

**ALL SOULS**

**MISSION  
UNSTOPPABLE  
THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**NAME**

Written by Trevor Pearce

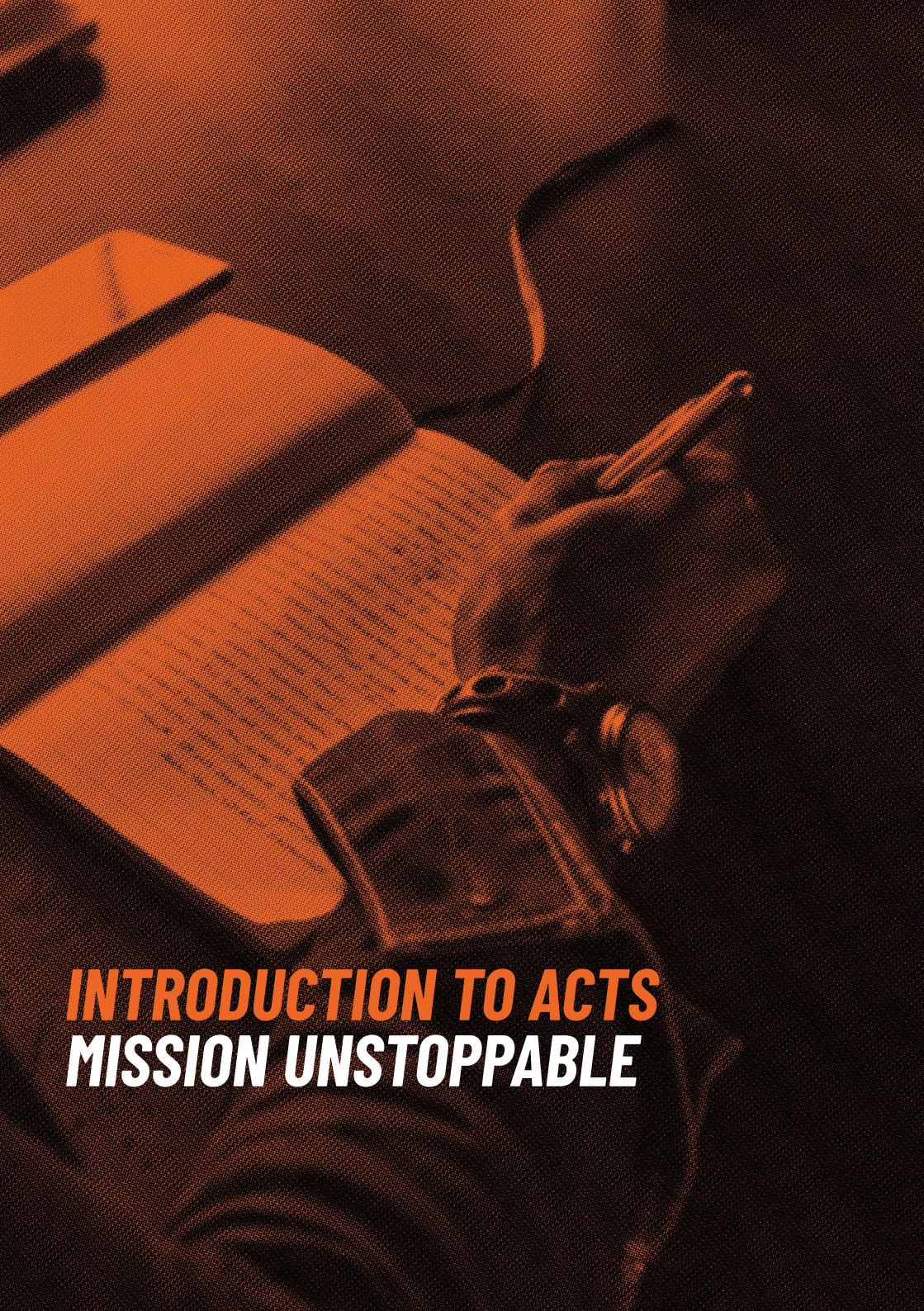


# TIMETABLES

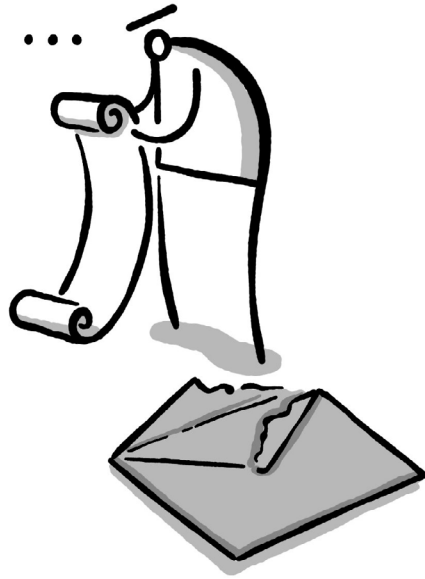
## MISSION: UNSTOPPABLE

---

	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
	<b>Introduction to Acts</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SESSION 1</b>	<b>The Gospel Train Leaves the Station</b> <i>Acts 1-2</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<b>The Name on the Train</b> <i>Acts 3-4</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>SESSION 3</b>	<b>Resurrection People</b> <i>Acts 12</i>	<b>20</b>
<b>SESSION 4</b>	<b>The Wolf Gets on the Train</b> <i>Acts 9</i>	<b>25</b>
<b>SESSION 5</b>	<b>The Gospel Train Enters Confident Corinth</b> <i>Acts 18</i>	<b>29</b>
<b>SESSION 6</b>	<b>The Gospel Train Enters Evil Ephesus</b> <i>Acts 19</i>	<b>33</b>
<b>SESSION 7</b>	<b>Paul Meets The Jerusalem Mob</b> <i>Acts 21-23</i>	<b>37</b>
<b>SESSION 8</b>	<b>Paul Meets The Dynasty of Death</b> <i>Acts 24-26</i>	<b>41</b>
<b>SESSION 9</b>	<b>The Gospel Train Arrives in Rome</b> <i>Acts 27-28</i>	<b>46</b>



