

Bible Point ▶

God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

Bible Verse

“Believe in the Lord Jesus” (Acts 16:31a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ discover that God has a special job for each of us,
■ realize that we can share the good news about Jesus,
■ learn that missionaries tell people about Jesus, and
■ identify people they can tell about Jesus.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Paul and Barnabas share the good news.



**Acts
13:1-5**

Paul's first missionary journey didn't arise from lengthy planning sessions or convenient travel arrangements. While the leaders of the Antioch church prayed and fasted, the Holy Spirit told them to set aside Paul and Barnabas for special work. The church leaders obeyed and laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas as a sign of blessing, power, and authority. Paul and Barnabas traveled to Cyprus where they first preached the good news in Jewish synagogues. By obeying God's call, Paul began a journey that lives on in millions of churches around the world today.

The 5- and 6-year-olds in your class probably know a little about missionaries. Perhaps they've seen pictures on the church walls, heard a pastor pray for missionaries, or listened to the adventures of a visiting missionary. But most children don't realize that they're missionaries, too! God wants us all to spread the good news of Jesus' love—whether it's in a faraway land or in our own neighborhoods! Use this lesson to help children understand that they can be missionaries by sharing the message of Jesus' love with those around them.









Prayer

- Read Isaiah 30:21.
- Is your ear tuned to the Lord's voice and your heart to his directions?
- Pray: Dear Lord, help me to be ever alert to your guidance as I teach these children. Let me be your tool as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout at the end of this lesson to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Butterfly Name Tags" (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: The S.S. Good News —Design boats that float, and learn that two men traveled in a boat to tell people about Jesus.	Foam egg cartons, coffee stirrers, paper, modeling dough, scissors, tape, dishpan, water	
	Option 2: A Chosen Helper —Sing a song, and help a friend with fun tasks.		
	Option 3: Worship Instruments —Create noisemakers, and learn how the early Christians worshipped God.	Cardboard tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, dry beans, bowls, crayons, spoon	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Search for hidden pieces of a paper boat.	Newsprint, masking tape	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Act out the story in Acts 13:1-5 about the Holy Spirit setting apart Paul and Barnabas.	Bible, CD player, worship instruments from Option 3, paper boat from "Setting the Stage"	
	Do the Bible Story —Sing about sharing the good news of Jesus.	CD player	
Closing 	Pockets' New Job —Teach Pockets that God will help her with the special job of telling others about Jesus.	Small ball	
	Pass It Around —Pat and clap hands to a rhyme about Paul and Barnabas.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Butterfly Name Tags” handout (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down to make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” activities. Use questions such as “Who did you help this week?” and “How did you help share Jesus’ love with someone this week?”
- Say: **Today we are going to learn that ► God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made in the first lesson, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct the children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct their conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How do you feel when someone asks you to do a special job?” or “What can you tell others about Jesus?”

Option 1: The S.S. Good News

SUPPLIES: foam egg cartons, coffee stirrers, paper, modeling dough, scissors, tape, dishpan, water

Before class, cut apart the egg cups from foam egg cartons, so you have one for each child. Set out transparent tape, coffee stirrers, modeling dough, and 3-inch triangles of paper. Give each child an egg cup and have him or her place a small ball of modeling dough inside it. Show children how to cut a coffee stirrer in half, tape a paper triangle to it, and then press the other end of the stirrer into the modeling dough. Provide a dishpan of water for children to float their boats in. Tell children that today they’ll learn about two men who sailed to different parts of the world telling people about Jesus.



Option 2: A Chosen Helper

SUPPLIES: none



Have children form a circle on the floor, and choose one child to be “It.” Instruct It to put on the *rainbow glasses* and walk around the circle, tapping each child on the head. While It goes around the

circle, lead the other children in singing “Looking for a Helper” to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.” This song is not on the *CD*.



SING

[Name of It] **is looking for a helper.**
 [Name of It] **is looking for a helper.**
 [Name of It] **is looking for a helper.**
Now who will it be?

The child It touches on the word *be* becomes the Helper. Have It give an instruction to the Helper such as “Help me push in all the chairs” or “Help me give everyone in the circle a high five.” After the Helper has completed the task, he or she becomes It. As children play, explain that in today’s story, the Holy Spirit chose two special helpers for an important job.

teacher tips

If you don’t choose this option, you’ll need to make or bring in one rhythm instrument for each child to use during “Hear and Tell the Bible Story.”

