

## Week 4 : Paul's Travels – Paul's second missionary journey

**Theme:** Making Jesus welcome in our lives.

**On arrival** : Issue a Passport. Colour in the passport and stamp for this week. Today's stamp is Philippi . This can be done in successive weeks as children arrive. At the end of the series, award a small prize to the child with most attendances ( draw names from a hat where necessary )

**4Directional Prayer:** The final part of our prayer. *Help us to take care of the ground beneath our feet.*

*Amen ( Point downwards )* And the whole prayer is now complete :

Dear God, you are king of us all ( *Point upwards then bow.* )

Today we ask you to open our eyes to see Jesus whom we follow ( *Point forward and march on the spot.* )

Help us to show we care for the people around us in the things we do and say. ( *Draw a circle in the air with your finger* )

Help us to take care of the ground beneath our feet. Amen ( *Point downwards* )

### **Games:**

**Rucksack:** Sit the children in a circle. The leader scratches his nose and, holding a rucksack, says, "My rucksack is open." and passes it to next child. The next child repeats the phrase. The starting player will tell the child if they are correct or incorrect. The children won't immediately understand what makes them right or wrong. Gradually the children will work out the secret. As the children "get it", encourage them not to let on. The secret ? The child must scratch his nose before making the statement to be right.

**Jumping the River:** Mark a pair of parallel lines on the floor with marking tape. The first pair should be about a metre apart. The children take turns jumping over the pair of lines. Once everyone has had a go, widen the distance between the tape and repeat the process of jumping over the gap. Continue until there is a winner.

**I Predict:** Label the 4 corners of the room, red, blue, yellow, green. Place a small ball or bean bag of each of the 4 colours into a bag ( make sure the bag is not transparent.) Children select a corner and stand in it. A ball is drawn from the bag. All children standing in that coloured corner are out. Repeat until you have a winner.

**Story :** Read Paul's letter as an **introduction**. Paul and Silas' time in Philippi is described in today's story ( see resources ) Acts 15: 36-41, Acts 16: 1-18

**Application:** Lydia had never heard about Jesus before but the Bible says that "The Lord opened her heart." God gave Paul the words he needed to talk to Lydia. In return, Lydia invited Paul and Silas to her house. Making people feel welcome is something we can do to show God's love to people and shows that Jesus is welcome in our lives also. There may be new children in your class or clubs. What can you do to make them feel welcome ?

**Memory verse** : "As for my family and me, we will serve the Lord." *Joshua 24 v 15b*. Draw the outline of a house with a chimney, 4 windows and a door. Cut out a separate chimney, windows and a door which can be stuck over the ones you have drawn on the outline. Write part of the verse on each and stick onto the house in no particular order. Finish by adding some people.

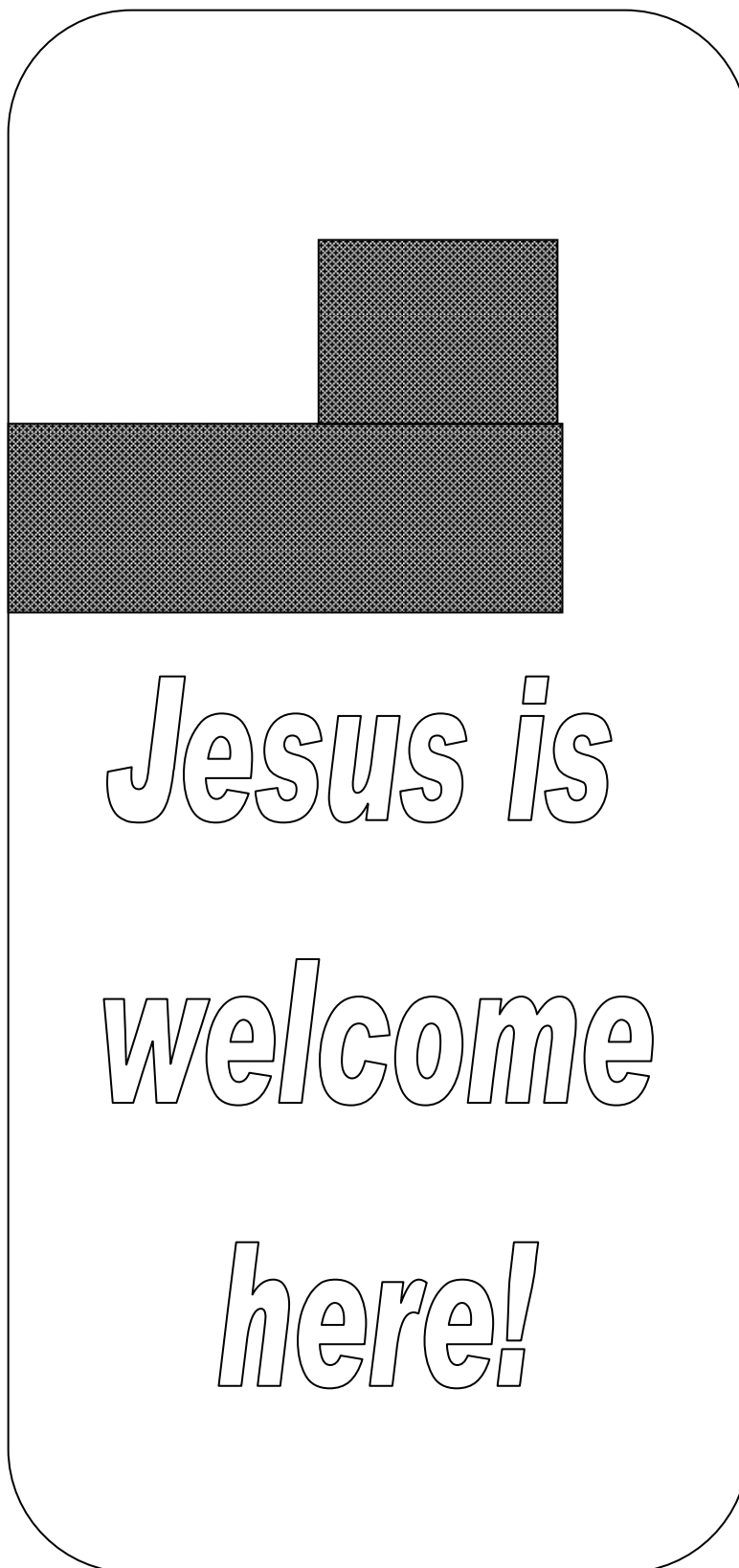
**Prayer:** There is a prayer craft in the resources. Lydia welcomed Jesus into her life and then welcomed Paul and his companions into her home. This door hanger is a reminder that Jesus is welcome in our lives.

