



UNIT 32 | SESSION 3

GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

ACTS 11

CHRIST CONNECTION: We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Peter told people about Jesus.
- Many people heard the good news and believed.
- We can be happy when people love Jesus.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Peter told many people about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. He shared the good news with Jews and also with Gentiles—people who were not Jews. The people heard the good news, and many believed in Jesus. When Jesus' followers heard that people from other nations had believed the good news about Jesus, they praised God! Some of Jesus' followers went to Antioch and told other people about Jesus. When those people heard the good news, many of them believed. Barnabas visited the new believers and told them to keep following God.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 11. Show the **Bible story picture** as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **key passage phrase card**. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, He’s so good to me.
I praise His name, I praise His name,
I praise His name, He’s so good to me.”

SAY “Many people heard the good news that God is good! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus!”

2 CHEER FOR JESUS

Place babies in a circle in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Instruct leaders to take the babies’ hands and clap them together. Then raise the babies’ arms up over their heads. After each action say, “We can be happy” in a gentle, cheerful tone. Then place babies’ hands over their chests and say, “When people love Jesus” in a sweet, loving voice. Repeat as desired. Provide **musical instruments** to lengthen activity if desired.

SAY “Let’s celebrate! We can be happy when people love Jesus! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus!”

3 SPREAD PAINT

Slide a piece of **paper** in a **gallon-size ziplock bag**. Squirt a few drops of **colorful, washable paint** and seal the bag. Secure the opening with **duct tape**. Consider double-bagging to prevent leaks. Secure the bags to the table or floor in front of each baby. Encourage the babies to push on the paint to spread it across the paper.

SAY “Peter told people about Jesus. The good news about Jesus spread. Many believed in Jesus. We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 11. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 MAKE FOOTPRINT ART

Remove the toddlers' shoes and socks. Squirt a thin layer of washable paint on a paper plate and lay it on the ground. Place a sheet of paper next to the plate. Guide toddlers to step in the paint and then on the paper to create walking footprints. Set footprints aside to dry. Write Keep following God on each child's art. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ Many people heard the good news about Jesus. Once we believe in Jesus, should we stop following Him? No! We must keep following God! Barnabas told people to keep following God. ”

3 BLOW BUBBLES

Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device as you blow bubbles over the toddlers. Allow toddlers to dance and celebrate as they play with the bubbles. Call attention to how many bubbles there are. Challenge the toddlers to count the bubbles. Review the story.

SAY “ Our bubbles spread just like the good news of Jesus. Many people heard the good news and believed. When the people heard, what did they do? They praised God! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

4 EXPLORE MAPS

Provide a variety of maps and magnifying glasses for toddlers to examine the maps. Show the toddlers where they live on the map. If possible, point to the country of Turkey. Talk about how far you live from where Peter lived. Review the Bible story as the toddlers explore.

SAY “ Who did Peter tell people about? Jesus! Peter told people about Jesus no matter who they were or where they came from. Peter told about Jesus, and we can too! ”

5 PASS A BALL

Invite toddlers to sit in a circle. Take turns passing an inflated beach ball around the circle. Then take turns passing the ball to friends across the circle. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Who did Peter tell people about? Yes! Jesus! Peter passed the good news about Jesus to many people! When those people heard the good news, many of them believed. We can all celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

ACTS 11

CHRIST CONNECTION: We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CELEBRATE BELIEVERS

Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Provide musical instruments for toddlers to play along. Allow toddlers to celebrate and praise God. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ When the people heard the good news about Jesus, they praised God! Who do we praise? Yes! We praise God! Today we are dancing and playing music to celebrate! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, He’s so good to me.
I praise His name, I praise His name,
I praise His name, He’s so good to me.”

SAY “ Many people heard the good news that God is good! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus! ”

3 MAKE HAPPY FACES

Provide large googly eyes and yarn on a plate. Use liquid glue to secure the eyes and yarn onto the plate to create a happy face. Write We can be happy when people love Jesus on each child’s plate. Ensure no child puts anything in his mouth.

SAY “ What are some things that make you happy? [Allow responses.] We also can be happy when people love who? That’s right, Jesus! We can be happy when people love Jesus. We can celebrate that others believe in Jesus! ”

4 LEARN ABOUT OTHER NATIONS

Provide books with pictures of people from various backgrounds and cultures. Talk about the similarities and the differences you see in the pictures. Talk about the Bible story. Be sensitive to the toddlers who may have different backgrounds or cultures.

SAY “ Peter told many people about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. Many people heard the news about Jesus and believed. Can we tell people about Jesus? Yes! We can tell others the good news about Jesus too! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.