■ Option 3: Worship Instruments

SUPPLIES: cardboard tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, dry beans, bowls, crayons, spoon

Set out crayons, rubber bands, bowls of dry beans, 4-inch squares of wax paper, and cardboard tubes from paper towel or toilet paper rolls. If you don’t have enough cardboard tubes for each child to have one, make extras by rolling sheets of construction paper into tubes and taping them closed. Show children how to place squares of wax paper over one end of their tubes and secure them with rubber bands. Then have each child pour a spoonful of beans into his or her tube and close the other end with wax paper and a rubber band. As children decorate their worship instruments, explain that the Christians in Bible times worshipped God with music.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: *CD player*



track 2

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the *CD* to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the *CD* and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the *CD*, vary the names you use each week.



SING

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.

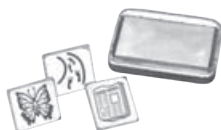
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: newsprint, masking tape



Before class, cut a large ship, sails, mast, and oars from newsprint, as shown in the margin. Stamp each piece with the “Good News” stamp. Hide the pieces of the ship around the room.

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention.

Explain that when you clap your hands, children are to stop what they’re doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Say: **I need everyone to help build a ship for our story today. I remember making the ship, but I just can’t remember where I put all the pieces, so I need your help.**

First find a partner so you don’t have to go looking alone. Have the children form pairs or trios. **Each part of the ship is marked with the “Good News” stamp so you can tell it’s a piece that we need. When you find a piece of the ship, bring it back to me, and we’ll tape it to the wall.**

Encourage children to walk, rather than run, around the room as they look for pieces of the ship. As partners find the pieces, have them sit down and let others search for the remaining items. When all the pieces are found, have children sit near the completed ship.

Say: **Our ship is complete because each of you did your part. You were my important helpers! In our Bible story today, we’ll learn about two friends who had an important job to do for God. God wanted them to tell people about Jesus. ►God wants us to share the good news about Jesus, too. Now let’s get ready to hear why the men in our Bible story needed this ship.**



Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2×6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and stamp the “Good News” stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Acts 13:1-5** in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



**Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Read God’s book, read God’s book.
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.**

**Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Read God’s book, read God’s book.
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.**

(Repeat.)



If the ink pad is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the newspaper stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ►God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.**

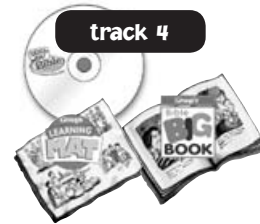
Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us obey him. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, help us share the good news about Jesus."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ►you want us to share the good news about Jesus.** In Jesus' name, amen.



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player, worship instruments from Option 3, paper boat from "Setting the Stage"



Have children sit in a circle. Hold up the Bible and say: **Our story today comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. It's a story about a man we've been learning about.**

Hold up the *Bible Big Book: Saul's Surprise* and point to the picture on the cover. **Who can tell me something about the man in this picture?** Call on children to tell you about Saul and how he came to follow God. Put the *Bible Big Book* away, and then continue: **That's right. After Saul decided to follow God, he traveled to many different cities telling the people there about Jesus. Saul also used a different name. His new friends called him Paul. Paul wanted everyone to know that he had changed and was now a follower of Jesus.**

Paul and his friend Barnabas loved telling people that Jesus came to be our Savior. So they went to the church in the city of Antioch to help the people there learn more about Jesus. The church in Antioch was a growing church! The church members cared for each other, told others about Jesus' love, and spread God's love all over their city. In fact, Antioch was the first place that Jesus' followers were called Christians! They prayed, worshipped, and even sent money when other churches needed it.

One day when the leaders of the Antioch church were worshipping, something amazing happened! Let's pretend we're the church leaders who worshipped. We'll worship God by singing "Let's All Sing" and by shaking our worship instruments.

Distribute the worship instruments from Option 3. Then lead children in singing "Let's All Sing" (track 4) to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" with the CD.

**SING**

Let's all sing and praise the Lord.
 Ho-ho-hosanna!
 Jesus lives forevermore.
 Ho-ho-hosanna!

He's the Son of God,
 Who showed his love;
 Praise to God in heav'n above!
 Let's all sing and praise the Lord.
 Ho-ho-hosanna!

(Repeat.)

