



It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

## Bible Study:



Paul's three missionary journeys help teach the three key attributes of a church body: "a church is a collection of disciples who are a **family of missionary servants**. All three of these elements are strongly woven into each journey.

When we taught the first missionary journey, we taught the concept of missions and missionaries. Whether across the world, or across the street, Christians are called to be witnesses of God's saving and transforming power through the blood of Jesus. When we taught the second missionary journey, we focused on family. As Paul and his companions brought the good news of Jesus to towns and cities, new churches were birthed. These were families - brothers and sisters of Christ.

This lesson, Paul's third journey (**Acts 19: - 21:16**), focuses on service. It seems fitting because in the book of Galatians (a letter possibly written *during* his third journey), Paul highlights the importance of being servants:

*"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word  
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14.*

Paul also modeled servanthood again and again on this journey. In fact, near the end of the trip, Agabus prophesies that Paul will be bound and handed over to the gentiles, and Paul affirmed his willingness to not only be bound, but to die for the name of the Lord Jesus.

## The gospel in the story:



The gospel message is about broken people being redeemed by Christ. The good news starts with **salvation** – receiving forgiveness from sin through the blood of Jesus – and CONTINUES with **sanctification**. Sanctification is the process of becoming more and more mature in Christ. Paul's life is a concrete picture of a disciple wholly committed to Jesus, who experiences an ever-deepening relationship with the LORD through **sacrificial service**. John puts it this way: "Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, **let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.** (1 John 16:16-18)

## Application:

### Head: What did we learn?

Q: What does it mean to be a servant? A: to take care of someone completely with your whole body

Q: Give examples of Paul serving the church families he visited? A: encouraging, strengthening, healing, miracles

Q: What was Jesus' sacrificial act of service? A: he paid the price of our sin for us

Q: How do we become servants? A: it's a lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus, that's sanctification!

### Heart: Memory Verse

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### Hands: How does this affect the way I live?

Jesus came to serve, not to be served. Paul modeled Jesus' command to serve. He gave his life to **love, protect, take care of and provide for Jesus' church**. As we are sanctified, and develop a growing love for Jesus, our hearts develop a natural inclination to SERVE OTHERS! A servant's heart, by the power of the Holy Spirit, motivates disciples to love, care for protect and even die for others!