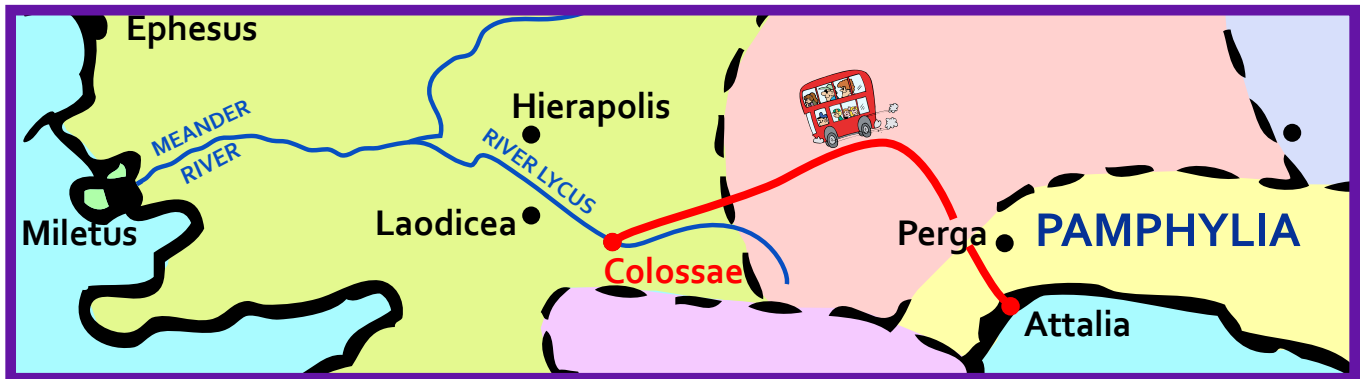


# Tour of the Holy Lands - Colossae



After Antioch, Paul didn't travel with Barnabas again. He traveled with other missionaries to spread the word around the country; they were dedicated to their mission, and they brought many people into the faith.

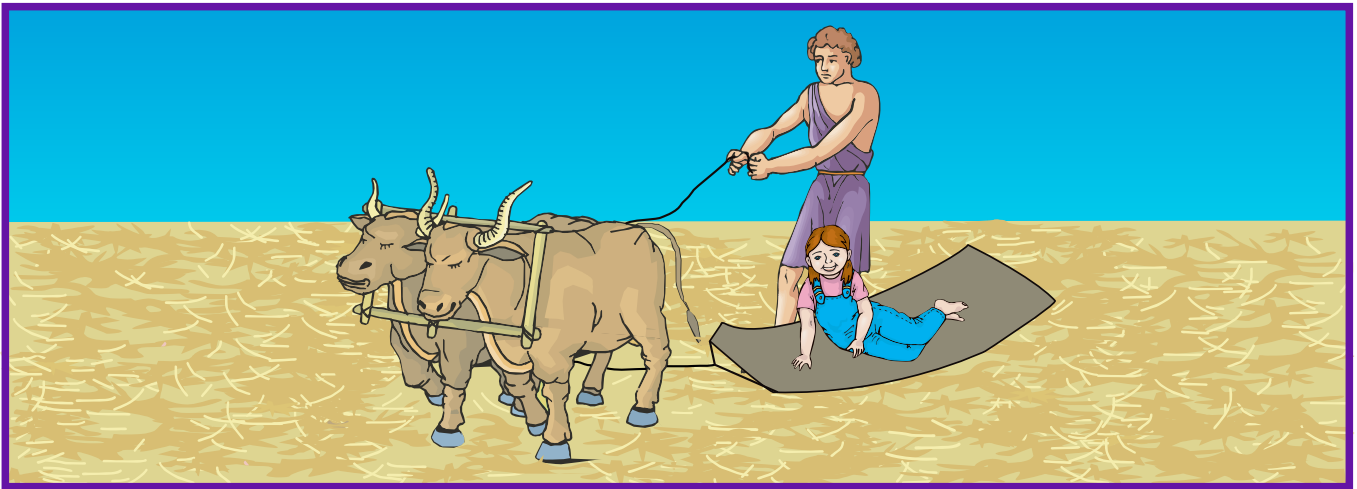
Our next stop is a town where faithful believers established an early church without Paul's help. It's a town called Colossae (Ko-law'see) – and it's a long bus ride away! The name of the town should sound familiar – like "Colossians" in the Bible. In fact, the Colossians are the people who live in Colossae.

Paul or one of his students wrote the words that now appear in the book of Colossians; these words were addressed to the church at Colossae and were intended to be read by two other nearby churches, Hierapolis (High'er-a'po-lis) and Laodicea (Lay'oh-dih-see'ah).



The River Lycus flows through the middle of the city. There was so much volcanic ash in the river that the land was very fertile and famous for its cotton. See the woman holding a sickle and standing in the cotton field? It would take a long time for her helpers and her to cut enough cotton to fill a truck such as this one.





