

### **Lesson 10, Day 1: Vocabulary**

In a dictionary, look up the following words which pertain to this week's period in history, and write their definitions.

patriotism -

javelin -

rival -

crafty -

## **Lesson 10, Day 2: To Read**

### **The Rise of the Franks**

The West-Goths, the Burgundians, the Vandals, the East-Goths, and the Lombards, all helped to make Europe what it is today; yet none of them succeeded in founding a power that was to last as a separate state. Their work was largely to break down the rule of the Western Empire. The building up of a new state to take its place was to be the work of another people, the Franks.

The Franks were the earliest of all the Germanic invaders to fix themselves in the Roman province of Gaul, but they were the last to establish a power in that land. Gaul, in the five hundred years that had passed since its conquest by Julius Caesar, had become more Roman even than Italy. In its long rule by foreigners, however, it had decayed in strength. The spirit of patriotism had died out; the people in the latter days of the Empire had been ground down by oppressive taxation; so it wasn't able to offer resistance to the barbarians.

A hundred years before the West-Goths crossed the Danube, bands of Franks had crossed the Rhine from their homes on the right bank of that river, and establish themselves as the subjects of Rome on the western bank. There they had dwelt, gaining in number and power, until news came of the deeds of Alaric. When the Vandals, Burgundians, and other Germanic tribes sought to cross the Rhine, the Franks on the left bank resisted them, but their resistance was overcome.

Now the Franks set to build a power within Roman territory, and gradually occupied what is now northern France, Belgium and Holland. When the Huns swept into Gaul, the Franks had fought them with the Romans and West-Goths. When Attila was defeated, the Franks took possession of cities in the valley of the Rhine which the Huns had won from the Romans.

By the time that Adducer overthrew the last of the Roman Emperors of the West, the Franks had established a good footing in the Empire, but they were still heathen, and they had not yet learned, like the Goths, to wear armor or fight on horseback. They still went to war half naked, armed only with a barbed javelin, a sword, and ax. They were divided into a large number of small tribes, each ruled over by its own king, instead of being united, and had many rivals.

In the southern part of that land, reaching across the Pyrenees and taking in nearly the whole of Spain was the kingdom of the West-Goths. In the southeastern part was the kingdom of the Burgundies. In the central part, the region that included the river Seine, a Roman officer named Syagrins still ruled, though the last of the Emperors of the West had fallen. And to the East of Gaul, were tribes who still remained on German soil — the Thuringians, some tribes of the Saxons, and the Allemanians.

It was mainly due to one man that the Frankish power was not overcome, but instead was able to overcome all its enemies. This man was Clovis, the King of one of the little bands of the Franks. Five years after the fall of Rome, he had succeeded his father as King of his tribe. Though he was only sixteen years of age, he soon proved himself to be one of the ablest, but also one of the craftiest leaders of this cruel people. In the thirty years that he ruled, he united all the Franks

under his rule; he greatly improved the arms and organization of the army; he extended their territory to the South, East, and West; and he caused his people to be baptized as Christians.

One of the first deeds of Clovis was to make war on Syagrius, the Roman ruler. In this war Syagrius was defeated and put to death; and the district over which he ruled became subject to Clovis. When the spoils were being divided by lot after the battle, Clovis wished to obtain a beautiful vase that had been taken from one of the churches, that he might return it to the priests. But one of his Franks cried out: "Thou shalt have only what the lot gives thee!" And saying this, he broke the vase with his ax. The next year, he detected this soldier in a fault, and slew him in the presence of the army, saying: "It shall be done to thee as thou didst to the vase!"

After the overthrow of Syagrius, Clovis turned to the conquest of other neighbors. One by one he set to work to get rid of the other kings of the Franks; some by force, others by treachery. He persuaded the son of one king to kill his father; then he had the son put to death for the crime, and persuaded the people to take him as their king. Another king and his son were slain because they had failed to help Clovis in his wars; and he took their kingdom also. A third king was slain by Clovis's own hand, after he had been betrayed. Still others of his rivals and relatives were got rid of in the same way. When all were gone, he assembled the people and said, "Alas! I have now no relatives to lend me aid in time of need." But he did this not because he was made sad by their death, but that he might discover whether there remained any one else to kill.

