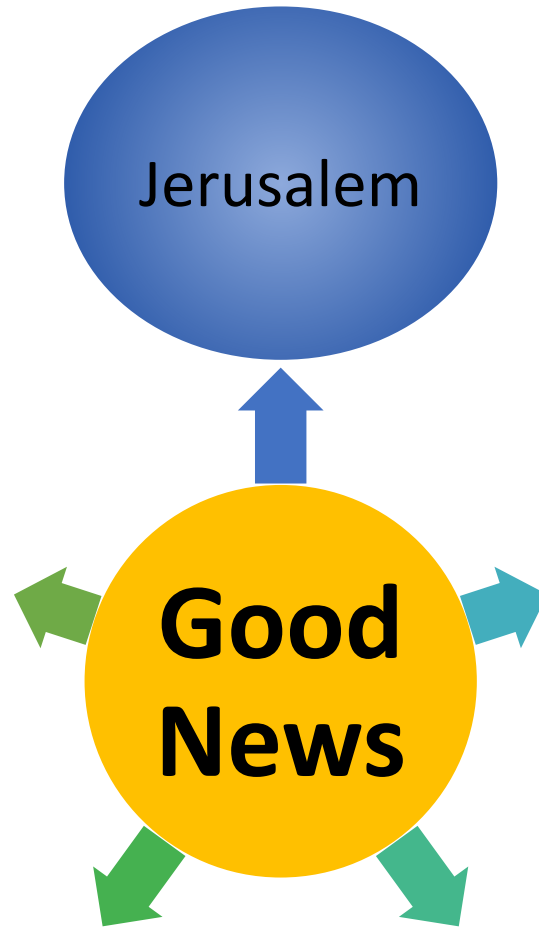
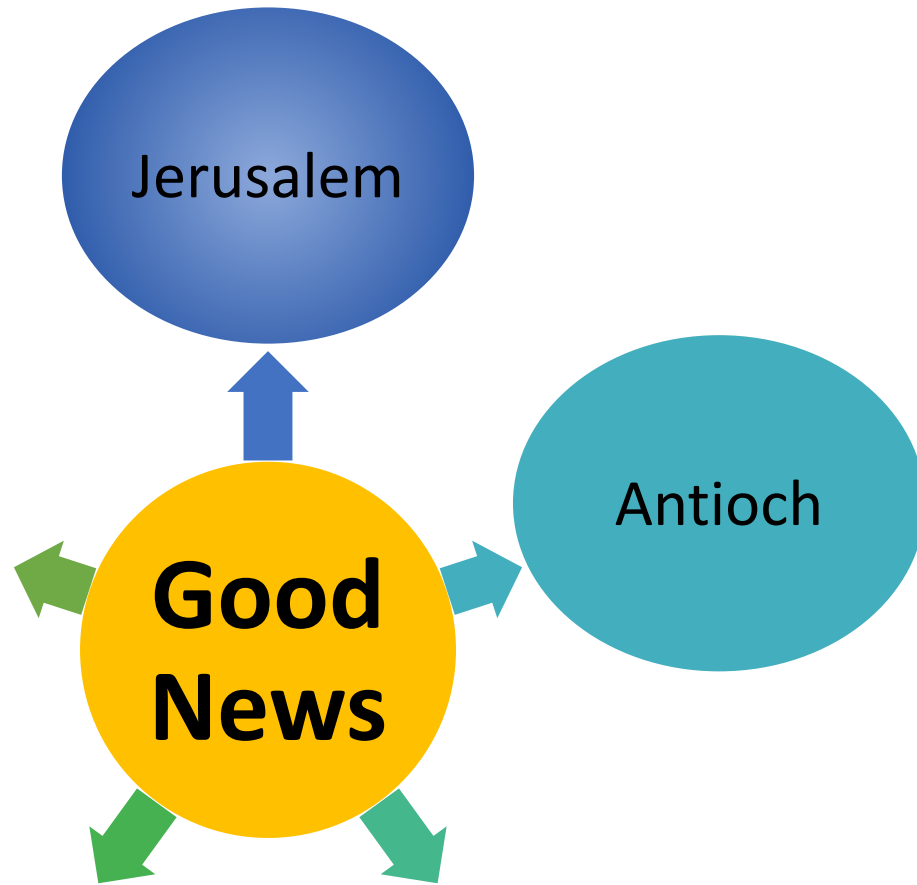


