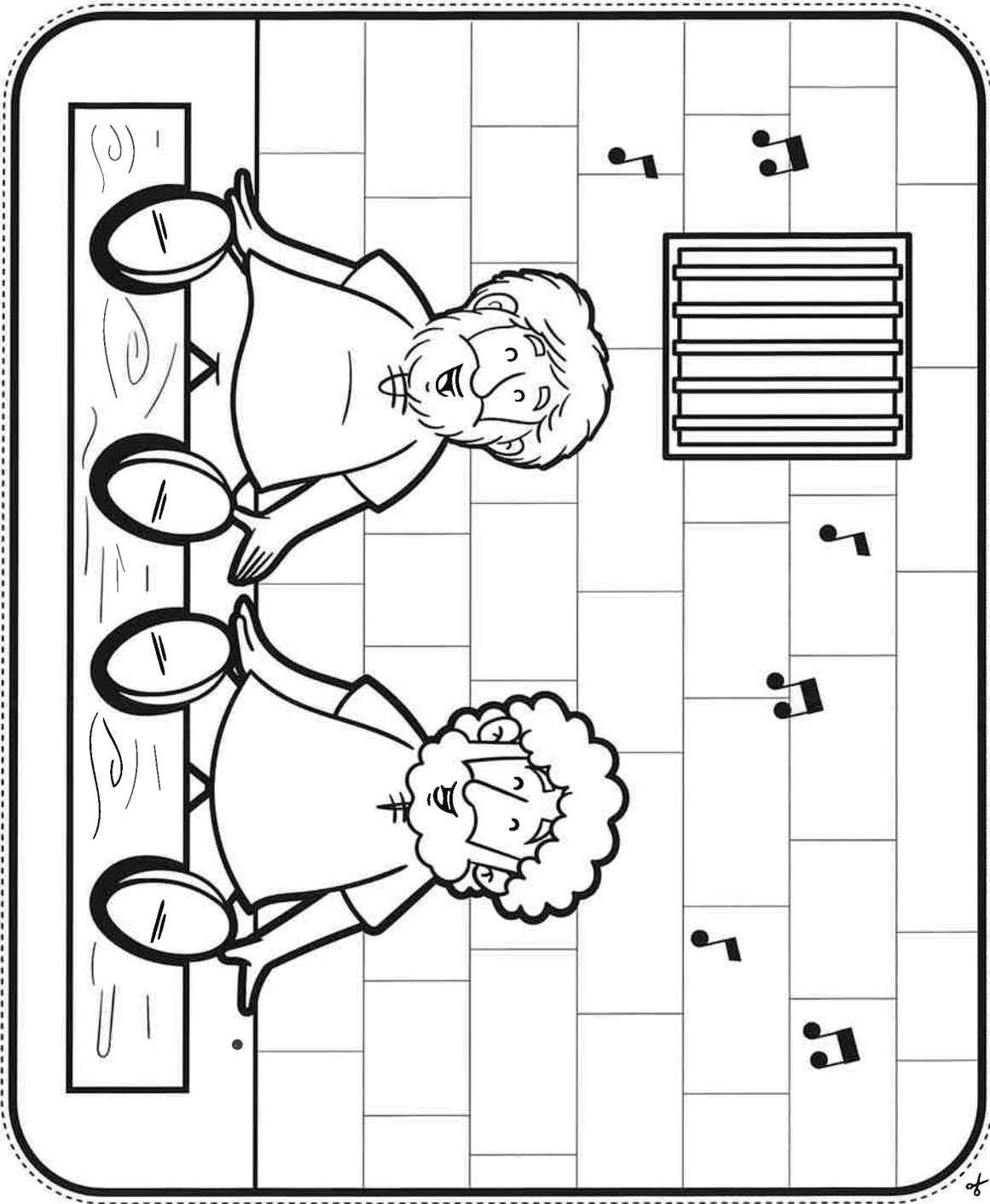
Then the wind began to blow harder and harder. *Splash! Splash!* The waves splashed high in the air and into the ship. The waves almost knocked the ship over! Big dark clouds covered the sky. Rain came pouring down. Everyone on the ship was afraid.

