



**New
Testament 5**

**Growing
in CHRISt®**

High School Teacher Guide

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

**The Holy Spirit
Leads the Apostles**



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Introduction

The High School level for youth in ninth through twelfth grades includes this Teacher Guide and reproducible Student Pages.

Teacher Guide Features

- **Preparing the Lesson pages** give you background and theological information.
- **Four-step lessons** make preparation and teaching easy and effective.
- **Activity-based openings** engage youth in lessons.
- **Small-group/large-group activity options** dig into God's Word and share faith. Do activities in ways that make the most sense for your group.
- **YouTube videos** encourage critical thinking and discernment.
- **"We Live" activities** help young people identify personal life applications.
- **Reproducible Student Pages** focus Bible learning and discussions.
- **Liturgy Links** connect young people to the worship service.
- **Perforated pages** make team teaching easier.
- **Timeline Poster** promotes biblical and historical perspectives and insights.

Your Role as Teacher

As a teacher, you challenge, coach, encourage creativity and curiosity, and nurture students' faith in Jesus. Building positive relationships with and between teens is very important. Welcome students and help them become comfortable. Get to know students and their families.

Young people may feel wary of trying new things, fearing embarrassment. Provide a safe space to participate by not allowing put-downs, hurtful jokes, or name-calling. Model behavior you want from students by participating yourself and introducing activities enthusiastically. Each time students participate, trust builds and they become more willing to read aloud, do tasks, participate in small groups, pray together, and share opinions, feelings, and group work.

Make your classroom a place where students can talk openly and share struggles. Remind students to respect one another's privacy. Say you will not share their stories outside of class. However, if a student shares something potentially dangerous to self or others, you have the responsibility to bring it to your pastor for guidance.

Students look up and read the primary Scripture each week. Extra verses printed on the Student Pages make it easier for students to use and discuss them. Rarely, lessons ask students to look up extra verses.

To help newcomers, provide copies of the Bible in the same version and jot down page numbers, or bookmark pages with paper strips ahead of time to make it easier to find Bible references. Explain chapter and verse numbers, as needed.

Other Supplies

Before class, collect items in the "Get Ready" section. The list always includes Bibles and reproducible Student Pages. Most lessons use newsprint, markers, masking tape, and pens or pencils. A few lessons suggest other supplies.

Find additional teaching helps, including curriculum and video updates, training, links to podcasts, and other resources, at our website, www.cph.org/sundayschool.

YouTube Resources for New Testament 5

Go to the CPH Youth Sunday School Resources page at bit.ly/1knXwnU. Choose “New Testament 5 High School Playlist” and then click “View full playlist.” Click the name of the video to play it. View or skip ads and cue the video. Channels may block or hinder play if you do not watch the ads.

YouTube settings change often. **If a video is not available, go to cph.org/sundayschool and click “Sunday School Tools” on the main page. Click “Curriculum Updates” for another option.**

Lesson 1: God Sends the Holy Spirit

“What Language Do You Want To Learn? | The Berlin Affair,” Babbel channel (2:26)

Lesson 2: Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

“Amazing Grace,” Central Films channel (2:17)

Lesson 3: God’s Servant Stephen

“Real Problems,” SurreyHomeless channel (0:31)

Lesson 4: Philip and the Ethiopian

“WE Throwback: Gettin’ Wet with Jesus 2.0,” Worldview Everlasting channel (17:53); show 0:28–2:20

Lesson 5: The Conversion of Paul

“He Left Gangs, Drugs, and Violence Behind to Mentor Kids in Juárez | National Geographic,” National Geographic channel (3:37); stop 3:23

Lesson 6: Dorcas

“Buried in Baptism: Now What? (Romans 6:12–23),” Worldview Everlasting channel (7:00); show 1:34–5:19

Lesson 7: Peter and Cornelius

“This Is Church,” IgniterMedia channel (1:35)

Lesson 8: Peter’s Escape from Prison

“It’s Our Time,” IgniterMedia channel (2:50)

Lesson 9: Paul’s First Missionary Journey

“Tacumbú Dump,” LutheranHourMin channel (2:33)

Lesson 10: Paul and Timothy

“The Dream: Marcel’s Story,” Central Films channel (2:41)

Lesson 11: Lydia

“Skit Guys - Being Mom,” The Skit Guys channel (4:43)

Lesson 12: Paul and Silas in Prison

“I See Infant Baptisms,” Worldview Everlasting channel (18:07); play 4:32–7:15

Lesson 13: Paul Sails for Rome

“Everybody Should Have a Home,” SurreyHomeless channel (1:01)

