

Jesus' Words Come True

Level 2

Introduction

Jesus' Words Come True — the 2nd booklet of Level 2, is the reader. It is based on the account in the Bible of how the promises of Jesus were fulfilled in the early church.

The 576 words introduced in Level 1 are carried over to this reader, which introduces another 314 words.

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1. Jesus Is Alive!

Vocabulary

afternoon	having	nonsense	soon
along	however	opened	still
amazed	immediately	others	stopped
answered	Jerusalem	outside	Sunday
appeared	Jewish	quickly	taught
at last	knocking	recognised	teaching ^①
crying	later	remember	true
disappeared	leaders	saying	village
evening	locked	shining	voices
few	meal	since	walking
haven't	Messiah	someone	

Text

It was Sunday — the third day after Jesus had died on the cross. Many of Jesus' disciples were together in a house in Jerusalem. The door was locked because they were afraid of Jesus' enemies — the Jewish leaders.

The disciples were very sad. Some were still crying. A few of the women, however, were not crying. They were full of joy because they knew that Jesus was alive.

Early that morning, these women had gone to Jesus' tomb. They saw that it was empty. They stood there asking each other, "What has

happened?” Suddenly two men in bright, shining clothes appeared. They stood by the women and said to them, “Jesus is not in the tomb. God has made him alive again. Remember, Jesus had said to you, ‘I will die on a cross, and on the third day come alive again!’ ”

Jesus’ words had come true. The women were full of joy. They had run back quickly and told the disciples about it. But the disciples did not believe them. They said, “What nonsense! How can Jesus be alive!” Peter, however, was still thinking, “What has happened?” He had also been to the tomb, and he had seen that it was empty.

Later that evening, the disciples were still together in the house. Suddenly they heard someone knocking on the door. They were afraid and they stopped talking. However they soon recognised the voices outside, and opened the door. Two of Jesus’ disciples came in. “Jesus is alive!” they said. “He was with us.”

Then one of them told the others what had happened. He said, “This afternoon the two of us were walking to a village. A man came along and walked with us. He asked us, ‘What are you talking about?’ ‘We’re talking about Jesus,’ I answered. ‘He was our Leader. Haven’t you heard about him? He was a man sent by God. He did many wonderful things, and he taught us about God. The Jewish leaders did not like his teaching. They had him killed on a cross. Today is the third day since he died. But this morning, some of our women came to us saying, ‘Jesus is not in the tomb. He is alive.’ We don’t know what to think.



The man said to us, ‘Why don’t you believe the word of God? It says that the Messiah will suffer and die on a cross, and come alive again on the third day’. He also taught us many other things about the Messiah — from the word of God. These are the same things Jesus had taught us before.

This man went with us to the village. He stayed with us. While we were having our evening meal, we suddenly recognised him. He was Jesus! We were amazed. But before we could say a word, he disappeared! We got up and ran here immediately.”

Suddenly Jesus appeared and stood among his disciples. They were afraid. They were not able to talk. Jesus said to them, “Why are you afraid? It is I. If you don’t believe that I’m alive, touch me. Give me some food to eat.” The disciples were amazed. At last they believed he was alive. They were full of joy.

“Remember,” said Jesus, “I told you these things before — that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and die on a cross — and come alive again on the third day. You have seen all these things happen to me.”

2. The Coming Of The Holy Spirit

Vocabulary

almost	drunk	loud	right ^②
Apostles	far	loudly	slowly
appear	front	met	standing
baptise	just ^②	mountain-side	unable
blowing	languages	no longer	white
chosen	learnt	often	
coming	left	return	

Text

Jesus was on a mountain-side not far from Jerusalem. His Apostles were with him. They were the men he had chosen to be leaders in the work for God.

It was forty days since Jesus had come alive again. It was almost time for him to return to his Father in heaven.

Jesus said to his Apostles, “Stay in Jerusalem. God will send his Holy Spirit to be in you. The Holy Spirit will give you power. You will have power to tell the people in Jerusalem about me. You will be able to go to every nation on earth — to tell people about me. Go and make them my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And I will be with you always.”

After saying this, Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed them. Then he went up into the sky. His Apostles stood watching. They were amazed. Soon they were unable to see him. However, they still stood there, looking up at the sky. Suddenly two men in shining white



clothes were there, standing in front of them. One of the men said to the Apostles, “Men, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? Jesus has returned to his Father in heaven. One day he’ll come back again. He’ll suddenly appear in the sky.”

The Apostles worshipped Jesus. Then they went down the mountain-side, and walked slowly back to Jerusalem. Jesus had just gone away from them, but this time, they were not sad. He had told them this would happen, and it had happened. He had gone to be with God, his Father. He had left them in the world, to do work for God.

The Apostles obeyed Jesus — they stayed in Jerusalem. They often met together to pray. Jesus' other disciples and his mother and brothers were often with them. They all prayed together.

One morning, what Jesus had promised took place. The Holy Spirit came! They heard a very loud sound — it was like the sound of a very strong wind blowing. It came from heaven and blew right into the house.

The Apostles and all the people with them were filled by the Holy Spirit. Something wonderful had happened. Their hearts were full of joy. They lifted their voices and praised God loudly in languages which they had never learnt!

The people outside heard them. Some of them said to one another, "What has happened?" Others just laughed at them and said, "They're drunk."

Peter and the other Apostles were full of the Holy Spirit. They were full of power. They were no longer afraid of the Jewish leaders. They immediately went out and spoke to the people.

3. The New Believers

Vocabulary

baptised	miracles	sold	till
believers	once	sometimes	yet
bringing	performing	telling	you've
end	praising	that's	
even	ready	they're	
fisher	shared	thousand	

Text

The Apostles were no longer afraid of the Jewish leaders. God had filled them with the Holy Spirit. They were full of power and were ready to do God's work. They immediately went outside.

Peter stood in front of the people, and spoke to them in a loud voice. He said, "Listen to me. You think these people are drunk. It isn't true. Do you know what has happened? The Holy Spirit came and filled them. And they're praising God loudly in languages which they have never learnt. God's word said this would happen, and it has happened.

