

At the age of nineteen, I went on my first short-term mission trip to Cape Verde, West Africa with Preach Evangelistic Ministry. The Lord used many men on this trip to help me grow in the Lord. It was also on this trip that I felt the Lord calling me into the ministry. I told the Lord I would do ministry in the States, but I would NOT do missions. I had no intention to go to the mission field again after that trip but the next summer I returned, yet again, to Cape Verde for another short trip. It was after that trip that I surrendered to the mission field. Before the trip, I had already committed to go to seminary for a year and then work with my pastor at our local church. That spring, Bro. Eddie went home to be with the Lord, so upon returning home from Cape Verde, I enrolled at Biblical School of World Evangelism in Milford, Ohio, a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford. It was in that missions college that the Lord opened my eyes to what missions is really all about, promoting God's glory in all the earth. God used several Christians in my life to impart to me the need for reaching the "Unreached" people of the world.

TEACHER NOTES:

What is National Bible Publishing Month?

National Bible Publishing Month is a program designed to make it possible to get the Word of God to those who may never have another opportunity to receive the glorious message of our dear Savior. It is a program that is a pattern of the New Testament churches found in the book of Romans. They took what they had received of the Word of God, copied it, and saw to it that others had the same opportunity to have the same Word that they had received. Quite simply, it was churches working together, doing the part that each could do to see that the Word went forward to those without.

NBPM is a program by which BPS Milford invites churches of like faith to partner with them to provide God's Word to those who are without it. We have the ability to do the printing. We are asking churches to help by providing the funds necessary for the supplies. All funds received through NBPM are used exclusively for the purchase of paper to produce Whole Bibles and New Testaments. Obviously, without paper, there is no printing. Without the printing, there is no Bible produced. Without a Bible being produced, there are souls that will pay the eternal consequence of not receiving the Message in time.

Lesson Definitions

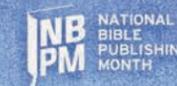
Affection - feelings of love; feelings of caring for something or someone

Unified - to cause to be joined or brought together; to make into a unit

Disprove - to show that something is false or in error



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio



TEEN LEADER GUIDE 1

The Founding

of the New Testament Church in Jerusalem

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TEACHER NOTE:

In this study we will compare the two church models, the church at Jerusalem, and the church at Antioch. As we closely examine the results of their ministries, we will see that both were effective in spreading the Gospel and both churches produced much fruit, yet one seemed to reach further. One church seemed to carry out the Great Commission further by balancing its focus on both the seed and the sower. An imbalance of any one aspect, whether it is only preaching the Gospel, or only handing out Bibles will fall short of completing the command which Jesus gave His church. It truly takes both! The sending of the "messenger" is certainly a huge part, but sending him with the "Message" is what causes his work to last and to reproduce.

For decades, churches have heavily emphasized the "messenger." This can cause similar results as seen in the Jerusalem church - quick, immediate, bursts of growth and excitement. For the church to grow spiritually, converts must be fed and nourished beyond the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The belief in and acceptance of this message is what births a new believer into the family of God (the church).

READ:

Read the five passages containing the Great Commission and discuss the responsibilities they were to fulfill.

Let's first review the task, the Great Commission.

The Great Commission is the term we use to sum up the purpose given by Jesus to the church. There is no question that God gave very clear instructions to His church as to what He desired for the finished product, a church that was focused upon introducing Him to the entire world which He loved and for which He died, not just a certain part of the world. He stated this on several occasions. Matthew records that Jesus told them to "teach All nations" (emphasis added). Mark records Jesus' command to go into "...ALL the world, and preach the gospel to EVERY creature" (emphasis added). Luke records for us the last words of Christ before He ascended to the Father as "...ye shall be witnesses unto me BOTH in Jerusalem, and in ALL Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the UTTERMOST part of the earth" (emphasis added). This was the last commission that Jesus personally gave to His church in the first chapter of Acts. They were also to reach beyond going to just the Jewish people and go to everyone for whom Jesus had shed His blood to save. However, they were not to stop there. They were to teach, baptize, and continue teaching these new converts "ALL" things that Jesus taught. Evangelism was part of the command but certainly not all of it. To complete the task, they must also baptize and teach.

