

LIFE POINT

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus.

PAUL AND BARNABAS BECAME MISSIONARIES



LEADER BIBLE STUDY



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus and God's plan of salvation.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Acts 13:1-15, 42-49

UNIT VERSE

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16 (CSB)

WEEKLY VERSE

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (CSB)

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

May 10

CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

A group of seminary students enrolled in an evangelism class traveled to a local park for hands-on evangelism training. A female student spotted a young couple and walked in their direction. Greeting the couple, she offered a gospel tract to them. The man pulled the tract from her hand, cursed her, and tore up the tract. She simply responded, "Young man, I will be praying for you," and walked away. The class was preparing to leave the park when the same man approached the female student. He said, "I'm sorry for the way I treated you today. I've been thinking about the kindness you showed me. I want whatever would allow you to respond to me the way you did earlier. Can we start over?" That afternoon he and his wife prayed to receive Christ as their Savior!

The Holy Spirit instructed the Antioch church leaders to "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." The two men responded to God's call on their lives and traveled to various regions, proclaiming the word of God. When they arrived in Paphos (PAY fahs), they met with opposition from a man named Elymas (EL ih mass). The missionaries rebuked Elymas for his efforts to turn the proconsul (proh KAHN suhl; a governor or military commander) from faith, and the proconsul became a believer.

Missionaries will encounter opposition, but the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus and God's plan of salvation. God's call upon Saul (Paul) and Barnabas is not unusual. The Holy Spirit calls every believer to be on mission with Him. His call may be to a specific place or for a specific amount of time. He may require you to radically adjust your life and move across the world, or He may simply send you to a relative who needs the hope that can only come from faith in Jesus.

As you pray this week, be sensitive to the call of the Holy Spirit as He leads you to tell people about the salvation that can only come from faith in Jesus. If you receive a negative response, trust that God is working all things together for good. (Romans 8:28)



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PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS



- Check in with preteens regarding their “Bingo Boards” from the last session. Invite volunteers to share one of the squares they completed.
- Allow preteens to share something they learned as they read the Bible this week.
- Guide preteens to locate Acts 1:8 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud. Tell the group that this week they will learn that the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about salvation through Jesus.
- Encourage preteens to continue reading the Bible each day. Distribute a new “Bingo Board” and the “Weekly Reading Suggestions” for Week 2.

- › Pack Item
21: “Bingo Board”—Make copies (1 per preteen).
- › Printables:
“Weekly Reading Suggestions”—Print copies (1 per preteen) of Week 2.



MISSIONS EMPHASIS



Play video again (optional)

- Explain that Dave and Amy Knotts are using technology in Central Asia to help people know about Jesus.
- Read the information from “Dave and Amy Knotts” to the kids.
- Mention that digital technologies can allow missionaries to send a specific message to a certain group of people in a particular area or city.
- Lead preteens to write some ideas to act out as if they were using a video camera to tell people about Jesus.
- Pray for the Knotts as they seek to provide digital content for women in Central Asia. Pray that people with digital skills, such as computer programmers, graphic designers, and artificial intelligence engineers, will work with them on their missions team.

Teaching Tip: Some preteens may already use a devotion or reading plan. Celebrate the Bible reading they are doing, even if it is not this particular activity.

- › Printables:
“Unit 3 Missions: Central Asian Peoples”
“Dave and Amy Knotts”
- › paper
- › pencils



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- Pair preteens. Have them share their names and a topic they love to talk about with their partners.
- Create groups of four by combining two existing pairs. Ask preteens to introduce their original partners to their new groups, telling their partner’s name and favorite topic.
- Invite volunteers to share some of their favorite topics to discuss.
- Make observations about preteens’ reactions. Are they smiling, jumping to answer, or wanting to keep talking about their topic of choice? Note your observations to the group.
- Tell preteens that adults have favorite topics, too, but people of all ages can get nervous when they share about Jesus. Thankfully, God works through His Holy Spirit to empower Christians to tell others about salvation through Jesus.

- › No advance preparation or supplies needed.