Jesus was sent to you by God. You know that's the truth. You've heard him telling people about God. You've seen him performing many miracles. Yet you let him be killed on the cross. But God has made him alive again. That was God's plan. Now he is with God. And God has made him Lord and Messiah."



When the people heard this, they felt ashamed and sad and worried. They said to Peter and the other Apostles, “Tell us, what must we do?” Peter answered, “You must be sorry for your sins. God will forgive you. You must be baptised in the name of Jesus. God will give you His Holy Spirit.” About three thousand people believed. These believers were baptised.

Peter used to be a fisherman, but when he decided to follow Jesus, he left his boat behind. And Jesus had said to him, “I will make you a fisher of men — you will be bringing men to God.” This was Peter’s work till the end of his life — bringing men to God.

Peter and the other Apostles taught the believers more about God, and every day, more and more people believed and were baptised.

The believers met together in each other's homes — to pray and praise God together. They often had meals together. They shared everything they had with each other. Sometimes they even sold their things and gave their money to the Apostles. The money was given to believers who were poor. So everyone had enough to eat, and no one had too much.

Jesus had once said to his disciples, “You must love one another, then people will know that you are my disciples.” And people saw how Jesus' disciples loved and helped one another.

4. The Power Of Jesus' Name

Vocabulary

about ^②	gate	keep	quietly
any	going	lame	sitting
around	himself	listening	speaking
asking	John	o'clock	Temple
crowded	jumped	old	years
followed	jumping	own	

Text

It was three o'clock in the afternoon. People were going into the Temple to pray. Peter and another Apostle named John, were also going into the Temple.

At the gate of the Temple sat a man who was lame. He had never walked since he was born. He called out to Peter and John, "Give me some money." Peter looked at the man. He wanted the man to be healed. He believed Jesus' words, "In my name you will heal people who are sick." Peter said to the man, "Look at us." The man looked at Peter and John. He thought they were going to give him some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any money. But I will give you what I have — in Jesus' name, get up and walk." Peter held the man's hand and helped him up. Immediately, the man's legs became strong. He jumped up and stood on his feet. He began to walk about by himself.



Peter and John went into the Temple. The man went in with them, walking and jumping and praising God. The people in the Temple saw the man walking and jumping and praising God. They recognised him as the man who was lame. They had often seen him sitting at the gate — asking people for money. They were amazed to see him walking and jumping and praising God.

The man who was healed followed Peter and John. He held on to

them and would not let them go, and the people crowded around them. Peter saw that the people were amazed at what had happened. He said to them, “Why are all of you so amazed? Why do you keep on looking at us? Do you think we have healed this man by our own power? No, he was not healed by our power. He was healed by the power of Jesus’ name.

Almighty God has given his glory to Jesus. He has sent Jesus to you, but you did not want him. You let him be killed on the cross, but God made him alive again — we saw this and know that it’s true”

The people stood there quietly, listening to Peter, and he went on speaking to them. He said, “My brothers, you and your leaders didn’t know the truth in God’s word. That’s why you had Jesus killed on the cross. It was God’s plan that the Messiah had to suffer and die on the cross — and on the third day come alive again. Be sorry for your sins and come to God. He will forgive you.”

Many of the people believed what Peter had said to them. They became believers, and all the people who were there praised God — for the man who was healed was more than forty years old.

5. Peter And John Before The Council

Vocabulary

anyone	educated	punished	shall
arrested	else	realised	speak
before ^②	next	remembered	such
Council	performed	room	teach
courage	prison	Saviour	whose
dead ^②	punish	set free	

Text

Peter and John were still speaking to the people. The Jewish leaders came along quietly and listened to them. They heard Peter saying, “You had Jesus killed on the cross. But God has made him alive again.” They became angry because Peter said, “Jesus has come alive again.” One of them said, “He’s saying that dead people can come alive again. We must stop him. We must not let him teach the people such things.” The Jewish leaders arrested Peter and John. They put them in prison.

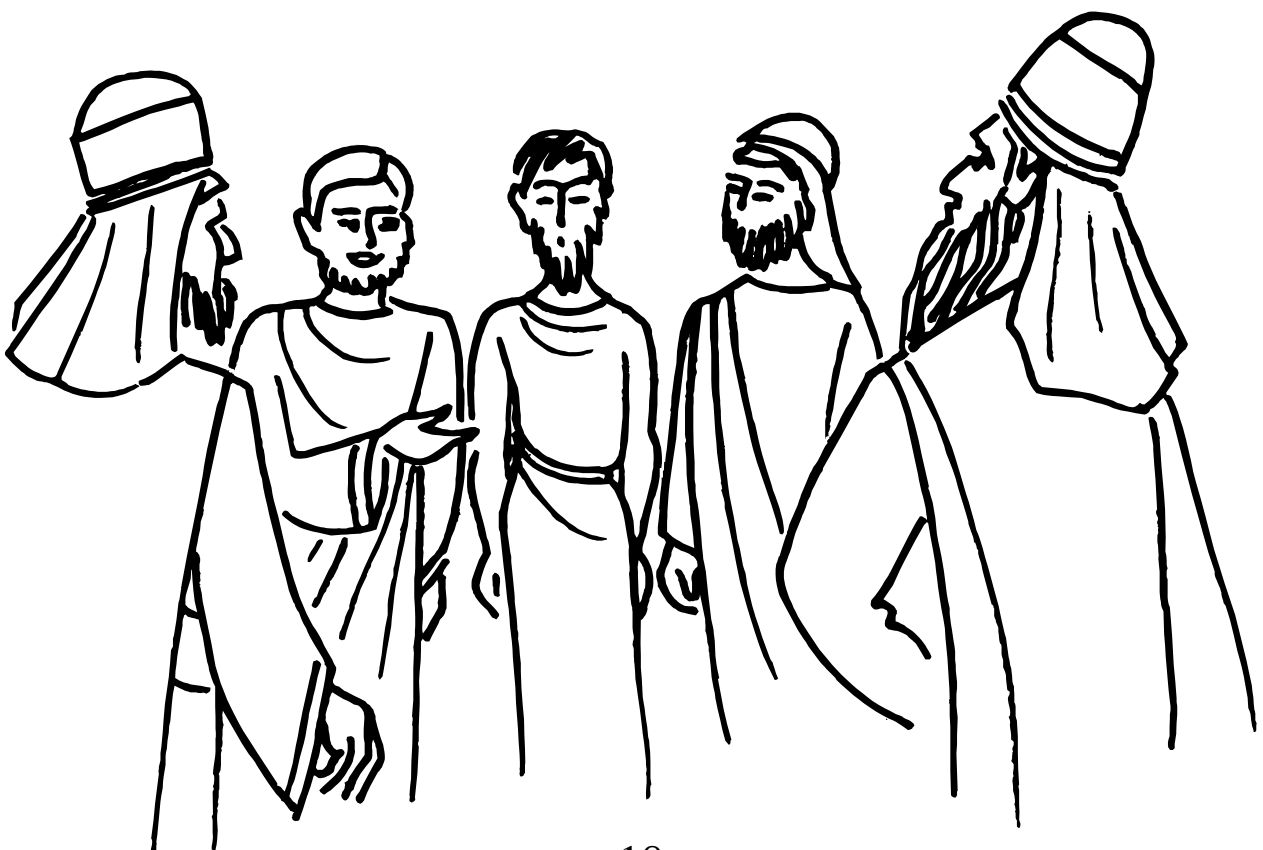
The next day, Peter and John were brought before the Council. The Jewish leaders said to Peter and John, “How did you heal that man? By what power did you do it? Whose name did you use?”