**INTRODUCTION TO ACTS**  
**MISSION UNSTOPPABLE**





John the Baptist

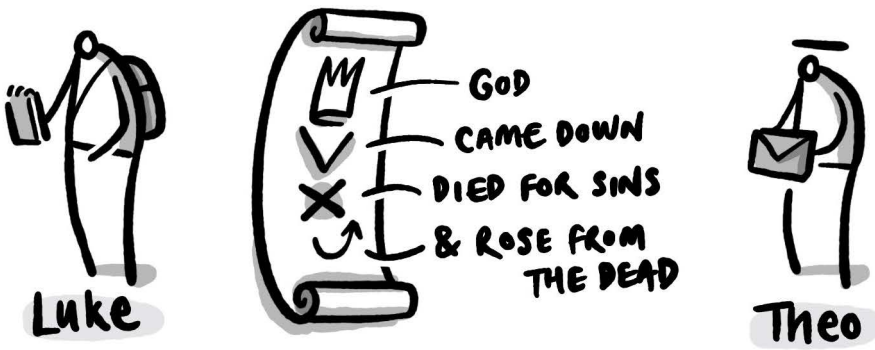
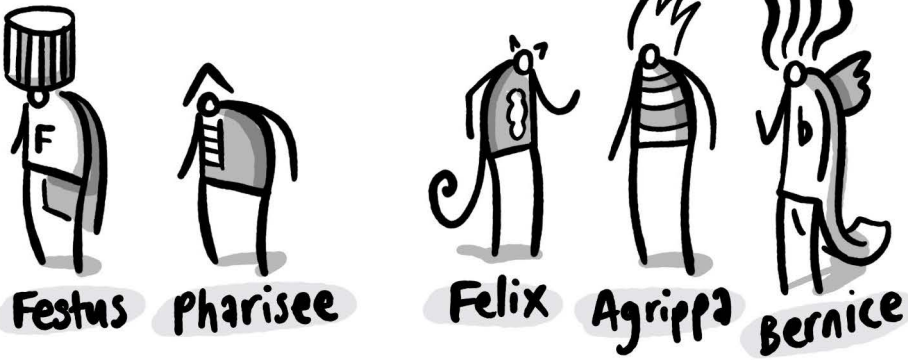
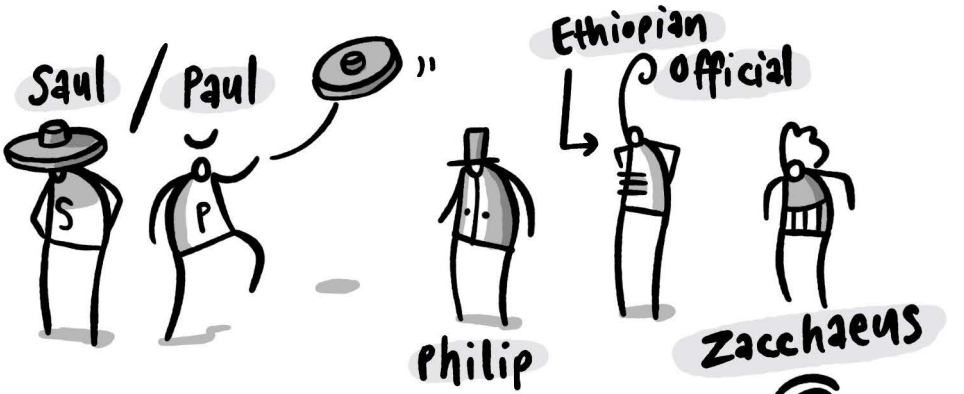


