

Acts 15 Then certain individuals came down from **Judea** and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to **Jerusalem** to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both **Phoenicia** and **Samaria**, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

⁶The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹² The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵ This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ 'After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,

¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸ known from long ago."

In our story today there is an argument about whether people need to become Jewish or not to be Christians. Peter, Paul and Barnabas use the Bible and their experiences to argue that even non-Jews, "Gentiles" are called by God to follow Jesus. Are your parents Jewish? If not, you and your family are Gentiles.

Which of these are absolutely necessary to be a Christian?

Circle the absolutely necessary ones.

~~Cross out the ones~~ that get in the way of being a Christian.

Don't do anything to the ones that are good, but not necessary to be a Christian.

Go to church every week

Complete your Sunday school lesson

Share your snacks

Be baptized

Love Jesus

Read your Bible

Talk back to your parent

Don't eat bacon

Wash your hands before eating

Trust God

Save as much money for yourself only as you can.

Stay away from other Christians

Tell lies once in a while

Pray every night before going to bed

Wear a bonnet and white gloves to church on Easter

Go to VBS

Pig out on pizza and root beer regularly

Say mean things about another kid at school

Our story begins in **Antioch**, which was in Syria (Syr-**Phon**ecia). This is out of Jewish territory, so among people called *Gentiles* (or non-Jews). On the map mark all the places that are in bold in our Bible story. Then cut out and attach the circles to show other important places for the early church.

2.



ALEXANDRIA
St. Mark founds the Egyptian or Coptic Church in Alexandria, 48 AD

3.



ISLE OF PATMOS
Where John the Apostle wrote the Revelation

4.



SEVEN CITIES
with stars show the seven churches warned in the Book of Revelation

1.



ROME
Apostle Paul's farthest stop on his 3 journeys of the known world

5.

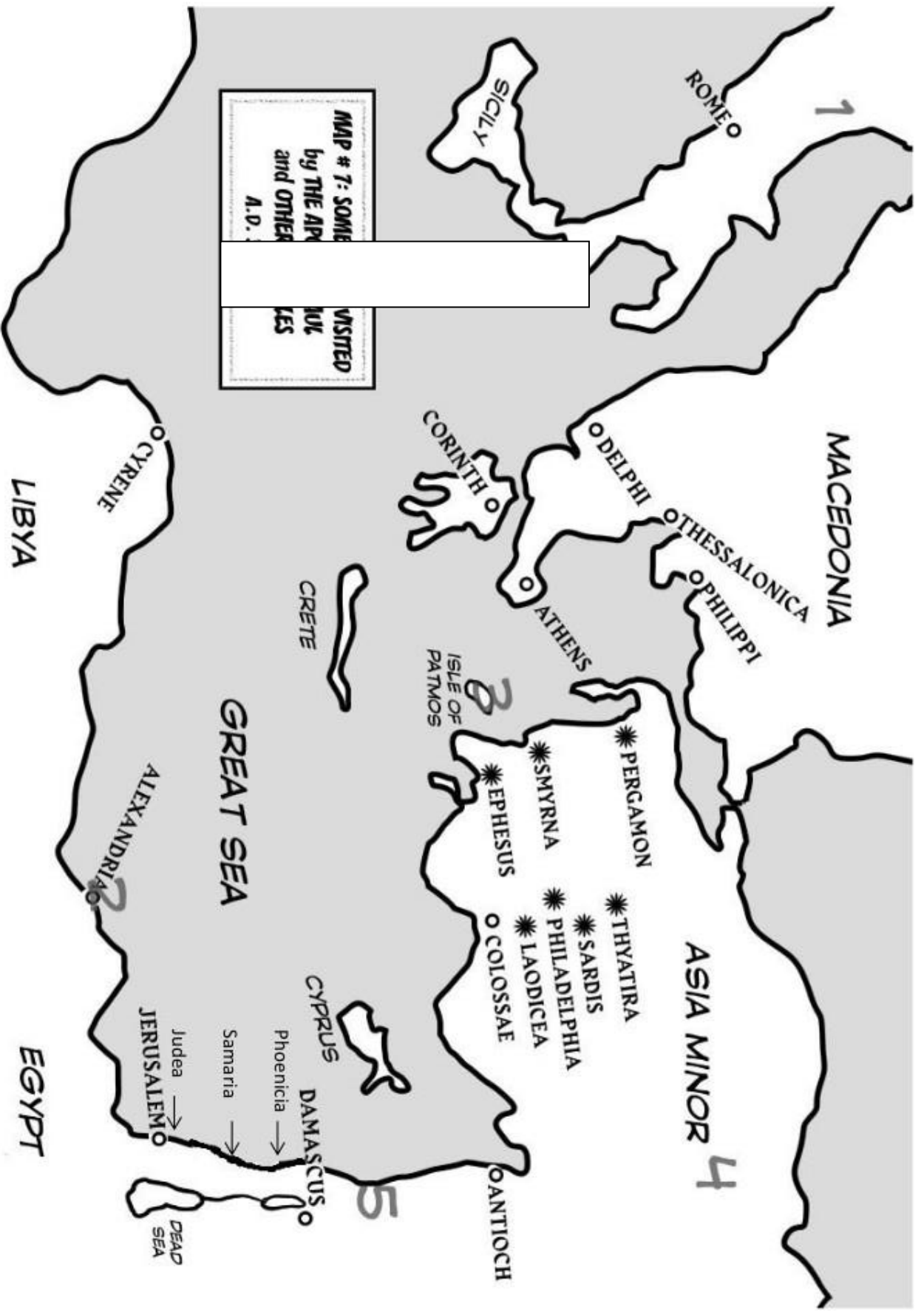


THE ROAD
Apostle Paul was blinded on a road between Jerusalem and Damascus

On the map can you find the places to which these letters from the Apostle Paul were written? Label them with the letter by each name.