Peter and John were full of the Holy Spirit. They were not afraid of the Jewish leaders. They remembered what Jesus had said to them — “When you are brought before the Council, don’t worry. The Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak.”

Peter and John stood in front of the Jewish leaders. The man who was healed was with them. Peter said, “Leaders of the people, this man was healed by the power of Jesus’ name. You had this same Jesus killed on the cross, but God has made him alive again. God sent Jesus to you to be your Saviour. But you didn’t want him. He is the only one who can save you from your sins — no one else in this world can.”

The Jewish leaders saw that Peter and John were not educated men. They were amazed that they had so much courage. However they soon realised that Peter and John had been with Jesus. They had to decide what to do with Peter and John, so they sent them outside. The man who was healed went out with them.

The Jewish leaders asked one another, “What shall we do with these two men?” And they said, “Everyone in Jerusalem knows that they



have performed a miracle. We have seen the man who was healed. We must stop them speaking to the people in Jesus' name.”

So they called Peter and John to come back to the Council room. They told them, “You must never speak or teach in Jesus' name again. If you do it again, we'll punish you.” Peter and John answered, “What do you think is right — to obey you or to obey God? We cannot stop telling people what we've seen and heard.”

All the people were still praising God for healing the lame man. So the Jewish leaders did not put Peter and John in prison again. They decided to set them free. “You may go,” they told Peter and John. “But don't you ever speak to anyone in Jesus' name again. If you do it again you'll be punished.”

6. The Apostles In Prison

Vocabulary

against	find	nauling	towns
angrily	finished	officer	turned
boldly	Good News	officials	whipped
carefully	guards	over ^②	without
crowds	Israel	rejoicing	wonders
drive	knelt	taken	yourselves
driven	leave ^②	taking	
evil spirits	letting	teaching ^②	
fighting	living	threatened	

Text

Peter and John returned to the house. They said to the believers, “The Jewish leaders told us, ‘Don’t you ever speak to anyone in Jesus’ name. If you do it again, you’ll be punished.’ ”

When the believers heard this, they knelt down and prayed, “Almighty God, we praise your name! You are the One who has made heaven and earth and sea, and everything in them. Lord, the Jewish leaders have told us not to speak in Jesus’ name. They have threatened to punish us if we do it again. Give us the courage to speak your word. And Lord, we pray that the sick will be healed, and miracles and wonders performed in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

When they had finished praying, they felt the house shake, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They immediately went out and spoke the word of God boldly. The Apostles performed many

miracles and wonders among the people. In Jesus' name, the sick were healed and evil spirits were driven out of people.

Many of the people living in the towns and villages near Jerusalem heard about this. They came to Jerusalem, bringing with them people who were sick. They also brought along those who had evil spirits. They were all healed in Jesus' name. Everyone was amazed.

Before Jesus returned to heaven he had said to his Apostles, "In my name you will perform miracles, and you will heal the sick and drive out evil spirits." Now all this was taking place. Jesus' words had come true.

The Jewish leaders saw the crowds going to the Apostles. They saw the Apostles performing miracles and wonders. They saw them healing the sick in Jesus' name. They did not like it at all, so they arrested the Apostles and put them in prison.

However the Apostles did not stay in prison for long. That night, an angel of the Lord appeared and said to them, "Follow me." He



opened the prison doors and they followed him out. He said, “Go and tell the people the Good News — ‘Jesus is the Messiah. He has died on the cross for your sins. If you are sorry for your sins, God will forgive you. He will give you new life.’ ”

The next day, the Apostles were going to be brought before the Council. Officials were sent to bring them to the Council room, but they returned without them. They told the Jewish leaders, “We don’t know where those men are. When we went to the prison, we found the doors locked and the guards outside, but when we opened the doors, we couldn’t find anyone in there.”

The officials and all the other people in the Council room thought. “What has happened to those men?” Then someone came along and said, “I’ve just seen those men you put in prison yesterday. They are standing in the Temple, teaching the people.” An officer and his men quickly went to the Temple and brought the Apostles to the Council room.

The Apostles stood before the Council. One of the Jewish leaders said angrily, “We told you not to teach in this man’s name. But you did not obey us. You have been going all over Jerusalem, teaching the people in his name. You want to blame us for this man’s death.”