Preparing the Lesson

God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Date of Use

Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

Law/Gospel

I sin when I believe that I can understand and trust in God on my own. **By the power and work of the Holy Spirit through His Word, the Spirit grants me faith in Jesus and empowers me to will and do that which is good and God pleasing.**

Context

Pentecost, which means “fiftieth,” occurred fifty days after Jesus’ glorious resurrection on Easter. Forty days after He rose again, Jesus ascended to God’s right hand, and now, ten days later, He fulfills His promise to send the Holy Spirit, who will “bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

Commentary

In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit introduces Himself in “a mighty rushing wind” (v. 2) and “divided tongues as of fire” (v. 3). However, Acts 2:11 reveals the great miracle of Pentecost. Those who hear the apostles say, “We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter stands and proclaims God’s mighty works of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Peter cites Joel 2:28–32 as his sermon text, and then he proclaims that Joel’s prophecy is fulfilled on Pentecost. Peter’s sermon draws our attention to Jesus Christ and His suffering, dying, and rising. The Holy Spirit comes to us and works through the preaching of Christ and Him crucified and risen for the forgiveness of our sins.

The coming of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel also reverse the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9). In Genesis 11, the people of the world had one language, but they arrogantly sought to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). As a consequence, God confused their language and dispersed them (Genesis 11:7–8).

The coming of the Holy Spirit reverses God’s judgment at Babel. While people around the world may still speak different languages, the Holy Spirit unites them in the Gospel—that is, the preaching of Christ crucified and risen.

In John 14:23–31, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to His disciples as He gets ready to suffer, die, rise again, and then leave them. Jesus talks about demonstrating our love for Him by keeping His Word (John 14:23). He promises the Holy Spirit, “whom the Father will send in My name” (John 14:26). Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all work together as one to give comfort and peace in the message of the Gospel (John 14:27).

When Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit, He explains the Holy Spirit’s “job description” as well: “He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). Jesus also said, “[The Holy Spirit] will bear witness about Me” (John 15:26), and “[The Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit comes not through uncertain dreams, visions, or feelings, but through the certain and comforting message of peace and forgiveness of sins won by Jesus Christ.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 1

God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Get Ready Before Class

- Make copies of Student Page 1.
- **For Opening,** preview the Lesson 1 video in the New Testament 5 High School playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU. Get equipment ready (e.g., computer, tablet, Internet connection). Skip ads; cue video.
- **For God Speaks,** get Bibles and Timeline Poster. Get newsprint, markers, and masking tape for students to use.

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Language Talk

Ask If you studied or know a different language than English, how proficient are you at speaking and reading it? Answers vary.

What do you think is the best way to learn a language? Immersion in a culture is a great way to learn a language. Other strategies work too.

If you do not show the video, ask students what language they would like to learn, and why. Then continue with the “Say” statement.

Show the Lesson 1 YouTube video “What Language Do You Want to Learn? | The Berlin Affair” (2:26), in the New Testament 5 High School playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU.

Ask Which person’s answer did you agree with? Answers vary.

What languages were the original books of the Bible written in? The Old Testament was written in Hebrew or Aramaic. In 300 BC the Jews translated the Old Testament into Greek, now called the Septuagint. The New Testament was written in Greek, the language of first-century scholarship.

Say Greek and Hebrew scholars translate the Bible into other languages, including English. Most of our pastors learn Greek and Hebrew in seminary so they can dig deeper into the meaning of God’s Word.

How many of the world’s 7,000 languages do you think have a translation of the Bible? Over 550 languages have a complete Bible. Thirteen hundred more languages have access to the New Testament or other parts. Active translation is happening in 2,300 languages in 130 countries. Up to 1,800 languages representing 180 million people still need Bible translation (source: Wycliffe Bible Translators, www.wycliffe.org).

Pray Lord Jesus, send Your Holy Spirit to show us Your truth in Your Word. In Your name we pray. Amen.

2 God Speaks (32 minutes)

Life After Jesus’ Ascension

Say Jesus died in Jerusalem at the time of the Jewish festival of Passover. **What did Passover commemorate?** Spotless lambs were sacrificed and eaten by the Jews in a Passover meal that remembered God’s rescue of

the Israelites from Egypt. God passed over the Israelite homes where they painted the blood of spotless lambs on their doorposts. The Lord killed all the firstborn in homes without the doorpost blood. After this, the Egyptians let the Jews leave, and they headed for the Promised Land.

