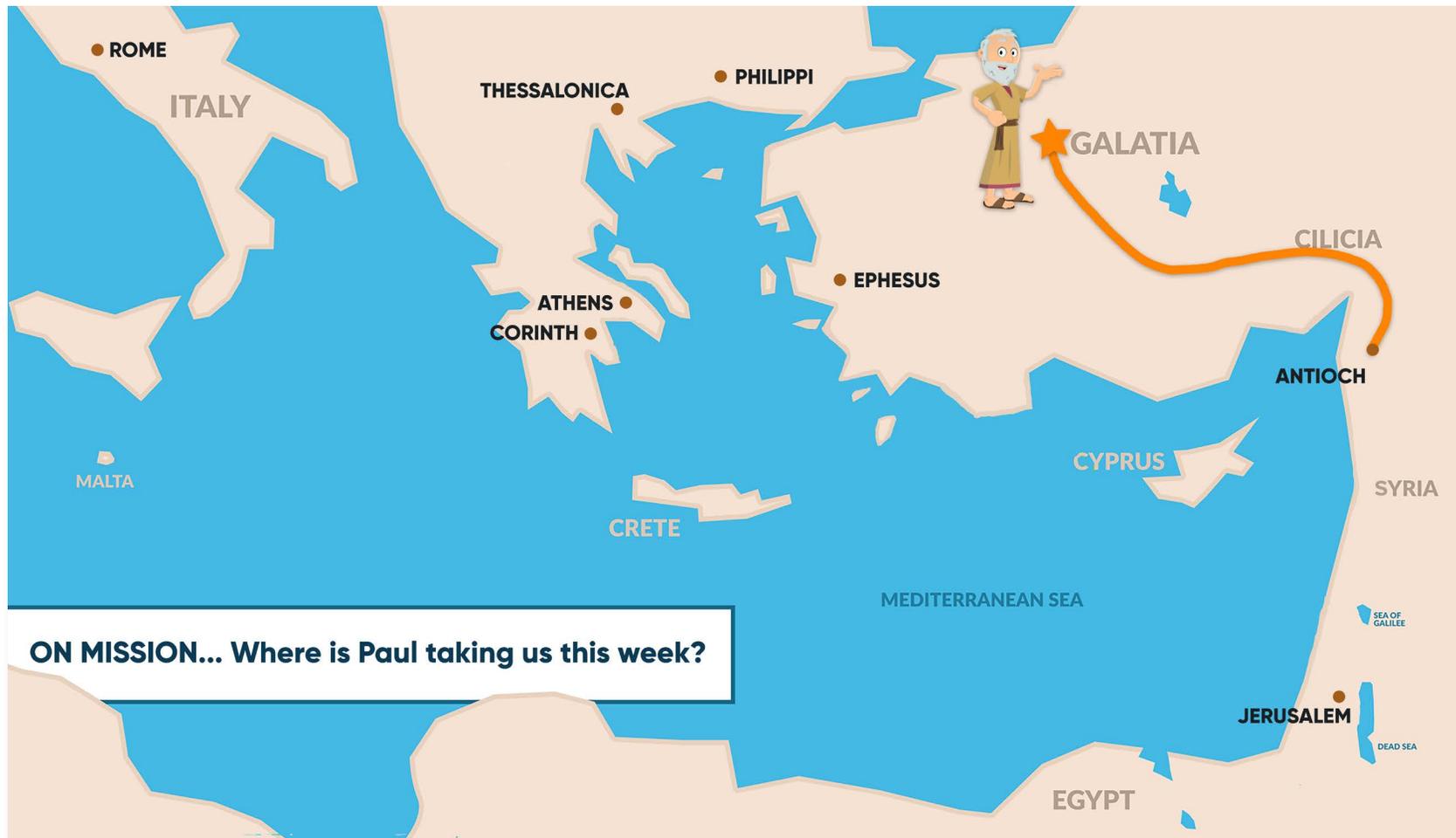


Sent | Continuing Jesus' Mission in the World

April 11: This Week Along the Way | Galatia



More about Galatia

Galatians is the only letter that Paul wrote to churches in a province rather than a particular city. The province stretched from Pontus on the Black Sea to Pamphylia on the Mediterranean. Paul established churches in South Galatia on his first missionary journey and in North Galatia on his second journey – so we do not know which of these churches received this epistle. We do know that “trouble-makers” (Gal. 1:7, 5:10) had arrived and begun to impose on Gentile Christians some requirements of Jewish law, preeminently circumcision.

Readings for the Week of April 11

Our readings for this week are located in the Galatian churches before we move along on Friday to the city of Philippi.

Monday | Galatians 1-2

Tuesday | Galatians 3:1-4:7

Wednesday | Galatians 4:8-5:12

Thursday | Galatians 5:13-6:18

Friday | Acts 16

WELCOME (15 minutes)

We all miss gathering around table with others. Share a favorite meal memory – one that isn't about the food but is because of what was happening around the table.

Last week we talked about living the good news that the gospel is for “you and your children”. Did anyone take any action on behalf of families with children at home this past week?

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

Our worship this week is a lament exercise. In the Bible lament is the process of turning to the cross to be “crucified with Christ” so that we can turn back to live the life of faith in the body. After praying the lament together take some time as well to pray for one another.

Oh God, visit us now in our mourning

Be near to us in our lament.

We acknowledge the hold racism and prejudice have among us as a people.

Set us free from this bondage.

We acknowledge that violence has been matched with violence, and many are in pain and distress.

Bring healing to us all.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters; all races, all skin colors, all ethnicities.

Hallelujah.

We stand against racism and injustice.

Hallelujah.

We stand for love.

Hallelujah.

For all the ways we are complicit in perpetuating racism

Forgive us, Oh God.

For all the ways we have hidden the light of Christ

Forgive us, Oh God.

For all the times we have kept silent

Forgive us, Oh God.

For all the ways we've given over to apathy

Forgive us, Oh God.

For all the ways our own prosperity has blinded us to the needs of others.

Forgive us, Oh God.

May Christ, who conquered death on the cross, give us grace and wisdom for how to move forward.

Love triumphs over hate.

May Christ, who did not retaliate but offered forgiveness, share with us his vision.

Mercy triumphs over judgement.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Amen

Connect Groups and Spiritual Friends

WELCOME | WORSHIP | WORD | WITNESS

WORD (40 minutes)

Read aloud Galatians 2:11-21

What strikes you in what the passage says?

What struck you in the sermon on this passage?

What difference does the cross make in this story?

Where does this passage apply to your life right now?

What is a faithful response to this passage this week?

WITNESS (15 minutes)

Hospitality was central to the practical faith of the earliest believers. This has been harder in the pandemic. As we begin to re-emerge and regather, what will hospitality look like with other believers, with neighbors and with those of a different race or ethnicity than your own?

What is your next step individually to invite those with whom you disagree back to the table?

What is your next step to extend hospitality to neighbors?

What is your next step to extend hospitality to someone who is a different race or ethnicity?

Is there a next step that we can take as a group to give a public witness in our city to the reconciliation of the cross?