STUDY THE BIBLE

- › Pack Items
 - 19: “Unit 3 Banner”
 - 20: “Unit 3 Verse”
- › Teaching Picture 11
- › Kids Activity Pages: “Scenes from Acts 13”
- › Music
- › Videos
- › Printables: “Unit 3 Verse Motions”
- › 2 colors of sticky notes
- › dry erase marker and marker board or poster board—Draw a large, blank tic-tac-toe grid on the board.
- › index cards (1 per preteen)
- › pencils

1. GETTING TO THE POINT

- * • Display the “Unit 3 Banner” and invite preteens to read it with you.
- Show the teaching picture and use it to give preteens an overview of what today’s passage is about.
- Explain that this passage includes many names and places. Challenge preteens to look for the Holy Spirit in the passages.
- * • Show the “Scripture Sketches” video.

2. LOOK IN THE BOOK

- Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Acts 13.
- Distribute the Kids Activity Pages and pencils. Explain that the pages will be used during the lesson today to help preteens look for the big ideas.
- Read aloud Acts 13:1-3 to the group.
- Ask: “Who was gathered?” Allow preteens to answer and confirm that prophets and teachers were gathered. Direct preteens to record their answers on their activity pages in “Scenes from Acts 13.”
- Ask: “What were the prophets and teachers doing?” Share that the group was gathered to serve God and fast.
- Ask: “What role does the Holy Spirit play in this passage?”
- Explain that the Holy Spirit instructed the group to set apart Barnabas and Saul. Record this in the “Look!” section of the first column on their activity pages. There was something specific they needed to do, and the group prayed for them before they left.
- Read aloud Acts 13:4-12. Use verses 4-6 to guide preteens in recording where Barnabas and Saul went. (*Seleucia, Cyprus, Salamis, Paphos*)
- Encourage preteens to discuss the next two questions on the activity pages with a partner. Allow a few moments for discussion.
- Invite a volunteer to share his answers. Confirm that the sorcerer was a false prophet who tried to keep the proconsul from hearing the Word of God. By the Holy Spirit, they said the sorcerer would be blind, and he was. The proconsul believed!
- Point out verse 11 and its mention of the Lord’s hand. In the “Look!” section, preteens can record that the Holy Spirit enabled Paul to speak to the sorcerer and blind him.
- Read Acts 13:13-14, 42-49 aloud. Encourage preteens to spend a few minutes discussing the questions in the third column with a partner.
- Ask: “Where are Barnabas and Paul in this passage? They are in Antioch in Pisidia.”
- Discuss the reactions to Barnabas and Paul’s teaching. The Gentiles wanted to hear more! There were Jews who were jealous and opposed to what Barnabas and Paul were doing.
- Use the final “Look!” space to record how God was moving in this passage. The Word of God spread to Gentiles, too.



STUDY THE BIBLE

- Tell preteens that the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus and God’s plan of salvation. In today’s passage, Barnabas and Paul obeyed God and preached about Jesus. Many people became believers!

3. REVIEW CHALLENGE

- Direct attention to the tic-tac-toe grid on the board. Tell preteens they will play “Sticky Note Tic-Tac-Toe.”
- Form two groups and assign each group a color of sticky note. You will read each review question in the sidebar.
- Both teams will discuss the answer among themselves. Alternate which team has the first chance to respond. If that team is correct, they may place a sticky note in a square of the tic-tac-toe grid. If they are incorrect, the other team has a chance to answer and place a sticky note in a square.
- Note the first team to get three sticky notes in a row wins.
- Lead preteens to sing “Not Ashamed.”

4. UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE



- Direct attention to the “Unit 3 Verse” and lead preteens to read it aloud.
- Create motions for the phrases within the verse to help everyone memorize it. Suggestions are included in the “Unit 3 Verse Motions.”
- Practice the motions while reading the verse multiple times.
- Challenge preteens to memorize the unit verse.

5. APPLY THE BIBLE AND PRAY



- Show “[The Adventures of Dab and Derek](#)” video.
- Distribute the index cards and pencils.
- Remind preteens that the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus.
- Direct preteens to write a prayer on their index cards, asking God for the boldness to tell someone about Jesus this week and thanking Him for the Holy Spirit.
- Encourage preteens to use this card as a bookmark, so it will remind them to pray and tell others about Jesus.
- Dismiss preteens to Live It Out groups.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What is one way the group gathered in Acts 13:1-3 served God? (*fasted, prayed*)
- › Who were Barnabas and Saul sent out by? (*the Holy Spirit*)
- › Was the sorcerer a Jew or Gentile? (*Jew*)
- › What happened to the sorcerer? (*He was blinded.*)
- › Why do you think the Word of God was to be spoken to Jews first? (*The Israelites are God’s chosen, covenant people, through whom He brought Jesus.*)
- › Why is it significant that the Word of God was preached to Gentiles? (*Gentiles are not descended from Israel. However, God has chosen to bring salvation to all who believe.*)

Option: Memorize the Weekly Bible Verse: Acts 1:8.



