



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

Date: 06.29.25 | Paul Becomes a Missionary
Scripture: Acts 13-14

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PRESCHOOL:

- God sent Jesus because He loves and cares about us.
- Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

- God loves and values people around the world.
- God works through people to do His work in their communities and world.
- Missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

- God loves and values people around the world.
- God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ.
- God allows people to join Him in His work throughout the world.
- All Christians are called to be on mission with God.
- People can pray for all people serving on mission.
- God creates opportunities for people to connect with others in all walks of life.
- Missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus. Missionaries are sometimes in danger because they boldly tell others about Jesus.



MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the
power of God for salvation to everyone who
believes. - Romans 1:16a

[Check out this Seeds Kids song](#), Not Ashamed: Romans 1:16-17 to help memorize this verse.



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BUSY BIN

As the kids arrive, they will pick up a snack, drink, and a container of Play-Dough. Have the kids build models of places where they can share the gospel this summer. The kids can also build models of ways they can share God's love with others.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Play "Funny Sayings"

Say: "Have you ever heard a grown-up say something that sounded really weird—like 'spill the beans' or 'break a leg'?"

Let kids respond.

Say: "Those are called expressions or sayings. They don't really mean what the words sound like! If I say 'spill the beans,' I don't mean drop your food—I mean tell a secret! Or if I say 'break a leg,' I'm actually wishing someone good luck, especially before a performance."

Go through these examples with actions or pictures if possible:

- "Spill the beans" – (means to tell a secret)
- "Break a leg" – (means good luck)
- "Piece of cake" – (means something is very easy)
- "Shoot the breeze" – (means to talk for fun)

Say: "Sometimes things we say can be misunderstood, just like those silly phrases. In today's story, some people misunderstood Paul and Barnabas. But Paul didn't give up—he helped them understand who Jesus really is. And even when it was dangerous, he kept sharing the good news!"



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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The book of Acts presents a pivotal shift in the spread of the gospel. In the early chapters (Acts 1–12), Peter emerges as the primary leader in taking the message of Jesus to the Jewish people. But beginning in Acts 13, Paul becomes the central figure in the mission to the Gentiles. Throughout both sections, the true driving force is not any individual, but the Holy Spirit, who empowers and guides the church at every step.

In Acts 13, the multicultural church in Antioch is gathered in worship and prayer. In the midst of their spiritual devotion, the Holy Spirit clearly directs them: Paul and Barnabas are to be set apart for a specific mission to proclaim the gospel beyond their current borders (Acts 13:1–3). This moment is significant. Up to this point, the gospel had spread mainly due to persecution (like after Stephen's death in Acts 7). Now, for the first time, the church is sending out missionaries intentionally. It is a Spirit-led, purposeful expansion of the kingdom.

Paul, Barnabas, and their young companion, John Mark, begin their journey by sailing to Cyprus, Barnabas's homeland. In Salamis, they preach in the synagogue, following Paul's pattern of starting with the Jewish community. In Paphos, a Roman official named Sergius Paulus becomes a believer. This moment also marks a transition in Paul's identity—he is now referred to by his Roman name, Paul, which likely helped him better connect with Gentile audiences.

From Cyprus, they sail to Perga in Pamphylia, in modern-day Turkey. There, John Mark departs unexpectedly and returns to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13), a decision that later leads to a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:37–39). Nevertheless, Paul and Barnabas press on to Pisidian Antioch, where Paul delivers a message showing how Jesus fulfills God's promises to Israel (Acts 13:14–41). Many receive the gospel eagerly, especially Gentiles, but opposition arises as Jewish leaders become jealous. Paul and Barnabas then declare their intention to turn their focus to the Gentiles, which results in great rejoicing among non-Jewish listeners (Acts 13:44–48).

This pattern continues. In Iconium, both Jews and Gentiles believe, but resistance builds. In Lystra, without a synagogue to begin in, Paul heals a man who had been crippled from birth. The amazed crowd mistakenly believes Paul and Barnabas are gods and tries to offer sacrifices to them. Paul quickly corrects them, but the mood of the crowd shifts. Soon after, Paul is violently attacked, stoned, and left for dead. Yet he survives and continues to preach



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(Acts 14:19–20), demonstrating remarkable perseverance.

In every city, Paul and Barnabas do more than just evangelize. They plant churches, appoint elders, and strengthen the new believers, reminding them, “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). After retracing their steps to encourage the new churches, they return to Antioch and report all that God had done—especially how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles (Acts 14:27).

This first missionary journey, likely around AD 46–47, begins Paul’s lifelong calling to take the gospel to the nations. Later, at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), the church affirms the foundational truth that salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not through the Law of Moses.

Paul’s ministry on this journey reflects a life fully surrendered to Christ. In the face of misunderstanding, rejection, physical violence, and constant travel, Paul chooses obedience over comfort, enduring all things for the sake of the gospel. His message remained consistent: Christ crucified and risen, the fulfillment of God’s promises, the only hope for salvation.

He was filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, who not only led and sustained him but also lives in every believer today. Paul’s dependence on the Spirit and his unwavering commitment to God’s calling offer a compelling model for all who desire to live missionally.

As modern followers of Jesus, we are likewise called to be Spirit-led, gospel-focused, and faithful—no matter the opposition, cost, or discomfort. Like Paul, may we walk in obedience and boldness, confident that the message we carry is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.