“We must obey God, not men,” answered the Apostles boldly. “You killed Jesus by nailing him to a cross, but God made him alive again. God has made him Leader and Saviour. God sent him to the people of Israel. He wants them to be sorry for their sins. He wants to forgive them.”

When the Jewish leaders heard this, they were very angry. They wanted to kill the Apostles, but one of the leaders said to the officer, “Take these men outside.” Then he turned to the other leaders and said, “It is better to leave these men alone. If they are doing what God wants them to do, you could find yourselves fighting against God.” The Council listened carefully to this man. Then they decided to set the Apostles free.

They sent for the Apostles and had them whipped. Then they said to them, “You may go now, but don’t you ever speak in Jesus’ name again.” The Apostles went out rejoicing. They remembered what Jesus had said to them — “Because of me, you’ll be arrested. You’ll be taken before the Council. You’ll be whipped.” They thanked God for letting them suffer for Jesus’ name.

7. The Stoning Of Stephen



Vocabulary

church	great	Law	right-hand
customs	group	lies	rushed
destroy	Jews	members	shouted
dragged	joined	Moses	Stephen
ears	kept	persecuted	stoned
face	known	prophets	stoning

Text

Every day the Apostles went to the Temple and taught the people. The Apostles taught them the Good News about Jesus, the Messiah. Sometimes they also went to the peoples' homes and taught them. More and more people believed and joined the group of believers. This group of believers became known as the church.

In the church was a believer named Stephen. He and six other men were chosen by the church to help the Apostles. They helped to give out food and money to the believers who were poor. Stephen was blessed by God. He was full of power, and he performed great miracles and wonders.

Some of the Jews did not like what Stephen said about the word of God. They arrested him and brought him before the Council. They made some men tell lies about him. These men said to the Council members, "This man is always saying bad things about our Temple and about the Law of Moses. He said, 'Jesus will destroy this Temple. He will change the customs which Moses gave us.' "

All the members of the Council looked at Stephen. They saw that his face looked like the face of an angel. One of the Jewish leaders asked Stephen, “Is this true?” Stephen answered, “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. You won’t listen to what God is saying to you. You are always fighting against the Holy Spirit. Your fathers have always persecuted and killed the prophets. Now you have persecuted and killed Jesus. God gave you his Law but you did not obey it.”

The Council members were very angry with Stephen when they heard this. Stephen, however, was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God. He saw Jesus standing at the right-hand side of God. “Look!” he said. “I see heaven open, and Jesus standing at the right-hand side of God.”

All the Council members covered their ears, shouted very loudly and rushed at Stephen. They dragged him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen knelt down. They kept on stoning him. He called out loudly, “Lord Jesus, take my spirit.” Then he said, “Lord, forgive them for doing this.” And he died.

Jesus had once said to his disciples, “One day people will kill you and they’ll think they are serving God. I tell you this now so that when it happens, you’ll remember that I told you.”

8. Philip In Samaria

Vocabulary

arrived	important	preaching	understand
at once	leads	reading	used to
big	persecute	road	wherever
both	persecution	Samaria	
carriage	Philip	started	
close	preached	terrible	

Text

Stephen was stoned to death. Immediately the church began to suffer terrible persecution. Believers, both men and women, were dragged from their homes. They were put in prison.

Jesus had once said to his disciples, “Men will hate you because of me. When they persecute you in one place, run away to another.” Many of the believers immediately left Jerusalem. They went to live in other places. Wherever they went, they preached the Good News about Jesus, the Messiah. Many people believed and were baptised. Jesus had said, “The Good News will be preached — first in Jerusalem, then to all nations.”

Philip was one of the believers who left Jerusalem. He and Stephen used to give out food and money to the poor believers.

Philip went to live in a big city in Samaria. He immediately started

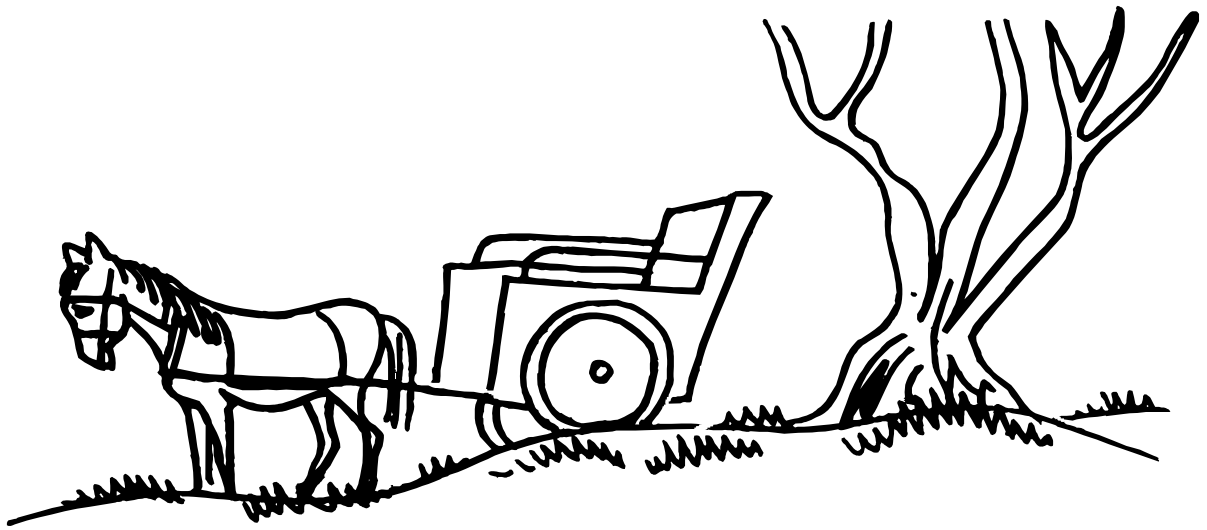
preaching there. Crowds came to listen to him. He spoke to the people about Jesus, the Messiah. The people saw him performing many miracles. They were amazed. Many lame people were healed, and evil spirits were driven out of people. So there was great joy in that city, and many people became believers and were baptised.

