



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 25



First Missionary Journey

Acts 12:24-13:43

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Isaiah 6:1-8
Jeremiah 1:1-10
Matthew 28:18-20
Acts 1:8

Memory Verse

After this, I heard the LORD ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" "I'll go," I answered. "Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Paul and Barnabas were called out for special work

Understand that Paul and Barnabas said "yes" to God's call

Understand that God may call any one of us

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Have you ever noticed that some people who run well get asked to join track teams at a college and some even go on to train and run for their country's team? That's what happens in the Olympics! Let's see what happens in the life of faith.

What do you remember from the last couple of weeks? Barnabas brought Saul from Tarsus to help encourage and strengthen the believers in Antioch. They were there an entire year. They left for Jerusalem to deliver a gift on behalf of the church in Antioch. Meanwhile, James was killed, the church was made to suffer, and Peter was arrested. He escaped with the help of an angel.

Even though there was persecution against the believers, "God's word continued to increase and spread." (Acts 12:24 NIV) Saul and Barnabas finished what they were doing and headed back to Antioch. They took John Mark with them.

There were several teacher/leaders in the church there in Antioch, including Saul and Barnabas. "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit spoke. 'Set apart Barnabas and Saul for me,' He said. 'I have appointed them to do special work.'" (Acts 13:2 NIV) So the leaders continued fasting and they prayed. They obeyed the Holy Spirit. Saul and Barnabas were commissioned for the special work God wanted them to do. The leaders did this by placing their hands on Saul and Barnabas' head and sending them off.

Saul, Barnabas, and John Mark left Antioch and went to the coastal city of Seleucia. From there they sailed to the island of Cyprus. They arrived at the city of Salamis, where they preached the Word of God in the Jewish synagogues. Then they traveled across the island to the city of Paphos.

They met the governor of the area, a man named Sergius-Paulus. He was interested in hearing God's Word, but his attendant was an evil magician (Bar-Jesus or Elymas) who "tried to keep the governor from becoming a believer. Saul was also known as Paul." (Acts 13:8-9 NIV) He looked right at the evil magician and told him he was a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! Paul also told him that the Lord was

Application

Do you know that Jesus is God's Salvation sent to us? Jesus left Heaven and came to earth as a baby to die in your place. He took your sin upon Himself on the cross so that you could be free from the slavery of sin and able to have a relationship with Him. That relationship gives us eternal life. Aren't you ready to be free of sin and give control of your life to Jesus?

Maybe you already know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. Have you ever wondered if He might be calling you to special service for Him? He will let you know when He is ready. Don't you want to be ready when it happens? Will you say as Isaiah the prophet said, "I'll go . . . Send me."

against him. He would go blind for a while. And immediately he lost his sight. "When the governor saw what had happened, he believed. He was amazed at what Paul was teaching about the Lord." (Acts 13:12 NIV)

From the island of Cyprus, Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark sailed to the region of Pamphylia. They landed in Perga. John Mark left them there and returned to Jerusalem, but Paul and Barnabas continued their journey telling others about Jesus. They went on to Psidian Antioch where they visited the synagogue. They sat and listened as the Law and the Prophets were read. Then the synagogue rulers asked Paul and Barnabas if they had a message they wanted to share with the people.

When given the chance to speak, Paul spoke! He stood up and talked about what had just been read to them from the Old Testament. He talked about how God had chosen the people of Israel, how He had rescued them from slavery, and "put up with them for about 40 years in the desert." (Acts 13:18 NIV) Paul shared many things with them from their history like the time of the judges and Israel wanting a king. He shared about King David and how "from this man's family line God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus." (Acts 13:23 NIV) Paul continued, "this message of salvation has been sent to us." (Acts 13:26 NIV) "The leaders didn't recognize that Jesus is God's Son, instead they had Him taken to Pilate to be crucified. But not even death could stop Him! God raised Him from the dead!" Paul explained that this was good news, indeed. This salvation brought forgiveness of sins for those who would believe. "Through [Jesus] everyone who believes is made right with God." (Acts 13:39 NIV)

As they were leaving the synagogue, the people asked if they would return the next week and share more. They followed Paul and Barnabas away from the synagogue and were encouraged to remain faithful to God.

Review

1. What happened in Antioch when the leaders were fasting and praying? (The Holy Spirit told them to commission Paul and Barnabas for special service.)
2. What did Paul and Barnabas do next? (They began traveling from city to city telling others about Jesus.)
3. What happened in Paphos? (Bar-Jesus was blinded; the governor believed.)

Next Week
To the Gentiles
Acts 13:44-52

Preschool Lesson

Do you remember learning about when Barnabas brought Saul from Tarsus to help the believers in Antioch? They were there a whole year and then left for Jerusalem. Saul and Barnabas finished what they were doing and headed back to Antioch. They took John Mark with them.