In this way Clovis made himself sole King of the Franks. Already he had begun to extend his rule over other branches of the German people. The Allemanians, who dwelt to the eastward of the Franks, were beaten in a war which lasted several years, and forced to take the King of the Franks as their own. After this the Franks began to settle in the valley of the river Main, where the Allemanians had dwelt; after a time this district came to be called Franconia, from their name.

Wars were waged between Clovis and the Burgundians; and the power of the Franks increased. Most important were conquests made from the West-Goths, who held Southern Gaul and Spain. Clovis led his Franks against them. Theodoric, king of the East-Goths, helped defeat Clovis, but in the end the Franks were victorious, and most of Southern Gaul was added to their territory.

Thus Clovis won for the Franks a kingdom which reached from the River Rhine on the North and East, almost to the Pyrenees Mountains on the South. To this land, which had been called Gaul, the name "Francia" was given, from those that conquered it; and soon became France.

When Clovis first became King, the Franks worshiped the old gods, Woden and Thor. Before he died, however, he and most of his people had become Christians. While he was fighting against the Allemanians, Clovis saw his Franks driven from the field by the enemy. He prayed to the old gods to turn the defeat into victory; but still his troops gave way. Then he thought about his wife Clotilda, who had urged him to give up his old gods and become a Christian. He determined to try the God of his wife; so he cried out, "O Christ Jesus, I beseech thee for aid! If thou wilt grant me victory over these enemies, I will believe in thee and be baptized in thy name!"

With this he renewed the battle, and at last won a great victory. As a result, Clovis became a Christian, and more than half of his warriors decided to follow his example. When the news was

brought to the priests, they were filled with joy, and at once preparations were made for the baptism. Painted awnings were hung over the streets, and the churches were draped in white.

After this, Clovis was, in name, a Christian; but his conversion was only half a conversion. He changed his beliefs, but not his conduct. When the story was told him of the way Jesus suffered death on the cross, he grasped his battle-ax fiercely and exclaimed: "If I had been there with my Franks I would have revenged his wrongs!"

