**LEARNING FOCUS 5:** Paul spreads the Good News.

**CONTENT**

See attachment for map to track St Paul’s journeys. Paul was a Jew and became one of the friends of Jesus. He travelled many thousands of miles on foot, on horseback and by boat to give the message to the Gentiles, the people who were not Jews. Paul wanted as many people as possible to hear about the Good News of the new life which Jesus brought. So, he travelled around to the towns surrounding the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Acts of the Apostles tells about those journeys and what happened. He had many adventures during his journeys. He was shipwrecked and was imprisoned several times. Paul would start a Christian community in a town and then move on to another place. He would often write to the people of the town where the Christian community had been started, offering them advice and encouragement. Sometimes he sent one of his friends to help them.

This is a simple outline of Paul’s journeys:

**The First Journey:** Began and ended in Antioch in Syria, and included Cyprus as well as Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.

**The Second Journey:** Also began and ended in Antioch and included Phrygia and Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth and Ephesus. It included Caesarea in Palestine, and probably Jerusalem. (Note there are two towns called Antioch one in Pisidia and one in Syria)

**The Third Journey:** Included Galatia, Phrygia and Ephesus, where Paul spent more than two years; then Macedonia, Greece, where he spent three months, Philippi, and a return to Caesarea and Jerusalem.

**The Fourth Journey:** Began from Caesarea where Paul was arrested, and on to Rome where he was to be tried because he was a Roman citizen. On the way he stopped on the islands of Crete, Malta and Sicily. He was shipwrecked on this journey, but he managed to get to Malta.

Talk about the way Paul would have travelled, by sea and over land, and that these journeys probably took place over a span of thirty years. It was the beginning of the Christian Church which later spread throughout the world.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITY**

* Using the attached find some of the places from Paul’s journeys and match them with the names of the people Paul wrote letters to for example Corinthians - Corinth, Philippians – Philippi. Discuss what these journeys tell you about Paul’s new life in Jesus and his desire to share that new life.