**A Vision from God**

Level 4 Lesson 15

Teens

* **Introduction**

Throughout the Bible there are references to a “vision.” God chose visions to reveal things to His people. There were many reasons for the visions. In this lesson we are going to study about a vision given to Paul to direct him to where he should go to preach the Gospel.

* **Lesson**

*Act 16:5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.*

*Act 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*

*Act 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*

*Act 16:8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.*

*Act 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*

*Act 16:10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.*

*Act 16:11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;*

*Act 16:12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*

*Act 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.*

*Act 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

*Act 16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

Have any of you ever seen a vision from God? According to the scriptures, you could. When God wants to reveal something that His people cannot see, He will show them a vision or a dream. A dream would generally be while asleep, but a vision would be while one is awake.

In the above verses, Paul was shown in a vision to go to Macedonia to preach. He was not considering going there until the vision. But, once he saw the vision, he had confidence that there would be a great reason to travel to Macedonia. It does not record that the Holy Ghost gave them a vision to not preach in Asia. But it did say that they were not allowed to go some places by the Holy Ghost. Would they be comfortable going to Macedonia? No, probably not! The vision directed them out of their comfort zone. A vision is a great miracle of God! A vision will show things to you that there is no way you could see without the vision.

Sometimes it is the actual viewpoint that is changed by the vision. We can see the thing clearer, or from a different perspective. What about Paul, when he had the vision of the sheet full of unclean beasts? To go against what he was taught all his life, he would need a different perspective.

*Act 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,*

*Act 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people and prayed to God alway.*

*Act 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.*

*Act 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*

*Act 10:5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:*

*Act 10:6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*

*Act 10:7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;*

*Act 10:8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.*

*Act 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:*

*Act 10:10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,*

*Act 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:*

*Act 10:12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.*

*Act 10:13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.*

*Act 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*

*Act 10:15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

*Act 10:16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.*

*Act 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,*

*Act 10:18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.*

*Act 10:19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.*

*Act 10:20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.*

*Act 10:21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?*

*Act 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.*

There are actually two visions recorded in these verses. The first was to Cornelius, and then the second to Peter. Both men were confronted with a vision that propelled them to cross cultural lines that they would not have otherwise. The Jews and the Gentiles were not allowed to have anything to do with one another in that day. And the point to understand is that those were God’s very own laws that He was asking them to overlook. They needed a vision! Then, they heeded the vision! They were faithful to obey God, and God rewarded them.

There is a prophecy of Joel in the Old Testament:

*Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

And this prophecy is referred to in the New Testament when God brings the prophecy to pass.

*Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

One may ask, “He will pour out His Spirit on everyone?” In the Old Testament the people of Israel were the chosen ones. Others were not given the opportunity to experience the blessings of God. But, in the New Testament, all of mankind may receive the blessings of the one, true God! That does not mean that all will receive His Spirit, but all may.

Not only may we all receive His Spirit, but we also all may prophecy, dream dreams, and see visions! These prophecies are not just for the preachers, but they are for all. The enemy of our soul would like to limit our experience with God. There is no limit with God! It is always wise to talk over any dreams or visions with your pastor. Your pastor is your watchman. He will help you make sure that your vision is from God.

* **Activity**

Share with one another any dreams or visions the students have experienced for themselves. Or they could relay a story from someone they know.