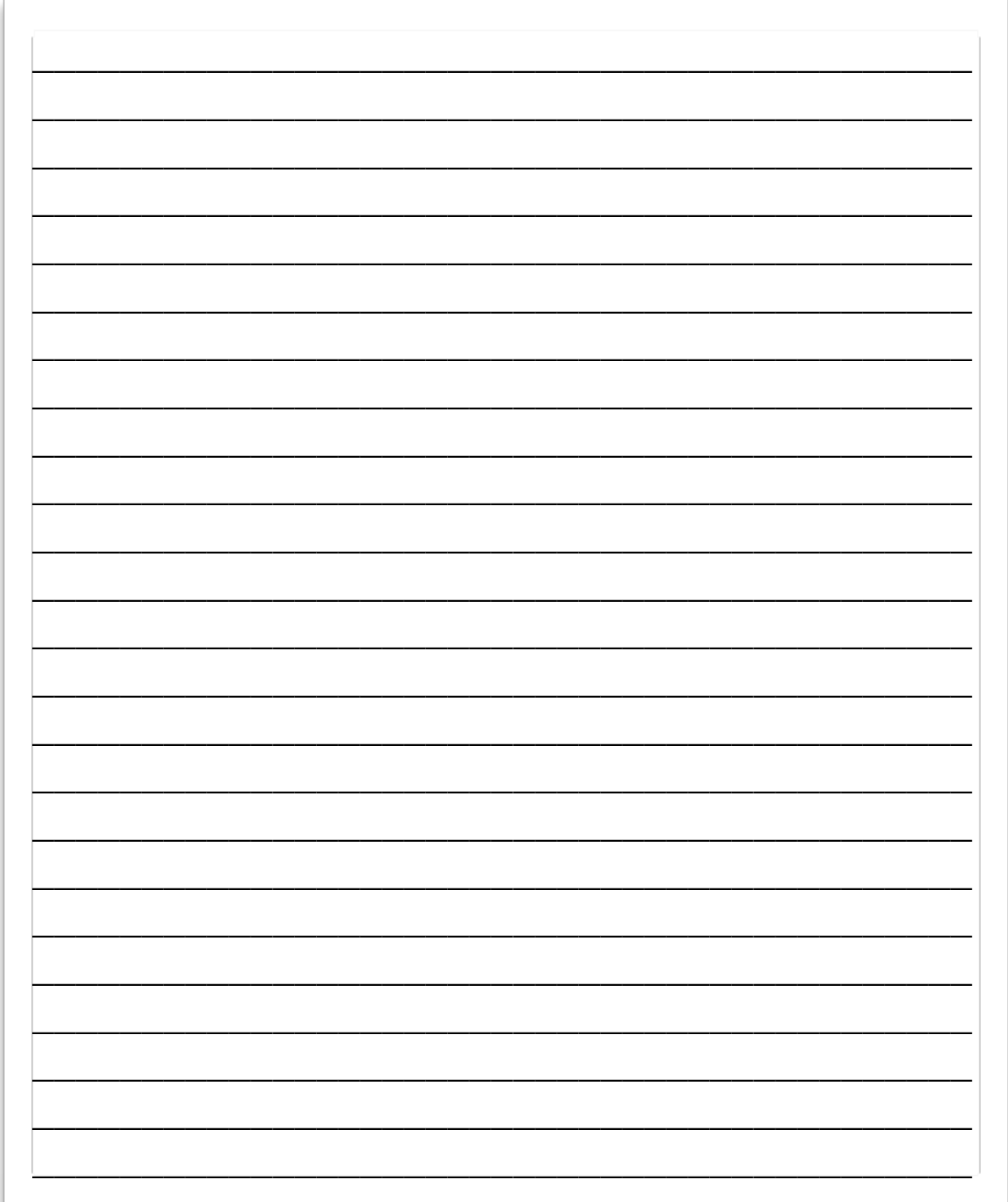
So, in spite of his conversion, Clovis remained a rude warrior, a cruel ruler. Nevertheless, his conversion was of very great importance. The Goths, Vandals, and Burgundians had all been Christians at the time they invaded the Empire, but their Christianity was not of the kind the Romans of the West accepted. They were Arian Christians, and, as we have seen, there was great hatred between the Arians and the Roman or Athanasian Christians. In Africa, Spain, and Italy, the people hated the Arians. But it was different with the Franks. Because they believed as the Roman Catholics did, their Roman subjects in Gaul accepted and supported their rule, and the Pope showed himself friendly to them. This is one of the two chief reasons why the Frankish power was permanent. The other reason was that the Franks did not wholly leave their old homes, as the other Germans did when they set out on their conquest. The Franks kept what they already had, while adding to it the neighboring lands which they had conquered. So their increase in power was a growth, as well as a conquest; and this made it more lasting.

When the barbarians conquered portions of the Roman Empire they did not kill or drive out the people who already lived there. Usually they contented themselves with taking some of the lands for themselves, and making the people pay to them the taxes which they had before paid to the Roman emperors. So it was with the Franks. The people of Gaul were allowed to remain, and keep most of their lands; but the Franks, although they were not nearly so numerous as the Romans, ruled over the state. The old inhabitants were highly civilized, while the Franks were just taking the first steps in civilization. "We make fun of them," wrote one of these Romans, "we despise them, — but we fear them also."

As the years went by, the differences between the conquerors and the conquered became less. The Romans found that times were changed and they had to adopt the habits of the Franks in some respects. The Franks had already adopted the religion of their subjects; they began also to adopt their language and some of their customs. In this way, the two peoples at last became as one; but it was not until long after the time of Clovis that this end was fully reached.