Paul had good news for the people. "Don't be afraid," Paul said. "No one will be hurt. God sent an angel to tell me that God will take care of all of us."

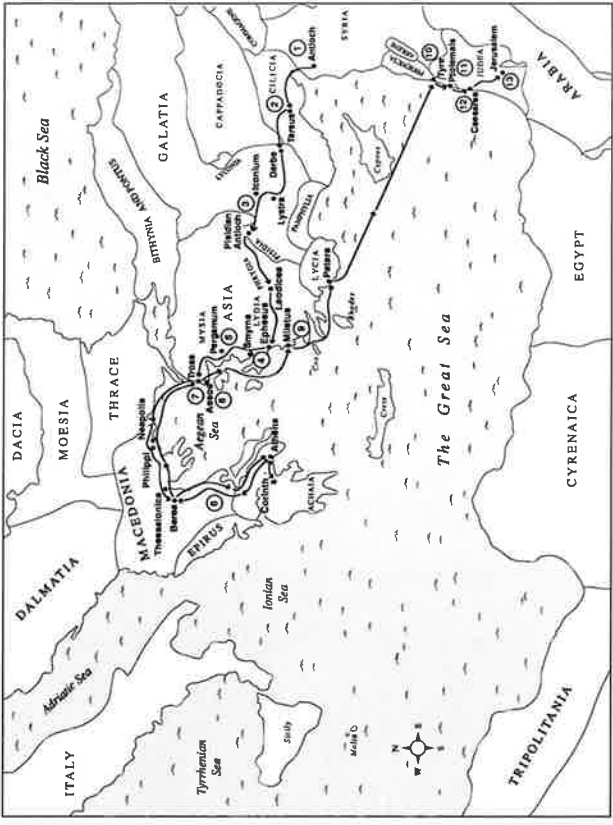
Early in the morning, the people saw land! They tried to sail to the shore. But the big, strong waves pushed the ship into some sand just under the water. *Crash!* The ship broke apart into little pieces. All the people jumped into the water. They found their way to the land. No one had been hurt. God took care of all the people.



