

**Regeneration**  
**Lesson – Spiritual Resurrection**  
**Scriptures – John 3:16; 5:24; 11:23-26**

**Introduction to Lesson**

The apostle Paul wrote about the lost human condition as being spiritually dead. He described this spiritual death as being “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). He placed those who are spiritually dead under God’s judgment and called them “by nature the children of [God’s] wrath” (Ep. 2:3). In short, sinners abide in death and judgment. However, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and through faith in his atoning blood, God restores life to every believer. In today’s lesson, we will see that regeneration is spiritual resurrection – God’s solution to spiritual death.

**Key Verse**

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life” (John 5:24).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

What does believing in Jesus Christ deliver us from? (Jn. 3:16)

What does believing in Jesus Christ do for us? (Jn. 3:16)

What two things are necessary to have everlasting life? (Jn. 5:24) When we are given eternal (everlasting) life, what are we delivered from? (Jn. 5:24)

When we are given everlasting life through Jesus Christ, what has happened to us? (v. 24)

In John 11:23, Jesus told Martha that Lazarus will rise again. Did Martha believe in the resurrection (being raised to life)? (Jn. 11:24; see also Jn. 5:28-29)

How did Jesus explain resurrection and life? Who is the giver of life? How do we receive life? (Jn. 11:25)

On this occasion, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:43-45), but of course, naturally, Lazarus physically died again when his time came. Therefore, what kind of life (and death) is Jesus really talking about in verse 26? (Jn. 11:26)

**Think about it**

Our natural bodies perish because of sin (Ge. 3:19; Ro. 5:12), but through Jesus Christ we have spiritual life, even eternal life. Our bodies die, but our souls never die, because Jesus Christ is our resurrection and life. Through him, we are regenerated and live forever. In fact, all who believe and have life through Christ will be given new bodies in the resurrection of life and at the rapture when Jesus comes for his church (Jn. 5:29; 1 Co. 15:50-53; Ph. 3:20-21; 1 Th. 4:14-18).



**Regeneration**  
**Lesson – You Must Be Born Again**  
**Scriptures – John 3:1-8**

**Introduction to Lesson**

Jesus taught, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). Thus, he taught the difference between true salvation and merely having a profession of faith in God. No doubt, many people’s professions are false and self-righteous. They are religious, but their hearts have not been changed. However, regeneration (being born again) is an act of God’s will in our lives (Jn. 1:13; Titus 3:5-7). We are not saved because we have a profession of faith and do righteous works, but rather, we have a profession of faith and do righteous works because we are saved, having been born again to new life.

**Key Verse**

*“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

Describe Nicodemus. (vv. 1-2)

What did Nicodemus think of Jesus? (v. 2)

What did Jesus say was the requirement for seeing God’s kingdom? (v. 3)

Did Nicodemus understand Jesus? What kind of birth did he think Jesus was talking about? (v. 4)

What is the one word that explains exactly what Jesus meant by being born again? (v. 5, see also verse 6 and 8)

What is Jesus contrasting in verse six? (v. 6)

What is “born again?” What kind of birth is it? Why must we be born again? (v. 7)

Describe the wind. (v. 8)

How is the work of the Spirit like the movement of the wind? (v. 8)

When we are born again, of whom are we born? (v. 8) When someone is born again, how do we know it?

**Think about it**

Being born again, or the new birth, refers to regeneration. It is a spiritual birth. Experiencing new life in Jesus Christ comes through being born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:8). Jesus emphasized this spiritual birth through contrasting it with the fleshly, natural birth. Nicodemus needed to understand that neither his position as a Jewish leader nor even his Jewish lineage were sufficient to gain him a place in the kingdom of God. Salvation is not received on the basis of natural birth or by our human will, but we must be regenerated by the Spirit of God. Regeneration is a spiritual transformation in the heart of the believer through placing one’s faith in Jesus Christ.



**Regeneration**  
**Lesson – The Blessings of Regeneration**  
**Scriptures – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

**Introduction to Lesson**

Being convicted by the Spirit of personal sinfulness, an individual repents, calling on the name of Jesus, and he is justified (forgiven) and regenerated (given life) by God. We call this genuine salvation. When a person is regenerated, he experiences a radical change. Regeneration is that experience of receiving new life through faith in the work of Jesus Christ. A person passes from death to life, and it happens in a moment. In today's lesson, let's consider the spiritual blessings of regeneration. These blessings give witness to the spiritual transformation and change in the born again believer.