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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

Remind your group that we are studying the New Testament. The book of Acts is about God sending the Holy Spirit to permanently dwell within Jesus' disciples and other believers after He ascended back to heaven. With the help of the Holy Spirit, those who followed Christ told many people about Jesus, helped others, and started the first churches. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the message of Jesus began to spread all over the world.



TELL THE STORY - ACTS 13-14

Just as Jesus had said it would, the church began in Jerusalem, grew into Judea, and expanded into Samaria. The apostles, like Peter and Philip, were faithful witnesses of the gospel, proclaiming the good news to both Jews and Gentiles. When God saved Paul, God had a plan to use him to send the church further into the world, to the ends of the earth. Paul and Barnabas were set apart for the work God had called them to. (13:1-3)

After Saul left Damascus, he first traveled to Jerusalem and then to Tarsus. Later, Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch. Saul, who was also known by his Roman name, Paul, was with the church in Antioch. The Holy Spirit chose Paul and another believer, Barnabas, for a special work. They obeyed and left Antioch. God led Paul and Barnabas to tell the good news about Jesus to not only the Jews but also the Gentiles—or people who were not Jews. (13:13-52)

Paul and Barnabas traveled to Lystra. Paul healed a man there who had never been able to walk. The people saw what Paul had done and thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! They began to worship them, but Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and shouted, “NO! We are not gods. We are men just like you! We want to tell you the good news of God.” (14:8-18)

Then some people came from Antioch and Iconium, cities where Paul and Barnabas had preached about Jesus. These people caused trouble, so the people in Lystra also turned against Paul and Barnabas. They threw stones at Paul and dragged him out of the city. They thought he was dead, but the believers in Lystra gathered around Paul, and he got up. (14:19)

The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe. They told people there about Jesus, and many people believed. Then Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra and Iconium. They encouraged the believers there to continue in the faith. They told the believers that



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they would face suffering because they believed in Jesus. Paul and Barnabas also chose leaders for the churches. (14:20-23)

The Bible consists of 66 books, 27 of which are in the New Testament. Paul is the author of at least 13 of these books. He wrote many of these books to churches or people he met on his missionary journeys. Paul's writings were always centered on the gospel, as he encouraged churches to stay true to Jesus.



RETELL THE STORY



SHARE THE GOSPEL

God planned for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, regardless of his troubles. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew, and the gospel spread so people worldwide could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas had been sent out from the church in Antioch, and after visiting the cities God had called them to, they returned to Antioch. They told the church in Antioch all God had done- how He had saved many Gentiles. What an encouraging report this must have been for the church! The gospel was understood and believed even in places and with people groups who had never heard about Jesus. God truly can save anyone, and He used His people to help others trust in Jesus for salvation.



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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

Paul had become a Christian. Once he was an enemy of Christians, but now Paul proclaimed the gospel. **In our story today, we heard that Paul was now to be set apart for the work God had called him to. What was this work, and who went with Paul? (Acts 13:2-5).** Paul and Barnabas were set apart to become missionaries who would tell others about Jesus. A missionary is a Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the good news about Jesus.

As Paul and Barnabas traveled to different cities, sharing the good news, they faced trouble. What were some challenging circumstances they faced? (Acts 14:11, 14-15, 19). Paul and Barnabas were mistaken for gods by the people of Lystra. Then, after some Jews from Antioch and Iconium stirred up trouble, Paul was stoned and left for dead. Sharing the gospel will sometimes be met with rejection and even persecution. Jesus had taught His followers that the world would hate them because it hated Him (John 15:18). Paul knew that sharing the gospel was worth it because even if he lost his life in this world, he would receive eternal life.

Even though Paul and Barnabas faced troubles, God blessed their faithfulness in sharing the good news of Jesus. How did God bless their efforts (Acts 14:20-27)? God saved many people in the towns of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia because Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel. Each town had a church, and Paul and Barnabas appointed elders or leaders in the churches. They also encouraged the churches to remember that believers will endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God. Paul and Barnabas sought to make disciples, men and women who would be faithful to Jesus and share good news no matter what troubles they faced.

Why does God call missionaries? A missionary is a Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus. In some of the areas missionaries serve, there might not be another Christian anywhere. It is important for people to hear the good news of the gospel and have an opportunity to respond by trusting Christ as Lord.



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Do you know any missionaries from our church? We currently have two missionaries from our church on staff overseas. Churches send out missionaries just as the church in Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas. Encourage the kids to pray for missionaries and learn more about the missionaries our church is connected to.

Do you think being a missionary could be challenging? How? Missionaries can sometimes be in places where Christians are killed or persecuted. Being away from your home, church, family, etc, can also be hard. Sharing the gospel is always worth it, no matter what troubles we face or things we give up, because Jesus is made known and glorified.

Why is the gospel called “the good news” if Jesus had to die?

Who can you share the good news of Jesus with this week?

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me live on mission?



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PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank You, Lord, for how You called Paul to share the gospel with all people. Give us courage and strength to share the good news, knowing You will save anyone who trusts in Jesus. Amen.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Practice naming the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Remind the kids that these books are in the NT and tell of Jesus' time on earth. Practice finding these books in the Bible.

Practice naming some of the disciples. During Wednesday night Bible study childcare, the kids learned a hokey song to remember all of the disciples. Play it a couple of times with your group and have them try to sing along.

You can find the song [here](#).

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

Our Creek Kids will collect money in the funnel for United Christian Ministries in May and June.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Continue to use the Memory Verse Handout for fun ideas for practicing the memory verse for this unit.

[Check out this Seeds Kids song](#), Not Ashamed: Romans 1:16-17 to help memorize this verse.



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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - God is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD



- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD



- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?