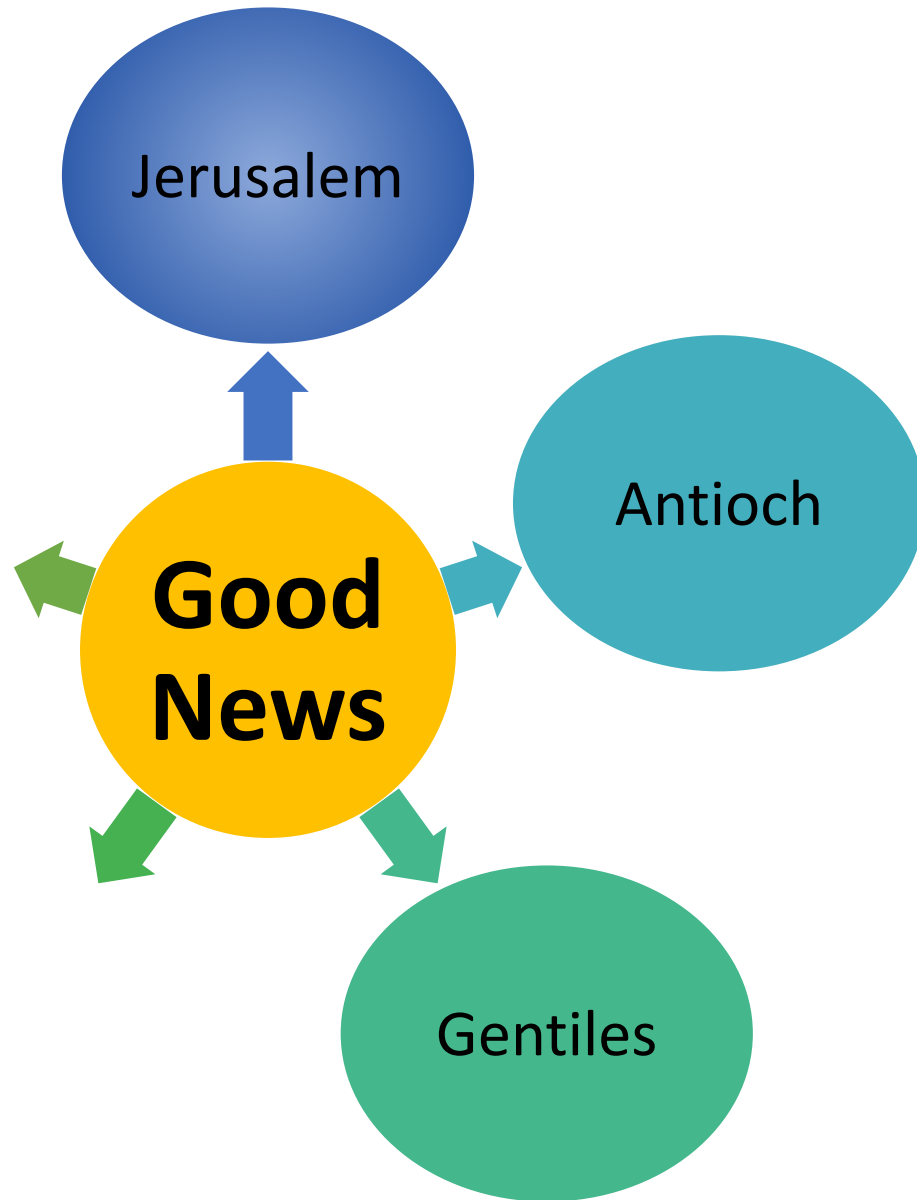
The Antioch Church

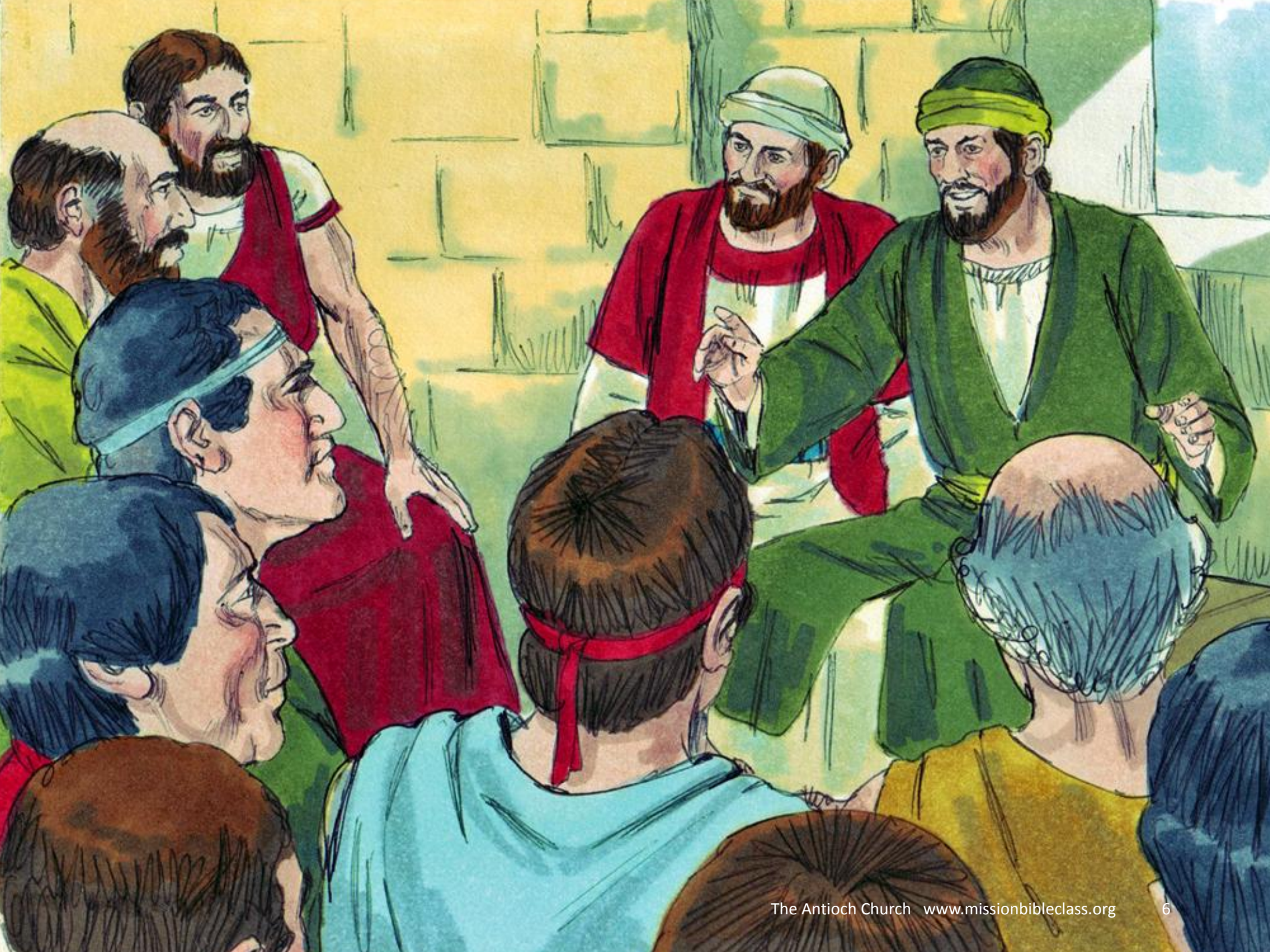