Turn off the CD player, and collect the instruments. Say: **While the church leaders were worshipping, God spoke to them and told them to set apart Barnabas and Paul for a special job.** Tap a child on the shoulder. **Let's have [name] choose a Barnabas and a Paul and then gently lead them to the middle of our circle.**

Pause while your helper chooses two children. **Then the church leaders prayed and put their hands on Paul and Barnabas to show their blessing and to show that they were obeying God. Let's touch our Paul and Barnabas and give them a blessing.** Have children each put a hand on Paul or Barnabas and say, "God's blessings be with you."

Then continue: **Paul and Barnabas said goodbye to their good friends, and they boarded a ship.** Have Paul and Barnabas walk to the paper boat from "Setting the Stage" while the other children wave goodbye. **Paul and Barnabas sailed to the city of Salamis, on the island of Cyprus. There they told everyone the good news that Jesus loves them and died for them. This was the beginning of an exciting journey full of great adventures!**

Gather children around the *Learning Mat: Good News! Paul's Missionary Journeys*. Point to the picture of Paul and Barnabas leaving from Antioch and say: **Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Ask: • **Who called Paul and Barnabas?** (God.)

• **What did God want them to do?** (A special job; tell people about Jesus.)

• **What did the church leaders do for Paul and Barnabas?** (They prayed for them; they put their hands on them; they sent them away.)

Say: **Paul and Barnabas went away to tell people in different countries about Jesus.**

Ask: • **What do we call people who tell others about Jesus?** (Missionaries.)

Say: **Paul and Barnabas were missionaries. Today there are thousands of missionaries who travel to different parts of the world to tell the good news about Jesus. ►God wants us to share the good news about Jesus, too, right here where we live. Let's have some fun as we practice telling people the good news about Jesus.**



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Have children form pairs and stand facing each other. Say: **We can spread the good news about Jesus in lots of different ways. One fun way is by singing!**

Lead children in singing “Jesus Died for You” (track 11) to the tune of “London Bridge” with the CD. During the second verse, point to different children and fill in the blanks with their names.



SING
Jesus died for you and me. (*Point to a child and then to yourself.*)
He took our sins (*“lift” a frown off your face*)
And set us free. (*Open hands as if setting something free.*)
We can be forgiven, you see. (*Hold arms out as if on cross.*)
Jesus loves us! (*Hug self.*)

Jesus died for [name] **and** [name],
 [Name] **and** [name],
 [Name] **and** [name].
We can be forgiven, you see.
Jesus loves us!

(Repeat.)

teacher tips

Leave the ship taped to the wall until next week’s lesson.



BIBLE POINT ➤

BIBLE VERSE ➤



When the song ends, turn off the CD player and say:
 ➤ **God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.**

Ask: • **Where can you tell people about Jesus?** (At home; at school; at my babysitter’s house.)

• **What can you tell people about Jesus?** (That he loves us all; that he died for our sins; that he came to show God’s love.)

Say: **Our Bible verse is from Acts 16:31 and says: ➤ “Believe in the Lord Jesus.” Let’s tell everyone! Near or far, here or there, we can tell people everywhere! We can even share the good news about Jesus with our good friend, Pockets. Help me call her. Pockets! Pockets!**

Closing

■ Pockets’ New Job

SUPPLIES: small ball

Before class, put a small, bouncy ball in Pockets’ pouch. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo. Go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Pockets out of sight.





Pockets: (*Hanging her head*) I think I can't. I think I can't. I think I can't...

Teacher: Pockets? What are you talking about? What can't you do?

Pockets: (*Sadly*) Be the ball monitor for my class.

Teacher: Ball monitor? That sounds like a fun job! Your teacher must have chosen you especially for such a job. Why do you think you can't do it?

Pockets: Because the ball's TOO bouncy.

Teacher: I thought balls were supposed to be bouncy.

Pockets: They are! But the ball monitor has to hold the ball when the teacher blows the recess whistle. And I'll be tempted to play with the bouncy ball instead of holding it!

Teacher: Oh, I see. So your job seems too difficult.

Pockets: Yes, and my teacher is counting on me. It's an important job.

Teacher: You know, Pockets, our Bible story today is about two men who were given an important job. Children, can you tell Pockets what Barnabas and Paul's job was? (*Let children explain that God wanted Paul and Barnabas to share the good news about Jesus.*)

Pockets: That's a really important job. I'd hate to mess up on that!