What did Jesus do at Passover time? Jesus, God's sinless Lamb, died on the cross to pay for our sins. Then He rose from the dead, declaring victory over our enemies of sin, death, and the devil.

Say And then what happened? Close your eyes, relax, and imagine you were there. When students are ready, continue. **Imagine that you followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem for His last Passover.**

You listened to Jesus teach in the temple, walked with Him to Bethany each day, ate the Lord's Supper, and witnessed His arrest, death, and burial. Three days later, you saw Christ risen from the dead.

You spent the next forty days with Jesus. Today, He told you to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4–5). Then you saw Him ascend into the clouds. He did not come back. Open your eyes. What are you thinking and feeling? Let students share thoughts and feelings, which might include anticipation, anxiety, joy, sadness, wondering about what will happen, and so on.

Today, we find out what happened next. It was Pentecost, a Jewish festival, also called the Feast of Weeks. Happening fifty days after Passover, Pentecost means "fifty." The feast celebrated the harvest.

Show the Timeline Poster to place this event in context.

Hand out Bibles and Student Page 1 copies.

Divide into groups of two to five people to do the activity. If you stay in one group, do the activity together.

Read aloud directions on the Student Page: **Read Acts 2 verses. Discuss questions. Follow directions.**

Point out the newsprint and markers. Give groups twenty minutes to work. As they do, help as needed and review questions for Debriefing.

1 Who gathered together after Jesus' ascension? Read Acts 1:12–14. The eleven apostles; the women; Mary, the mother of Jesus; and His brothers

2–4 Draw or list on your newsprint the physical signs that showed something extraordinary and divine happened. The sound of a mighty, rushing wind from heaven filled the entire house; divided tongues of fire rested on each disciple; they spoke in other languages (tongues).

Draw or write on your newsprint what these physical signs showed. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

5–13 The ruckus gathered a crowd. What message did each foreign speaker hear (vv. 6, 11)? The disciples telling about God's mighty works in their own language

How did the people respond (vv. 7, 12, 13)? Amazed and astonished; perplexed and asked what it meant; others thought they were drunk.

14–21 Standing with the Eleven, how did Peter answer the accusations of drunkenness? They were not drunk as supposed. He quoted God's promises given through the prophet Joel to pour out His Spirit on men and women and show wonders in the heavens in the last days.

Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

Digs into God's Word

Pronunciations

Cappadocia:

kap uh DOKE ee uh

Cretans: KREET uns

Cyrene: sigh REE neh

Elamites: EE la mights

Galileans:

gal uh LEE uns

Judea : joo DEE uh

Medes: MEEDS

Mesopotamia:

mess oh poh TAME

ih uh

Pamphylia:

pam FIL ih uh

Parthians:

PAHR thee uns

Phrygia: FRIJ ee uh

Pontus: PONN tus

Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

*Goes to
the Heart*

22–24 In Jerusalem, to those who crucified Jesus, what did Peter say Jesus did? He did mighty works and wonders and signs in their midst.

What did Peter say the men of Israel did? They lawlessly crucified and killed Jesus.

What did Peter say God did (vv. 23–24)? He delivered up Jesus according to His definite plan and foreknowledge; raised up Jesus, loosing the pangs of death in His resurrection.

36–41 After Peter said God made Jesus Lord and Christ, true God and Messiah, what did the hearers ask? “What shall we do?”

Draw or write Peter’s answer on your newsprint. Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, and receive the Holy Spirit.

Draw or write the results on your newsprint. Three thousand received God’s Word and were baptized.

Debriefing

When ready, call groups back together. Ask one group to present their work.

- **Physical signs:** The sound of a mighty, rushing wind from heaven filled the entire house; divided tongues of fire rested on each disciple; they spoke in other languages (tongues).
- **What physical signs showed:** Disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- **Peter’s answer:** Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of the sins, and receive the Holy Spirit.
- **Results:** Three thousand received God’s word and were baptized.

Ask other groups to share only new information. Give groups time to look at each other’s newsprints. Then discuss the next question (not on Student Page).

Ask How did this event fulfill John the Baptist’s prophecy that the Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Luke 3:16)? John baptized with water for repentance. Jesus baptized His disciples with the Holy Spirit, shown with the physical sign of fire, at Pentecost.

How was this Pentecost a celebration of God’s harvest? Many people heard about Jesus in their own language, believed in Him, and were baptized, an amazing harvest for the Lord!