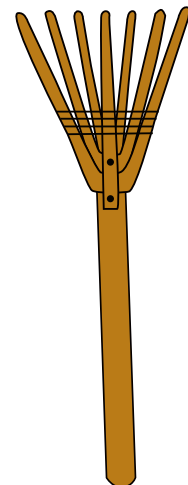
Grain also grows well in this land. In Bible times, the grain was cut with a sickle. But how did the farmer remove good grain from the husks and the straw? See the wooden sled with holes in it? The Bible calls that a “threshing instrument.” Originally, those holes were filled with sharp stones. The farmer flipped the sled onto a pile of cut grain and tied the sled to oxen, and the oxen then pulled the sled in a circle, cutting the stalks over and over. Kids loved to ride on the sled. After the stalks were cut, the farmer would toss the mixture into the air with a fan, an instrument which looked like a pitchfork, and the wind would blow away the unwanted husks, while the good grain fell to the ground.



**STONES IN SLED**



**WOODEN SLED**



**FAN**



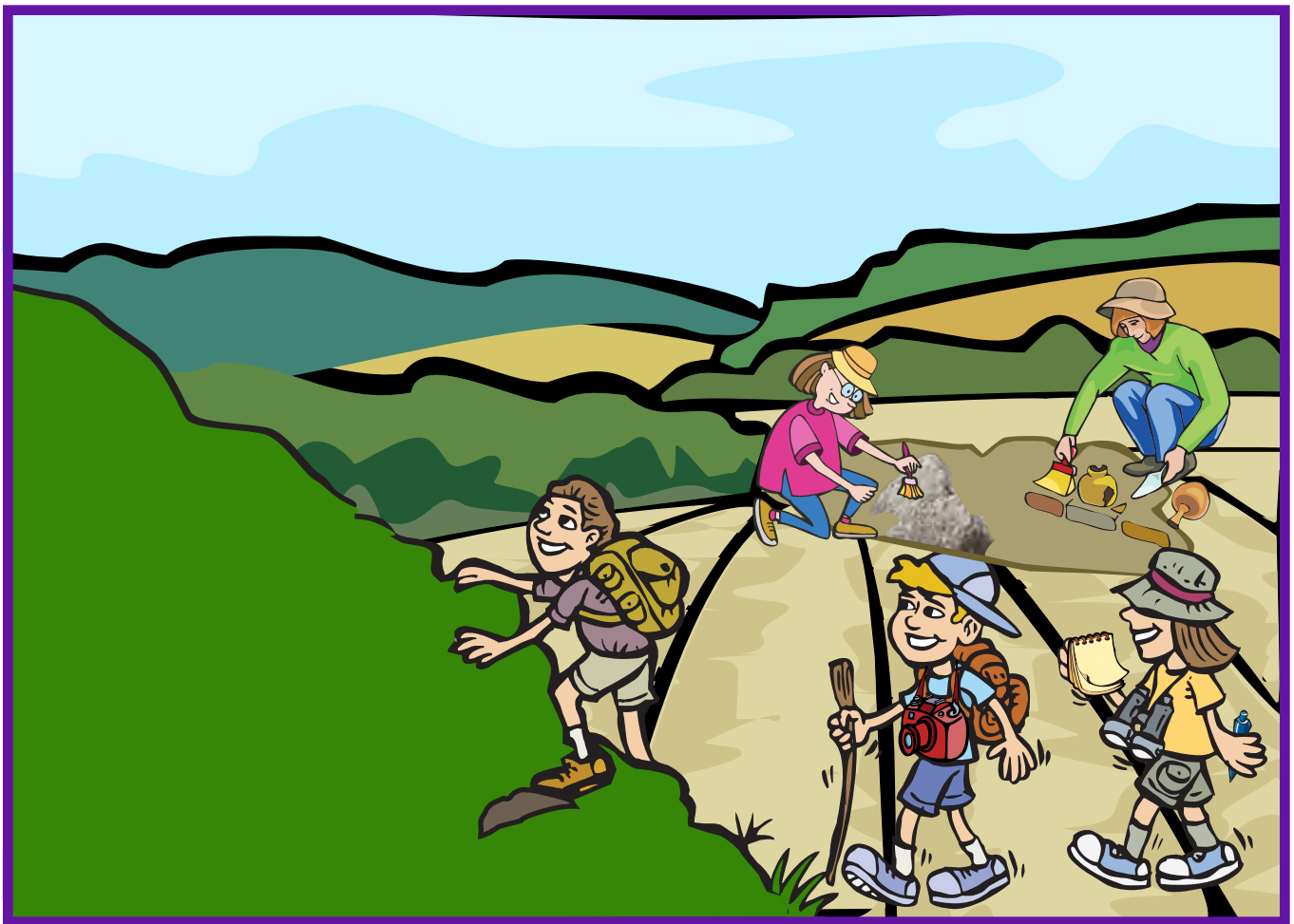


We hope you noticed the farmers in their fields as we drove today.  
Did you see sesame seed stalks, too?