Acts 11:19-30 and Acts 12:25-13:3

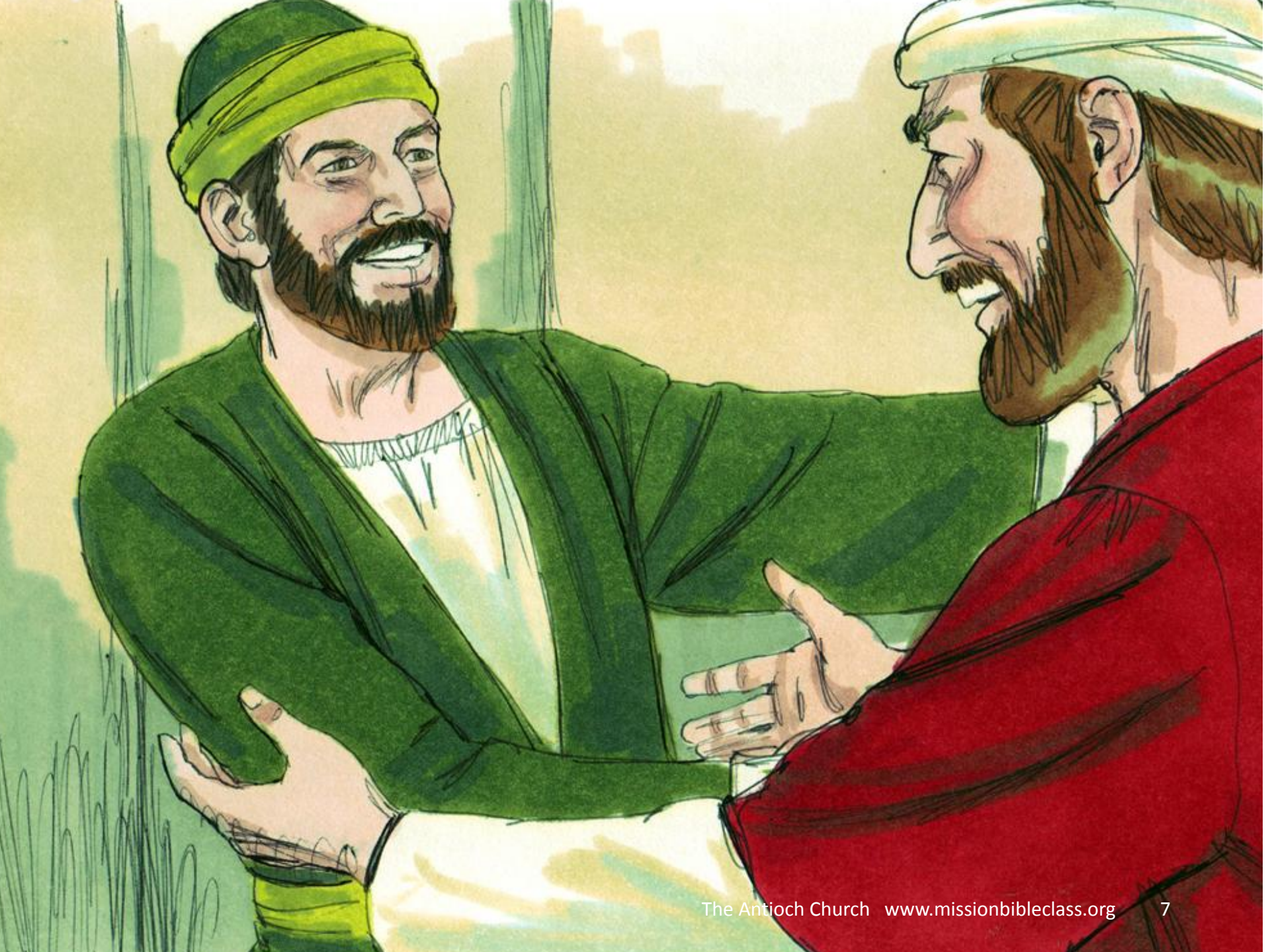