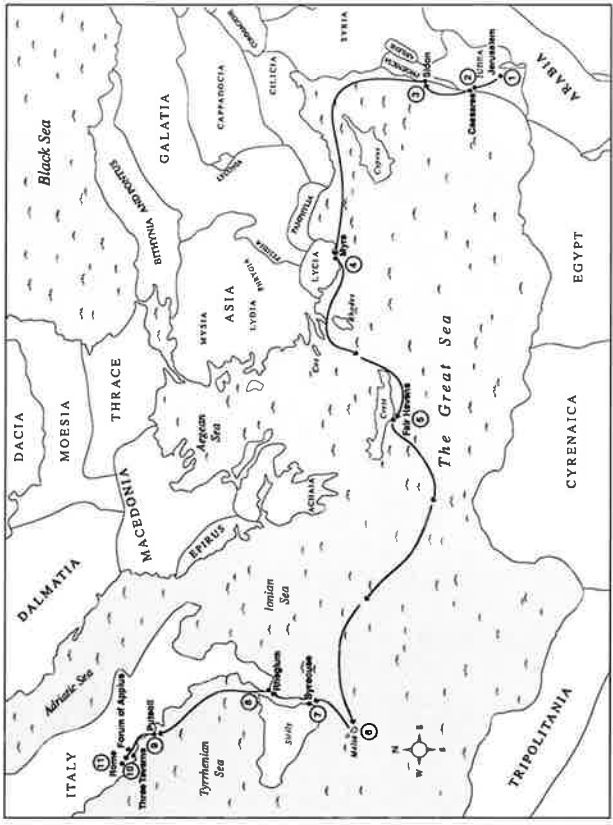




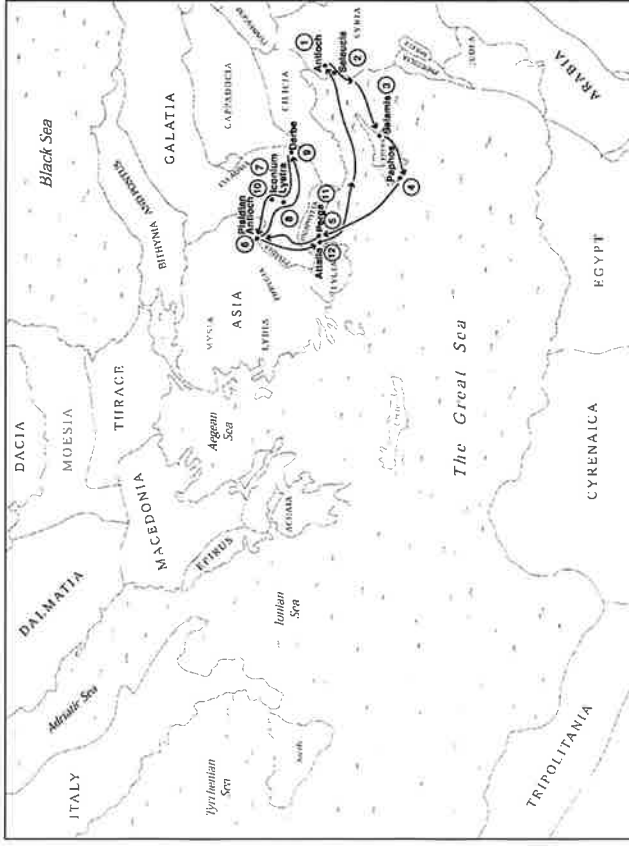
PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY



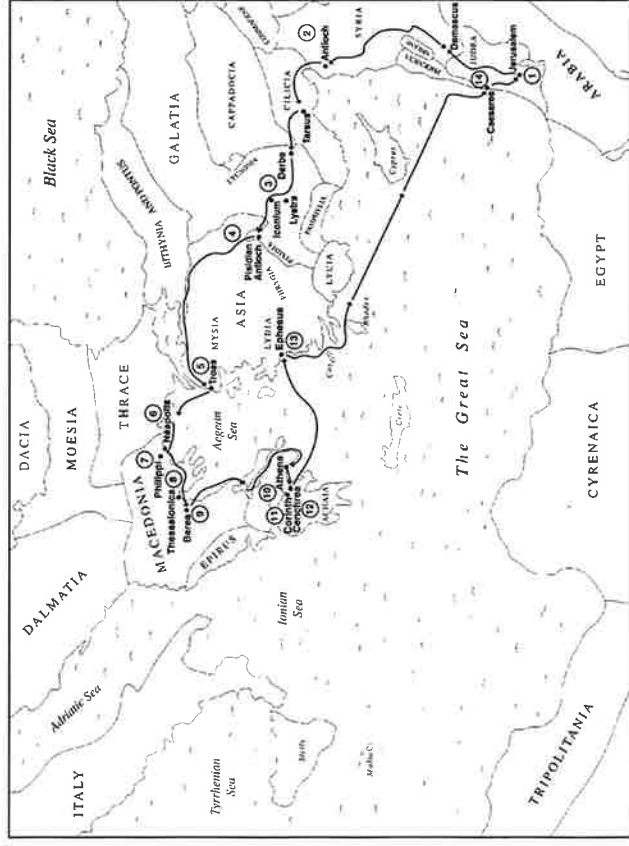
PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME



PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



May 3rd's lesson was on

Paul's Ministry

Book of Acts

Memory Verse: Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. -- Galatians 6:9 (CSB)

Bonus: For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. -- Philipppians 1:21 (CSB)

*Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

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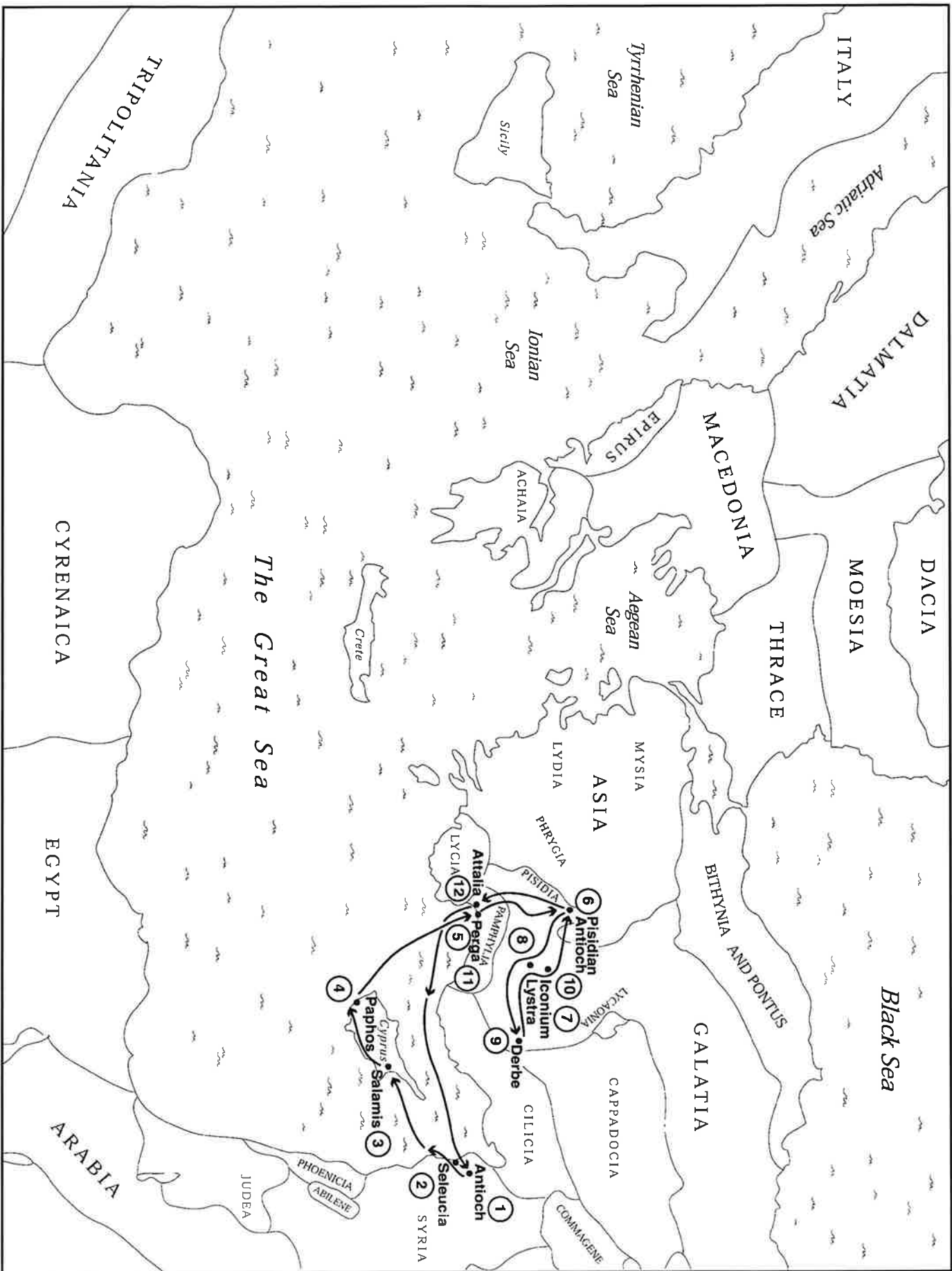