The Apostles in Jerusalem heard about what was happening in Samaria. They sent Peter and John there. When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for the new believers, and God gave the new believers the Holy Spirit. Peter and John preached the word of God. Then they returned to Jerusalem. On their way back to Jerusalem, they stopped at many villages in Samaria, and they preached the Good News there.

One day an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go to the road that leads from Jerusalem.” Philip went there at once. Soon an important official came along in his carriage. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God. Now he was on his way home.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to that carriage. Stay close to it.” Philip ran to the carriage. He stayed close to it. He heard the man reading the word of God loudly. He was reading about the Messiah. “Do you understand what you are reading?” asked Philip. “How can I?” answered the official. “I need someone to tell me what it’s all about. Come up.” Philip got into the carriage and sat next to him. He said to the official, “These words are telling you about the Messiah.” Then he told the official the Good News about Jesus, the Messiah.

As they talked, the carriage went along slowly. They came to a place



where there was some water. The official said to Philip, “Look, here’s some water. I want to be baptised.” They stopped the carriage and went down into the water. Philip baptised the official. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away.

The official returned to his carriage, and went home rejoicing. Philip found himself in another place. He went on, preaching the Good News in every town.

9. Jesus Spoke To Saul

Vocabulary

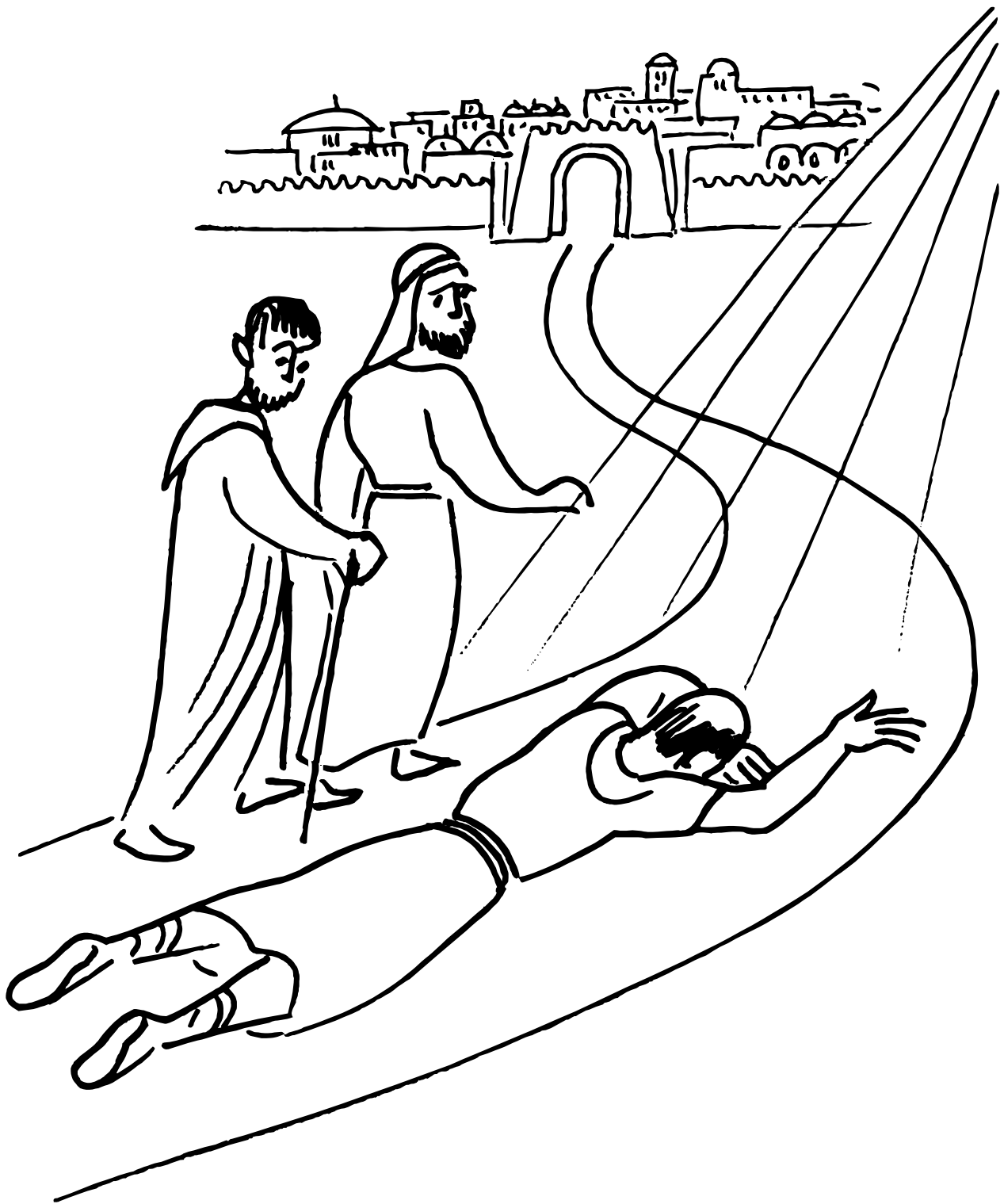
Ananias	fell	persecuting	vision
Barnabas	flashed	powerful	waited
blind	followers	Saul	well-educated
Damascus	Gentiles	show	
drink ^①	instead	Straight Street	
escape	led ^①	trying	

Text

Immediately after Stephen's death, the church in Jerusalem began to suffer terrible persecution. A well-educated Jew, named Saul, was the leader in the persecution of the church. He was trying to destroy the church. He went from house to house, and dragged out the believers. He put them in prison and even threatened to kill them. He believed that by doing this he was serving God.

Saul decided to go to Damascus. He asked a few men to go with him. He said to them, "We'll go to Damascus to look for the followers of Jesus. If we find them, we'll bring them back to Jerusalem."

When Saul was near Damascus— a bright light from the sky suddenly flashed around him, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" asked Saul. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," said the voice. "Get up and go into the city. You'll be told what you must do."



