



**“Love for God:  
The Heartbeat of our Mission”**

# *Mission Emphasis Month*



**Sunday School Lessons  
for  
October 2010**

## LESSON 1: “AGAPE LOVE MOTIVATES...”

**Aim:** To let the learners be motivated with passion in doing missions.  
**Scripture:** 2 Cor. 5:14, Matt. 22-37  
**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:3 “*This is love for God: to obey His commands.*”

### In Advance:

1. Pray for wisdom and understanding of the *Missions* lesson.
2. Memorize 1 John 5:3
3. Study the references given.
4. Prepare: *For the Performance Portion:* have ¼ page paper and pens; then on the top of the paper have the “loves” of the learners written. Have some matchsticks and candle(s) readied for use at the last part of the class.
5. Introduction to the Sunday School Missions Lessons

The CAMACOP Bishop Dr. Reniel Nebab issued an Executive Letter of Instruction no.4 series of 2010 addressed to all CAMACOP Constituents, it states that –

“The month of October every year has been designated as CAMACOP MISSIONS EMPHASIS MONTH. This is a duly enacted policy by the National Board of Trustees in July 2005, namely, “BT-05-85 MSC: To approve the Month of October as the Missions Awareness Month of CAMACOP that may culminate with a Missions Festival in every district.

This means that October each year every church has to celebrate it as Missions month. Pulpit messages, Sunday school lessons, and activities on this month will have to be focused on Missions. All of these can be downloaded from our website: [www.camacop.org.ph](http://www.camacop.org.ph). If you encounter problem in reproducing the materials, seek advice from your District Ministry Supervisor (DMS).

### CLASS SESSION

**Note:** The teacher should be aware that each Sunday School lesson in the series is designed and focused on love for God. Each lesson starts with the title: “*Agape Love*” followed by an action word and should have punctuations such as periods (.) and exclamation mark (!) at the end, like this “...!” This means your class should appropriately provide or suggest for the missing phrases. For example –

Lesson 1 “*Agape Love Motivates...!* (You and me to know deeper what missions is all about.)

Lesson 2 “*Agape Love Energizes...!* (You and me to pray more for missions)

Lesson 3 “*Agape Love Inspires...!* (You and me to give generously)

These examples are for you, Teacher. Stimulate your learners to think what phrases to fill in to complete the sentence that centers on Missions.

## **ENTRANCE**

**SAY:** Provide the missing words or phrases to this statement:

*“When I am in love... (Choose words/phrase to add to complete the meaning)*

Possible Answers:

- I always dream.
- I’m inspired.
- It makes me smile.
- I like to be close to him/her.

**Transition Sentence:** They say – love is a many splendored thing. But in our lesson today we will learn five different definitions of love and see how we can use it as a launching pad for missions.

## **SUBSTANCE**

*(Give a brief lecture)*

1. **“Agape”** is the Greek word for love (*the highest kind of love*). When John said, “*God so loved the world,*” he was speaking of Agape love—a characteristic of God Himself – the quality that exemplifies Him; a virtue which is inherent in those who have been “born of God” and possess the divine nature.

→ Jesus tells us that our love for each other results from knowing that He loves us and the Father loves us through Him

→ Agape love is not a feeling rather it is a commitment of love with no strings attached. We define it today as “unconditional love.” It is self-giving, “others-oriented” kind of love. You decide and choose to give it to someone whom you love without seeking anything in return.

2. **“Phileo”** denotes a pure form of love and therefore does not have any evil connotations—found many times in the New Testament. Also known as “brotherly love.”
3. **“Stergo”** is descriptive of the affection that characterizes people who depend upon one another like caring given by individuals. There is nothing evil attached to this love (not used in the Bible).
4. **“Thelo”** conveys the idea of “liking” or “being fond of” doing something.

Example: Mark 12:38 tells us scribes, “*who love to go in long clothing.*” It is self-serving and selfish.

5. **“Eros”** springs forth from sensual a passion that thrives on romance. It is the love that lovers fall into.

**SAY:** For our benefit within this *Missions Emphasis Sunday School Lesson*, we will focus on “Agape Love (God’s love)”.

