

Paul's First Journey

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

MAIN POINT: The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

2

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 110



TELL THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 112



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 114



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' followers preached the gospel in Jerusalem, and the good news spread to places like Judea and Samaria. More and more people believed, and new churches began as both Jews and Gentiles began to follow Jesus. Barnabas went to Antioch—a city about 300 miles north of Jerusalem—where he brought Paul to help teach the believers. The church in Antioch grew. It was in Antioch that the disciples first became known as Christians. (See Acts 11:26.)

The Holy Spirit told the believers at the church in Antioch to send out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel. The church obeyed, and Paul and Barnabas traveled to several

cities and all over the island of Cyprus, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

Consider Paul—once a devoted persecutor of Christians—now a Christian missionary, devoted to obeying God’s call to go and tell others the good news about Jesus. This was Paul’s first missionary journey, and it wasn’t easy. Paul and Barnabas faced rejection in every place that they traveled. Some of the people believed, but some of them were angry. Many people rejected the truth about Jesus. In some places, the Jews made plans to kill Paul.

In no place did Paul and Barnabas soften their message or abandon their mission. In Lystra, Paul healed a man, and when the witnesses to this miracle began to worship Paul and Barnabas, the two men emphatically gave credit to the one true God. When Paul’s enemies attacked him and left him for dead, Paul continued on. Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel in Derbe (DUHR bih), and many people believed.

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. If Paul had not taken the gospel to the Gentiles, many of us would probably not be believers today. God uses people to tell others about Jesus so that people all over the world can be saved from their sin by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior.



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Paul's First Journey

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

• **Move with the story:** Designate three areas of the room to be Antioch, Lystra, and Derbe. Tell the parts of the story that take place in each city in those different parts of the room, directing the children to travel to the next area of the room before continuing the story.

• **Display a map:** Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Trace Paul's first journey as you tell the Bible story.

Paul and his friend Barnabas helped start the first churches. The Holy Spirit told Paul and Barnabas that they had a big job to do. **The church put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them,** and they left their city to go do the work God wanted them to do. **God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus** to both Jews and non-Jews.

Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Lystra (LISS truh). **A man was there who had not been able to walk his whole life.** He listened to Paul talking about Jesus. **Paul saw the man and said in a loud voice, "Stand up!" The man jumped up and began walking around! The people saw this miracle, and they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! Paul and Barnabas shouted, "No! We are not gods. We are men just like you. We want to tell you the good news of God."**

Then **some Jews** came from the other cities Paul and Barnabas had visited. They **made trouble** in this new city, **and the people decided to fight against Paul and Barnabas** too. They threw rocks at Paul and dragged him out of the city.

The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe (DUHR bih). **They told the people about Jesus, and many of them believed. Finally, they returned to the church and told the other believers** everything that God had done on their journey and how **God helped them share the good news about Jesus with everyone.**

Christ Connection: Paul obeyed the Holy Spirit and shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. People tried to stop Paul, but Paul did not give up. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. The Holy Spirit wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sin.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Paul's First Journey

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

MAIN POINT: The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome time

- "Children of the Kingdom" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Shadow Matching" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschoolers to draw a line connecting each transportation vehicle with its shadow.

SAY • What do we use airplanes, boats, cars, and trains to do? [*Allow responses.*] To travel or go from one place to another! In today's Bible story, Paul and his friend Barnabas traveled to different cities to share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.

Sing "I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N"

Lead preschoolers in singing the song "I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N" several times through. Guide preschoolers to move one arm up and down the first time they sing, both arms the second time, two arms and a leg the third time, both arms and both legs the fourth time,



and both arms, both legs, and their head the fifth time. Do not emphasize preschoolers singing the song perfectly. Let them have fun trying to sing as they move.

“I am a C
I am a C-H
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N
and I have C-H-R-I-S-T
in my H-E-A-R-T
and I will L-I-V-E E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y!”

If you are unfamiliar with the tune, look it up online before the session.

SAY • C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N spells *Christian*. Followers of Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch. The people at the church in Antioch put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them. God had given them a special job to do. Let’s hear about it in our Bible story.

Walk a sensory path

Use various materials you have on hand to create a path for preschoolers to walk barefoot.

SAY • In today’s Bible story, Paul and Barnabas traveled to different cities to tell the good news about Jesus to many people. They did a lot of walking!

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to be traveling a long distance as they move to Bible study.

• various items, such as a pillow, wet paper, dried beans, bubble wrap, sand, a wooden board, clear contact plastic, cooked noodles

Tip: Avoid materials sticking to feet by placing wet items later in the path.

• countdown video (optional)

Tell THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Paul's First Journey

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

MAIN POINT: The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

Introduce the Bible story

Suggested tasks:

- touch your toes
- hop on one foot
- pat your head and rub your tummy at the same time
- touch your nose with your tongue

Instruct preschoolers to perform certain tasks. After each task, ask if completing the task was easy or hard.