3 We Live (15 minutes)

God the Holy Spirit

Say We sometimes consider the Holy Spirit the mysterious person of the Trinity. We know less about the Spirit than we do God the Father and Jesus the Son. Let’s find out more about God the Spirit.

Ask students to use their Student Pages to read aloud the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed and its meaning from the Small Catechism.

Then discuss these questions (not on Student Page).

Say What jobs does the Holy Spirit do? Calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in true faith.

How does the Holy Spirit do these things? The Spirit acts through God's Word and Sacraments to tell us the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, which calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the true faith; to give us the gifts of faith and the forgiveness of sin; and to grow in us the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

*Goes to
the Heart*

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to give us faith? Because we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him

How does the Holy Spirit give us faith? The Spirit calls us by the Gospel through His Word and Sacraments. He gives us faith in our Savior, Jesus, crucified to pay for our sins and risen from the dead to give us new life.

In Baptism, the Spirit calls and gathers us, giving us faith and making us part of His Church. What does He do in the Lord's Supper? The Spirit feeds us with the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus in, with, and under the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. In the Supper, the Spirit sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith.

How does the Spirit enlighten us? The Spirit opens our hearts and minds to hear and believe His Word through the Sacraments. He teaches us through His written Word, the Bible; through spoken Word, declaring forgiveness of sin and faithfully teaching and preaching the Scriptures; through conversation and encouragement from other Christians.

Sanctified means to be made holy and perfect in goodness and righteousness. How does the Holy Spirit make us holy? In Baptism, God chose us and gave us faith in His Son, who reconciled us by His death and gives us His own holy, blameless righteousness. Through the Lord's Supper and His Word, God continues to sanctify and keep us in true faith, to perfect His love in us (1 John 2:5; 4:12).

Does this mean that we gradually become more and more perfect? No. In one sense, Christ already made us a 100 percent perfect saint through His work on the cross. However, in the flesh, we will always be 100 percent sinners who can never be perfect. Luther says the Holy Spirit remains with us until the end. "By the Word He works and promotes sanctification, causing this congregation daily to grow and to become strong in the faith and its fruits, which He produces" (*Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, The Large Catechism, Part 2, paragraph 53).

How does the Spirit keep us in true faith? The Spirit works through God's Word and Sacraments. When we avoid worship, don't read and study the Bible, miss taking the Lord's Supper, or forget our Baptism, we risk "starving" our faith and falling away from the Lord.

Faith in Action

Encourage students to ask our heavenly Father to give them the Holy Spirit, as the closing prayer does. Jesus said, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).

4 Closing (3 minutes)

Ask What did the Holy Spirit teach you today? Thank students who share.

Pray Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit to work through Your Word and Sacraments to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep us in the one true faith. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

Lesson 1

God sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Life after Jesus' ascension

Directions: Read **Acts 2** verses. Discuss questions. Follow directions.

Verse 1

- Who gathered together after Jesus' ascension? Read Acts 1:12–14.

Verses 2–4

- Draw or list on your newsprint the physical signs that showed something extraordinary and divine happened.
- Draw or write on your newsprint what these physical signs showed.

Verses 5–13

- The ruckus gathered a crowd. What message did each foreign speaker hear (vv. 6, 11)?
- How did the people respond (vv. 7, 12, 13)?

Verses 14–21

- Standing with the Eleven, how did Peter answer the accusations of drunkenness?

Verses 22–24

- In Jerusalem, to those who crucified Jesus, what did Peter say Jesus did?
- What did Peter say the men of Israel did?
- What did Peter say God did (vv. 23–24)?

Verses 36–41

- After Peter said God made Jesus Lord and Christ, true God and Messiah, what did the hearers ask?
- Draw or write Peter's answer on your newsprint.
- Draw or write the results on your newsprint.

God the Holy Spirit

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

SANCTIFICATION

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Luther's Small Catechism

Lesson 12

Paul and Silas in Prison

Acts 16:16–40

God's rescue in a jail

Directions: Read your assigned Scripture. Discuss questions. Then draw one or more pictures to illustrate the action in your reading. We'll put the pictures together to tell what happened.

SECTION ONE: Acts 16:16–18

- Where did Paul and his companions go (v. 16)?
- Whom did they meet, and what could she do?
- The girl followed the disciples for days, loudly announcing a truthful statement (vv. 17–18). Why do you think her message annoyed Paul?
- Was the girl's ability a gift from God?
- Though Paul was courageous and respected, how did he show that his courage and power came from Christ, not himself?