**Song:** *As for me and my house, Jim Bailey, Colours of Salvation CD , Disc 3, Track 10*

**Resources:** *There is a passport, story, prayer craft and fun sheet in the resources.*

Make this simple craft. Photocopy onto card.

Cut out shaded area.



## Week 4 : Story

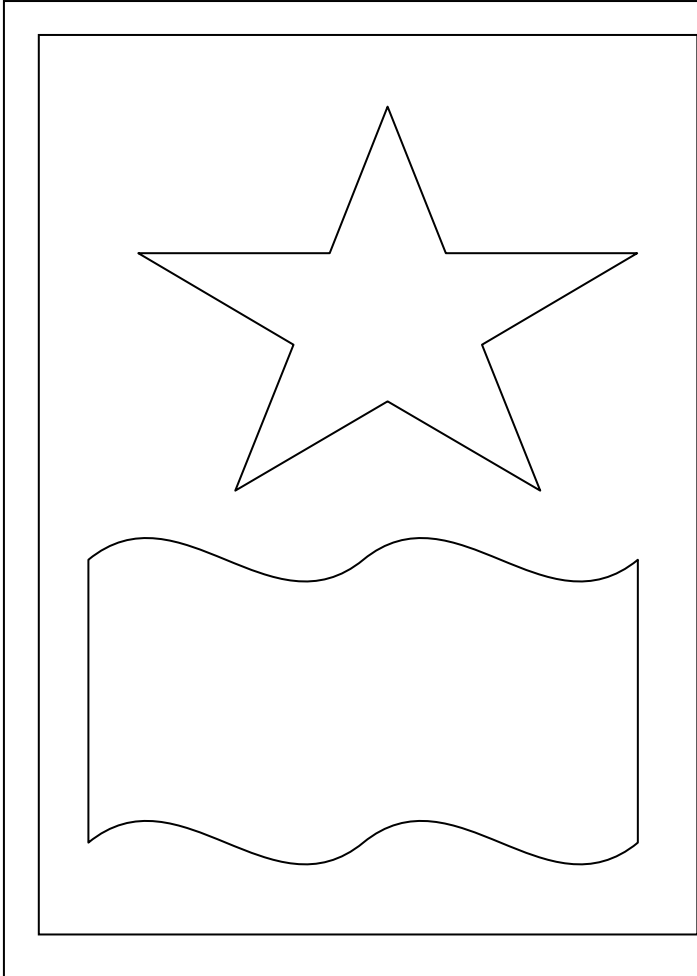
Paul and Barnabas had been in Antioch for some time strengthening the faith of the Christian church they had established there. The two men decided to go back to the places they had already visited to see how the new Christians were doing . Barnabas chose Mark to be his assistant and they sailed away to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas as his helper and set off through Syria and Cilicia. In each place they visited, more and more people became believers.

Paul never planned his route. Instead, he trusted God to show him where he should go. The Holy Spirit gave Paul different signs. One night, in Troas, Paul had a vision while he slept. He dreamt that a stranger from Macedonia was beside his bed, begging Paul to go to Greece. So the next morning, Paul , Silas and their followers set off for Greece. They headed for Philippi , a bustling and busy market town but they did not know anyone. God soon sorted that out ! As Paul preached the good news beside a river, a group of women listened eagerly. One woman felt a joy in her heart. Lydia sold cloth. The Lord himself opened Lydia's mind to hear the Good News Paul was sharing. Lydia begged Paul to come to her house right away and baptise her whole family. Lydia was a woman with a generous heart and she insisted that Paul and his companions stay with her for as long as they remained in Philippi.