The “Agape” kind of love or unconditional love often requires personal sacrifice just like what Jesus did for you—He decided to offer/give His life for you and me. As for us, let the focus of our lessons be on the theme—“**Love for God: The Heartbeat of our Missions.**”

*(Have one member of your class read the passage of Scriptures)*

**Method:** *Circle Response* – give the questions to each one around the circle to respond.

**Question:**

1. What is the first attribute (quality) of God that is uniquely related to missions work? **(1 John 1:5)**  
**Response:** God is Light. This means darkness represents what is evil and false.
2. In John 3:19, what does it say further about light and darkness?  
**Response:** Light (in capital letter L) has come into the world (God’s Son) but men loved darkness but hates light (3:20)
3. Look up 1 John 4:16, what is the second attribute of God that is very much an integral part of missions work?  
**Response:** God is love. This means God was/is the One who initiated the concept of love. His love has made it possible for the repentant sinner to be saved.

*(Teacher’s Note: God’s beloved Son showed us the dynamics of love as seen in John 15:9-12 illustrated in 3 steps)*

Step 1: It initiates upon the security of knowing that we ourselves are loved – “*Just as the Father has loved Me*” **(v.9)**. Jesus had the assurance of being unconditionally loved by His Father.

Step 2: Jesus channels the Father’s love to us: “*I have also loved you*” **(v.9)**

Step 3: Now, in verse 12, Jesus commands us to “love one another.” This means Jesus is telling us that our love for others results from knowing that He loves us and the Father loves us through Him. In other words, He never expects us to love apart from the assurance that we ourselves are loved. This knowledge makes agape-unconditional love-possible in our mission’s work. We don’t earn love. It flows to us from the very nature of God in a river of unconditional love -that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The strength to love –even the unlovable— comes from the known fact that God loves us.

4. Why do we know Jesus loved us before we were worthy? Look at Romans 5:8  
**Response:** Because Jesus on the cross demonstrated His agape love with no strings attached to His love.

*(Added Notes: God looks at humanity through His eyes – “God so loved...He gave...” “Beloved, let us not love in word only, but in deeds...” (1 John 3:18). This is clearly Agape love!)*

One author said: “Agape love is “doing” and emotional love is feeling.”

5. What, then, is the very reason why Paul was motivated to go on with his missionary work? **(2 Cor. 5:14)**

**Response:** Paul’s driving force in doing missions is love for God. Paul as a missionary was an embodiment of love for God. He was willing to risk his life for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ **(Acts 15:26)**

6. What is the right motivation for doing missions? **(Matt. 22:37)**

**Response:** It is by making Matt. 22:37 as the motivating factor in doing missions work that involves our whole being.

**Ask:** *Is there anyone in our class who can state our general truth for this lesson in Missions?*

**General Truth:** Agape love for God motivates me to get involved in doing Missions.

*(Recite and explain the memory verse as reinforcement of the general truth—1 John 5:3)*

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Questions:**

1. In our churches today, what withholds the Christians in their active involvement for Missions? *(Allow learners to explain their answers).*
2. Give two or three expectations from the church where we belong in about the Missions Emphasis Month and what to learn from it.
3. Personally, is your love for God through missions warm that involves the whole being? *(Let learners reflect on themselves).*

## **PERFORMANCE**

1. Emphasize: On a piece of paper (do not collect) let your learner write those “loves” they have that are taking away the love for God in their lives.

Example: ambitions, job, education, high position, prestige, etc.

2. Instruction: Crumple the paper with their written “loves” and burn those papers by providing some matchsticks/ lit candle and have it burnt by each of them and have it followed with a prayer of commitment.
3. Ask anyone to lead in closing prayer.

## LESSON 2: "AGAPE LOVE ENERGIZES..."

**Aim:** To enable the learners to exercise praying with "Agape love" for others  
**Scripture:** Matt. 9:37-38; Ezekiel 22:30; John14:13-14  
**Memory Verse:** John 14:14 "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

### In Advance:

1. Pray for yourself that God will guide you as to what area in your life you have to obey God and for Him to take control.
2. Memorize John14:14
3. Study the passages/references given in the lesson.
4. Prepare: *For the Performance Portion* – the Sunday School teacher should meet with the class and decide on a suggested project or contribution to missions.

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

**Method:** Share a brief story about a Filipino missionary, you know, whose prayer requests were definitely answered by God.