### **Lesson 10, Day 3: Finding Out More**

Do some research on Clovis, King of the Franks. Tell more about him in the space below.

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing, intended for the student to provide more details about Clovis, King of the Franks. The area is bounded by a thin black line and contains 20 horizontal lines.

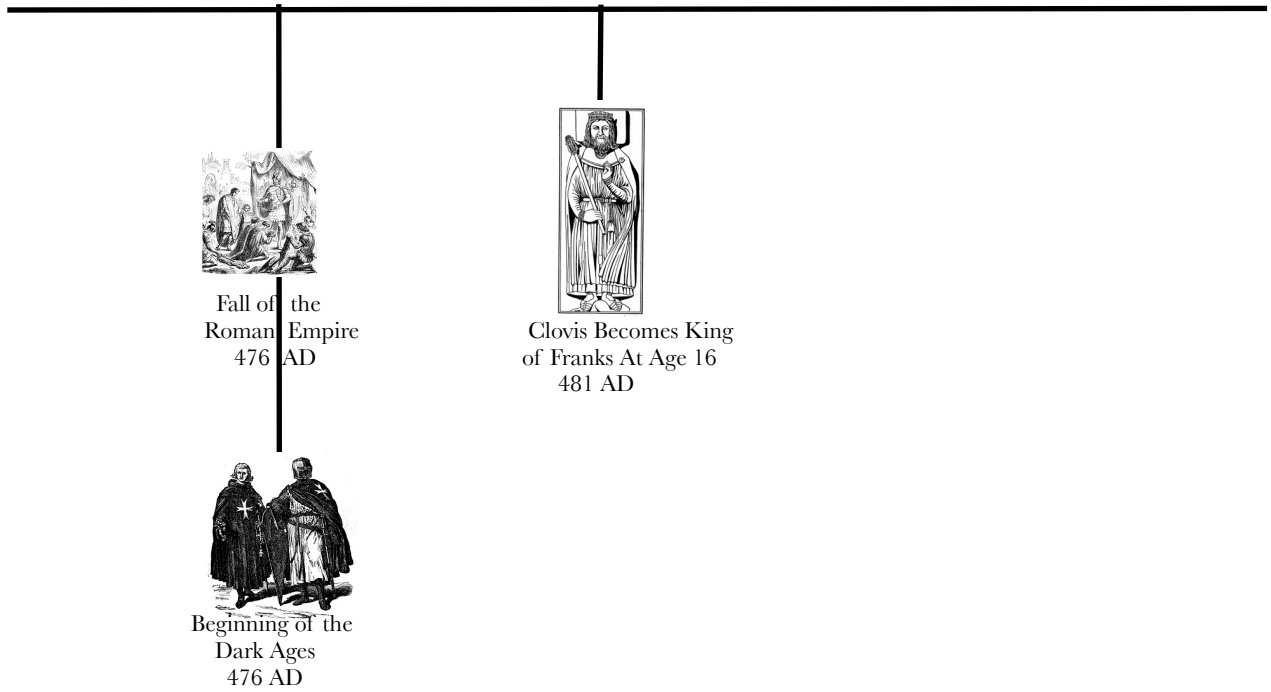
### **Lesson 10, Day 4: Digging Out the Facts**

When someone truly becomes a Christian by accepting Jesus Christ as the Savior from their sin, the Holy Spirit then lives inside of them. Because of this, there are certain “fruits of the Spirit” that should be present in their lives. In your Bible, look up Galatians 5:22 – 23, and copy those verses below:

From what we have learned about Clovis, did he exhibit any of these fruits in his life? If so, which ones? If not, why do you think he didn't?

### Lesson 10, Day 5: Timeline of Events

It was in the year 481 AD that Clovis, at the age of sixteen, became King of the Franks. Add this event to your timeline. Notice where it falls in relation to other events you already have placed.



Add this picture to your timeline.