Teacher: Yes, it was an important job. But Paul and Barnabas trusted God to help them tell people about Jesus. You know, ►God wants us to share the good news about Jesus, too.

Pockets: He'd give us that important job? Wow! He must trust us a lot.

Teacher: He certainly does! And he wants us to do our best at telling people about Jesus. Just like your teacher wants you to do your best at being the ball monitor.

Pockets: Wait! I've got an idea! When I'm being the ball monitor, I can share the good news about how Jesus is helping me! Then I'll be doing two jobs at once.

Teacher: That's a super idea, Pockets. I know you can do it.

Pockets: Thanks, everyone! (*Pockets exits, chanting.*) I think I CAN, I think I CAN, I think I CAN...

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BIBLE POINT ►



As they repeat the rhyme, children may want to create their own, more challenging clap-slap patterns.

■ Pass It Around

SUPPLIES: none

Say: I think Pockets will do a super job at being ball monitor, don't you? God gives each of us a special job, too. ► He wants us to share the good news about Jesus. That job may seem big and hard to do, but God will be right there to help us. Let's learn a fun rhyme to remind us of the special job God has for each of us.

Form pairs and have partners sit down, facing each other. Teach children the following rhyme. Then show children how to "clap-slap" by clapping their hands and then slapping their partner's palms, pat-a-cake style. Lead children in the following chant as they clap-slap.

**Paul and Barnabas went to share
Good news with people everywhere!
God helped them know what to say.
God will help us the very same way!**

After repeating the rhyme two or three times, say: **Tell your partner the name of one person you'll tell about Jesus this week.** Pause while children share. Then lead them in a prayer similar to this one. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for missionaries like Paul and Barnabas who spread the good news about Jesus all around the world. Help us to be missionaries in our own neighborhoods, schools, and families. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

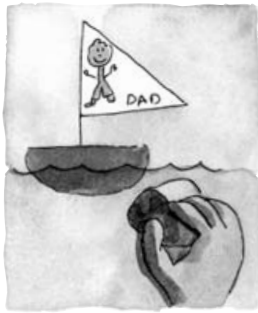
■ *Lively Learning: Jump for Jesus*

Bring in a jump-rope that's big enough for two children to jump in at one time. Choose a volunteer to help you turn the rope, or simply move it from side to side depending on children's abilities. Use the following jump-rope chant and have partners jump together.

**Paul and Barnabas went to share
Good news with people everywhere!
God helped them know what to say.
God will help us the very same way!**

When pairs finish the chant, have each partner name a person he or she will tell about Jesus. Then have the partners hop out of the jump-rope and choose two new children to take a turn.

■ *Make to Take: Potato-Print Ships*



Cut a potato in quarters to make a boat-shaped stamp. Then set out glue, crayons, blue construction paper, 3-inch triangles of white paper, and plastic forks. Pour brown paint into pie tins. Using the plastic forks as handles, show children how to dip the potato stamps in the paint and stamp ships on the blue paper. On each paper sail, have children draw or write the name of someone they'll share the good news of Jesus with. Then have children glue the sails above the boats. Remind children that Paul sailed to many countries to share the good news about Jesus.

■ *Treat to Eat: Stuck on You!*

Set out vanilla wafer cookies and marshmallow creme. Allow children to spread marshmallow creme on the cookies and then press two cookies together. As children eat, remind them that Paul and Barnabas were two friends who stuck together and told people about Jesus.



■ *Story Picture: Paul and Barnabas Are Set Apart*

Give each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Show children how to place a hand over Paul and Barnabas and then trace around it. While children color their handouts, remind them that the church leaders put their hands on Paul and Barnabas before they left.

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God wants us to share the good news about Jesus. Children heard how the Holy Spirit gave Paul and Barnabas the important job of telling people about Jesus. They discovered that they can share the good news about Jesus with people they know.

God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

Verse to Learn

"Believe in the Lord Jesus" (Acts 16:31a).

Ask Me...

- Who sent Barnabas and Paul to tell the good news?
- What can you tell others about Jesus?
- Who can our family share the good news with?

Family Fun

- Let your family create a Good News newspaper, telling the things God's done for your family. Have each family member contribute his or her own story about what God has done. Nonreaders may draw pictures or cut out pictures from magazines to illustrate the paper. Make copies and distribute your newspaper to family and friends.

Paul and Barnabas Are Set Apart (Acts 13:1-5)