Paul and Silas continued to go down to the riverside and preach to the crowds that gathered there. One day they were preaching when they heard a shrill, excitable voice behind them.

“These men are true servants of God” shouted a young woman. “They have come to tell us how we can be saved.”

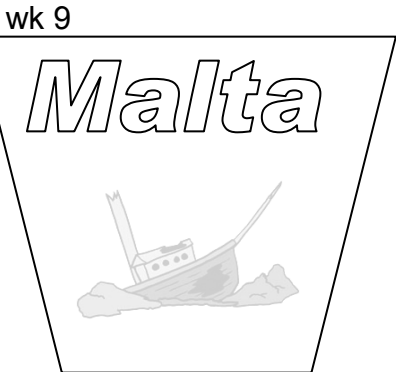
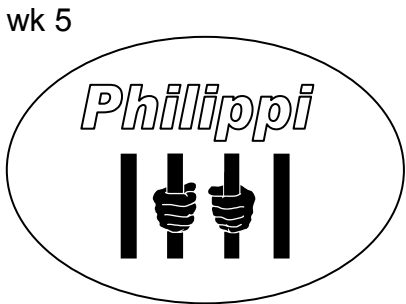
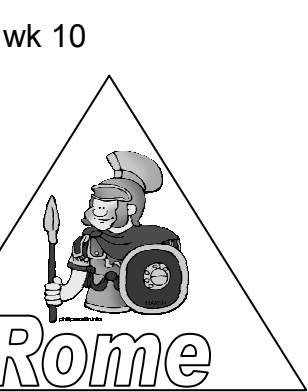
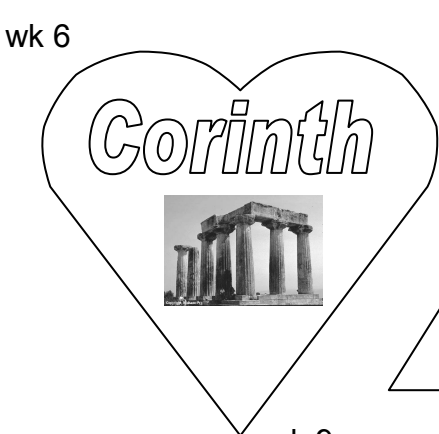
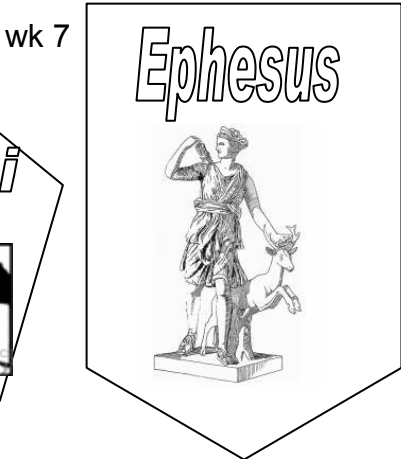
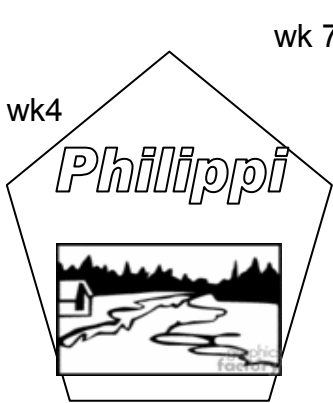
Paul turned round to see what all the commotion was for. He saw a young slave girl, hot on their heels, beckoning and urging people around her to come and follow Paul and Silas. This sounded like good news for Paul and Silas but although, the words about Paul and Silas summed up exactly the men's mission, the slave girl had an evil spirit that enabled her to predict the future. Her Roman owners were delighted because for years they had made lots of money from her by making people pay to have their fortunes told by her. The two disciples weren't pleased at all to see her using the gift of fortune telling to encourage people to follow them. The slave girl followed them for days, crying out wildly after them wherever they went. Finally, Paul lost his patience. Without any warning, he turned to face the slave girl, his face like thunder. Paul flung out his arms towards her and cried, “Spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ, come out of this girl.” At once the slave girl was quietened and she was no longer able to sense and see the future.



**passport**

Name

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Dear Friends,

It wasn't long before I decided to set off on my travels again. I had written to some people in a place called Galatia in Turkey. I wanted to see them again to see how they were getting on. This time I took another friend – a man called Silas. We revisited several places in Asia Minor. But one night, while I was asleep, I saw in my dreams, a man begging us to go to Europe taking the good news about Jesus. Soon we found a boat to take us to Macedonia – it was the first time I'd visited Europe. We soon found ourselves in a Roman town called Philippi where we met some Jewish women by the river . Naturally, we were soon telling them the good news about Jesus. One of the women was called Lydia.

Your good friend,

Paul