SECTION TWO: Acts 16:19–24

- Why were the girl's owners angry with Paul (v. 19)?
- What did the girl's owners claim when they brought Paul and Silas to the city magistrates (vv. 20–21)?
- The crowd turned against Paul and Silas too. What did the magistrates (judges) decide (vv. 22–23)?
- The jailer imprisoned them and put their feet in stocks (v. 24). Did Paul and Silas deserve this?

SECTION THREE: Acts 16:25–34

- Who listened to Paul and Silas sing and pray (v. 25)?
- What happened around midnight (v. 26)?
- If the prisoners escaped, the jailer would have been killed. He preferred suicide. What stopped him (vv. 27–28)?

- The jailer probably heard Paul and Silas singing and praying, because he asked an unlikely question. What did he ask (v. 30)?
- What happened when they spoke the Word of the Lord to the jailer and his family (vv. 31–33)?
- What did the jailer do for Paul and Silas (vv. 33–34)?

SECTION FOUR: Acts 16:35–40

- What did the magistrates decide in the morning (v. 35)?
- What did Paul reveal when the jailer said they could go (vv. 36–37)?
- The public beating of a Roman citizen, especially without a trial, was illegal. What did Paul refuse to do (v. 37)?
- What did the magistrates do when they realized Paul and Silas were Roman citizens (vv. 38–39)?
- The Bible shows many instances when Paul did not claim the benefits of his citizenship. Why do you think he claimed it now and insisted on justice?

Debriefing

Acts 9:15–16: [God told Ananias,] "[Saul] is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name."

Romans 8:28: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Preparing the Lesson

Paul Sails for Rome

Acts 27

Date of Use

Key Point

As Christ was with Paul and his companions in a perilous sea voyage, so He is with us, holding us up, keeping us with Him in the ship of the Church, and casting all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Law/Gospel

In sinful despair, I let the pains of the present overtake me; I doubt God and do not trust His redeeming love. **Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, rides out the storms of life with me, granting me hope through my redemption in Christ.**

Context

Arrested in Jerusalem on trumped-up charges (Acts 21:27–36) and jailed for more than two years in Caesarea (24:27), Paul is finally on his way to Rome, for he had appealed to Caesar (25:11), the “supreme court” of the empire. As this story makes clear, sea travel in ancient times could be quite treacherous, especially as winter approached (27:9–12). After the shipwreck at Malta, where Paul and the crew wintered (28:11), the apostle finally arrived in Rome, where Acts ends with the account of Paul’s incessant preaching of the Gospel to the Jews and all who would lend him an ear.

Commentary

Throughout the Scriptures, seas and oceans symbolize our world gone berserk, flooded by sin’s ugliness and violence, the place where God unleashes His wrath. During the deluge in Noah’s day, creation was put in reverse, rewound to Day 1, when “the earth was without form and void” (Genesis 1:2) and nothing but chaotic waters blanketed the earth.

When Jonah bolts from God’s call, soon heaven’s heat has the sea boiling like a pot over hell’s flames. The “tossing sea” that “cannot be quiet,” whose “waters toss up mire and dirt,” is the emblem of “the wicked” (Isaiah 57:20).

The four beasts in Daniel’s vision (Daniel 7:3) and one beast in John’s (Revelation 13:1) all slog their way out of the sea. Jesus rebukes the sea (Matthew 8:26) as He rebukes demonic forces (Matthew 17:18). And in the perfected heavens and earth, “the sea [will be] no more” (Revelation 21:1).

The account of Paul’s voyage and eventual shipwreck ought to be read in this light. The storm at sea is like life in this chaotic, wrecked world. There is the ever-present danger that some will make “shipwreck of their faith” (1 Timothy 1:19), be engulfed by sorrow, and sink first into depression and finally plummet into the dark depths of despair, where the light of faith no longer shines and demonic sharks rip souls to shreds.

But as Christ was with Noah, Jonah, Paul, and Paul’s companions, so He is with us. We have “a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain” of the heavenly temple—namely, Jesus Himself, Lord of the seas (Hebrews 6:19). Far from letting us be inundated by hopelessness, He holds us up, keeping us within the ship of the Church, casting “all our sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19).

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 13

Paul Sails for Rome

Acts 27

Get Ready

Before Class

- Make copies of the Student Pages 13A and 13B (not back-to-back).
- **For Opening,** preview Lesson 13 video in the New Testament 5 High School playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU. Get equipment ready (e.g., computer, tablet, Internet connection). Skip ads; cue video.
- **For God Speaks,** get Bibles and Timeline Poster. Hang up a sheet of newsprint. Set markers nearby. Get scissors and tape plus pencils, pens, or markers.

