

Morning Overview

Lesson: Adventures in Cyprus

Lesson Objective:

In our story today, we continue to see how the Holy Spirit continues to build the Church and cause the Good News to go forth. Paul, formally known as Saul, and Barnabas travel to Cyprus to tell the Jews there about Jesus and the Good News. However, the effect rendered from their preaching is that Gentiles desire to hear about Jesus more than the Jewish people. This would fulfill the prophet Isaiah's words (Isiah 49:6). As the Good News goes forth, the Holy Spirit continues to work in the hearts of people and bring them into God's family. Their hearts and lives are filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. This is and should still happen today! The lives of Christians should be filled with joy knowing that our King has come!

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- Paul and Barnabas are sent by the Holy Spirit to Cyprus. Upon arriving they immediately begin preaching the Good News.
- They encounter the false prophet, Bar-Jesus, whom Paul renders blind when he tries to stop the Apostles from preaching the Good News to the local, powerful ruler.
- The Apostles continue on in their travels and preaching and encounter Jews in Pisidia.
- There they preach, and great crowds come to hear Paul and Barnabas. This causes jealousy and rage from the Jewish leaders.
- Many non-Jews/Gentiles believe the Good News, but Paul and Barnabas plead with the Jewish people to believe it too. They do not.
- Jewish leaders make life difficult for the Apostles, and so Paul and Barnabas leave. The Good News would be preached to the Gentile/non-Jews instead.
- Joy and the Holy Spirit had filled those who believed the Good News!

Scripture: Acts 13:1-52

Story: Vos Child's Story Bible, Pages 351-352

Scripture Memory for July: Acts 26:17b-18 (ESV)

I am sending you (*point up to God and then to yourself*)

to open their eyes (*close your eyes with hands closed beside them then open hands wide as you open your eyes*)

so that they may turn from darkness to light (*turn around and lower your head covering it with your arms and then face the front again raising arms, lifting your hands to the light*)

... that they may receive forgiveness of sins. (*open wide your hands out in front of you*)

Craft: Sailboat

Supplies: Cardstock boat, sail triangle, craft stick, verse sticker

Instructions: 1. Glue sail and boat to craft stick
2. Place verse sticker on boat

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet



Story

Transition

Boys and girls, who has been on a boat before? Did you sail across the ocean? A lake? What about a pond? In our story today, two Apostles sail to a tiny island and have some adventures! Let's find out what happens in our story...

The Church Is Growing

The Church was growing. The Bible tells us every day more and more people believed the Good News! They believed that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from our sins and He rose from the dead! More and more people believed in Jesus – the Church was growing! But as the Church grew, there were people that wanted to hurt and even kill followers of Jesus. Followers of Jesus had to run, hide and live in different places and cities. As they scattered they took the Good News with them and told others about Jesus.

Not everyone wanted the Good News to be told however. Some tried to stop the Apostles from speaking and were rude and harsh to the Apostles. Both of these things happen in our story today, but the Apostles did not stop telling others about Jesus and the Good News.

Adventures in Cyprus

In the church at Antioch there were these prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen (who had grown up with Herod, the ruler we learned about last week) and Paul. They were all worshiping the Lord. They also decided to fast – which is another way to say that gave up eating for a little while. The Holy Spirit said to them, “I have special work for Barnabas and Paul to do. I have chosen them for it.”