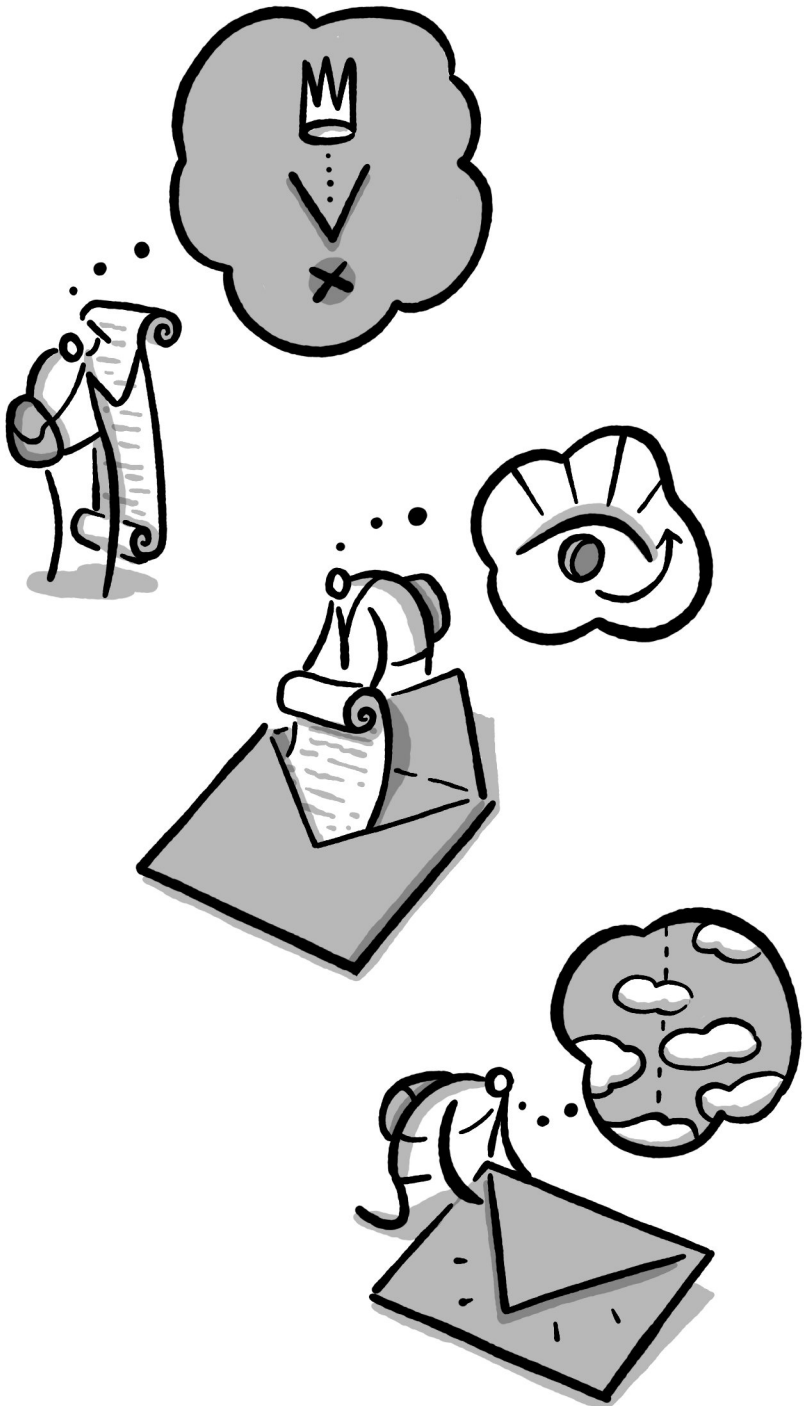
Ananias Sapphira



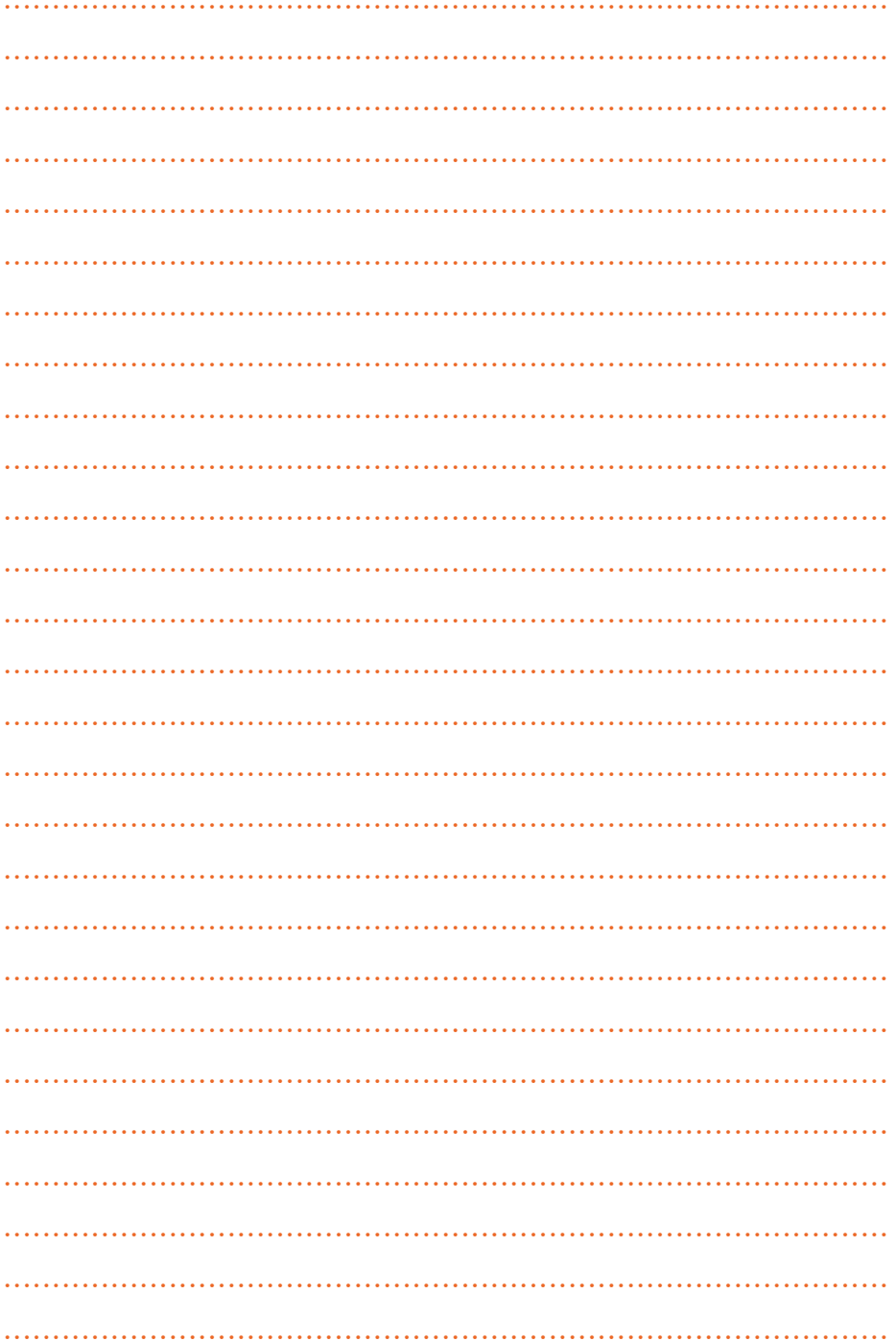
(Romans)