**Key Verse**

*“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

Building on the lesson introduction, discuss what it means to be “in Christ.” (v. 17)

How does the apostle Paul explain “a new creature (creation)?” (v. 17)

If a person is “in Christ” and is “a new creature,” can he follow after the “old things” he did as a sinner? (v. 17)

As new creatures in Christ, what will we follow after? What kind of spiritual fruit will we bear? (v. 21; Ep. 5:9; Ga. 5:22-23)

When we are “in Christ,” what becomes new? (v. 17)

Who makes “all things” new? (v. 18)

Who made our newness possible? (v. 18)

**Think about it**

When we are regenerated by faith in Jesus Christ, experiencing new life in Christ, everything changes – all things become new. We are brought into a new relationship with God – we are reconciled to God by Jesus Christ (2 Co. 5:18-20). We are no longer the same person. We may look the same on the outside, but our inner man has been radically transformed by God. We are made completely new in Christ. Attitudes and actions change; purposes and goals change; practices and habits change. As new creatures in Christ, we receive many spiritual blessings – the fruit of the Spirit. Because of Christ, we experience love, joy, and peace, as well as many other spiritual blessings (Ga. 5:22-23). The righteous fruit of Christ in our hearts opens up a whole new world.



## **Sanctification**

### **Lesson – What Is Sanctification?**

### **Scriptures – Romans 6:1-7**

#### **Introduction to Lesson**

Not only was Jesus' blood shed for our justification (forgiveness of sins committed) and our regeneration (new life in Christ), but also for our sanctification (deliverance from the power of sin). But understand that God cannot sanctify anyone who does not desire to do any better. At the same time, we can weary ourselves trying to do better, but still fail to be sanctified. Instead, sanctification is a spiritual blessing. It is the work of God in our hearts. Only Jesus Christ can sanctify and deliver from the power of sin.

#### **Key Verse**

*“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans 6:6).*

#### **Questions to Discuss:**

Does God's grace (his love and mercy toward us) permit a Christian to continue sinning? (vv. 1-2)

When does a person stop sinning? (v. 2)

In verse 3, baptism does not mean “water” baptism. Instead, it refers to the work of the Spirit in placing us into Christ. Water baptism symbolizes this spiritual baptism to which Paul refers. When we are placed into Christ, what else are we baptized into? What should we be dead to? (v. 3)

In the natural, Jesus Christ was crucified (put to death), buried, and then he was raised to new life. When we die to sin, being buried with Christ (spiritually), to what are we raised in Christ? (v. 4)

How does Christ's death and resurrection illustrate the work of God in the believer? (v. 5)

Paul refers to the “old man” as the sinful nature within us. When we are regenerated to “newness of life,” we must not continue to sin. Since we must stop sinning, what must happen to the “old” sinful man within us? (v. 6)

What results from the crucifying (death) of the old man (sinful nature)? (vv. 6-7)

#### **Think about it**

When we are forgiven (justified) and born again (regenerated), we experience new life in Christ. Through Jesus Christ, we are saved from sin. In fact, he came to destroy the power of sin in our lives. For this reason, we can see why the “old man” or sinful nature must be crucified and put to death. God did not give us “newness of life” only to leave us in the corruption of sin. Instead, he wants us to “walk (live) in the newness of life.” Think about it: there must be a death in order for there to be a resurrection. Sanctification is the death of the sinful nature within us. If a man is dead to sin, then he certainly will not live in sin any longer. Through sanctification, we can have victory in Jesus and walk in the fullness of the Holy Ghost. This does not mean that we cannot sin, but it does mean that we have power to overcome sin. So we do not have to be a punching bag for sin, for Jesus promised to free us from it (Jn. 8:34-36). If you are struggling with sin, then cry out to Jesus Christ and ask him to sanctify your heart.



**Sanctification**  
**Lesson – The Second Definite Work**  
**Scriptures – Galatians 2:16-21**

**Introduction to Lesson**

A conflict of the flesh and the Spirit occurs when we are born again. After being justified and regenerated, the child of God finds within him a battle between the flesh and Spirit – wanting to do right but being pulled to do wrong. Sanctification is the resolution to this conflict. While some people experience sanctification alongside their conversion or perhaps alongside being baptized with the Holy Ghost, it should not be confused with either. It is a second, definite work of God’s grace, following the new birth and preceding the baptism with the Holy Ghost.