LIVE IT OUT

CHOICE 1

- › Pack Item
23: “Suitcase Outline”–
Make copies (1 per
preteen).
- › Music
- › colored pencils
- › scissors

CHOICE 2

- › Clear enough space for
skits to be acted out.
- › timer

CHOICE 1

DECORATE A SUITCASE ACTIVITY

- Guide preteens to share a brief summary of today’s Bible story.
- Ask: “What would you pack for a trip? What sorts of bags or suitcases would you use?”
- Lead preteens to discuss what they think Barnabas and Paul would have taken on their trip.
- Read Luke 9:1-6. Explain that in this passage, Jesus sent out the disciples and told them to take nothing. They did not need to pack any bags for this journey! Acts 13 does not specify if Barnabas and Paul took anything on their journey. But for today, let the group imagine they had suitcases. What would their suitcases be decorated with? Would they use stickers to share slogans and messages?
- Give each preteen a “Suitcase Outline” and set out colored pencils.
- Play “Game Changer” while preteens to decorate the suitcase outlines. When finished, direct preteens to cut out their suitcases.
- Comment on their ideas, pointing out their creativity and connections they have made to what is in the Bible.
- Invite preteens to share their drawings.
- Remind preteens that Barnabas and Paul were sent by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus and God’s plan of salvation.

CHOICE 2

COMPLETE SCENARIO PLOT TWISTS

- Ask: “What is it like when you learn how to do something new?”
- Explain that preteens will act out short skits but will get some unexpected plot twists along the way. While two preteens are acting out a scenario, someone from the audience may give an actor a new skill or change the circumstance. The actors must incorporate this new information and keep acting until the leader calls time.
- Choose two preteens to begin acting out the first scenario: riding bikes with a friend. Encourage the actors to converse with one another and bring the scenario to life. Choose a volunteer from the audience to give the first plot twist. The plot twists can assign new skills (such as a new language or superpowers) or change the circumstances (such as weather changes or technology). You may have multiple plot twists in one scenario if you like.
- Switch volunteers and try other scenarios, such as baking cookies or doing a group project for school. Allow preteens to have fun with the skits and plot twists, even if it gets silly.



LIVE IT OUT

- Thank preteens for their creativity, and ask them to sit down. Point out that the plot twists changed the scenarios. In the early church, the coming of the Holy Spirit was also significant. In the last session, preteens learned that the Holy Spirit is given to a person when he trusts Jesus as his Savior and Lord. This week, the group learned how the Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Paul for a specific trip.
- Note that the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus. What a great plot twist! Believers do not have to do this alone. God uses the Holy Spirit to help believers do His work.

CHOICE 3

PLAY A GUESSING GAME

- Distribute the slips of paper and pencils.
- Instruct preteens to write a noun on each slip of paper. Remind preteens that a noun is a person, place, or thing.
- Collect the slips of paper in a bowl. Keep the bowl with you so you can monitor what words are being drawn and used for the activity.
- Invite a preteen to select a paper from the bowl. She may read the paper silently and not show it to any other preteen. The rest of the group should ask yes or no questions to find out what word is on the paper.
- Allow time for preteens to play the game, rotating who is drawing the slips of paper.
- Ask preteens what it was like to be the one answering questions and in the audience asking questions. Were the words guessed quickly, or did it take a lot of questions?
- Remind preteens that Barnabas and Paul taught about Jesus, and the Gentiles wanted to hear more! What kinds of questions do you think they had? What could it have been like for the Jews to see this good news given to other people? Would they have had questions?
- Reinforce that the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to tell others about Jesus and God's plan of salvation. The Bible has the answers to help others learn about salvation.

CHOICE 3

- › small slips of paper (1–3 per preteen)
- › pencils
- › plastic bowl

WRAP UP

- Thank preteens for their participation in today's activities.
- Remind preteens to read the Bible each day this week and ensure they have a "Bingo Board" and "Weekly Reading Suggestions" for Week 2.
- Pray, thanking God for bringing salvation to all who believe and for the Holy Spirit to help Christians tell others about Jesus.
- Remind preteens to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.