- A. Galatians
- B. Ephesians
- C. Philippians
- D. Colossians
- E. Romans
- F. Thessalonians
- G. Corinthians

From Rome to Jerusalem is over 2500 miles by road! That's like going across the United States – on foot and by boat! Paul went back and forth between some of these places several times so he traveled many miles for God.



MAP # 7: SOME
by THE AP...
and OTHER
A.D.

VISTED
by the AP...
and OTHER
A.D.

1

ROME

SICILY

MACEDONIA

DELPHI

THESSALONICA

PHILIPPI

ATHENS

CORINTH

CRETE

ISLE OF
PATMOS

PERGAMON

SMYRNA

EPHESUS

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

LAODICEA

COLOSSAE

ASIA MINOR 4

ANTIOCH

CYPRUS

DAMASCUS

Phoenicia →

Samaria →

Judea →

JERUSALEM

DEAD
SEA

ALEXANDRIA

CYRENE

LIBYA

EGYPT

5



Paul talks with an elder in Jerusalem before the council.

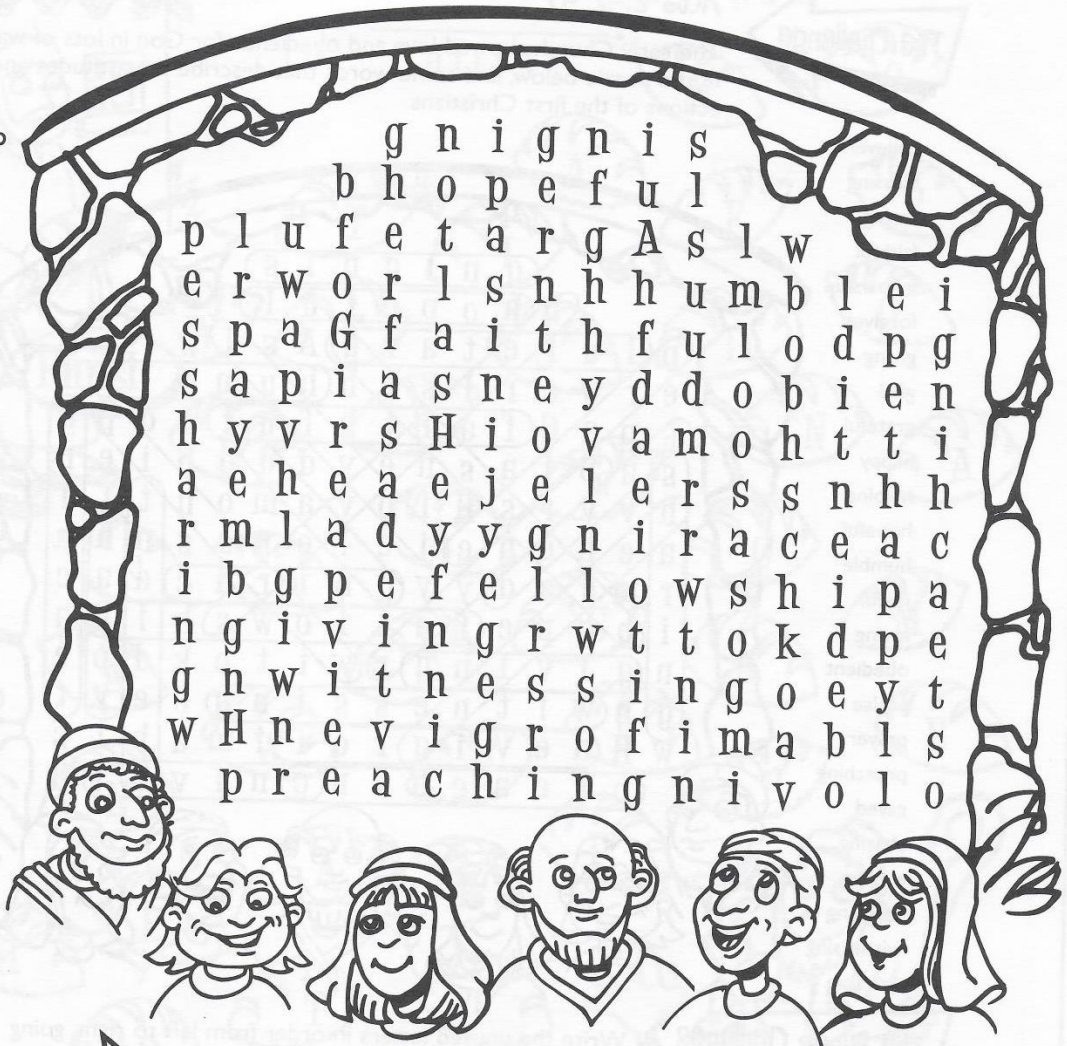
FIRST CHURCH SEARCH

Acts 2:42-47

The Challenge

The early Church showed love and obedience for God in lots of ways. In the puzzle below, find some words that describe the attitudes and actions of the first Christians.

- believers
- blessing
- caring
- faithful
- fellowship
- forgiven
- giving
- glad
- grateful
- happy
- helping
- hopeful
- humble
- joyful
- loving
- obedient
- praise
- prayer
- preaching
- saved
- sharing
- singing
- teaching
- witnessing
- worship



The Super Challenge

Write the unused letters in order from left to right, going across each line, in order to discover what happens when we worship God.