**Key Verse**

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

How are we justified (made right with God)? (v. 16)

Can we be right with God by keeping his law? (v. 16)

After being justified by Christ, is it possible to go back into sin? (v. 17)

Who is to blame if we turn back? (v. 17)

How do we make ourselves transgressors (sinners)? (v. 18)

In verse 19, the apostle Paul explains what the law of God actually does. It cannot save us from sin. Instead, it causes us to know that we are sinners (Romans 3:20), so that we might place our faith in Jesus Christ, and through him become dead to the law that condemns us. Therefore, when we die to the law through faith in Jesus Christ, what then can we do? (v. 19)

By faith in Jesus Christ, we die to the law that condemns us. What word (or experience) does Paul use to explain this death? (v. 20)

Sanctification is being crucified with Christ, where we no longer live to fulfill the desires of the sinful flesh, but rather we live to please the Lord. How can a person be “crucified” with Christ, yet still live? (v. 20)

**Think about it**

In this passage, we can see someone who has been justified, but then he is turning back to sin. In sanctification, our “old man” is crucified or put to death through faith in Jesus Christ. The old man of sin dies, so that the new man of righteousness might live unto God. Sanctification is not the same experience as justification. In justification, we are forgiven and pardoned of sins committed. But in sanctification, the nature of sin (old man) is crucified and put to death. Thus, by faith we are justified, and by faith we are sanctified. If someone who has been justified finds that he is being pulled back to his old lifestyle of sin then he clearly needs to be sanctified by faith. He/she should pray and seek the Lord, placing one’s faith in the blood of his cross, until he obtains victory and power over sin. Only then can we live out the life of faith and righteousness, and experience true joy in the Lord.



## **Sanctification**

### **Lesson – How Are We Sanctified**

### **Scriptures – John 17:14-20**

#### **Introduction to Lesson**

Justification (pardon of sins committed) and regeneration (spiritual life in Christ) anticipate and expect sanctification (the death of the old sin nature). In other words, as new believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot continue to walk in sin; but we must walk in righteousness and live a life pleasing to the Lord. Sanctification makes this possible. Through sanctification, we can live holy lives. Like justification and regeneration, we are sanctified through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. Sanctification is also a work of the Spirit in our hearts. We experience it as a crisis in a moment through faith in Jesus. So Jesus provided sanctification through his sacrifice, but the Spirit does the work in our hearts. In today's lesson, we will see that we are not only sanctified by Christ's blood and by his Spirit, but we are also sanctified by his Word.

#### **Key Verse**

*“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).*

#### **Questions to Discuss:**

What did Jesus give to his disciples that was so important to their walk with God? (v. 14; see also v. 8)

Why does the world hate followers of Christ? What makes us different from the world? (v. 14)

When Jesus says that we are not of this world (v. 16), what does he mean? What is Jesus' desire for us? (v. 15)

How are we kept (set apart) from evil? (v. 17)

What sanctifies us? (v. 17)

Although we are not of this world, where has Jesus sent us, and for what purpose are we sent? (v. 18)

When Jesus sanctified himself or set himself apart to God, what was he demonstrating to us? (v. 19)

How do we know that sanctification is for all believers? (v. 20)

#### **Think about it**

We are sanctified through faith in Jesus Christ – through faith in what he did for us when he shed his blood on the cross. The Spirit of God does the sanctifying work in our hearts. But remember, we only know what Jesus did for us when we hear the Word of Truth. We only understand righteousness and true holiness when we hear the Word of God. Through hearing and receiving the Word of Truth by faith, we are sanctified. Thus, Jesus prayed for his apostles and for all who would believe on him through their word, that is, through their testimony of the truth. Today, we are still preaching and teaching the Word of Truth that sanctifies us. Through believing the Truth and then walking in it by faith, we can be holy and pleasing to the Lord.



**Sanctification**  
**Lesson – The Will of God**  
**Scriptures – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

**Introduction to Lesson**

In last week's lesson, we asked the question, "How are we sanctified (set apart to God)?" Clearly, God has provided the way for our sanctification (Hebrews 10:9-10). We are sanctified by the Word and Spirit of God through faith in the sacrifice and blood of Jesus Christ. Realizing that God has made this provision for us, one might ask, "But is it God's will that every believer experiences sanctification?" If an individual experiences regeneration (the new birth) but does not seek and experience sanctification in his life, is this God's will?

