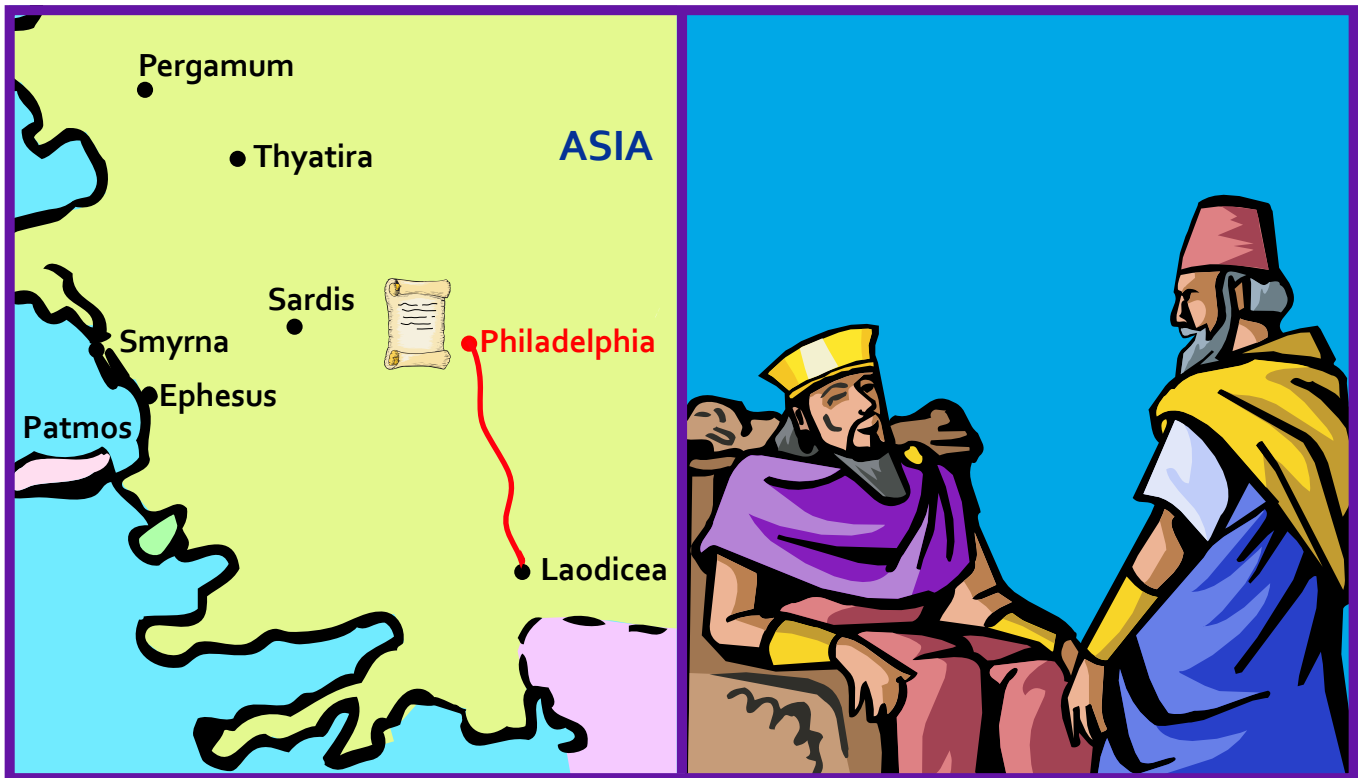
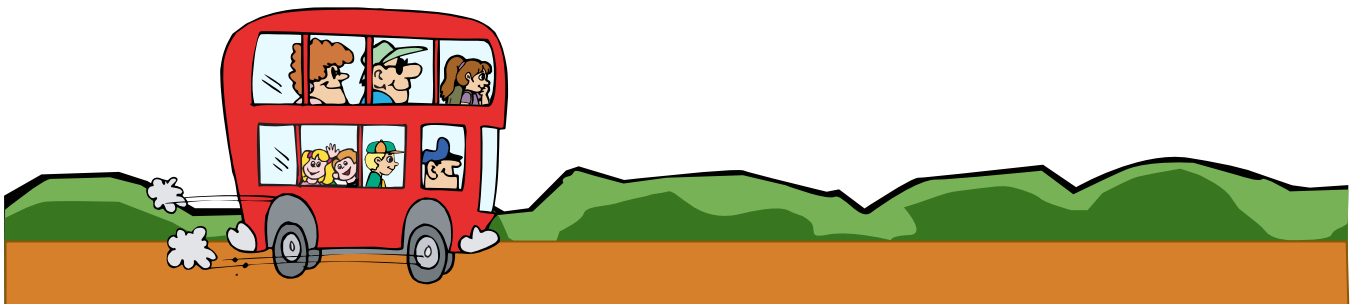
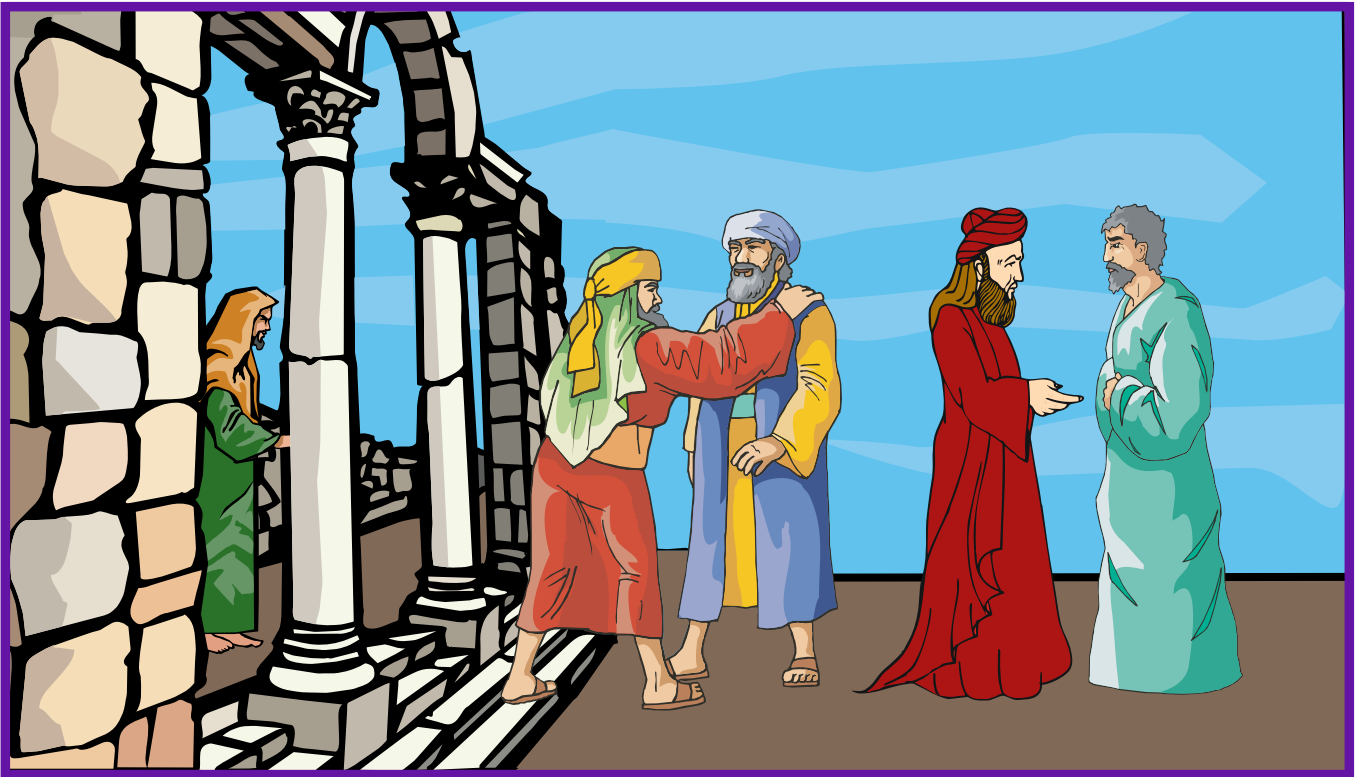


