

Messenger on a Mission

2 Corinthians 2:12, 13; 8:16-24; 9:1-8; Romans 15:26;
The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 301, 323, 324

Have you ever been to an airport? How about a boat harbor? Was it fun to watch all the planes and ships coming and going? In today's story Paul is in a boat harbor. What is he doing there? Perhaps it was like this . . .

Sailors with heavy bundles on their shoulders tramped down the gangplank to the docks at the seaport town of Troas. Paul pushed his way through the jostling crowd, asking where the ship was from.

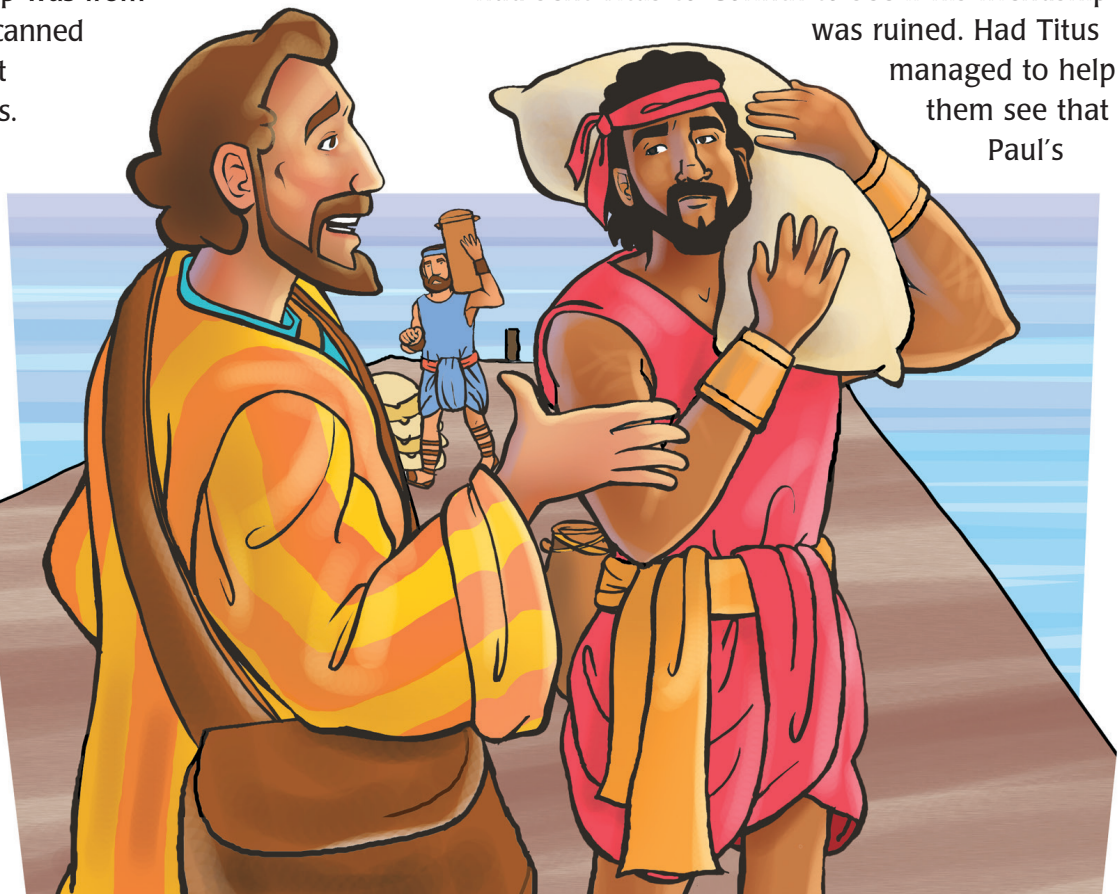
Perhaps he stopped one of the sailors. "Have you come from Macedonia?" he may have asked. When he found out that the newly arrived ship was from Macedonia, he scanned each face for that of his friend, Titus.

Titus was the kind of person who made many friends. He had a way that drew people to him. If there were disagreements between church members, Titus could help. He helped them see where their differences were and helped resolve them. He was just the kind

of person Paul needed right now.

Paul had written a letter to the people in Corinth about changing their ways. The church members there were new Christians. They had never worshipped God before. Many of them were former idol worshippers and criminals. And Paul had written that they couldn't slip back into those old habits and witness for God at the same time.