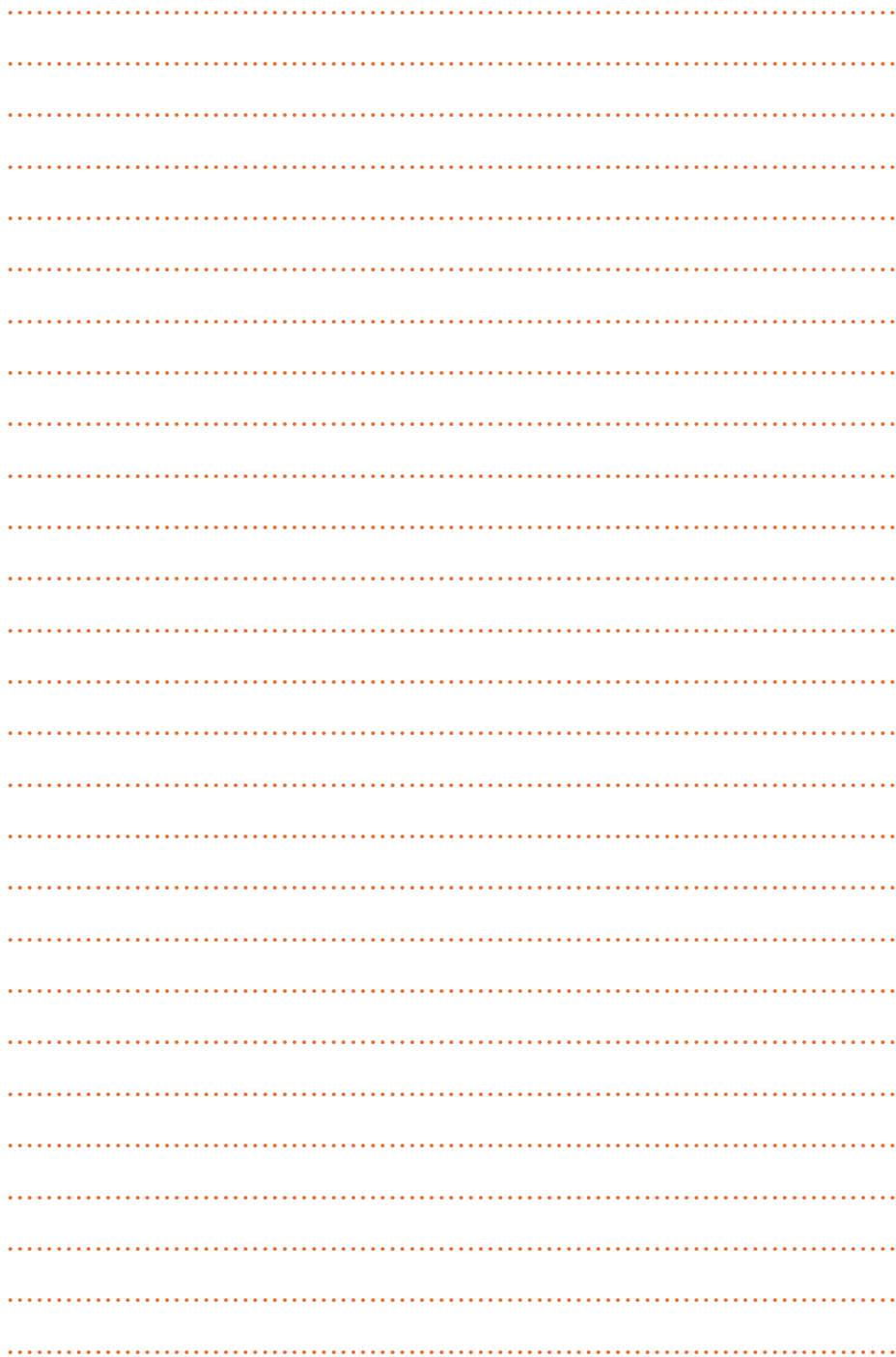


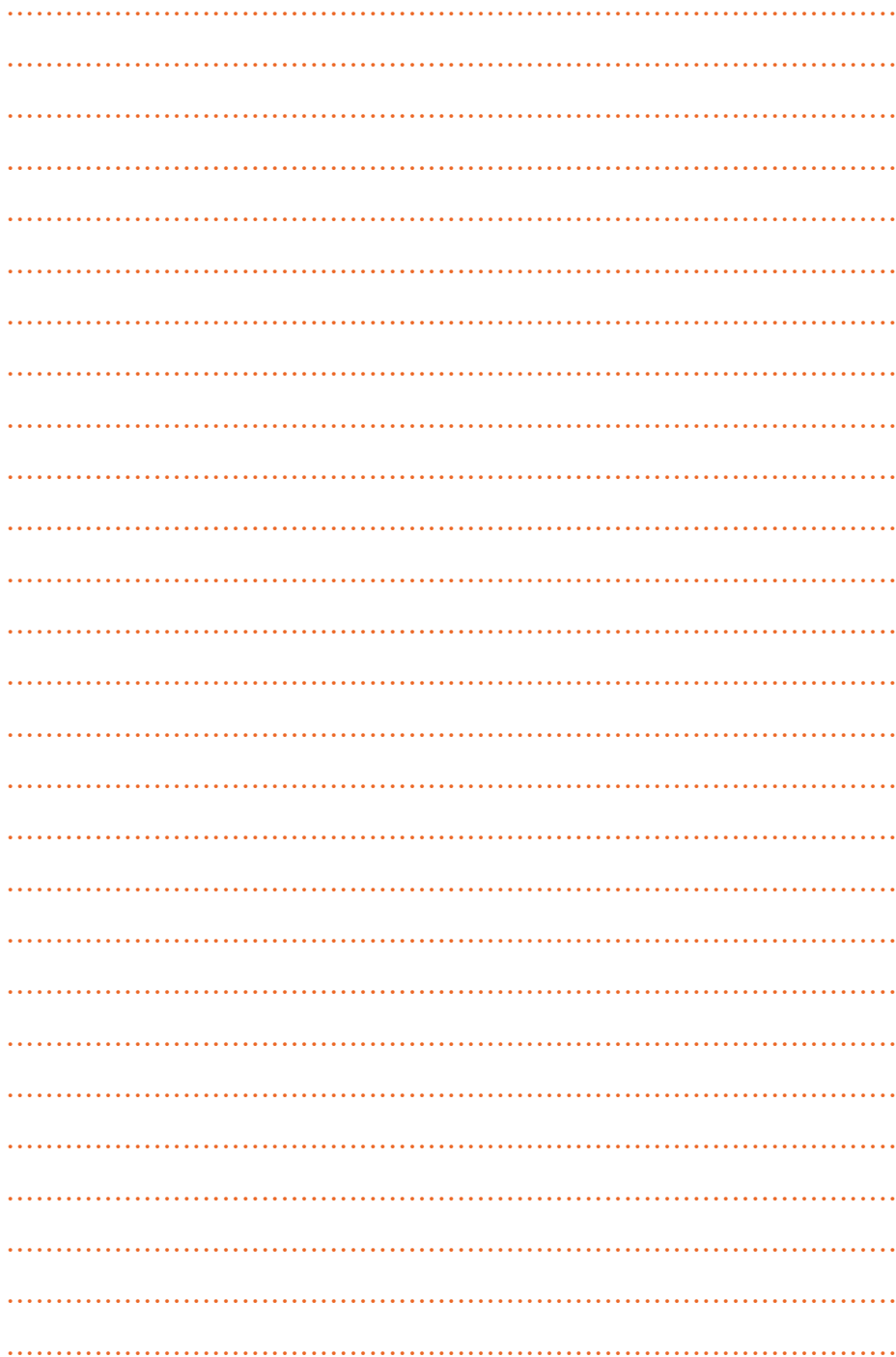












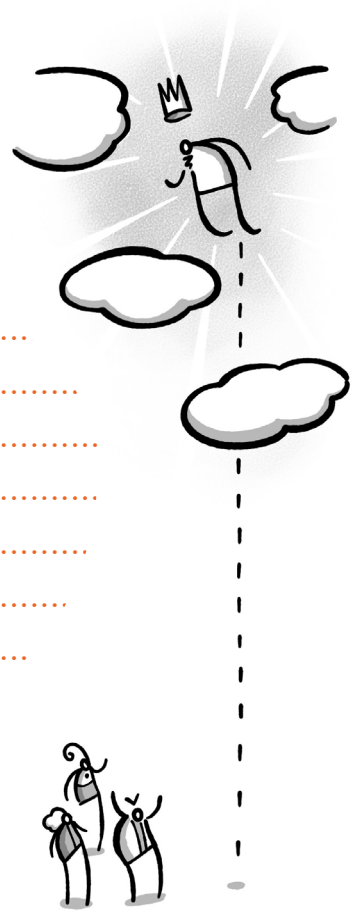
A halftone, orange-toned photograph of a man in a suit reading a document on a train. The man is in the foreground, looking down at a document he is holding. The background shows the interior of a train car with rows of seats.

# **SESSION 1**

**THE GOSPEL TRAIN  
LEAVES THE STATION  
ACTS 1-2**



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal rows of orange dotted lines.



# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

---

**Ice Breaker:** Would you rather? questions

**Intro Q:** Name, where you live, favourite food, superpower and why

## WHO THE HOLY SPIRIT IS

1. What's the first thought that comes into your head when you think of the Holy Spirit?

*How might these verses help you understand better who He is?*

2. What is significant about the wind and fire? Look up Ex 19:16-23, 20:18-19, Heb 12:18-21

## WHAT THE GOSPEL IS

3. What truths about Jesus give Peter such confidence?

2:22 =

2:29-34 =

2:23 =

2:34 =

2:24 =

2:35 =

4. What does God command and promise?

5. What does repentance mean for the people Peter is speaking to? Look up 2:22-24

*Is it any different for you and me? To help answer the question look at what Paul says in Eph 2:1-5*

## APPLICATION

6. How does the truth that the Holy Spirit is powerful help us get on board the Gospel Train?

7. Why is getting on the Gospel Train so important, in light of what we've seen in Acts 2?

## WHAT TO PRAY FOR

- Praise God that the Holy Spirit gives us power to share the Gospel with our friends and family
- Praise God that the Gospel is for everyone
- Say sorry for the times that we doubt that God gives us the power to share the Gospel
- Ask God to speak to us this week through his Word and all we hear and experience

### What to remember about The Gospel

It's for all people

### What to remember about the goal

It's heading to the ends of the earth

### What to remember about the gathering

We are totally dependent on the person of the Holy Spirit



# **SESSION 2**

**THE NAME ON THE  
TRAIN ACTS 3-4**



## THE LINK

The story of Acts 1-2 is full of promises made and kept, and commands given and obeyed. The first Christian sermon is welcomed with huge success, as three thousand people get aboard the gospel train (2:41). Yet the train is hardly out of the station before the religious elite seek to stop it in its tracks.