*(After the story, ask someone from your class whose prayer request also about a Filipino missionary had been granted by God.)*

**Transition Sentence:** In this second lesson on missions, we will study intercessory prayer as our expression of love for God. *(Introduce the title and the Scripture texts).*

#### SUBSTANCE

Write passages to be studied on the board.

Request one member to read the texts in Matt. 9:35-38 and another person to read Ezekiel 22:30 and another to read aloud John 14:13-14 and tell them to listen carefully in order correctly agree and disagree.

**Method:** Agree or Disagree

**SAY:** I will be reading statements from the passage and all you have to do is to agree or disagree, then you will give your reasons why you agree and disagree. *(Allow discussions and interactions)*

#### Statements:

1. Constrained by loving compassion chooses cities with many people where to teach and to preach the good news of the kingdom **(9:35)**

2. Jesus compassionate Ministry, aside from prayer included the healing of certain sicknesses brought to him by the people **(9:35b)**
3. Crowds gathered around Jesus because many of them were harassed, helpless, and unloved but He simply recognized them like sheep without shepherd **(9:36)**
4. Jesus was heard by everybody in the crowd when He said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” **(9:37)**
5. “Ask the Lord...to send out workers into His mission field”— is a statement addressed to the vast crowd. **(9:38)**
6. In Ezekiel 22:30, the Prophet Ezekiel was tasked to find many people who would intercede and stand in the gap.
7. In John 14:13, Jesus will answer prayers on a case-to-case basis only.
8. Jesus hears your prayers immediately especially if you have love for God **(14:14)**.

**SAY:** Let us summarize what we have discussed so far in our lesson.

- 1st: We meet Jesus who loved teaching, preaching and healing people from all towns.
- 2nd: As he taught, preached, and healed every disease & sicknesses his heart was moved with great compassion upon seeing large crowd of people who were harassed, helpless and unloved.
- 3rd: His love for the people moved him to talk heart to heart to his disciples of a special ministry concern.
- 4th: This concern was specifically focused on lack of workers who loves doing the task of His kingdom.
- 5th: He presented a solution to that urgent need – Prayer for workers to go forth in the mission of God. This is intercessory prayer!
- 6th: Ezekiel, the prophet, was a classic example of God looking for a man of his era “and stand before me in the gap... but found none.” This means – God is looking for one man to intercede with God in behalf of the people.
- 7th: Jesus promised that anyone who prays for anything in His name will be answered.

To sum it all up, this is the second lesson on our Missions Emphasis month as such, what if the underlying general truth for us to remember especially related on our theme on love for God?

**General Truth:** Agape love for people by interceding empowers missions work.

*(Introduce and explain the Memory Verse—John 14:14)*

**SAY:** Many people in the churches today have not fully realized the impact of intercessory prayer for people especially in the mission field.

**ASK:** 1. How is this shown in the lives of Christians in the church?

**Answers:**

- a.) Very few people participate in prayer meetings of the church.
- b.) Not much attention is given to intercessory prayer for missionary endeavors.
- c.) Limited communication and information.
- d.) Many ministry concerns are localized.
- e.) Etc.

2. What should be our proper response towards prayers for those who are doing missions work?

**Answers:**

- a.) Pray that they would do the will of God in their lives.
- b.) Pray for productivity in their lives.
- c.) Pray for them to have a growing relationship with God.
- d.) Pray for power in their lives for them to make a difference for Him.
- e.) Pray for them to have a right attitude (a joyful one).

3. How can one personally show concern for missions work?

**Answers:**

- a.) Have a systematic Missions prayer guide.
- b.) During “Quiet Time,” remember one or two Filipino missionaries.
- c.) Request newsletters to update us with prayer requests.

## **PERFORMANCE**

As a class, think of a plan to embark on a missionary project with your local church in which other Sunday School classes may also be involved in.

**Some Suggestions:**

- Build a Missions Corner Awareness Bulletin.
- Initiate a “Face Book” ministry with missionaries.
- Invite a missionary kid to your Sunday School class and interview.
- Treat a missionary couple or single on home assignment for a dinner date.

After the class has decided on what they will do, lead in closing prayer remembering the mission’s project as anticipated by the class. Encourage them to go even beyond the mission’s emphasis month in terms of making

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missions as lifestyle activity of your class so that other classes in church may catch likewise the missions “fever” your class started.