So Paul had sent the letter. But he had no idea how the Corinthians had responded. He was worried that he may have offended them. He cared so much for them! He wanted to visit them if they would let him so that's why he had sent Titus to Corinth to see if his friendship was ruined. Had Titus managed to help them see that Paul's



The Message

I serve God when I willingly help others.

Memory Verse

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21, NIV).

criticism was based on love and concern? But Titus wasn't on the ship from Macedonia.

Deeply concerned, Paul decided that he would go to Macedonia himself and find Titus. He had to know how the Corinthians had responded to his letter.

In Macedonia, Paul found Titus and asked about his Corinthian friends. Were they willing to see him again? Or had he permanently ruined their friendship?

“They long to see you again!” Titus said joyfully. “Our new Christian friends were concerned about your worry over them. And they definitely want to see you again.”

Relieved at last, Paul made plans to visit Corinth. He wrote a personal letter to his friends there. Titus would take it to them. You can read that letter in the Bible. It's called “Second Corinthians.” In it Paul tells the Corinthians that he is glad they are still friends. He tells them of his love and care for them. He encourages them to cheerfully give a generous contribution to an offering that many churches were collecting for the poor in Jerusalem. Paul wrote that he hoped the church would show love to

Titus and to those traveling with him.

Titus served not only Paul but also the people in the churches. Perhaps you have the same gift of getting along with people that Titus had. Titus willingly and joyfully served others. He and Paul really cared about the people who had joined Jesus' church. That is why Paul wrote letters to help them stay true to Jesus. That is why Paul, Titus, and others visited them.

Titus and Paul cared about those who were outside the church too. That is the reason they kept traveling to share the good news of Jesus' love and to help meet people's needs.

Can you let others know you genuinely care about them as Paul and Titus did? Will you serve them joyfully and willingly?



S A B B A T H

DO Go for a Sabbath walk with your family, if possible. Collect something to make someone else happy (wildflowers, pretty rocks, shells, etc.). Our Bible lesson mentions a collection to help others.

READ Read and discuss John 20:21.

SING Sing "This Is My Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 106) before praying together.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss 2 Corinthians 8:16-21. Talk about Paul's and Titus' concern for the new church in Corinth. What is the meaning of the word "enthusiasm"? Discuss it together. Do you help others with much enthusiasm? Why?

DO Verse 19 mentions an offering. Whom was this offering to help? (Read Romans 15:26.) Decorate a jar or box to collect coins for the poor this week. Take this offering to church on Sabbath.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss 2 Corinthians 8:22-24. Who went to visit the church in Corinth? Why?

DO Ask an adult to hang a picture of Jesus or the word JESUS out of your reach. Try to reach it. Then ask them to lift you up, so you can reach it. Should we help others by lifting them up so they can see and know Jesus? How can you do that in real life? Talk about it with your family. Ask God to help you.

DO Make up a tune for your memory verse.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss 2 Corinthians 2:12, 13. Where did Paul go from the seaport of Troas? _____ Look at a Bible map and find it.

DO Make celery boats to remind your family of Paul's boat ride. Cut and wash 5-inch (13-centimeter) pieces of celery. Fill them with peanut butter. Cut slices of cheese into triangles and put each triangle on a toothpick. Place the toothpicks into the peanut butter to create sails. As you eat your boats together, talk about why Paul sailed on boats. Pray for people traveling by boat today.

DO Practice your memory verse.

Paul wrote letters both to churches and to people who needed his help. Titus got one of Paul's letters.



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Together with your family, read and discuss 2 Corinthians 9:1-5. About what is Paul reminding the Corinthians?

DO Taking collections to help others happens also in nature. Learn about worker bees. What do they collect? Why? Draw and color a bee.

DO Say your memory verse.

SING Sing "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 124) before prayer.

T H U R S D A Y

DO Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 with your family. How does God want us to give to help others? Circle the right word: grudgingly cheerfully

DO Make one boat cutout for each word in your memory verse, plus one for the reference. Write one word of the verse on each. Mix up the cutouts; then arrange them in order.

F R I D A Y

DO Tell and act out your Bible lesson story for your family during evening worship.

SHARE Did you make plans with your primary class to distribute food to those in need? Share with your family how you feel about helping others.

DO Who else willingly gave what she had to help others? (Read Mark 12:41-44.) _____

DO Count the money you saved all week for those in need. Ask a family member to help you fill out a tithe envelope. Put the money in it. Take it to church tomorrow.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Help Paul travel to Macedonia to find Titus.