## THE TRUTH - THE SEAT BELT TEST

- Today we see how religion seeks to stop the gospel train.
- The name of Jesus will always bring two responses.
- Devoted, loyal love, or deep-seated hatred.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

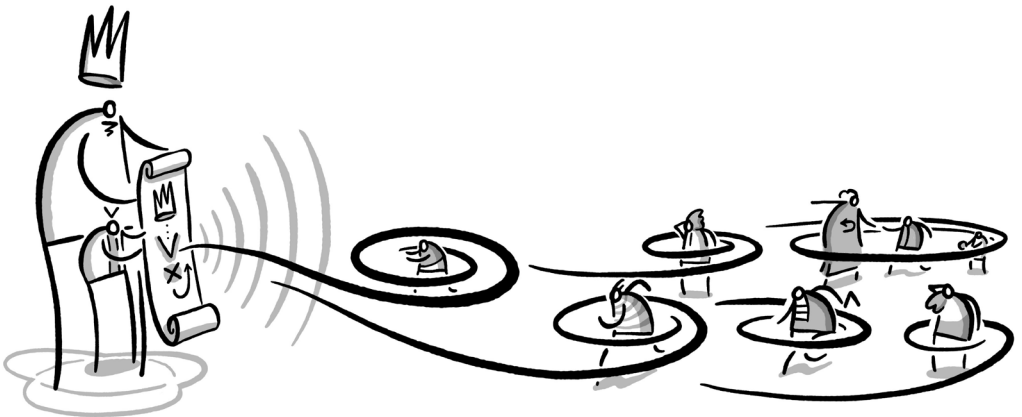
.....

.....

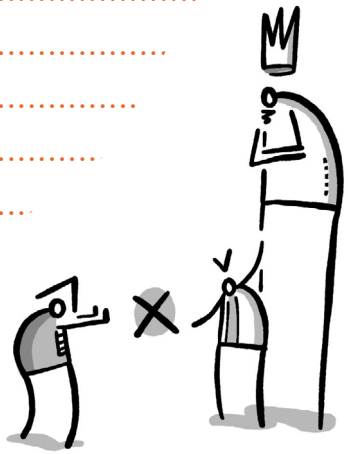
.....

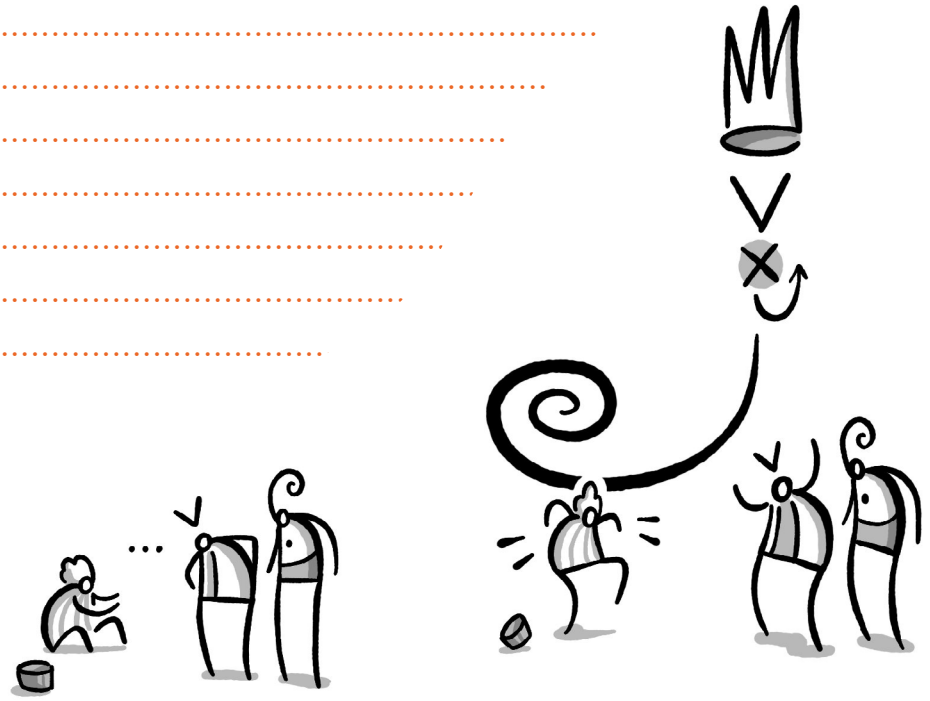
.....

.....



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal rows of orange dotted lines.







# **SESSION 3**

**RESURRECTION PEOPLE**  
**ACTS 12**



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.



# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

---

**Ice Breaker:** Endurance tests

**Intro Q:** Can you give an example where you've been given a hard time for believing in Jesus? Did it make you want to give up?

## GET OFF

### 1. Read Acts 12:1-6.

*What are the similarities between the story in Acts and what is happening in North Korea and Russia?*

#### **North Korea**

All citizens of North Korea live under constant scrutiny and surveillance. Groups of 15-30 families living close to each other (called inminban groups) are headed by a female official who must look out for suspicious activities and makes sure there are no forbidden items in the homes, e.g. tuneable radio sets, Western DVDs, Bibles, so there are random midnight searches of homes. Twice a week people must attend lectures about the greatness of the Kim family, who have led the state in turn since 1946 and are venerated almost as if they were gods. Every Saturday, people must attend public criticism sessions to criticise themselves and one other for their failings in the previous week.

#### **Russia**

Christians in Russia continue to be the main targets of the 2016 Religion Law, often called the "Yarovaya Law" in Russia, after the person who first proposed it in the Duma. The law is ostensibly an anti-terrorist law but most of the cases are accusations of illegal missionary activity, of holding activities without the proper permissions, or of failing to put up a sign displaying the full name of their organisation. The Christian community is asking for amendments to the law, which is so vague it is virtually impossible to avoid being accused. Out of the first 280 cases filed against Christian believers under the 2016 Religion Law, only about 10% were won by the Christians. The other 90 lost their cases and were fined.

### 2. Try your best to put yourselves into the shoes of the Christians in Jerusalem, North Korea or Russia.

*On a scale of 1 to 10, would you get off or stay on board the Gospel Train - 1 being totally getting off, 10 being staying on?*

*What different factors would make you decide?*

## STAY ON - THE RESURRECTION LIFE

3. What are the similarities between Jesus's resurrection and Peter's miraculous release?

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN JESUS' RESURRECTION & PETER'S RELEASE	LUKE	ACTS
	24:1-7	12:13
	24:9-10	12:14
	24:11	12:15
	Mk 16:7	12:17

4. How should Jesus' resurrection and Peter's release help you stay on the gospel train?

## STAY ON - GOD SMASHES HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES

5. Read Acts 12:19b-24. How do we see god being more powerful than his political enemies?

6. How does this encourage you to not give up and get off the Gospel Train when it does get harder to live as a Christian, whether that's at school, home or in the future?

### WHAT TO PRAY FOR

- Praise God that Jesus' resurrection means we're safe and secure in him
- Praise God that nothing will stop the Gospel from spreading
- Pray that God would strengthen us to not give up when we experience hard time living for him
- Sorry for the times when we've wanted to or have given up

#### What to remember about The Gospel

The Gospel is resurrection life

#### What to remember about the goal

Resurrection life guarantees our Gospel future

#### What to remember about the gathering

God's people are indestructible





# **SESSION 4**

**THE WOLF GETS ON THE  
TRAIN ACTS 9**

## THE LINK

One of the ways Luke structures Acts is to be a defence of Paul's ministry to convince us that he's a true apostle. One of the ways he does this is to show that everything God does through Peter, he also does through Paul. The table below shows just how skilfully Luke does this.