1 Opening (10 minutes)

The Lives of the Apostles

Ask Who were Jesus' apostles? Jesus called twelve as apostles: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. Matthias replaced Judas after his suicide. Paul was also an apostle. All saw the risen Christ.

What did they do? They taught and told about Jesus. They led the Church.

Where did they worship? At first, they worshiped in the temple. They also met, often in homes, to worship, share the Lord's Supper, and pray together.

If you do not use the video, go to the next "Ask" question.

Say This video demonstrates reality for some people today and for some apostles in the first century.

Show the Lesson 13 YouTube video, "Everybody Should Have a Home" (1:01), in the New Testament 5 High School playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU.

Ask Why did some apostles not have homes? Why didn't God provide for them? As you lead this discussion, help students to know these facts.

- The Holy Spirit empowered and led the apostles, but most gave up their homes and everyday lives to serve Christ. Many traveled to share the Gospel of Christ. Some worked; sometimes other Christians housed and fed them.
- Jesus said He had nowhere to lay His head (Luke 9:58). He called followers to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Him (Luke 9:23).
- The Christian Church in the first century endured great persecution.
- Ten of the original apostles died as martyrs because of their witness about Christ. (Judas killed himself after Jesus' death.) Only John died a natural death, after his exile to the island of Patmos for many years.
- They also endured rejection, prison, beatings, and torture. Jesus' apostles did not become rich in the worldly view, but they sacrificed their welfare and lives for believing in Jesus.

Hand out Student Page 13A. Ask volunteers to read **1 Corinthians 4:9–13**.

Ask Why do you think the apostles lived like this? They witnessed Jesus' death and resurrection. They believed that He is God and sacrificed their lives to serve Him. People wouldn't suffer and die to cover up a lie.

Pray Holy Spirit, give us faith to follow You and endure as Your people, no matter what happens in our lives. Fill us with hope of heaven and the resurrection of the dead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2 God Speaks (32 minutes)

A Memorable Voyage

Show the Timeline Poster to show context to Paul's missionary journeys; it has been over two years since Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi.

Say The Jews arrested Paul in Jerusalem. Hearing a plot to kill him, the Romans took him to Caesarea, where he spent two years in prison.

While there, Paul told the Roman governor Felix and King Herod Agrippa about Jesus. This fulfilled more of Jesus' words to Ananias that Paul would "carry [His] name before . . . kings" (Acts 9:15).

Paul eventually claimed a benefit of his Roman citizenship and asked for a trial before Caesar. He hoped to receive a fair trial in Rome and share the message of Christ. Our lesson tells about his journey to Rome.

Hand out Bibles and ask all students to find **Acts 27**.

Stand near the newsprint. Write *From Caesarea to Rome* at the top. Ask volunteers to read **Acts 27:1–2**. Tell them not to worry about pronunciations.

Ask The voyage started in Caesarea, where Paul was jailed. Who went on the trip? Write names students list on the newsprint: *Paul, other prisoners, Julius* (the Roman centurion), and *Aristarchus* (frequent travel companion of Paul's, a Macedonian from Thessalonica).

Help students add *Luke*, the Acts author and part of the "we" in verse 1. Add *other passengers* and *sailors* if students mention them.

What was the home port of this ship? Add *Adramyttium* to the sheet. Tell students this city was northwest, on the coast of Asia.

Say The ship planned to sail along the coast of Asia, close to shore to have access to supplies and services.

Hand out Student Page 13B copies, scissors, tape, and writing instruments.

Divide into groups of two to five people; or stay in one group if you prefer.

Read aloud directions from Student Page 13A: **Read Acts 27:3–44. Discuss questions. Follow directions for your ship.** Give groups twenty minutes to work. As they do, help as needed and review questions for Debriefing.

Verses 3–6

- Add a name to the front of your ship.
- How did Julius, Paul's jailer, show him compassion when they stopped at Sidon? He let him stay with friends, who cared for him.
- Wind blew against the ship, so they sailed north of the island of Cyprus to block the wind (the leeward side). To show wind trouble, draw a *W* on your sail.
- Landing in the city of Myra in Lycia, Julius changed ships. Headed for Italy, this ship from Alexandria, Egypt, probably carried wheat. Change your ship name.

