

Lesser Lights (1)

Memory Verse: *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord* (1 Cor. 12:5 NIV).

Background Helps:

This week's Bible readings include a wide variety of minor characters associated with the apostle Paul. Some were his enemies (see Sunday and Wednesday), but most were his friends and helpers in ministry.

Lesson Helps:

In a few cases you may be able to build an entire lesson based on one day's readings. For example:

1. My aim is to teach my students about Paul's confrontation with the false prophet Bar-Jesus, so that they will trust the power of God in their service for Christ to be greater than the power of Satan (Acts 13:6-12).
2. My aim is to teach my students about the conversion of Lydia, so that they will distinguish between the role of God and the role of man in the conversion of a human soul (Acts 16:11-15, 40).

Or you might want to combine a study of several minor characters under one lesson aim. For example:

3. My aim is to teach my students about some of Paul's enemies and friends, so that they will expect both opposition and support in their service for Christ. As for enemies, consider Bar-Jesus and Demetrius. As for friends, consider Sergius Paulus, Lydia, Stephanas, and Phoebe.
4. My aim is to teach my students about the role of women in Paul's ministry, so that the women of our church will invest their lives in service for Christ. Consider the roles of Lydia, Phoebe, Priscilla (last week's lesson), and other women listed in Romans 16. How can women (young and old) serve Christ today? A good study for a girls' class.
5. My aim is to teach my students about the roles of various individuals who assisted Paul in his ministry, so that they will use their gifts in serving the Lord. Consider various individuals from the week's readings including those in Romans 16 (or even restrict your study to the many minor characters in Romans 16). Use the memory verse, 1 Corinthians 12:5 (building on last week's memory verse).

Assignment:

-  Read about Felix, Festus, Agrippa (personalities around Paul).
-  Memorize 1 Peter 3:15.