Saul got up from the ground. When he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. He was blind. The men who were there helped him. They held his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

A believer, named Ananias, lived in Damascus. In a vision, the Lord called to him, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” answered Ananias. The Lord said to him, “Go to Straight Street. Look for the house of a man called Judas. Ask for a man named Saul. He is in there praying, and in a vision, he has seen a man named Ananias come in. He has seen Ananias put his hands on him so that he might see again.”

“Lord,” said Ananias, “I’ve heard that this man has done terrible things to your people in Jerusalem. He has come here to arrest all those who worship you.” The Lord said, “Go. I have chosen this man to serve me. He is to tell the Gentiles and their kings, and the people of Israel about me. I myself will show him what he must suffer for my name.”

Ananias went to the house in Straight Street. He found Saul. He put his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me to you. He sent me so that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

At once something fell from Saul’s eyes. He was able to see again. He stood up. He was baptised. After having some food, he felt stronger. He stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. The people in Damascus were amazed. Saul was no longer an enemy

of Jesus — persecuting his followers. Instead, he was going around preaching to the people, and telling them that Jesus was the Son of God!

Saul's preaching became more and more powerful. He taught the people that Jesus was the Messiah. This made the Jews very angry. They decided to kill Saul. Every day these Jews waited at the city gates for Saul. Someone told him about this, and so one night, he escaped from Damascus by another way.

Saul returned to Jerusalem. He went to see the believers. He wanted to join them, but they were all afraid of him. Saul had been watching, when Stephen was stoned to death. They could not believe that he had become a disciple of Jesus.

However, one of the disciples, called Barnabas, knew Saul. He believed that Saul had become a disciple of Jesus. One evening, he took Saul to see the Apostles. "This is Brother Saul," he said. "On his way to Damascus, Jesus spoke to him. At Damascus, he preached boldly in the name of Jesus."

The Apostles believed Saul. They asked him to stay with them. Saul went all over Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of Jesus. Again some of the Jews planned to kill him. The believers heard about this. They helped Saul to escape from Jerusalem.

10. Barnabas And Saul Sent From Antioch

Vocabulary

Antioch	everywhere	off	travelled
bigger	faithful	Sabbath	tried
countries	hearing	ship	whole
crossed	island	temple	year
Cyprus	leaving	through	

Text

In an important city called Antioch, many people had become believers. The Apostles in Jerusalem heard about this. They sent Barnabas to them.

Barnabas was a good man. He was full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. When he arrived at Antioch, he found that the believers had been blessed by God. He taught them to be faithful to the Lord. This group of believers became known as the church in Antioch. It was here that the believers were first called Christians. Every day, more and more people became Christians — and so the church became bigger.

Barnabas needed someone to help him, so he went to look for Saul. He found Saul. He said, “Brother Saul, the Lord has blessed the church at Antioch. Many people have become believers. Come back with me. We want you to teach them the word of God.” Saul went to Antioch with Barnabas, and for a whole year, they taught the Christians at Antioch.

One day, when the church leaders were praying, the Holy Spirit said, “I want Barnabas and Saul to go and do some work for me.” They prayed for Barnabas and Saul, and sent them off — to do the Lord’s work.

The Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Saul on their way. They travelled through many countries. When they arrived at a place, they looked for a Jewish temple. Then they went in and preached the word of God to the people.

One day, they crossed the sea by ship. They came to a beautiful island called Cyprus. The ruler of Cyprus wanted to hear the word of God. He called for Barnabas and Saul, but a man there tried to stop him hearing the word of God.



Then Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked at the man and said, “You are always trying to change the Lord’s truth into lies. The Lord will punish you now. You will be blind for some time.” At once the man became blind. The ruler saw this, and he was amazed at the teaching of the Lord. He became a believer.

After this, Paul and Barnabas left Cyprus. They went on to other places, preaching to both the Jews and the Gentiles.

In one city, Paul preached in a Jewish temple with great power. He said, “People of Israel, and all Gentiles who worship God, listen. God wants you to hear this. The people of Jerusalem and their leaders didn’t understand the word of God. They didn’t believe that God had sent Jesus to them to be their Saviour. They had him killed on the cross, but God made him alive again. We’re here to bring the Good News to you, so that anyone who believes in Jesus will have his sins forgiven.”

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the temple, the people said to them, “Come back again next Sabbath. We want you to tell us more about these things.” On the next Sabbath, almost everyone in the city came together to hear Paul and Barnabas preach the word of God.

Some of the Jews saw the crowds listening to Paul. They did not like it. They shouted angrily at Paul. They told him that what he was saying was wrong. Paul and Barnabas spoke even more boldly. They said, “People of Israel, God wants you to be the first to hear his word, but you don’t want to hear it, so we’ll speak to the Gentiles instead.”

The Gentiles heard this and they praised God. They listened carefully to Paul, and many of them became believers.

The Good News travelled everywhere. More and more people became believers and joined the church. This made some of the Jews very angry. One day, they suddenly rushed at Paul and Barnabas and dragged them out of the city. They shouted angrily, “Go away. We’ll kill you if you come back again.”

11. Paul And Barnabas In Lystra And Antioch

Vocabulary

amongst	churches	gods	treat
chose	gathered	Lystra	turn

Text

Paul and Barnabas went on to other countries. Wherever they went, they preached the word of God. The Lord gave them the power to perform miracles and wonders, and many people believed and became Christians.

One day, Paul and Barnabas came to a town called Lystra. They stopped there and preached to the people. A man who was lame listened to Paul when he preached the word of God. Paul saw that this man believed and could be healed. So he looked at him and said in a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet.” At once, the man jumped up and started walking about.

When the people saw this, they shouted in their own language, “These two men are gods.” The crowd wanted to treat Paul and Barnabas like gods. Paul and Barnabas tried to stop them. They shouted, “We’re only human beings like yourselves. We’ve come to tell you to turn to the living God.”

There were a few Jews who had just come into Lystra. They spoke to the crowd and got them to stone Paul. Then they dragged him out of the town, thinking he was dead. Later, when the believers gathered around him, he got up. He returned to the town.