PETER		PAUL
3:2-8	Healing of a lame man	14:8-10
5:15	Miracles at a distance	19:12
5:16	Exorcising of demons	16:18
8:18	Confronted a sorcerer	13:6-11
9:36-40	Raises the dead	20:9-12
10:9-10	Heavenly vision	16:9
5:19, 12:7	Miraculous release from jail	16:25
2:27	Preaches to Jews (same text Ps 16:10)	13:35

Today we move onto the life and ministry of the great Apostle Paul.

## THE TRUTH - THE SEAT BELT TEST

- God changes Saul from an angry wolf to a caring shepherd
- If the gospel train is to reach its destination, we must follow Paul's example

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

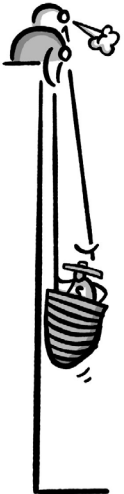
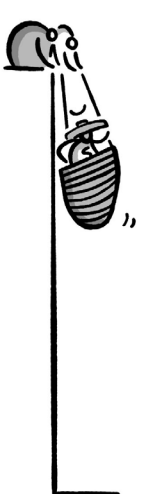
.....



Handwriting practice area consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.



Handwriting practice area consisting of 18 horizontal dotted lines.



Handwriting practice area consisting of 10 horizontal dotted lines.



# **SESSION 5**

**THE GOSPEL TRAIN ENTERS  
CONFIDENT CORINTH ACTS 18**

## THE LINK

When the gospel train left Jerusalem, it had three thousand Spirit-filled passengers ready to tell the world about Jesus (Acts 2:40-41). Since the train left, different people have done all they can to prevent its progress. The religious leaders tried to silence Peter and John by threats, and Herod through brutally murdering one of the churches' leaders. In both cases instead of stopping the train, the persecution merely helped it along the way (2:47, 4:31).

The greatest individual seeking to stop the gospel train was Saul. This young man had three things in his favour, a brilliant intellect, an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Old Testament and authority to exterminate the followers of Jesus (9:1-2). But his meeting with the risen Jesus changed everything. Instead of breathing out murderous threats like a vicious wolf (9:1), he is now shepherding the very people he tried to exterminate (20:36-38).

As the train leaves the station we now have Paul on board, ready for all that lies ahead. At Antioch, Paul showed us the journey of God's people through the Old Testament. The farther the train advanced, the nearer it got to the coming of Jesus, the people's Messiah (13:23).

Today, the train arrives at a new station, Corinth. Our man Paul is ready to step off the train and take God's good news to this great city.

## THE TRUTH - THE SEAT BELT TEST

- On the gospel train there are no superheroes, only dependent disciples

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

---

## THE GOAL

In what ways would you say Corinth is like the place where you live?

*Think of school*

*Think of Social Media*

*Think of the music you listen to*

*Think about what you are told should be the centre of your life*

## THE GOSPEL

1. Have you ever felt like Paul in 1 Cor 2:3?  
What makes you feel like this?
2. Where did Paul look to in this struggle?  
Look up Colossians 1:15-17
3. How did these truths about Jesus help Paul continue?
4. What is the difference between God's Wisdom and the Corinthian wisdom?

1 COR	GODS WISDOM	CORINTHIAN WISDOM
1:18		
1:19		
1:20		
1:21		
1:22		
1:23		
1:24		
1:25		

1:26		
1:27		
1:28		
1:29		

How can you remind yourself of this at school, and how might God's view of wisdom help you?

## THE GATHERING

Has God provided a gospel team for you to reach your friends?

*Think of your church youth group?*

*Think of school and maybe your CU?*

*Think of your neighbours and the street where you live?*

How might you need to pray?

*For a gospel team?*

*For your friends to be saved*



# SESSION 6

THE GOSPEL TRAIN ENTERS  
EVIL EPHEBUS **ACTS 19**

## THE LINK

When the gospel train entered Corinth, the major thing that concerned Paul was their confidence. The city of Corinth was confident of its achievements, intellect and morality. It was this confidence which led the great apostle to both fear and tremble (1 Cor 2:3).

Today, the gospel train is entering Ephesus, a different city altogether. Like Corinth, the city is full of lost people, therefore ripe for church planting. Yesterday, the temple of Venus dominated the skyline, today the temple of Artemis, the largest building in the Greek world, does. This breathtaking building was made of solid marble and boasted 127 columns, soon to become one of the Seven Wonders of the World. At the centre of the temple was the goddess Diana, the many-breasted cult

figure.

---

*She was thought of as both a chaste virgin and yet at the same time the mother of all. In both cases she was thought to be the goddess of protection*  
*D Gooding*

---

It cannot be overstated just how powerful a figure she was, as today's story will reveal.

Paul jumps off the gospel train to view the awesome temple and the worshippers of Diana running to her shrine. What will he do? What is Paul's strategy? Let's find out.

## THE TRUTH - THE SEAT BELT TEST

- We must be flexible in our method but not our message
- The name of Jesus is 'all powerful'
- Nothing and no one can stop the gospel train

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

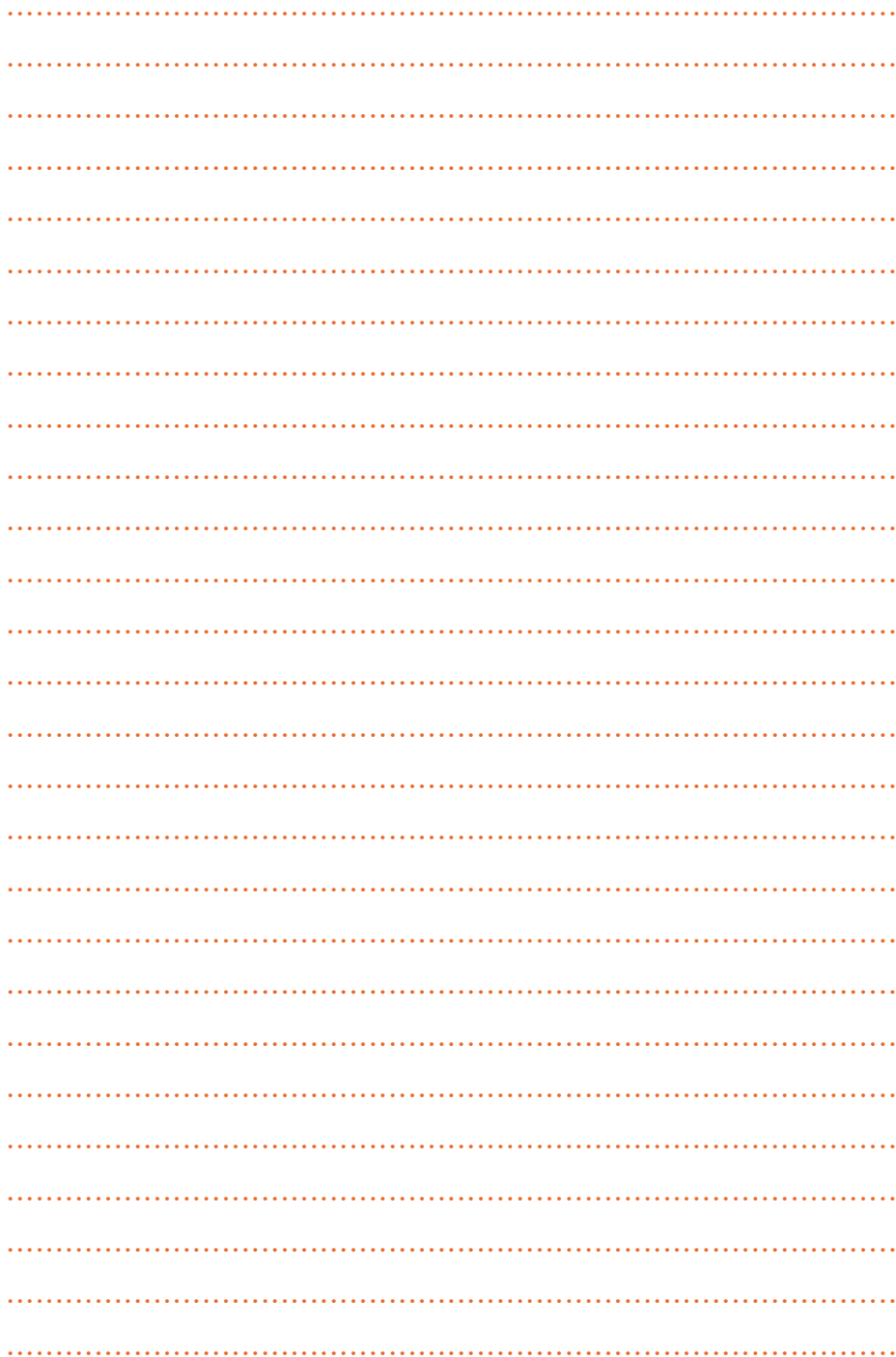
.....