Tour of the Holy Lands - Philadelphia



The next stop on our tour of the seven churches is Philadelphia, spelled just like the city in the state of Pennsylvania, USA. But this one is over two thousand years older! "Philadelphia" is a Greek word: "phila" (fee'la) means "love" and "delphos" (del'fohs) means "brother" – brotherly love. King Philadelphus, who loved his brother very much, built the city.





In the Apostle John's letter to Philadelphia, he explains that the Christ has given them an open door, which could be a symbol of great opportunity. Their church is small, but their city is built on a busy road, making it easy for travelers to stop in and learn about Christianity. John also tells them to take the teachings of Christ Jesus across their borders to the Jews, even though the Jews are against them. John assures them that their love for their fellowman will soften the hearts of the Jews. John reminds the church members of Jesus' promise that the Jews will recognize the Christ as their Messiah.

Philadephia suffered greatly from earthquakes, and many of the citizens fled and were afraid to return. But not the church members; they remained faithful to God. They were as firm as pillars in the Temple that could never be shaken by disaster. In fact, this church was the strongest of the seven churches.



As we walk through the ruins of this church in Philadelphia, notice what is still standing. Yes, pillars! Just like the faithful church members! And hasn't the caretaker done a great job of tending this beautiful rose garden?

After we drive to a lookout over the city, we'll get back on the road to visit another of the seven churches.