**Key Verse**

*"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

- How do we know that the apostle Paul is about to make a serious statement? (v. 1)
- What has Paul taught the saints in the past? (v. 1)
- What was Paul encouraging the church to do? (v. 1)
- Where did Paul's commandments and teachings come from? (v. 2)
- What is God's will for us? What was the particular sin that he instructed them to avoid? (v. 3; see also 1 Cor. 6:15-20)
- After we experience sanctification, do we automatically know how to live sanctified (set apart) or must we be taught and instructed, and learn how to live in sanctification? (vv. 4-5)
- What will happen to those who do not live sanctified and separated from sin? (v. 6)
- How then should we live? (v. 7) What is our inward motivation to be holy? (v. 8)

**Think about it**

After being saved and even sanctified, we do not know everything about serving God. A sanctified baby in Christ is still a child, and he must grow up in the Lord in order to understand how to walk before the Lord. Children will stumble and fall when trying to walk, but they keep getting back up until they master it. As they gain balance and agility, they learn to run, until finally, they become swift. Children of God who are sanctified have the mind of Christ, yet they must still grow in the Lord, learn how to keep themselves from sin, and learn how to bring glory and honor to Jesus. For this reason, much of the New Testament is instruction and correction, helping us to know how to walk in God's will. God's will is our sanctification. Of course, we cannot be holy, until the sin nature is first crucified with Christ. So sanctification is not merely being good enough; for we must be sanctified by the Spirit of God. But also, God cannot sanctify anyone who refuses to set himself apart from sin. We know that sanctification is a second definite work of grace in the life of the believer, but we also know that each believer must grow in the knowledge of Christ and in the practice of our faith. Therefore, we should seek to experience sanctification, and also pursue a holy life. This is God's will.



**Mission Models**  
**Lesson – The Separation Model**  
**Scriptures – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

**Introduction to Lesson**

Our understanding of the relationship between the church and the world greatly affects the way we fulfill our mission in the world. As we will see in today's lesson, God calls the church to be separate from the world. But how far do we take the idea of separation. While separation is Biblical, we must keep in mind God's burden for the lost condition of humanity. If we separate ourselves to the point that we disconnect ourselves from sinners, how will we reach them with the gospel of Christ? Let's see what the apostle Paul wrote about being separate.

**Key Verse**

*“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:17).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

Are believers and unbelievers equal (the same)? How are the two different? (v. 14)

The word “yoked” means “connected.” What is the problem with believers (Christians) being closely connected with unbelievers? What do you think will happen to Christians who spend too much time hanging around sinful people? (v. 14)

Can Christians take part in the lifestyle and practices of sinners, yet remain faithful to the Lord? (vv. 14-16)

Why must we be different from the world around us? (v. 16)

What must we do for God to receive us? (v. 17)

If we separate ourselves from the world and its sinful practices, what does God promise that he will do? (v. 18)

**Think about it**

Being “separate” from sinners is Biblical. We are called out of the world to be different from the world. But “separate” does not mean being completely disconnected from sinners. If we have no fellowship with sinners then we will fail to minister to those who desperately need the Lord. Separation actually means having no fellowship with the sinful ideas and practices of this world. Jesus mercifully reached out to and ministered to sinners. In fact, he came to save sinners. But he also kept himself from sin – he separated himself from the practices of sinners. God has not called us to isolate ourselves, but rather to carry the gospel of salvation to the lost and unbelieving. Clearly, we cannot be separatists and at the same time reach the world for Christ.



## **Mission Models**

### **Lesson – The Accommodation Model?**

#### **Scriptures – 1 Corinthians 9:20-23**

#### **Introduction to Lesson**

While we must separate ourselves from sin, we should not disconnect ourselves from sinners, if we want to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since separation cannot accomplish the mission of the church, some try to accommodate sinners in order to reach them. Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Accommodation attempts to make the gospel more appealing to the world. They adapt the church and its message to fit the needs of the world, so the world will accept the church. Certainly, we cannot expect sinners to bridge the gap and come to us. We have an obligation to reach out to them and help them to come to Christ. But in reaching the lost, we must not compromise the faith and doctrine of the church. Let’s see what the apostle Paul actually said about identifying with the needs of sinners.

