

7NT9

How did the Gentiles accept the Faith?

Aim:

- 1) For the children to feel responsible for evangelising and how to preach the word following the fathers' example.
- 2) To gain the right knowledge about the start of the church of the Gentiles by a quick run through the book of Acts.

Memory verse:

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may *prove* what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:2

Delivery:

- Avoid putting the title on the board to start off as big titles will switch them off.
- It would be a good idea to write the memory verse and get them to see it and read it out but the discussion about it can be left until later.
- The second aim will be discussed first then will get them to draw into the first aim. Hence, the first half of the lesson should take 15 min no more.
- To go through the book of Acts fast enough and make them more interested, I would suggest dividing the class into 2 groups and choosing one child to hold the bible and read out the references while required. He should be a good reader and would not be the one who would mock around.
- We better prepare simple prizes as candies etc.
- The servant would read out the question, may be writing on the board and then get each group to choose an answer. Then, the servant will get the reader to read the required reference and leave the children to conclude to the right answer.
- Only one Bible is needed to be with the reader with all the references marked to make it easy and quick.

Introduction to the lesson:

After the day of Pentecost, the first Church was in Jerusalem, Judea. All the disciples were Jews. Jews always had problems with mixing with Gentiles.

It was the commandment of the Lord in the Law of Moses, not to mix or intermarry as the Lord did not want them to take on the idol worshipping and bad behaviour that was prevalent at that time.

Jews always looked down to the Gentiles as infidels and away from the Lord. In the matter of fact, strict Jews hated any thing that is Gentile.

However, the church needed to spread outside Jerusalem which was hard both ways.

Christians, who were strict Jews not long ago, were generally not keen to mix with the Gentiles to preach the word. On the other hand, Gentiles, particularly Romans, looked down to the Jews, their lifestyle and belief.

So, how did the word spread then? We will see!!!

Q1 Did Jesus really want the disciples to preach the Gentiles?

Yes

No

A1 Read Acts 1:8

In case of any of the children raising the question of why did Jesus ask the disciples when they were sent two by two not to preach to any one but Jews? Matthew 10:6

The answer is that Jesus had a short time to fulfil the salvation. He knew that it will take longer to preach the whole world. When He sent the disciples then the purpose was to prepare for the Cross.

However, when the chance was there, Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman and spent 2 days in her village. Jesus was not rejecting the Samaritans or the Gentiles then.

Q2 The first time, Christians went outside Jerusalem to preach was after the martyrdom of which saint?

Peter

James

Stephen

Paul

A2 Read Acts 7:58-8:5 and 11:19-21

Q3 why did St Peter go to Cornelius' house and preached?

He loved Gentiles.

The Spirit commanded him to do so.

Just felt like it

He thought that it would be logic to do so.

A3 Read Acts 10:17-23 and 10: 44-48

Now stop and reflect, the first spread of the word outside Jerusalem was by *normal* people who fled the persecution as the apostles stayed back in Jerusalem.

Q4 Who started establishing Churches in the Gentiles?

St Paul only

Paul and Silas

Barnabas

Paul and Barnabas

A4 Read Acts 11:22-26

The first centre of Christianity was at Antioch and from there Paul and Barnabas have started their preaching to Asia.

Q5 When St Paul started preaching, he

Ignored the Jews

Tried to preach the Jews first

Tried to preach the Gentiles first

Preached the Gentiles in secret

A5 Read Acts 13:14 and 13:42-46

Q6 Did the Gentiles have to be circumcised first and keep all the Jewish rituals before being allowed to become Christians?

A6 Read Acts 15:1-20

After announcing the winning team and settling the class down, *the servant will ask around, what about us? Should we preach the word?*

And if Yes, How?

Distributing pamphlets on train stations and mail boxes

Large well advertised seminars with good speakers

Scaring people of being in eternal fire

Telling people about how lovely is to be Christians

All the above are good BUT, how effective?

Let's think about it, can we work for Mc Donald's while us wearing Hunger Jacks uniform?

Same here, we can not preach the Lord if we are not wearing His uniform, clothed with love, purity, righteousness, prayers and full of love to His word the Bible.

Now will go back to the memory verse

If you put yourself in a place of someone who is not Christian, why would you love Christianity? Would it be because of fasting? Liturgies? Confession?

Not at all, the only drive will be that they smell the aroma of Christ in us.

But if we smell the same as the world then what is the difference? So I might as well follow the world.

We have to be a living example for every one. People are hurt in the world, hurt from sadness, drugs, sexual immorality and related diseases. Though they hurt they probably not interested in a way out as the devil convince them that this is the way to be happy, even if they are not! People need to see us an example how purity and spiritual struggle reflects on us, as we kind, humble, loving and pure, carrying the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

But if we running after the world, dressed like the world we are not just harming ourselves but we also making others to stumble as they will blasphemy against the Lord because of our improper behaviour or appearance.

May the Lord give us to be like His image and spread the good news to every one.