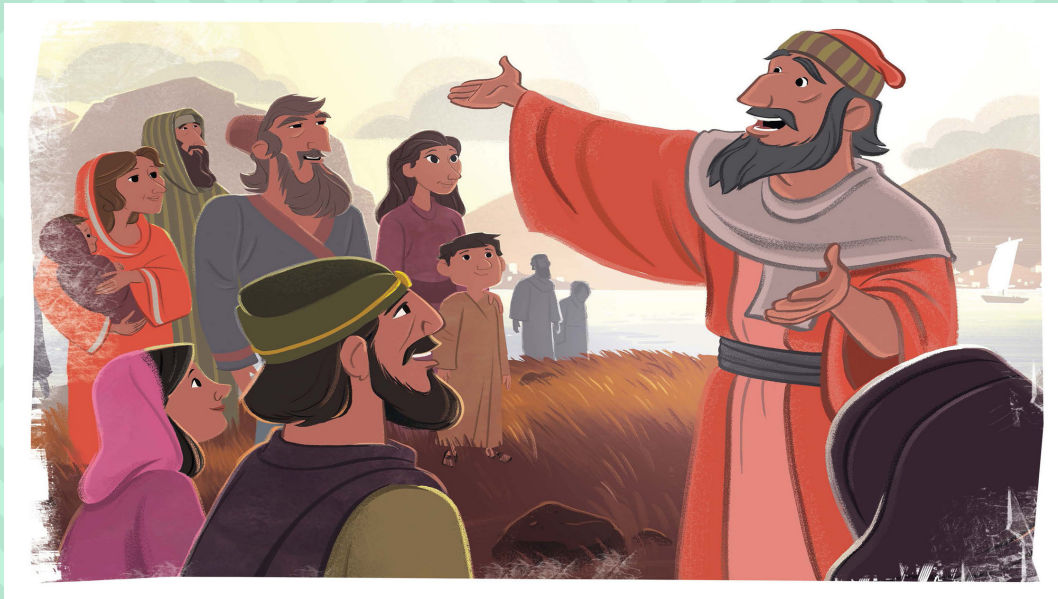


Family Sunday School Guide



MARCH 14, 2021

Barnabas in Antioch

1. Ask kids to tell you about a time they learned something new. What did they learn and who helped them?

a. Learning new things can be really rewarding and exciting. Today we will learn about a time a man called Barnabas traveled to a new place to teach the people there new things. What do you think Barnabas taught them?

2. Open your Bibles. Read Acts 11 or read the story on page 3.

a. Review Questions:

i. How did the Jewish believers react after Peter explained what happened with Cornelius? (They glorified God and understood that Gentiles could be saved by faith too)

ii. Who did the scattered believers share the gospel with? (only the Jews)

iii. In what city were believers first called Christians? (Antioch of Syria)

3. Pray together and thank God that the good news is for everyone!

Barnabas in Antioch

God had called Peter to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. So Peter shared the gospel not only with Jews, but with Gentiles. The Gentiles in Caesarea heard Peter's message and believed. God gave His Holy Spirit to these new believers, and they were baptized.

Before long, the apostles and other believers throughout Jude heard that Gentiles had believed the good news about Jesus.

They were surprised, so Peter shared about the vision God had given to him of the sheet of clean and unclean animals and his encounter with Cornelius. Peter explained that the gospel is for all people. Then the believers praised God and understood that Jesus had come for the Gentiles too!

At the same time, believers who scattered after Stephen's murder had traveled to places like Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. In those places, the believers only shared the gospel with the Jews. But some believers from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch and preached the gospel to the Greeks, too. God was with them, and a large number of the Greeks believed the good news.

the church at Jerusalem heard about these new believers, so they sent Barnabas to Antioch. Barnabas was a good man. He loved God and was full of faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. When Barnabas arrived, he saw that God was gracious to these believers. He was glad and encouraged them to keep following God. Even more people trusted in Jesus.

Then Barnabas left Antioch and went to Tarsus to look for Paul. He found Paul and brought him back to Antioch. They stayed with the church in Antioch for a year, teaching large crowds of people. Jesus' followers were first called Christians at Antioch.

Christ Connection:

Even though some people tried to stop it, the gospel spread throughout the earth-- not only to Jews but also to Gentiles. The good news about Jesus is for everyone. God calls us to celebrate when others believe and help them know and love Jesus more.

Activities

1. **Words of Encouragement.** sit together in a circle. Give examples of something you could say to be encouraging to others. Take turns giving family members words of encouragement. Talk about how Barnabas encouraged the believers to continue in their faith with God.
2. **Thank You Cards.** Provide materials for family members to write thank you cards. Examples: thank you card to a teacher, family member, coach, dance teacher, etc. Take time to write a note of thanks and encouragement to others.
3. **Key Passage Activity.** Read the verse together several times. Then, sitting in a circle, assign one word at a time to each person. Go around the circle with each person saying their word. Keep going around the circle until you say the whole verse. After several trial rounds, set a timer to see how long it takes your family to say the whole verse.
4. **Watch the Story.** Watch the Bible story video provided.



**Let the heavens be glad
and the earth rejoice, and
let them say among the
nations, “The Lord reigns!”**

1 Chronicles 16:31