Paul and Barnabas had finished their work for the Lord, so they set off to return to Antioch. On the way back, they stopped at the places they had preached. At these places, churches had been started. So Paul and Barnabas stopped at each church and chose leaders. Then they prayed for the church. They asked the believers to keep faithful to the Lord.

When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Antioch, they told the church about what they had done. There was great rejoicing, and together they praised God for the work done amongst the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas stayed on in Antioch for a long time. They taught and preached the word of God there.

12. Paul And Silas At Philippi

Vocabulary

belong	following	Philippi	slave-girl
calling	fortunes	prisoners	trouble
causing	lot	river-side	woke up
chained	Lydia	round	yourself
chains	mid-night	shook	
earned	Most High God	should	
family	owners	Silas	

Text

Paul left Antioch to go and do more work for God. One of the believers who went with him was called Silas. The Holy Spirit showed them which way to go. They travelled through many countries, and came to a city called Philippi.

They stopped at Philippi for a few days. On the Sabbath, they went to the river-side. A few women were gathered there. Paul spoke to the women. He told them the Good News about Jesus. One of the women, named Lydia, listened carefully to Paul. She believed, and so did the other people in her house. They were baptised.

At Philippi there was a slave-girl. She had an evil spirit. She was able to tell people their fortunes, so she earned a lot of money for her owners.



For many days, this slave-girl followed Paul. She kept on calling out, “These men belong to the Most High God. They are telling you how you can be saved.” One day, this slave-girl was again following Paul. He turned round and looked at her. He said to the evil spirit, “In Jesus’ name, come out of her.” Immediately the evil spirit left her.

The slave-girl’s owners were very angry. She was now unable to earn lots of money for them. They dragged Paul and Silas before the city officials and said, “These men are Jews. They are causing trouble in our city. They are teaching the people many wrong customs.” The officials took Paul and Silas away. They had them whipped and put in prison.

Paul and Silas were chained in prison, but they were not sad. They

were praying and singing to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, at about mid-night, the prison shook. All the doors opened. The chains fell off the prisoners.

The prison guard woke up and saw all the doors open. He thought that all the prisoners had escaped. He was about to kill himself. Paul shouted, “Stop! Don’t harm yourself. We’re all here.”

The prison guard led Paul and Silas out of the prison. He fell down at their feet and asked them, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul and Silas answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you and your family will be saved.”

Paul and Silas preached the word of God to him and to all the others in his house. He and all his family believed. And immediately they were baptised. They were all filled with joy, because they now believed in God.

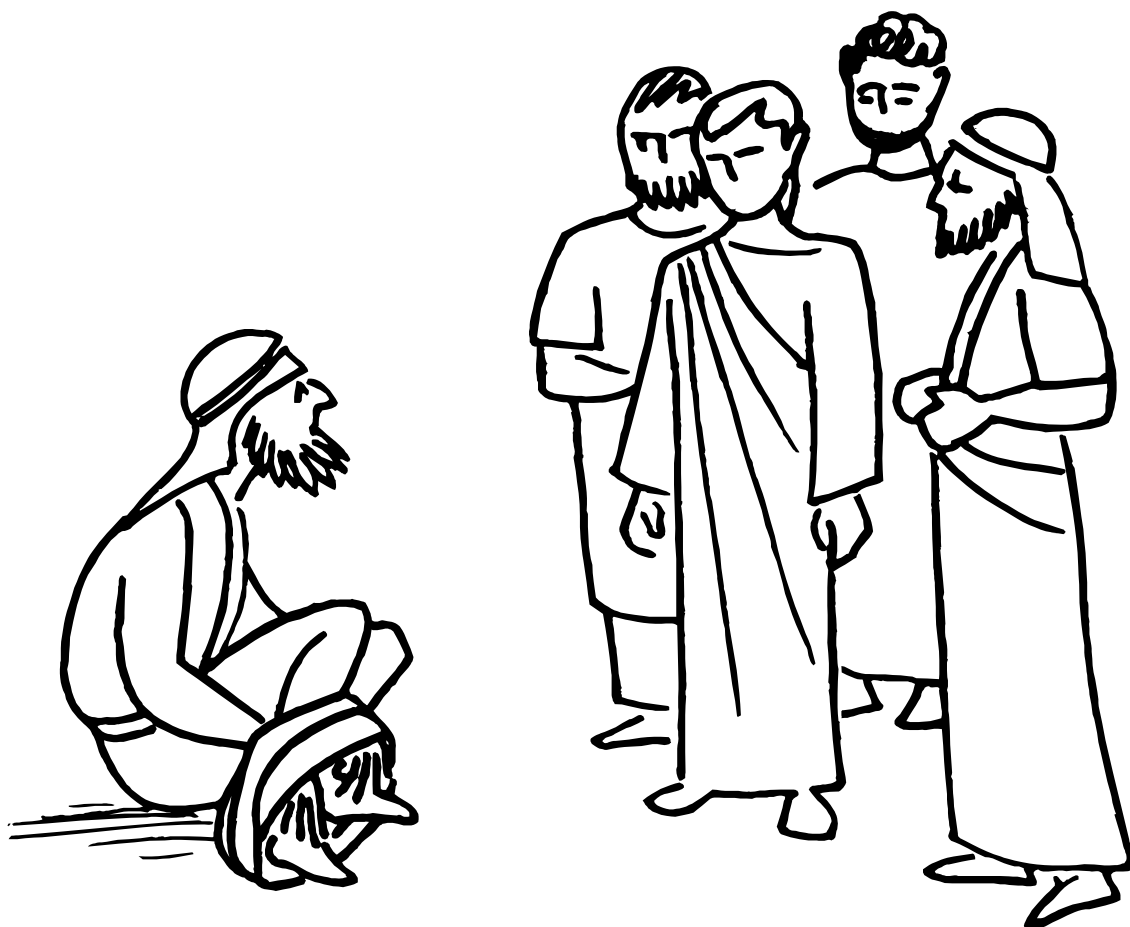
The next morning, the city officials decided that they should let Paul and Silas go, because they had not done anything wrong. So they told the prison guard to set Paul and Silas free. But Paul and Silas said, “We’ve done nothing wrong, and yet they’ve whipped us and put us in this prison. They must come here and let us out.”