Close your class time in singing “*God Answers Prayers in the Morning*” and give your class an assignment – to memorize by heart the Memory Verse in John 14:14.

## LESSON 3: “AGAPE LOVE INSPIRES...”

- Aim:** To encourage the learners to obey and share generously as compelled by agape love.  
**Scripture:** 2 Cor. 8: 1-9  
**Memory Verse:** 1 Cor. 13:1 *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal.”*

### In Advance:

1. Pray for divine wisdom because you/we will be dealing with love for God and love for sharing financial resources for missions.
2. Memorize 1 Cor. 13:1
3. Study the selected Bible references.
4. Prepare:

**Entrance Portion:** Write on the board before class starts the poem – **“Think It Over”**

**Performance Portion:** Get the Mission’s Pledge Cards from your pastor to be filled out by your learners in class.

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

**Method:** Read this poem:

(Ask the learners to listen intently. Then let them interact or react to the poem read to them.)

#### **“Think It Over”**

*God made the sun – it gives  
God made the moon – it gives  
God made the stars – it gives  
God made the air – it gives  
God made the earth – it gives  
God made the sea – it gives  
God made the clouds – they give  
God made the trees – they give  
God made the flowers – they give  
God made the fowls – they give  
God made the beasts – they give  
God made the Plan – He gives  
God made you – (Provide the word)*

**SAY:** God's word says: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge."* (Ps.19:1-2). The generosity of God is seen every day, every night and we are recipients of all these blessings.

**Transition Sentence:** We will learn further in our lesson today of the kind of attitude we should show in the midst of blessings.

## **SUBSTANCE**

**SAY:** Our love for God inspires giving – this is our third lesson for this month of Missions.

*(Give the reference text in 2 Cor. 8:1-9. Each one will take a verse to read aloud.)*

**Method:** Question and Answer. Distribute each question to learners.

1.) Describe the giving attitude of the Macedonian churches. **(2 Cor. 8:1-2)**

**Answer:**

Despite the fact that they were in most severe trial and extreme poverty but it was not a hindrance in the expression of their overflowing joy of giving to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

2.) What remarkable examples does Paul say about this Macedonian believer in their level of generosity? **(vs. 3-5a)**

**Answer:**

- a.) They gave even beyond their ability **(v.3)**
- b.) They gave without force **(v.3c)**
- c.) They see giving as a privilege in serving the saints **(v.4)**
- d.) They gave themselves first to the Lord **(v.5a)**
- e.) They gave themselves as well to Paul's ministry **(v.5a)**

3.) Who was Titus in relation to the Macedonian Churches and in their selfless generosity? **(v.6)**

**Answer:**

Titus was the one in charge of money collection that started in Corinth during the previous year (see v.10 and 9:2), but no doubt because of the troubles in the Corinthian church, the financial collection had been stopped. This is why Paul I now sending Titus back to them, taking with him this letter of 2 Corinthians, for the purpose of completing the financial collection.

4.) What is the test that Paul had mentioned in verse 8?

**Answer:**

Paul tested the sincerity of the Macedonian love in their giving-he saw that it was truly selfless and spontaneous. It was true charity and generosity that cannot be commanded.

5.) What is this “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” that Paul was telling the Macedonian churches? **(v.9)**

**Answer:**

Jesus, in His incarnation and His atoning death in our place on the cross, emptied Himself of His riches that through His poverty we might become rich. By His will, He decided to give agape love to mankind.

Paul reminded the Macedonian churches that what they did was an example of supreme love for God and for men—and that Jesus was the one who demonstrated it as an excellent and genuine model of generosity of which the Macedonian believers had embodied in their Christian way of selflessly giving themselves first to the Lord.

**General Truth:** The supreme love for God as what the Macedonian churches did can inspire obedience and sharing.

*(Introduce the memory verse and ask learners to explain it in their own way of understanding the verse).*

**SIGNIFICANCE**

1. Let’s look at our churches today; “They gave themselves first to the love for...” *(fill in the missing words according to the observation you see).*

**Possible answers:**

- a.) Love for food and pleasure.
  - b.) Love for cellular phones and computers.
  - c.) Love for education, travel, and job.
  - d.) Love for family and friends.
  - e.) Love for...etc.
2. What do you think are the reasons why the love for God is least practiced in our churches especially in giving generously and spontaneously to mission’s work?