.....

.....

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal rows. Each row is defined by two dotted lines, one above and one below a central dashed line.



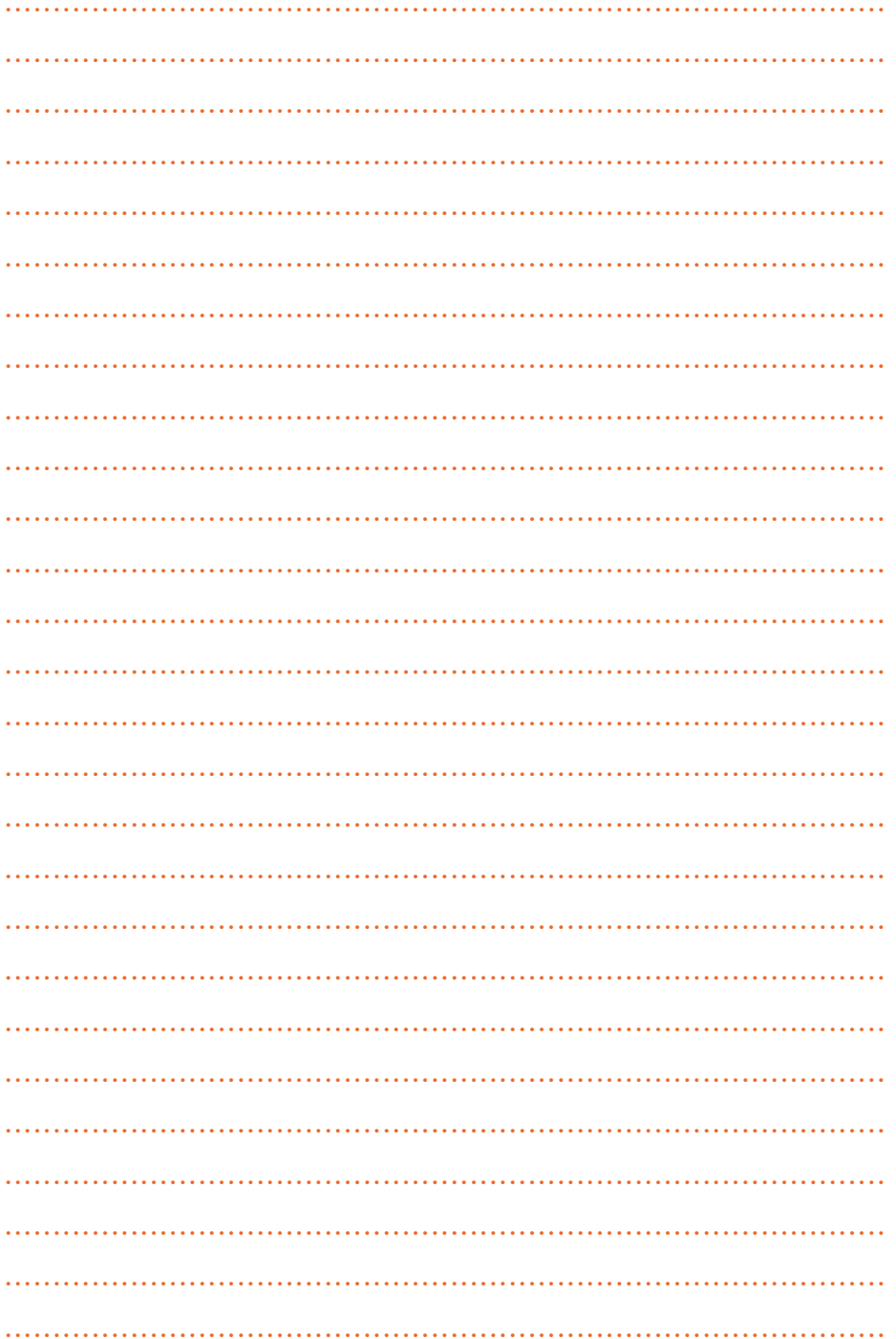




# **SESSION 7**

**PAUL MEETS THE JERUSALEM  
MOB ACTS 21-23**





# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

---

## THE GOAL

- How does Colossian 1:13-14,21-22, John 15:18, help you to understand why people hated Paul and the gospel so much?
- How might this help you understand why people resist the gospel today?  
School friends, radical Muslims, etc

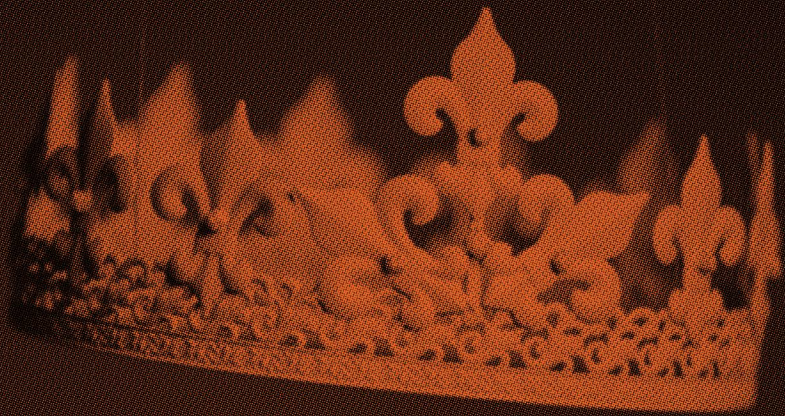
## THE GOSPEL

- When faced with a culture that is increasingly resistant to God's truth, how can God's promises help you?
- Look up Acts 23:11
- How might you remind yourself of these daily?