Key Point

As Christ was with Paul and his companions in a perilous sea voyage, so He is with us, holding us up, keeping us with Him in the ship of the Church, and casting all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Pronunciations

Adramyttium:
add rah MITT ee um

Alexandria:
ah lex AN dree ah

Aristarchus:
air is TAR kus

Cauda: KAW duh

Cnidus: NYE dus

Lasea: luh SEE uh

Lycia: LISH ih uh

Macedonian:
mass uh DOH neh un

Myra: MY ruh

Salmone: sal MOE nih

Syrtis: SUR tis

Thessalonica:
thes uh luh NIGH kuh

*Digs into
God's Word*

Key Point

As Christ was
with Paul and his
companions in a
perilous sea voyage,
so He is with us,
holding us up,
keeping us with Him
in the ship of the
Church, and casting
all our sins into the
depths of the sea.

Liturgy Link

The prayer in the
order of Holy
Baptism asks that the
Baptized be “kept
safe and secure in
the holy ark of the
Christian Church”
(LSB 269).

Verses 7–8

- **What caused trouble as they sailed along the coast of Asia near Cnidus and near the island of Crete? Add two more W's on your sail.** Wind

Verses 9–13

- **At Fair Havens on Crete, the voyagers and crew had to decide whether to continue, since winter storms made it dangerous to sail. (“The Fast,” the Jewish festival of Yom Kippur, happened in October.) What did Paul advise?** They would experience injury and loss of the ship, cargo, and lives.
- **Julius listened to the sailors. Write who made the decision to set sail on the tail of your ship.** The majority
- **They tried to sail to the nearby port of Phoenix on Crete. At first, the wind blew gently, so they raised the anchor. Draw an anchor hanging at the back of your ship.**

Verses 14–17

- **What did the northeast wind do to the ship?** It pushed the boat south and west. **Add another W on your sail.**
- **The sailors secured the lifeboat and ran supports under the ship to keep it together. Then, fearing the Syrtis, a shallow, sandy sandbar off the coast of Africa, they lowered the gear. If caught here, a ship cannot back up or land safely in the rocky, shallow water. Add a caution sign.**

Verses 18–20

- **The situation grew worse. Draw cargo in the water. Cross out the two center ropes (tackle).**
- **Losing the sun and stars made navigation impossible. What did the group lose last?** Hope

Verses 21–26

- **What hope did Paul offer?** Paul reported an angel appeared to him and said he would stand before Caesar in Rome and all the people would live. He said to have courage (“take heart”) and faith. All would survive, but the ship would be lost. He advised running aground on an island. **Add symbols of courage (“take heart”) and faith to your ship.**

Verses 27–32

- **After fourteen nights, soundings showed the ship was near land. Afraid they would crash and sink, they let down anchors. Draw these anchors from your ship.**
- **What did Paul tell the soldiers when sailors tried to escape?** The experienced sailors needed to stay on the ship to save them. **What did the soldiers do?** They cut the ropes of the lifeboat and let it go so the sailors could not escape.

Verses 33–38

- **What did Paul urge the people to do?** Eat and regain their strength, since they had not eaten for fourteen days
- **How did Paul show his faith?** Paul reminded them the angel had said none would die. With all present, Paul thanked God for the food.
- **Write the number of people on your ship.** 276

Verses 39–44

- **The ship got stuck on a reef, and surf broke the back of the ship. Cut up the back of your ship.**
- **Soldiers who let prisoners escape were killed, so they planned to kill the prisoners instead. Why didn't the centurion let this happen?** To save Paul
- **Add words or pictures on your ship to show God's protection and purpose.** Answers vary. God kept His word, given to Paul in the message from the angel, that all would survive. In love and mercy, God protected them because He wanted Paul to go to Rome and testify to Caesar and "carry [His] name before kings" (Acts 9:15).

Debriefing

When time elapses, call everyone back together. Let students show one another their finished ships, and continue with "We Live" to discuss them.

3 We Live (15 minutes)

Help in Hard Times

Ask students to look at their ships and continue to use pens, pencils, or markers. Questions are not on Student Pages, so you can discuss those that best fit your students and their concerns.

Ask **How does your ship represent Paul's journey?** Share observations. In love and mercy, God protected Paul and all the passengers.

How does the ship show your life journey? Let students make observations, such as traveling, facing dangers, or other insights.

Did you know we call the section of the church where we sit for worship the "nave"? Nave is the Latin word for "ship." When did Jesus bring you into His ship of the Christian Church? Draw yourself on your ship. Most probably became passengers at their Baptism; others may have heard God's Word first. When individuals come to faith, they become part of the Church and are protected by Christ.