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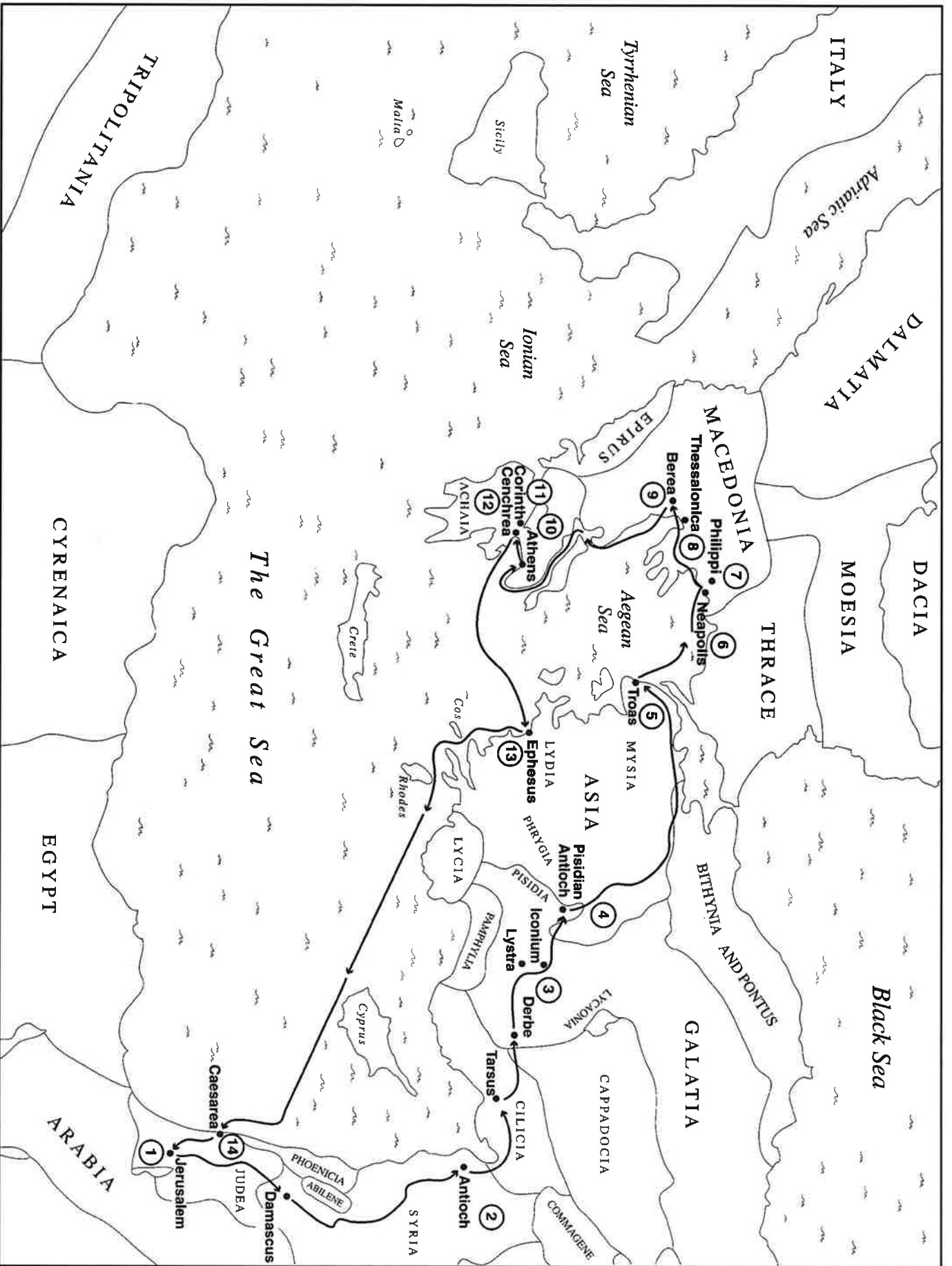
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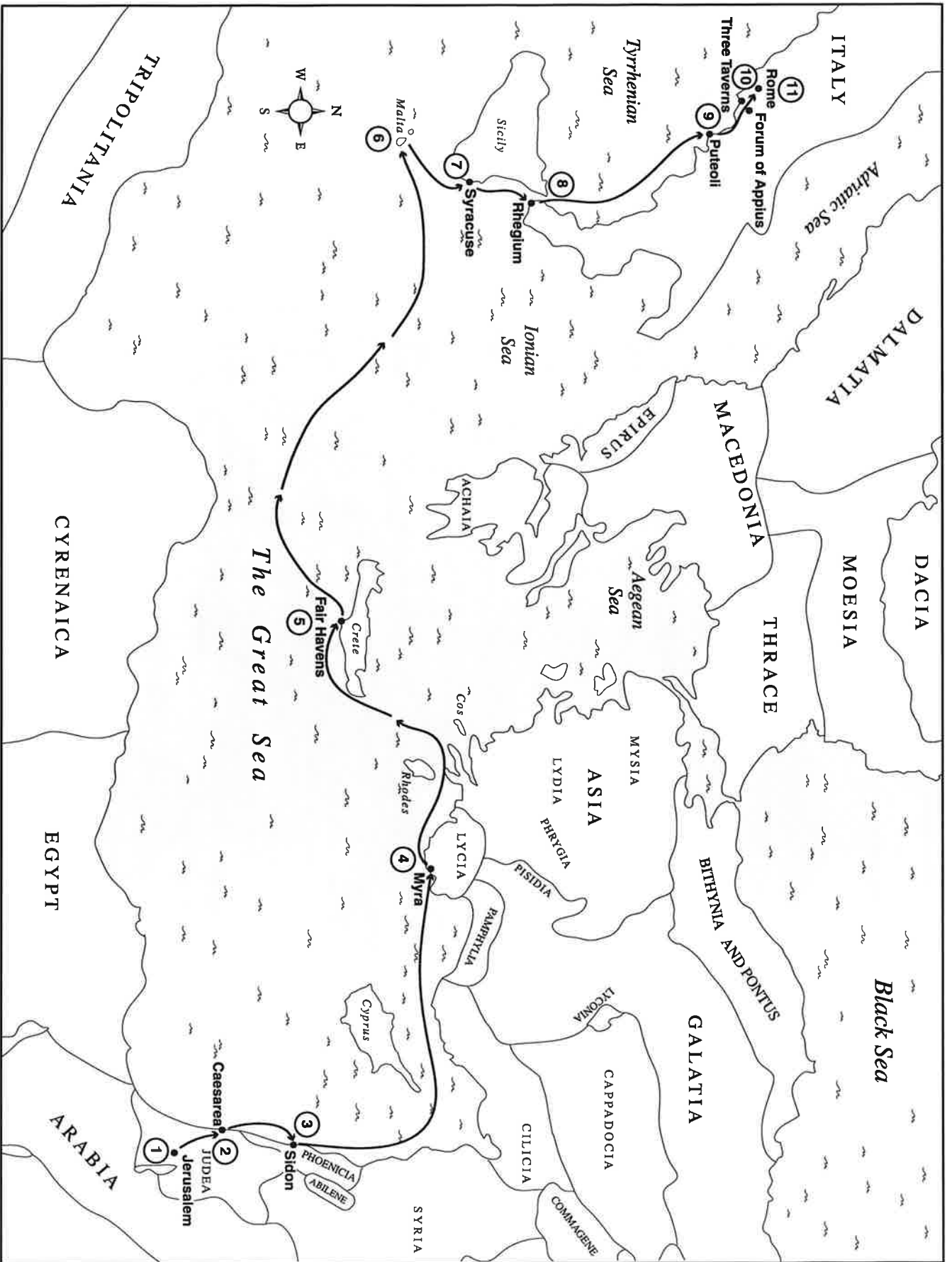
PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY



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PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