So, the group continued to pray and fast. Then they laid their hands on Barnabas and Paul. Laying hands is a special ceremony where someone or some people are blessed, prayed over, and then they go out to do a special job. Afterwards Barnabas and Paul left to do a special job for the Holy Spirit. They went to the city of Seleucia. From there they sailed to the island of Cyprus. Cyprus is a tiny island in the big Mediterranean Sea [use map on tri-fold to show Cyprus]. When they arrived in Cyprus, they began preaching the Good News. Barnabas and Paul had help from a friend named John Mark. The men traveled the island telling others about Jesus. As they were travelling they met a magician named Bar-Jesus. He was a false prophet; this means he did not tell the truth. Bar-Jesus had a very good friend who was a very powerful ruler. The powerful ruler invited Barnabas and Paul to his home; he wanted to hear about Jesus. But Bar-Jesus tried to stop Barnabas and Paul from telling the ruler about Jesus. The Bible tells us that Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit, just like everyone who believes and follows Jesus! Paul looked at Bar-Jesus and said, “You son of the devil! You are an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of evil tricks and lies. You are always trying to change the Lord's truths into lies! Now the Lord will touch you, and you will be blind. For a time you will not be able to see anything—not even the light from the sun.” Then everything became dark for Bar-Jesus. He could not see! When the ruler saw this, he believed in Jesus. The ruler was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Barnabas and Paul continued to travel and preach the Good News. Their friend, John Mark, left them and returned to Jerusalem. Barnabas and Paul arrived in a city called Pisidia. There they went to a synagogue and sat down. The law of Moses and the writings of the prophets were read. When the leaders of the synagogue heard about this, they sent a message to Paul and Barnabas to preach.

Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly the Bible tells us. They spoke of how God chose Israel and the children of Israel to follow Him. They spoke about the Israelites leaving Egypt long ago and entering into the Promised Land. They preached about King David and how God chose him to be the king and leader of Israel. And that Jesus was a descendent of King David. Paul and Barnabas wanted the people to follow Jesus just like the Israelites followed King David long ago. They told everyone listening that Jesus was God's Promise to them. Jesus was the Promised King to come and save them! This is what Moses and the Prophets said would happen: Jesus would come, He would die for

His people on a cross, but God would raise him up from death! And many people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead too. This was the Good News that Paul and Barnabas had told many others.

Paul and Barnabas told the crowd to listen carefully, to pay attention to their words. Paul and Barnabas wanted everyone to believe the Good News too!

After Paul and Barnabas finished preaching, many Jews followed them. Paul and Barnabas kept telling them to trust and worship in God. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Pisidia another week.

A week later, Paul and Barnabas taught the Good News and almost the whole city came to hear them. Seeing the crowd, the Jewish leaders became very jealous. They wanted lots of people to come hear them teach, but they did not. They came to hear Paul and Barnabas speak about Jesus. The Jewish leaders said mean and hurtful things about Paul and Barnabas. They argued with them and interrupted Paul and Barnabas as they preached. Then Paul said to them, "We must speak God's Word to you first. But you refuse to listen. You are judging yourselves not worthy of having eternal life! So, we will now go to the people of other nations and tell them about Jesus!" When the people from other nations that were nearby heard this, they were happy. They respected Paul and Barnabas, and they wanted to hear about the Good News. The Bible tells us many people believed the Good News! The Good News was preached, and it spread through the whole country. The Jewish leaders and others caused a lot of trouble for Paul and Barnabas. So, they left the city, but those that believed were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have children answer "yes" or "no."

- Is the Church growing – adding more and more people? (Yes)
- Paul and Barnabas go to Cyprus? (Yes)
- When they get to Cyprus they go to the beach and swim? (No! They preach the Good News.)
- Paul and Barnabas met a magician named Bar-Jesus? (Yes)
- Bar-Jesus tried to stop Paul, but Paul made him deaf? (No, Paul made him blind.)
- Paul and Barnabas preach to the crowd from the law of Moses and the prophets? (Yes)
- No one believed Paul and Barnabas words? (No, many people believed their words.)
- Paul and Barnabas preached the Good News a second time, and no one came to hear them? (No, almost the whole city came to hear them).
- The Jewish leaders loved to hear the Good News from Paul and Barnabas? (No, they were jealous and made rude, harsh comments toward the Apostles.)
- Paul and Barnabas left the city because the Jewish leaders were mean and rude. (Yes)
- Paul and Barnabas told people from other nations about Jesus (Yes)
- People from other nations who believed in Jesus were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit? (Yes)