DISCUSSION:

Take a moment and thank the Lord for giving us His Written Word in our language. Talk about how precious it is and how we often take it for granted. List a few truths or promises that have spoken to your heart or helped you personally during a time of need. Discuss certain Scriptures that are especially important for new believers.

How difficult would it be for a missionary to teach "all things" without the Scriptures in the language of the people? Help your students to understand how important it is to have both the messenger and message.

The Great Commission is a perfectly balanced plan. When any one of its parts are left out then the whole suffers. Consider the following components of the Great Commission:

- You go and God supplies.
- Teach (preach the Gospel), baptize, and teach (disciple).
- Go to Jerusalem, all Judaea, Samaria, uttermost part of the earth
- Message and messenger

Discuss what would happen if any of these things were out of balance.

What if we only teach? What if we only send a messenger? What could happen if we go only to the uttermost, but not near our homes?

According to Acts 2:41, 4:4, 5:14, 6:7, what were the results of the church in Jerusalem's involvement of the great commission?

The church in Jerusalem emphasized reaching Jews; and the Word of God "increased" by doing so (Acts 6:7), yet God's desire is not for us to remain as babies. He wants us to grow spiritually in order to more effectively introduce Him to others with whom He desires to have a relationship also. This type of growth only happens through having the rest of the Bible to go along with the Gospel.

In Acts 6:7, the Bible says that because of their actions the Word increased, what does that mean?

The messenger taking the Message clearly produced unification in direction and focus. They had a genuine concern for others in the church. They viewed everything that they possessed as God's. As a result, if another member had a need, and God had provided them with enough to cover that need, they gave what was needed. Everyone used what God had provided them with to see to it that no one went without (they had "all things common"). There were collective occurrences happening amongst the church, that the only explanation was "God did it" (Acts 2:43; 3:1-11; 4:10, 16, 31; 5:12, 16). Their lives reflected evidence that they had a relationship with Jesus Christ (Acts 4:13; 6:15).

With all the miracles going on, and the amazing manifestation of the Holy Ghost of God in the lives of the believers, they were still careful to give Him the credit for what was being done (Acts 4:32; 5:39). Their testimonies were so powerful, the counterfeits of their day died out, and they proved to be genuine (Acts 5:33-40). There was so much happening, it became necessary for the early church to establish what would become the first deacons (Acts 6:5-6). The work of these men would allow the apostles to continue to study and to feed the church spiritually.

This church was greatly used of God in reaching the Jewish people around Jerusalem and Judea. As they evangelized, the Word was preached, and the Bible says that the Word "increased" through this church (Acts 6:7). What began with 120 people in the upper room (Acts 1:15), soon multiplied. The Lord added 3,000 in one day at Pentecost (Acts 2:41). About 5,000 men believed, following the preaching on another day (Acts 4:4). In Acts 5:14, God doesn't record the exact number for us, but He tells us there were multitudes added on another occasion.

Based on this lesson what could you do to cause the Word of God to increase in your life and in others?

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS: LONG-TERM IMPACT

BY STEVEN TURNBULL

My family had not been going to church very long when I began seeing my sin problem. We visited a revival service on Saturday night and the Lord began to work in my heart about my need for a Savior. It was in a different church and I was around people who I did not know; I was afraid to go to the altar that night. The next morning at our home church, Mount Ararat Missionary Baptist Church, the pastor's wife and my mom led me to the Lord. I was six years old. Our church was small and did not have a lot of discipleship opportunity. My parents, though faithful to church were not spiritually mature enough to lead a Christian home. However, the Lord was still working in my life through the church and the Christian men He had placed in my life.

I went to public schools which were constantly pulling me towards the world but the Lord kept drawing me to Him. When I was about fourteen years old, the church voted in a new pastor who impacted my life in a great way and is a major reason I am where I am today. Pastor Eddie Bray was truly a man of God and desired to see the world reached with the Gospel. Bro. Eddie has gone on to be with the Lord and after his death I was told by his daughter that he prayed for me every morning that I would surrender to the ministry.