There were several leaders in the church there in Antioch, including Saul and Barnabas. While they were worshiping God one day, the Holy Spirit spoke, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for me. I want them to do special work for me.” So the leaders kept fasting and they prayed. They obeyed the Holy Spirit. Saul and Barnabas were commissioned for the special work God wanted them to do. The leaders did this by putting their hands on Saul and Barnabas’ head. Then they sent them off.

Saul, Barnabas, and John Mark left Antioch and went to the coast. From there they sailed to the island of Cyprus. They preached the Word of God in the Jewish synagogues. Then they traveled across the island to another city. They met the governor there and he was interested in hearing God’s Word, but a helper of his didn’t want him to become a believer. Saul, who was also known as Paul, told the man that God was against him. He would go blind for a while. And immediately he lost his sight. “When the governor saw what had happened, he believed. He was amazed at what Paul was teaching about the Lord.” (Acts 13:12 NlrV)

From the island of Cyprus, Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark sailed to another area where John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem, but Paul and Barnabas continued their journey telling others about Jesus. They went to a town called Psidian Antioch where they visited the synagogue (church). They sat and listened as the Law and the Prophets were read. Then the synagogue rulers asked Paul and Barnabas if they wanted to share with the people.

Paul, of course, spoke up! He stood up and talked about what had just been read to them from the Old Testament. He talked about how God had chosen the people of Israel, how He had rescued them from slavery, and “put up with them for about 40 years in the desert.” (Acts 13:18 NlrV) Paul shared many things with them from their history like the time of the judges and Israel wanting a king. He shared about King David and how “from this man’s family line God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus.” (Acts 13:23 NlrV) Paul continued, “this message of salvation has been sent to us.” (Acts 13:26 NlrV) “The leaders didn’t recognize that Jesus is God’s Son, instead they had Him taken to Pilate to be crucified. But not even death could stop Him! God raised Him from the dead!” Paul explained that this was good news, indeed. This salvation brought forgiveness of sins for those who would believe. “Through [Jesus] everyone who believes is made right with God.” (Acts 13:39 NlrV)

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Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Help your students trace their foot. Print the memory verse on the foot-print. Add a magnet to the back or a ribbon for hanging.

Play a Bible Bingo game to review Israel's history up to Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection.

Study the divisions of the Bible, especially the Old Testament. Discuss what the "Law and Prophets" were that were being read in the synagogue in Psidian Antioch.

Play baseball, substituting the cities of Salamis, Paphos, and Psidian Antioch that Paul and Barnabas visited on their journey, with home plate being the city of Antioch (in Syria) where they began.

Make a bulletin board or wall-sized map to the areas where Paul traveled. Begin tracing his travels by marking the cities on the map.

Make up a song to a familiar tune that describes the events of Paul and Barnabas' journey.

Make a mobile of the way God worked through the missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas. Illustrate what God did to the evil magician in Cyprus as well as the governor choosing to believe. Also illustrate the events in the synagogue in Psidian Antioch.

Be sensitive to God moving among your students, especially older children and adults. This might be the time to give a formal invitation, not only to salvation, but also to service to God.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, talk about how special the Olympics are and how service to God is even more special. Talk about Isaiah and Jeremiah's call to service.



After this,
I heard the LORD ask,
"Is there anyone I can send?
Will someone go for us?"
"I'll go," I answered.
"Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

Racing Riddles

What was the prophet Isaiah's response to God?

I'll go.

Send me.

Word Search

s a u g e e k i n g o v e r s
u t s r a e p e r o a t d o h
r s e v i l m a g i c i a n c
p r o h e h t a u l e g n r o
y e h m p r k e p l u i e e i
c i r o h o n a i i a a p v t
i d y g b a r a b a s t s o n
m l r p a a c p c o e e a g a
o o e v i l s t d n i r b o n
n s m e u g o g a n y s a r a
p n e h n v h u t e a a n g i
d e o o u r p r r o t w r r d
r j o h n m a r k c x e a u i
e y t s e d p i n g h e b l s
p c s y l c h a i c t i i f p

Saul

Paul

Barnabas

John Mark

Cyprus

Paphos

Perga

Psidian Antioch

evil magician

governor

synagogue

Law and Prophets

Word Search

s a u g e e k i n g o v e r s
u t s r a e p e r o a t d o h
r s e v i l m a g i c i a n c
p r o h e h t a u l e g n r o
y e h m p r k e p l u i e e i
c i r o h o n a i i a a p v t
i d y g b a r a b a s t s o n
m l r p a a c p c o e e a g a
o o e v i l s t d n i r b o n
n s m e u g o g a n y s a r a
p n e h n v h u t e a a n g i
d e o o u r p r r o t w r r d
r j o h n m a r k c x e a u i
e y t s e d p i n g h e b l s
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