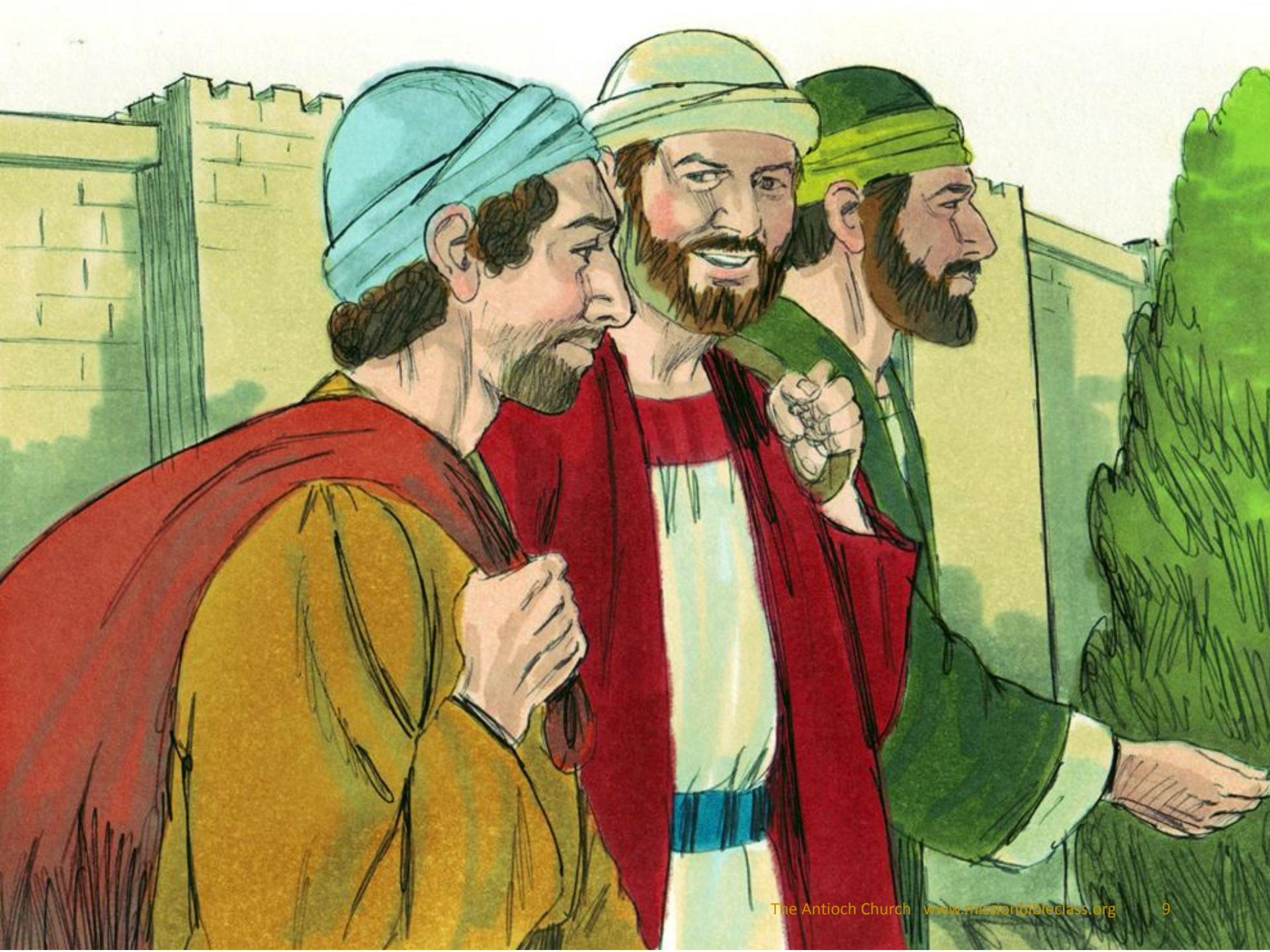








Christians





Teacher Notes Page 1

1. Cover: The Antioch Church

(Sharing Good News and Encouragement)