The Lord saved you through the waters of Baptism, drowning the old Adam and raising a new person to life. Now you ride in the safety of the ship of Christ's Church. Jesus guides and protects His Church. What storms might the Church face? Let students share their experiences. Arguments between members, divisions in doctrine, false teachers, and the expectations of the world could hinder the Church.

The devil also attacks individual passengers to get them to leave the safety of the ship and turn away from Christ. What strategies does the devil use against us? The devil tempts, hinders, and seeks to separate us from the love of God in many ways. He uses disasters, disease, persecution, famine, and our own sinful desires against us.

How does God rescue us from every evil? God keeps us from harm but also allows hardship, just as He did with Paul. When God allows hardships, or storms, to come into our lives, He gives us the strength to endure these troubles through His Word and Sacraments. The Lord brings good from all

Faith in Action

Encourage students to find ways to love and support each other and other members of your church. Consider asking pairs of students to pray together today for personal needs. Or brainstorm ways to encourage and support other church members, individually or corporately. For example, talk to one new person at worship each week; visit or send cards to shut-ins; help with church programs or outreach efforts; or start a mission project.

**Goes to
the Heart**

Key Point

As Christ was
with Paul and his
companions in a
perilous sea voyage,
so He is with us,
holding us up,
keeping us with Him
in the ship of the
Church, and casting
all our sins into the
depths of the sea.

**Goes to
the Heart**

circumstances, as He promises through Paul in Romans 8:28. Ultimately, God rescues us from evil by taking Christians safely home to Him when we die.

What do you see in the mast of your ship? A cross **Of what does this remind us?** Though He never sinned, Jesus died to pay for our sins. Christ redeems us and forgives our sins. He promised always to be with us, and He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us (Matthew 28:20; John 14:15–16).

What comfort does the cross offer? We can be confident that we will never face trials alone. No matter what we face, Christ will not let us sink into the abyss of despair. The voyage will be a successful one. We will make it safely to harbor in heaven because of Christ's loving and sacrificial work in our lives.

What mighty weapons did God give us to fight the devil? God arms us with His Word. He forgives, strengthens, and equips us through Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confession and Absolution. Those who remain in this ship, who remain faithful, do not need to fear any evil.

How can our traveling companions help one another in the storms of life? Church members pray for, support, and encourage one another and give monetary gifts or physical help to those in need. The pastor preaches God's Word and bestows gifts of grace to support our bodies and souls. Other called workers such as teachers, DCEs, and deaconesses work with pastors to support and help people.

What final deliverance do we ask of the Lord? We ask God to take us to heaven when we die, so we can spend eternity with Him.

4 Closing (3 minutes)

Ask What did you learn about God's care for you today? Thank students who share.

Pray Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (LSB, p. 317)

Lesson 13

Paul sails for Rome

Acts 27

The lives of the apostles

1 Corinthians 4:9–13: For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

A memorable voyage

Directions: Read **Acts 27:3–44**. Discuss questions. Follow directions for your ship.

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- How did Julius, Paul's jailer, show him compassion when they stopped at Sidon?
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Verses 7–8

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Verses 9–13

- At Fair Havens on Crete, the voyagers and crew had to decide whether to continue, since winter storms made it dangerous to sail. ("The Fast," the Jewish festival of Yom Kippur, happened in October.) What did Paul advise?
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- They tried to sail to the nearby port of Phoenix on Crete. At first, the wind blew gently, so they raised the anchor. Draw an anchor hanging at the back of your ship.

Verses 14–17

- What did the northeast wind do to the ship? Add another *W* on your sail.
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- After fourteen nights, soundings showed the ship was near land. Afraid they would crash and sink, they let down anchors. Draw these anchors from your ship.
- What did Paul tell the soldiers when sailors tried to escape? What did the soldiers do?

Verses 33–38

- What did Paul urge the people to do?
- How did Paul show his faith?
- Write the number of people on your ship.

Verses 39–44

- The ship got stuck on a reef and surf broke the back of the ship. Cut up the back of your ship.
- Soldiers who let prisoners escape were killed, so they planned to kill the prisoners instead. Why didn't the centurion let this happen?
- Add words or pictures on your ship to show God's protection and purpose.

Student Page 13A

To make your ship stand up:

Fold the bottom edge back.
Trim the sides and top. Cut a
tall triangle from the paper
pieces and tape it to the center
back as a support.