#### **Key Verse**

*“I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).*

#### **Questions to Discuss:**

- In ministering to Jews, how did the apostle Paul relate to them? (v. 20)
- Why did he approach them as a fellow Jew? (v. 20)
- How did he approach people who kept the Mosaic Law (law given by Moses)? (v. 20)
- Why did he respect them in this way? (v. 20)
- How did he approach people who did not keep the law? (v. 21)
- Did this mean that Paul was lawless? (v. 21)
- How did he relate to the weak? (v. 22)
- Why did he seek to identify with all people?
- Why did Paul seek to understand people and minister to people just as they were? (vv. 22-23)

#### **Think about it**

Although the apostle Paul ministered to people in this way, do you think he ever compromised who he was or what he believed? Do you think he ever quit being faithful to his convictions? Do you think he bent the truth to win people to Jesus Christ? Although we should do everything in our power to bring people to the Lord, we must never quit being the church that Jesus Christ has called us and commissioned us to be in the world. We are not called to accommodate a sinful world. We are not called to make our message more appealing and acceptable to the world. Instead, we are called to be faithful witnesses in a world that desperately needs to hear the truth spoken in love.



**Mission Models**  
**Lesson – The Unification Model?**  
**Scriptures – Romans 12:1-2**

**Introduction to Lesson**

As Christians, we should love our neighbors as ourselves, just as Jesus commanded us (Matthew 22:39). In the same way Christ loved us, we are called to share Christ's love with others (1 John 4:7- 11). However, when sharing God's love with the lost, we must not fail to declare his coming judgment against all sin and unrighteousness. Some people become so extreme about loving their neighbors, they actually lose sight of their first obligation – to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37-38). We can compromise the truth of God's Word, in order to reach the world. But rather than making true converts, we will bring sinners into the fellowship of the church. What does the mission of the church look like, when the church and the world become united? In today's lesson, the apostle Paul taught that we must be different from the world. Only then, do we have a mission.

**Key Verse**

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Ro. 12:2).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

- How do we know that Paul's writing is urgent (serious)? (v. 1)
- What should we do with our bodies? (v. 1)
- What one word describes what we should be like? (v. 1)
- When we are holy in our living, how does God see us? (v. 1)
- Is holiness too much for God to ask of us? (v. 1)
- Should we follow the ways of the world? What should be our relationship to the world? (v. 2)
- How does God transform us and make us different from the world around us? (v. 2)
- Why must your mind (thinking, perspective, understanding) be renewed (changed)? (v. 2)

**Think about it**

Clearly, in trying to love our neighbors and attempting to reach sinners for Christ, we must not become like the world, in order to win them to the church. The world's beliefs and practices are not compatible to that of the church. The world is sinful, but the church is sanctified and set apart to Christ alone. The world is in darkness, but the church shines with the light of Christ. The world is under God's judgment, but the church abides in the saving grace of God. In next week's lesson, we will see how the church can function in the world without being swallowed up by the world.



## **Mission Models**

### **Lesson – The Distinction Model**

### **Scriptures – John 17:6, 9, 11, 13-18**

#### **Introduction to Lesson**

So far, we have looked at three mission models often embraced by Christian groups in the world today. Each model attempts to explain how we should relate to the world around us. While each model uses Scripture to support it, all three models fall short of fulfilling the mission of Christ and the church. Today, we consider the fourth and final mission model, the “Distinction Model: In but Not of the World.” The Lord has sent the church into the world, but he has also set apart his church from the world. In John chapter 17, let’s look at Jesus’ prayer for the church and see how the distinction model works to accomplish God’s mission.

#### **Key Verse**

*“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil” (John 17:15).*

#### **Questions to Discuss:**

When Jesus prayed to the Father, who was he praying for, and who was he not praying for? (vv. 6, 9)

Why did Jesus say that he was “no more in the world?” (vv. 11, 13)

Jesus went back (ascended) to the Father after he arose from the dead. He left, but what happened to the church? (vv. 11, 15)

Why does the world hate us (the church)? (vv. 14, 16)

Jesus prayed that we should be sanctified, or set apart, through the truth (God’s Word). Believing and practicing God’s Word makes us different from the world. Although we are not of the world, where has Jesus sent us? (vv. 17-18)

#### **Think about it**

Jesus has left the church in the world to finish his mission. He is coming again, but until that time we have work to do. We should tell others about Jesus Christ and stand up for what is right, according to the Word of God. Truly, we are not of this world, but God has called us out of this world to be set apart from the world. Because we wholeheartedly follow Jesus and his Word, we are clearly different from the world. Although we are separate and different, Jesus has sent us into the world to fulfill his Great Commission. Thus, we are in, but not of the world. We are called out, but nevertheless sent into the world. The church is like a circle inside of another circle – in the world, but clearly distinct from it.