(Acts 11:19-30 and Acts 12:25-13:3)

2. Good News: When you hear good news what do you want to do? In the Book of Acts many people heard the Good News about Jesus Christ. Once they heard the Good News they wanted to share it with other people.

3. The Good News for Jews in Jerusalem: There were many followers of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem. They were Jews (God's chosen people that we read about in the Old Testament). Before following Jesus, they had only known about the Old Testament Laws. But now they understood that God had sent His son, Jesus to them. Some people did not like it that the Jews were starting to follow Jesus so they began to hurt them (persecute them) because of their belief.

4. Good News for other places: Because of the persecution many followers of Jesus left Jerusalem and moved to other places. Wherever they went they told other people the Good News about Jesus. Some Jesus followers moved to a city called Antioch and told others there about Jesus.

5. They shared the Good News with Gentiles: Gentiles are people who are not born to Jewish families. But it did not matter if people were Jews or Gentiles. The Good News of Jesus is for everyone!

6. Barnabas, the great encourager: The church in Jerusalem began to hear more and more about Gentiles who were beginning to follow Jesus in other places like the city of Antioch. The church wanted to send someone to go and learn about them and encourage them. To encourage someone is to do or say something that gives them courage or confidence.

Since the people in Antioch needed encouragement who could be better to send than a man called "Barnabas". Barnabas was a good and generous man who was full of the Holy Spirit. Barnabas was very good at encouraging people. The name "Barnabas" even means "son of encouragement".

So Barnabas travelled to the city of Antioch. When he arrived Barnabas was happy to find that many people were sharing the Good News of Jesus with Gentiles. Barnabas encouraged all of them to "remain true to the Lord with all of their hearts." While Barnabas was there a great number of people became followers of Jesus.

7. Barnabas encouraged Paul: While Barnabas was in Antioch he decided to travel to the city of Tarsus to look for a man named Paul (who used to be known as Saul). Paul used to be an enemy of Jesus but now he was a follower. He believed the Good News of Jesus too! Barnabas brought Paul back to Antioch and both of them taught great numbers of people. Paul later became known as Paul.

Teacher Notes Page 2

8. If a person hears the Good News of Jesus and follows and obeys Jesus, what would you call that person? Antioch was the first place where people who followed Jesus were called “Christians”: There were many exciting events happening in Antioch with so many people learning to follow Jesus Christ.

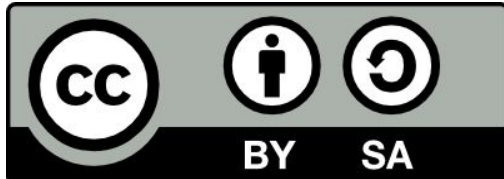
9. Christians in Jerusalem were the first to share the Good News with others. They were the ones that sent Barnabas to encourage the people of Antioch. Now it was time for Christians in other places to share with Christians in Jerusalem.

In Antioch a prophet named “Agabus” prophesied that a famine would soon happen. A famine is a period of time when few crops grow and many people go hungry. That meant people in Jerusalem would go hungry.

The Christians in Antioch wanted to help so they collected money and asked Barnabas and Paul to take it to the church leaders in Jerusalem.

10. And that is how Good News and Encouragement work. When people hear good news they want to share it. When people are encouraged they want to encourage others.

How can you encourage someone this week?



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