

# Cities of the Roman Empire, First Century AD

1. Circle the city your group has been assigned. Note that each city is listed with an accompanying Scripture passage from the Acts of the Apostles.

Jerusalem (3:1–26)

Samaria (8:4–25)

Damascus (9:1–22)

Philippi (16:11–40)

Thessalonica (17:1–9)

Corinth (18:1–11)

Ephesus (19:23–40)

Rome (28:11–31)

2. Using the Internet, conduct some basic research about your assigned city at the time described in the Acts of the Apostles (the first century AD, approximately 30–60). Take notes on a separate piece of paper. Use the following questions to guide your research:

- What was the population of the city?
- What different religious groups lived there? For example, Jews, Gentiles, pagan groups, or others.
- On what was the economy of the city based? For example, trade, shipbuilding, agriculture, other things. How might the city have been economically or politically useful to the larger enterprise of the Roman Empire?
- What were the city's notable geographic features?
- What languages were spoken in the city?
- What else was notable about the city? For example, any particular landmarks, customs, traditions, or events.
- How does learning more about this city help you to recognize both the challenges and the value of the Apostles' ministry there?

3. Read the passage from Acts that features your assigned city (see the list above). How does this passage enhance your understanding of what first-century life was like in this city and of the Apostles' mission there? Take notes on a separate piece of paper.
4. Using the information you have found from both your research and Scripture, prepare an advertisement for your city that encourages people from other parts of the first-century Roman Empire to move or visit there. Your advertisement may take the form of a one-page magazine or newspaper ad, a billboard, or a bumper sticker. It should include a slogan or catchphrase that captures some important information about your city, as well as at least one illustration. Use the back of this paper to sketch out your ideas before using the art materials provided to create your ad.