*(Give time for learners to answer this question).*

3. What about you personally – your family, your inner circle of friends—do you give generously to missions?
4. What are those things in your life that you need to sacrifice in order to show to God your love for Him?

## **PERFORMANCE**

- Distribute Missions Pledge Cards to be filled up by each of your class member. Tell them to drop it during the offertory.
- While they are reading the instruction, challenge them by writing on the board this quotation: ***“You may give without loving, but you can’t love without giving”.***
- Lead in closing prayer

## LESSON 4: “AGAPE LOVE MOBILIZES...”

**Aim:** To inspire the learners to participate actively in the local churches Missions' Mobilization program.

**Scripture:** Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 3:18 *“Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth”.*

### **In Advance:**

1. Pray for yourself and learners that love for God will truly mobilize the church for missions.
2. Memorize 1 John 3:18
3. Study the references
4. Prepare:

**For Substance Portion:** Write out in paper the questions to be given to pairs so each pair will be guided.

**For Performance Portion:** Initiate a Special Missions Program Presentation during the *Culmination Day*.

### **CLASS SESSION**

#### **ENTRANCE**

Read this short story to your learners.

Edna had been praying to become a foreign missionary since childhood. One day while she was praying to our Heavenly Father and she seemed to hear Him say: *“Edna, wait a minute! You are a Filipina student, right? Where are you now?”* “Here in California, Father God.” She said. *“Well, Edna, that makes you a foreign missionary already.”* The Heavenly Father stated.

Then the Father continued, *“Who lives next door at your apartment?”* “A Japanese student” Edna replied. *“And who lives next door to this Japanese?”* He added. “Father, they are my friends from Costa Rica,” She replied. Then God continued: *“Well, how about those across the street?”* “A family from Korea”, Edna said.

Then out Heavenly Father declared: *“Edna, you never said a word to any of them about my Son, Jesus? If you love Me, you will do something to reach out to each one of them for Me!”*

**SAY:** Reaching out to someone is not an easy job. Having agape love for people makes one to get out and win them to Christ.

**Transition Sentence:** This morning, we will learn how each of us could be trained to become effective “Mobilizers” for Missions.

## **SUBSTANCE**

**SAY:** Matthew 28:18-20 is usually called “*The Great Commission.*” We will discuss the 3-point “Missionary mandate” from the passage. We will pair ourselves by twos and find out the implications of the mandate. Each pair will report this discovery.

**First Pair** – Read and study Matt. 28:18. The questions: What is the meaning of Authority? Who gave that authority and what kind of authority is this in relation to the Great Commission? (**See also Eph. 1:22**)

### **Answer:**

“*Authority*” is the right to use power. God gave Jesus the headship over everything and who rules over everything. Since Jesus today has all authority, we may obey Him without fear. No Matter where we go—to do mission—He is there, in control of everything. Constrained by Christ’s love, we can go with authority and share God’s to others.

**Second Pair** – Read and discuss the meaning and implications of Matt. 28:19, 20a. The questions are—what is the meaning of “*Therefore go...?*” and “*teach them...*” What do these words imply in terms of doing missions? And to whom are these words given? Who is giving the command? Do you think you and I could do the Great Commission without love for God?

### **Answers:**

- a.) “Therefore go...” The Greek verb translated, “go” is actually not a command but a present participle. Jesus is simply saying – “While you are going, make disciples...” meaning no matter where we are, we should be witnesses for Jesus, love the soul and win that person them make him a disciple of Jesus.
- b.) “Make disciples, baptize...teach” means the term disciple is important. That disciple has to go through a process. He has to be attached to a teacher, identified with him, learned from him, and lived with him.

Jesus called his disciples and taught them so they would be able to teach others. A disciple then taught the properly is able to go out, win others and teach others. This was the pattern of the New Testament. This pattern of systematic discipleship is the responsibility of every believer.

This command was given by Jesus to the disciples. We are the modern disciples involved in the ministry of the local church. The trained disciples can best fulfill and mobilize people for missions. They best see the inner implication of obedience and agape love for God.

**Third Pair** – Read the short text in Matt. 28:20b and also Acts 1:8 and find out what other missionary mandate is necessary in accomplishing the Great Commission. What is the accompanying promise of the “*sender*”? What kind of empowerment is given when the one sent out obeys the command and express love by going?