## **Cross-Cultural Missions**

### **Lesson – The Scope**

### **Scriptures – Luke 24:44-49**

#### **Introduction to Lesson**

Although the earth is only one small spot in the galaxy and an even smaller speck in the universe, it is extremely special because mankind dwells on the earth. How special? “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son . . .” (John 3:16). I know that Christ died on the cross to save me; he came to save my family and friends. But wasn’t his coming and death also for the multitudes I have never seen? Are we responsible for reaching the lost people of other countries and cultures? Who is responsible for the people who have never heard the truth? No doubt, the ones who are responsible are the ones who have heard the gospel and received salvation. Reaching the billions with the truth of the gospel is our missionary responsibility. In today’s lesson, let’s consider the scope (extent) of our mission as God’s church.

#### **Key Verse**

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).*

#### **Questions to Discuss:**

What understanding did Jesus give to his disciples? (vv. 44-45)

What specific truth(s) did Jesus want his disciples to understand in the Scriptures? (v. 46)

What is our message to the lost? What should we speak in Jesus’ name? (v. 47)

Where should we declare the gospel of Christ? (v. 47) Who should be witnesses for Christ? (v. 48)

Why do we need “power from on high” (the power of the Holy Ghost)? (v. 49; see also Acts 1:8)

#### **Think about it**

We must know the Word of God (the Holy Scriptures). We must know what we are talking about. We must have a clear message, and we must take our message to the world. We are Christ’s witnesses. Look at the memory verse. Jesus said we should go into “all the world” (the whole world), but then he also said we should share the gospel with “every creature” (every person). In other words, we must go everywhere and give the gospel to everyone. The gospel is for young and old, for boys and girls, for both rich and poor, for all races, nations, and cultures. Jesus gave us a complete, comprehensive mission – a mission as general as the whole world, but as specific as every individual person. So we need to take the gospel around the globe, but we also need to share the gospel with our neighbor. This is the scope of our mission.



**Cross-Cultural Missions**  
**Lesson – The Macedonian Call**  
**Scriptures – Acts 16:6-12**

**Introduction to Lesson**

Do we actually have what it takes to carry the gospel to the whole world? After all, it's a mighty big world. Even though we are a gifted people with talents and resources, we will never get the job done by our own abilities. However, God has given us his power – a power that we must never underestimate. The church can accomplish its worldwide mission, if we all will do our part and follow the guidance of the Holy Ghost. “The Macedonian Call” demonstrates how the Holy Ghost desires to inspire and direct our mission. Through following the Spirit, we will achieve greater missionary successes. “The Macedonian Call” shows us how the Spirit will lead us in God’s will, as we seek to fulfill the mission of the church. {Suggestion: This lesson covers part of Paul’s second missionary journey. As you read the verses, trace his steps on your Bible map.}

**Key Verse**

*“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us” (Acts 16:9).*

**Questions to Discuss:**

- What happened to Paul and Silas in traveling throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia? (v. 6)
- Why do you think the Holy Ghost might have stopped them from preaching in Asia (to the south)? (v. 6)
- After they came to Mysia, where were they attempting to go next? (v. 7)
- When they tried to go into Bithynia (to the north), what happened? (v. 7)
- Was there anything “wrong” with their wanting to preach the gospel in the region of Bithynia? (v. 7)
- When they finally reached Troas, what happened to Paul during the night? (vv. 8-9)
- Where was the man in his vision from? (v. 9)
- What was he begging Paul to do? (v. 9)
- After Paul saw the vision, what did they do? (v. 10)
- Did they believe the vision was from the Lord? (v. 10)

**Think about it**

Leaving Troas, Paul and his companions (Silas, Timothy vv. 1-3, and Luke vv. 10-12, “we”) headed forward toward Macedonia and ended up in the chief city of Philippi (v. 12). Why did God lead them this way? In Philippi, they laid the foundation of what would become one of Paul’s best supporting churches and partners in the mission work. The Holy Ghost would not permit them to go south; he would not allow them to go north. But the Holy Ghost gave Paul a vision to direct their mission (Acts 2:17). God knows how to lead his people. When we follow the leadership of the Holy Ghost, we will have success in the church.