## THE GATHERING

- How can you encourage other Christians to look away from themselves and instead to the risen Jesus?
- Look at Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:6.





# **SESSION 8**

**PAUL MEETS THE DYNASTY  
OF DEATH ACTS 24-26**

## THE LINK

The Story So Far

### 1. THE GOSPEL

We started with the early church in Jerusalem obeying Jesus' command to wait for the Spirit to come. Once He arrived, the gospel train was ready to leave the station, as three thousand new members jumped aboard. The command was to take the gospel to the ends of the earth (1:8), the very thing the Spirit began to do (2:47, 4:4).

As soon as the church was born, huge obstacles began to arise seeking to stop it in its tracks, the greatest being a young Jewish leader called Saul. The Lord Jesus quickly changed Saul to Paul, from a wolf to a shepherd. We then watched him plant churches in Antioch, Corinth and Ephesus. As we listened to Peter and Paul, we learned what the gospel is and how to apply it to different cultural contexts.

### 2. THE GOAL

From Acts 1-8 the focus was primarily Peter and the people of God spreading the gospel, but once we hit Acts 9 the focus becomes the life of Paul. It's his example we follow, as he becomes the embodiment of what it means to follow Christ and getting the gospel to the ends of the earth.

### WHY ACTS 1:8 & 9:15-16 GO TOGETHER

Just as 1:8 mentions Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth, so 9:15 mentions Gentiles, Kings and Israel.

## WHY ROME & JERUSALEM GO TOGETHER

Luke wants us to see Paul getting to Rome as the same as the gospel getting to the ends of the earth. Just as nothing will stop the gospel, so nothing will prevent Paul reaching Rome. Within the life of the great apostle, we are to see the bigger picture of the mission of all of God's people.

### 3. THE GATHERING

In every place that Paul has gone three things have been present:

#### OPPOSITION

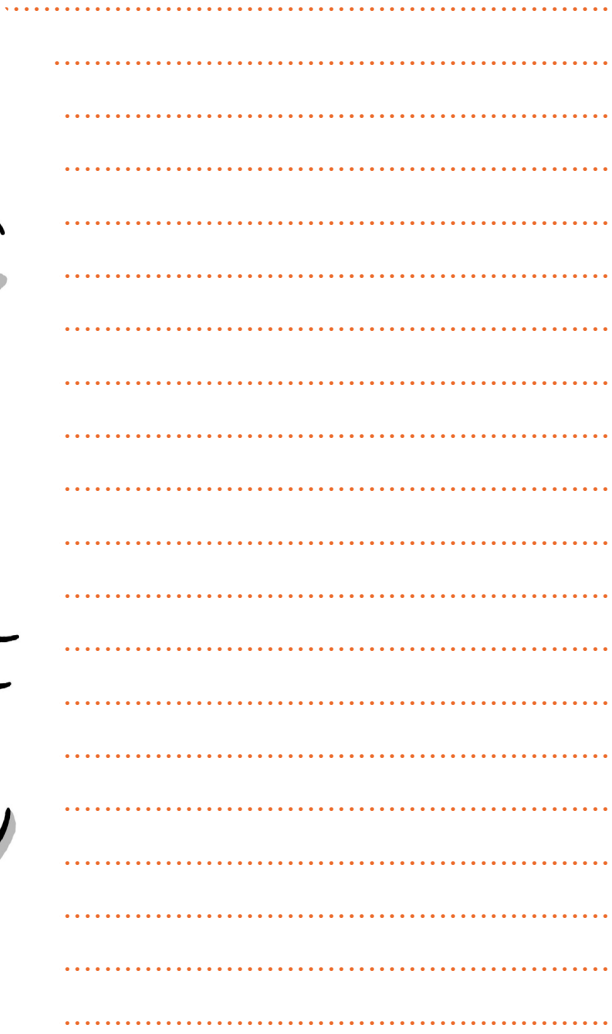
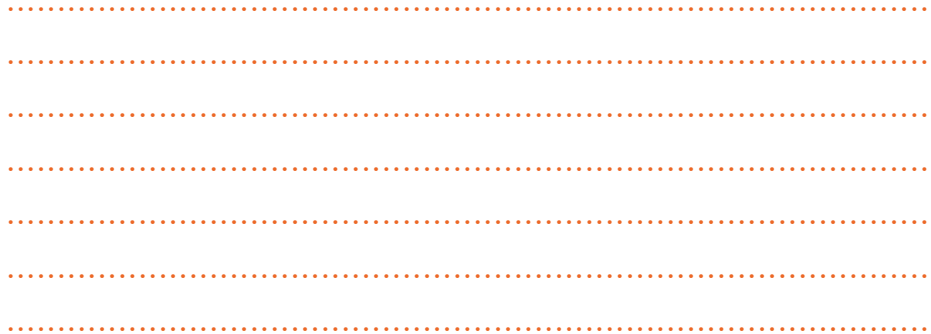
- In Jerusalem, Peter faced the elite religious leaders that told him to never mention the name of Jesus
- In Jerusalem, James was murdered by Herod and Peter was banged up in prison
- In Antioch, Paul faced Jews who were filled with jealousy (13:45)
- In Corinth, Paul faced Jews who gave him abuse and sought to attack him (18:6,12)
- In Ephesus Paul faced Jews who were obstinate and refused to believe (19:9), and then anger from Gentile businessmen (19:23-27)
- In Jerusalem the opposition grew to a climax, as they did all they could to kill Paul (21:31, 22:22, 23:10,12-14)

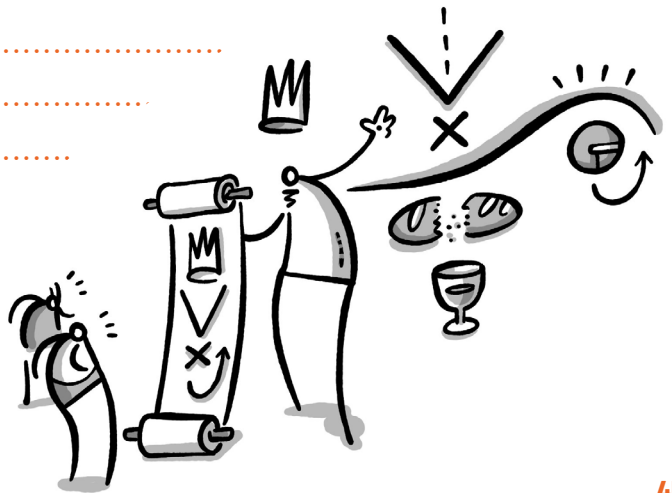
#### PROCLAMATION

None of the opposition has ever prevented Paul from proclaiming the good news of God.

- In Antioch - 13:16-17
- In Corinth - 18:4,11









# **SESSION 9**

**THE GOSPEL TRAIN ARRIVES  
IN ROME ACTS 27-28**