Here we are at Colossae. Remember how fertile the land is? Many fruits are growing by the roadside. Can you identify them? Grapes, pomegranates, quince. A long time ago, there was a rule called "the right of the eye." If you were walking on a road and got hungry, and you saw some fruit like this, you were allowed to pick and eat what you needed to satisfy your hunger. However, you were not allowed to take the fruit with you for later. You had to leave the fruit on the tree for the next person who was hungry. Sounds neighborly, doesn't it?





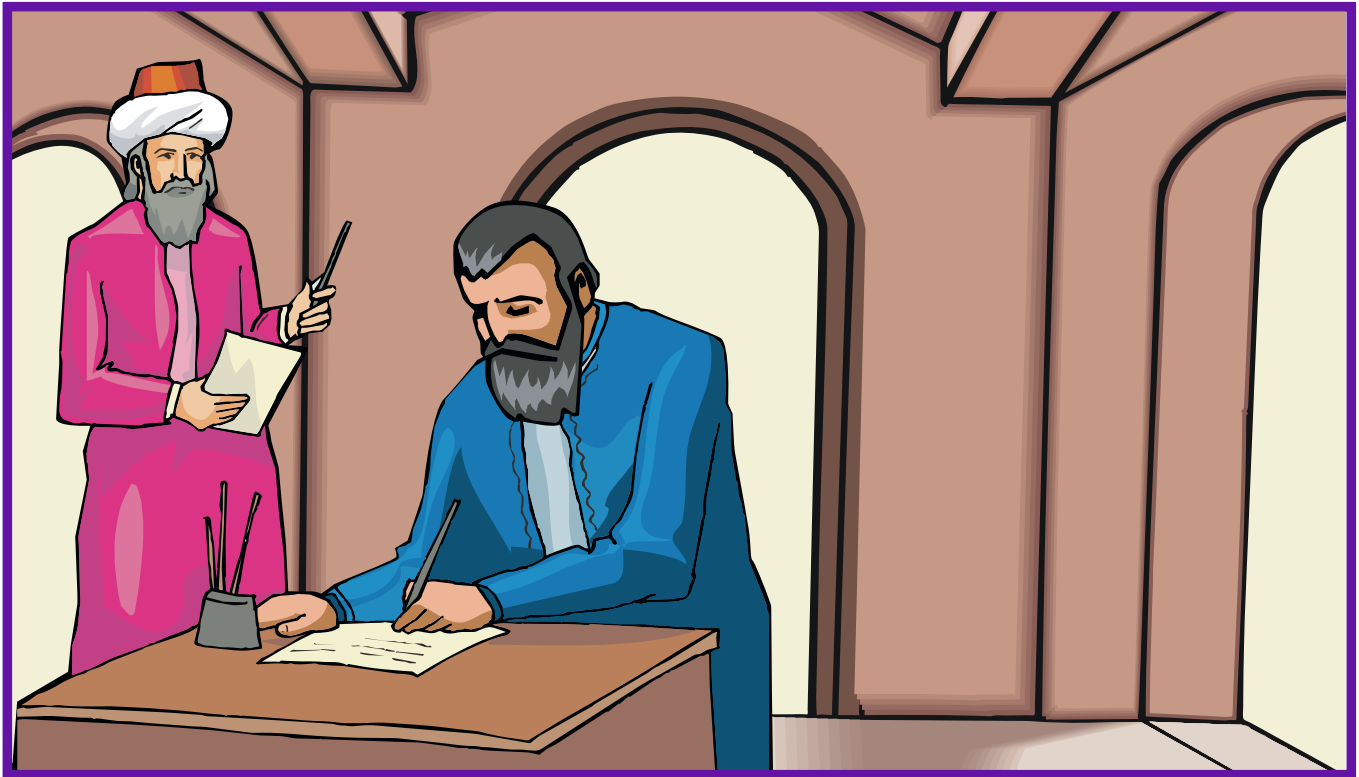
Across the street is the site of the city of Colossae – it's only a hill, or a tell, today. Do you remember when we first learned about a tell? Remind each other of the meaning! This site has never been excavated. But you are young archaeologists. You know what to look for. Run over there and do some exploring! Let us know what you find. Be careful -- the tell is very steep and there are no fences.





Let's find a spot to sit so you can share your findings and we can figure out their meaning. It looks like you found blocks of stone, which tells us that there were large buildings here. Stone carvers have made them square so that they fit together. The small clay shards you found tell us there was a potter who made decorated plates and bowls, lamps and bottles. The water pipes tell us there might have been fresh water moving underground to a fountain for daily supply. Or the pipes might have been taking away the used water. And there must have been a theater. You can tell by the rows of seats peeking out from under all that dirt. Of course, the ruins have been taken over by beautiful wildflowers. Did you think we would learn so much from pieces of pottery and stone? It's fun to imagine what daily life would have been like thousands of years ago!





Paul never visited Colossae, but he had heard about it, both good things and bad. He probably heard the news from Epaphras (ep'a-fras), the man who started the church there. Both Epaphras and Paul were probably in prison together in Rome when they met. Meanwhile, the faithful church members in Colossae were slipping back to old beliefs from their pagan days, when they worshiped other gods. Paul's short letter was written to this small church to help correct their behavior, to bring them back to putting Christ at the center of their lives.