SAY • In today's Bible story, Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. Sometimes it was hard. People tried to stop Paul, but Paul did not give up. Listen to what happened.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Acts 13 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • God is so kind to give us His words in the Bible. What the Bible says is true! Today's Bible story happened in real life. We read about it in the Book of Acts.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Paul and Barnabas helped start the first churches.

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus. It was not always easy. Often

- Bible
- bookmark
- "Paul's First Journey" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

times it was very hard, but the Holy Spirit helped Paul and Barnabas. They saw many people believe the good news about Jesus, and the church grew.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Who helped start the first churches? (*Paul and Barnabas*)
2. What happened when Paul told the man in Lystra to stand up? (*He jumped up and began walking around.*)
3. What did Paul and Barnabas say when the people thought they were gods? (*“We are men just like you.”*)
4. What did Paul and Barnabas want to tell everyone they met? (*the good news about Jesus*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Paul obeyed the Holy Spirit and shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. The Holy Spirit wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sin. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*** God wants the good news to spread through people!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song.

SAY • Jesus was talking to His followers when He said today’s key passage. We are Jesus’ witnesses. That means we get to tell others what Jesus has done for us in His living, dying, and coming back to life!

• Key Passage Poster
• “You Will Be My Witnesses” song

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Paul's First Journey

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

MAIN POINT: The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.



Stand up, sit down, walk around

Explain to preschoolers that you will give them three commands: stand up, sit down, and walk around. For each command, preschoolers should perform the following action:

- Stand up: stand tall with arms at sides
- Sit down: sit on the floor with crossed legs and hands folded in lap
- Walk around: march with knees up and arms pumping

Give the commands in varying speeds and order.

SAY • The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus. In Lystra, they met a man who had never been able to walk. They told him to stand up, and he did. It was a miracle! Then Paul and Barnabas told the people in Lystra about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew.

- suitcases
- duffel bags
- toiletry bags
- laundry baskets
- clothing items
- empty toiletry bottles
- pillows

Play out packing for a trip

Set out suitcases, duffel bags, and toiletry bags. Fill laundry baskets with clothing items, pillows, and empty toiletry bottles. Invite preschoolers to play out packing for a trip by

searching through the baskets and placing items into the travel bags. Show children how to fold different items of clothing to fit into a suitcase.

SAY • Paul and Barnabas left their city to share the gospel with people in other cities. What do you think Paul and Barnabas took with them on their trip? **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** Paul obeyed the Holy Spirit and many people believed in Jesus. The church grew.

Make finger puppets

Print a “Finger Puppets” printable onto heavyweight paper for each preschooler. Before the session, cut out the puppets along the dotted cut lines. Cut out the finger holes using a craft knife. Invite preschoolers to color their puppet images. Show a preschooler how to push his index finger and middle finger through the finger holes to serve as a puppet’s legs. Invite preschoolers to use their puppets to play out the Bible story.

- “Finger Puppets” printables, 1 per child
- craft knife (adult use only)
- markers or crayons
- blunt-tipped scissors

SAY • **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** After Paul healed the man who could not walk, the people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! But Paul and Barnabas were ordinary people like you and me. The Holy Spirit gave them power, and He gives us power too. The Holy Spirit wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sin.

Invite a missionary to class

Invite to your class a missionary your church supports or a church member who has gone on a mission trip or is going on a mission trip. Ask him to share about the work he does

- guest

and the place where he serves. Consider playing a game, sampling a food, or singing a song common to the people group served. Consider leading preschoolers to lay their hands on the guest and pray for him.

SAY • Just like **the Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus**, the Holy Spirit sent [*guest's name*] to tell the good news about Jesus with other people. The Holy Spirit wants us to share the gospel with others so they can be saved from their sin, too. The Holy Spirit may send you to another place to tell the good news one day, but you can tell people the good news right now, right where you live. Whom can you tell?

Clip clothespins on a box

Remove the lids from three rigid boxes. Label the boxes as *Antioch*, *Lystra*, and *Derbe*. Draw Bible times buildings under the labels to help preschoolers identify those words as different cities. Draw various colored dots along the ridges of the boxes. Use the same colors to draw stick figures on the clothespins. Invite a preschooler to clip a clothespin with the corresponding colored stick figure on the appropriate dot.

SAY • As Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel, the good news about Jesus, many people believed and the church grew. **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus**. Paul obeyed the Holy Spirit and shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. People tried to stop Paul, but Paul did not give up. The church is still growing today. The Holy Spirit uses believers like us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sin.

- rigid boxes, 3
- scissors
- marker
- clothespins

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve trail mix for snack. Explain that trail mix gets its name because it is good to eat when you are walking a long time. Remind preschoolers that Paul and Barnabas traveled long distances to share the gospel with anyone who would listen. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*** The Holy Spirit wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from sin.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a place where they can tell someone about Jesus. Point out that any place is a good place to tell someone the good news. We can listen to the Holy Spirit as He guides us. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, make us bold to share the gospel with anyone who will listen. Help us to never give up. Help us listen to the Holy Spirit when He leads us. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from sin. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*