### **Answers:**

“I am with you always, to the end...!” Jesus could not remain on earth bodily but He, through the Holy Spirit’s empowerment, can be with His people no matter where they are and His presence will go to the missions work wherever it might be.

As believers follow His leading and obey His command, His purpose and plans in the world will come to a climax one day. Meanwhile, all that we do – is to give agape love for God, agape love for people, agape love to obey His commands – these are what He simply seeks from each of us to do. This means the whole church has to be mobilized in love relationships for the work of missions. It is not the ministry of just a few but a body of believers.

**SAY:** In one sentence, can anyone among us state our general truth for this lesson?

**General Truth:** Love for God mobilizes a committed person to do active participation on missions program.

### **SIGNIFICANCE**

1. Who are people in the church today who need to be trained/ equipped as “Mobilizers” for missions?

**Answers:**

- a.) Everyone in the church who has a big heart for missions.
- b.) Officers and leaders of the local church.
- c.) Young people who has passion to reach out.
- d.) Children who desires to serve the Lord at an early age.
- e.) The committed and convicted ones.

2. How can the church people be mobilized for missions work?

**Answers:** These are training methods which the church could be involved.

- a.) Conduct missionary training program awareness.
- b.) Create a missions committee among church people.
- c.) Your own class can have a mission exposure in tribal work.
- d.) Present missionary skit to challenge church people.
- e.) Auxiliary groups can compete on knowledge of other countries.

3. Personally, what if God wants you to serve as a “Mobilizer” in our local church? (*Allow learners to respond*).

### **PERFORMANCE**

1. Give time for individual prayer.
2. Begin in your class to do a special missions program presentation during the Missions Culmination Day. Do follow up on the plan and push through with it.
3. Lead in the closing prayer.

## LESSON 5: “AGAPE LOVE PERFORMS...”

**Aim:** To have the learners be prompted with Agape love in doing Missions  
**Scripture:** Romans 15:16-21  
**Memory Verse:** 1 Thess. 3:12 *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and everyone else, just as ours does for you.”*

**In Advance:**

1. As a teacher, pray that mission’s work would become a lifestyle concern for our church people.
2. Memorize 1 Thess. 3:12
3. Study well the reference given.
4. Prepare:

**Entrance Portion:** Write on the board the 5 kinds of love and give the little quiz

**Substance Portion:** Groups 1 and 2 questions have to be written out in a piece of paper to be distributed to them to work on and report and answers

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

**SAY:** In our first Sunday School lesson we learned that there are 5 kinds of love. We have defined each of them. Let me see if you can distinguished each one by the example I will give. Tell me if the example is **Agape, Phileo, Stergo, Thelo or Eros.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A love between a boy and a girl.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A brotherly love.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A liking or being fond of material things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A love that decides to give without strings attached to it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A love that makes you feel secured and welcomed.

*(Answers: 1. Eros 2. Phileo 3. Thelo 4. Agape 5. Stergo)*

**Question:** Which of these 5 kinds of love have we discussed that demonstrate the characteristic of God Himself when He sent His Son to earth? *(Allow your learners to react or give their opinions)*

**Transition Sentence:** Our last Sunday School lesson toady will be focused more closely on agape love that performs for missions.

#### SUBSTANCE

Read the Scripture reference in Romans 15:16-21 in the dialect of your learners; if possible, for clear understanding and translation.

**Method:** Background information through a brief lecture, Buzz Group or small groupings

**A. Background Information: Brief Lecture**

Paul was a minister to the Gentile people. In **11:13**, he was the apostle to the Gentiles (*a chosen instrument by God to minister to Gentile leaders--like King Agrippa and Caesar in Rome*) and its people.

The word, "**apostle**" in Greek means "ambassador," "one sent out as a messenger," "a herald." According to Dr. Agustin Vencer, and of a known CAMACOP leader, the modern equivalent of an apostle is that of a pioneer missionary. He is one that usually organizes and oversees groups of persons undergoing discipleships in the planted churches (*frequently through cultural and linguistic barriers*). One author said that apostle has ability to begin a new work for the Lord through the ministry of the Word.

In our lesson today, we will see how Paul, as a missionary has been compelled to preach the Gospel because of his agape love for God and it had been manifested clearly through actual performances in the Gentile world. Paul is a classic example of agape love performs.