The officials came and said to Paul and Silas, “We’re sorry that we had whipped you and put you in prison.” Then they led them out of the prison and said to them, “You must leave this city at once.” Paul and Silas left Philippi. They travelled through many countries, teaching and preaching the word of God. Many people believed.

They were baptised and they joined the church.

Jesus had said to Ananias, “He (Paul) is to serve me. He is to make my name known to the Gentiles and their kings, and to the people of Israel.” Paul, who used to persecute Jesus’ followers, had become Jesus’ Apostle. He had made Jesus’ name known to many Gentiles and to the people of Israel. But how was he to make Jesus’ name known to kings?

13. More Suffering For Paul



Vocabulary

agreed	Caesarea	King Agrippa	tied
already	caused	millions	whenever
appeal	causes	myself	whether
appealed	Emperor	Rome	whom
begged	Felix	shouting	
belt	Festus	spoken	
Bible	handed	suffering	

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. He stopped at Philip's house and stayed for a few days. Many believers came to the house to see him.

One afternoon, a prophet came to the house. He tied up his own hands and feet with Paul's belt. He told the believers, "This is what the Holy Spirit says — 'The owner of this belt will be tied up like this by the Jews in Jerusalem. Then the Jews will hand him over to the Gentiles.' "

Jesus had said to Ananias, "I myself will show him (Paul), how much he must suffer for my name." Paul had been persecuted by the Jews, whenever he preached in Jesus' name. Now he was to suffer even more.

The believers realised the belt belonged to Paul. They were very sad, and a few of them were even crying. "Don't go to Jerusalem, Paul," they begged him. "We might never see you again." However Paul answered, "I'm ready to be tied up in Jerusalem. I'm ready to even die for Jesus' name."

When Paul arrived at Jerusalem, the believers there were very happy to see him. He told them all about his work amongst the Gentiles, and they all rejoiced and praised God together.

One day, when Paul was at the Temple, some Jews held on to him and shouted, "Help! This man is going everywhere teaching bad things about the people of Israel. He also speaks against the Law of Moses and this Temple. He has even brought Gentiles into this

Temple.” They dragged Paul outside. The crowd shouted angrily and tried to kill him. An officer and his men quickly ran into the crowd and arrested Paul. They put him in chains and took him away. The crowd was still shouting, “Kill him! Kill him!”

Some of the Jews planned to kill Paul. They said to the Jewish leaders, “Send for Paul to bring him before the Council, and we’ll kill him before he gets there.” The officer was told about this plan to kill Paul. He quickly told his men to take Paul away to a city called Caesarea. Later that night, they took him there, and handed him over to the ruler, called Felix.

Five days later, the Jews from Jerusalem came to Caesarea. They were brought before Felix. Paul was also brought in. The Jewish leaders said to Felix, “Ruler of the people, we’ve found that this man is terrible. He causes trouble amongst Jews everywhere. He is the leader of Jesus’ followers. He has also tried to do bad things in our Temple, so we have arrested him.”

Then Felix asked Paul to speak. Paul said, “I haven’t caused any trouble. I’m a follower of Jesus, and so I believe that the dead will be made alive again. The Jews are against this teaching. That’s why I’ve been brought before you to-day.” After listening to him, Felix said, “You may leave now. I’ll call for you another day.”

Paul was taken back to the prison. From time to time, Felix sent for Paul, and Paul told him the Good News about Jesus.

Two years later, there was a new ruler in Caesarea, named Festus.

Paul was still in prison because Felix wanted to please the Jews.

The Jewish leaders from Jerusalem came before Festus. Then Paul was brought in. After the Jewish leaders had spoken, Paul was asked to speak.

Paul said, "I've done nothing wrong against the Jews, or the Temple or the Emperor." Festus said to Paul, "Will you go to Jerusalem and come before me there?" Paul answered, "I haven't done anything wrong to the Jews. What they say about me is not true. I appeal to the Emperor." Festus agreed to this, and Paul was taken back to the prison.

One day, King Agrippa came to Caesarea. Festus said to him, "Felix has left a man in prison. His name is Paul. Both he and the Jewish leaders have come before me, but I don't think he has done anything wrong. Paul says that Jesus, who has died, is alive. The Jewish leaders are against Paul's teaching — that the dead can come alive again. They could not say anything else against him. Now Paul wants to appeal to the Emperor."

King Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself." The next day, Paul came before King Agrippa and Festus. Paul was asked to speak. He said, "King Agrippa, I was on my way to Damascus to persecute the Christians. Suddenly a light flashed from the sky. I fell to the ground. A voice said to me, 'I'm Jesus whom you persecute. You are to tell the people of Israel and the Gentiles about me. Tell them to believe in me, and they will have their sins forgiven. They will also have a place among God's chosen people.'

And so, King Agrippa, I've been going around preaching among the Jews and the Gentiles. I said to them, 'It was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and die and come alive again. If you are sorry for your sins, he'll forgive you and save you.' ”

King Agrippa said to Festus, “I, too, find that Paul hasn't done anything wrong. He should not be killed. If he had not appealed to the Emperor, we could set him free. Now we have to send him to Rome, to come before the Emperor.”

The Bible does not tell us whether Paul had come before the Emperor in Rome. But what is important is this — Paul, through his suffering in prison, had already made Jesus' name known to two rulers and a king.

Jesus had said to Ananias, “He (Paul) is my chosen instrument — to make my name known to the Gentiles and their kings, and to the people of Israel.” Paul had done all this.

Jesus' words had come true for all his faithful followers — for Peter, Philip, Barnabas, Paul, the women who went to Jesus' tomb and for many others. Even to-day, Jesus' words are true for millions of his faithful followers all over the world.