**B. Buzz Groups or Small Groupings:**

Groups 1

Questions:

1. What is the priestly duty of Paul to the Gentiles and what does it mean? **v.16a**
2. Give the reason why Paul does this duty? **v.16b**
3. Why can you say that Paul was not boasting of his own achievements? **v.17**
4. To whom does Paul say that what he has accomplished was for? **v.18a**

**(Answers for Group 1 questions)**

1. Proclaiming the gospel of God. This means God has given him a special gift to reach out to non-Jewish people. He did his ministry according to God's grace.
2. Paul preached the gospel in order that non-Jews could be an offering that God would accept – that is an offering made holy by the Holy Spirit. It means he was presenting to God – the Gentile church (*a non-Jew church*)
3. Paul was not a self-centered performer because he gave the glory to God of all services he did.
4. His accomplishments were done through Christ. This means that Paul's ministerial duties of proclaiming the gospel made the non-Jewish people obey God. It was not manipulated by his ability, influence, or popularity that made them obey. Rather it was caused by the power of miracles and of the Holy Spirit.

## Group 2

### Questions:

5. To what extent did Paul preached the gospel and how did he expressed his sense of ministry fulfillment?
6. What do you think is one implication of the statement, “I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ? V.19d
7. Why is it that Paul always wants to preach in places where people have not heard of Christ? V.20
8. In verse 21, Paul had quoted it from Isaiah 52:15. What clarification did Paul say about his ambition? What does he meant?
9. When Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica, he spoke of their “labor prompted by love” (**1 Thess. 1:3**). What ministry concern did he want from them? (**1 Thess. 3:12—the memory verse**)

### **(Answers for Group 2 questions)**

5. It was from Jerusalem where the gospel originated and it spread wide up to the north of Macedonia (*the present day Albania and Yugoslavia*). Paul believed that his sense of ministry fulfillment had been completed and it was time to move on the other places.
6. One implication derived from the statement of **v.19d** is that Paul’s pioneer missionary work from Jerusalem (till it reached other places) was purely the gospel of Christ being presented to the Gentile people.
7. He always wants to preach in places where Christ is not known because he does not want to build on the work that someone else has already started. This means he is truly a pioneer missionary – one who starts a new church planting ministry among non-Jewish people (*a cross-cultural missionary endeavor*).
8. His ambition was to preach the gospel where Christ was not named. For instance - a place to go where Christ is known. He had the Gentiles in his mind for them to believe Christ for the first time when they hear the Good news.
9. Paul, as a pioneer missionary, had a great love for the Gentile people. This can be observed in many of his writings. What joy it must have given Paul to see the fruits of his labors especially upon the believers of Thessalonica

He wanted their love to “increase and overflow” not only among themselves but beyond – to include “everyone else” (**Thess. 3:12**).

A truly loving church will always develop an outreach to the lost – to its own community and to the ends of the earth. The phrase, “*just as our does for you*” tells us of Paul’s agape love that constrained him to perform and reach the lost.

One author said, “A person who fails to love (agape) others’ remains in death’ (**1 John 3:14**) – meaning – has not been born anew and is not truly alive in Christ.

**SAY:** From our two small groupings, is there anyone who could give in one sentence the general truth associated with Paul's pioneering work of missions to the non-Jewish people?

**General Truth:** Labors done for Christ prompted by agape love stands firm.

*(Emphasize the memory verse. Give time for reflection)*

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

**SAY:** On a scale of 1 to 10 rate the overall "pulse" for missions as God's heartbeat of the members of your church. Discuss why you rate them low or high or in-between. Give one suggestion for improvement. *(Write on the board the suggestion and try to think how possible would it be accomplished).*

What should be our attitude towards the improvement we desire to achieve as a church? Should we support it as a class or not? Why? *(Be objective in your discussions; not personal, sentimental, or emotional).*

→What are some of the things you could for missions which you are not doing now? Share or write down what are some you wanted to do.

## **PERFORMANCE**

- Ask God for help for you to have a warm heartbeat for missions this week.
- Want to begin somewhere? Look at people around you whom you think needs touch, encouragement, motivation for works of missions.
- Add: I hope you will do these this week and then please share in class next week your experiences.
- Closing prayer.