



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 29



The Second Journey Begins

Acts 15:36-16:5

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Acts 13:13
Acts 14:6-20
Acts 15:1-21
Colossians 4:10

Memory Verse

Be kind to one another,
tender-hearted,
forgiving each other,
just as God in Christ
also has forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:32 (NASB)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Paul and Barnabas disagreed

Understand that Paul and Barnabas continued serving God, even though they separated

Understand that sometimes we will disagree with others, but it is necessary to forgive

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 disagreed with someone? Have you ever disagreed with someone close to you, with whom you did everything? Did you hold on to hate and bitterness? It was hard to accomplish very much after that, wasn't it? Or were you forgiving? Forgiveness is a wonderful thing. It is not just for those who deserve it, in fact it is rarely for those who deserve it. Let's see how the race of faith is run as we continue our lessons from the book of Acts.

The last time we talked about Paul and Barnabas, they had returned to Antioch. Some Judeans told the believers there things that weren't true, so Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to a meeting of the apostles and elders. They returned to Antioch and stayed there for a while. "Some time later Paul spoke to Barnabas. 'Let's go back to all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord,' he said. 'Let's visit the believers and see how they are doing.'" (Acts 15:36 NIV) Barnabas wanted his cousin John Mark to go with them, but Paul didn't. John Mark had deserted them during their first journey and didn't go any further than the region of Pamphylia. Paul and Barnabas disagreed, so they decided to separate. Barnabas took John Mark with him. Paul took a man named Silas with him. (We know that the disagreement over John Mark must have been resolved because Paul later writes to the Colossians to welcome John Mark.) The believers there in Antioch prayed that God would give His grace to them as they went.

Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus, the home town of Barnabas. Paul and Silas traveled through Syria and Cilicia. As they traveled, they arrived in Derbe and Lystra again. What do you remember from the first visit to that area? A man who hadn't been able to use his feet since birth was healed. Do you remember that as Paul was speaking, he could tell that the lame man had faith to be healed? What happened after that? The people of Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were Greek gods and wanted to make sacrifices to them!

Application

Forgiveness is a wonderful thing. It is wonderful to forgive as well as be forgiven. It is not just for those who deserve it, in fact it is

rarely for those who deserve it. What does our memory verse say?

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32 NASB)

So, we are supposed to forgive each other, but does that mean everyone, even if they don't deserve it? Let's see.

What does the end of our memory verse say?

“ . . . just as God in Christ forgave you.”

How has God forgiven you? He sent His one and only Son to die in your place. (John 3:16)

Do you deserve it? No.

What you deserve is death, but God offers eternal life instead.

(Romans 6:23) Are you ready to accept that and be forgiven? And if you have, what's stopping you from forgiving others the same way?

But on this trip to Derbe and Lystra they met a believer named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer; his father was Greek. The believers in Lystra and Iconium had really good things to say about Timothy. Paul decided to take Timothy along on the journey.

“Paul and his companions traveled from town to town. They reported what the apostles and elders in Jerusalem had decided.” (Acts 16:4a NIV) What had the apostles and elders in Jerusalem decided? We mentioned this at the beginning of the lesson. As Paul and Barnabas ended their first journey and returned to Antioch, Judeans came teaching things that weren't true, that non-Jews also needed to be circumcised, that salvation wasn't enough. Paul and Barnabas appealed to the leaders in Jerusalem who made it clear that there is salvation in no other name than “Jesus” and that it is through Him that we come to God, not through circumcision or any other practice. So, this is what Paul, Silas, and Timothy were sharing, that “the people were supposed to obey what was in the report.” (Acts 16:4b NIV)

Paul, Silas, and Timothy visited the churches and encouraged them, “so the churches were made strong in the faith. The number of believers grew every day.” (Acts 16:5 NIV)

Review

1. What happened when Paul and Barnabas wanted to visit the churches again? (They disagreed over taking John Mark.)
2. What was the result of their disagreement? (separation)
3. Where did Paul and Silas go? (They went to Derbe and Lystra.)
4. What happened there? (They met Timothy. He went on the journey with them.)

Next Week
Follow God's Lead
Acts 16:6-15

Preschool Lesson

Have you ever disagreed with someone? Let's see what happens when Paul and Barnabas disagree.

The last time we talked about Paul and Barnabas, they had returned to Antioch. They stayed there for a while. "Some time later Paul spoke to Barnabas. 'Let's go back to all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord,' he said. 'Let's visit the believers and see how they are doing.'" (Acts 15:36 NIV) Barnabas wanted his cousin John Mark to go with them, but Paul didn't. John Mark had deserted them during their first journey. Paul and Barnabas disagreed, so they decided to separate. Barnabas took John Mark with him. Paul took a man named Silas with him. Even though they disagreed, they made things right. The believers there in Antioch prayed for them as they went.

Barnabas and John Mark went one way. Paul and Silas went the other way. As they traveled, they arrived in Derbe and Lystra again. What do you remember from the first visit to that area? A man who couldn't walk was healed.

On this trip they met a believer named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer; his father was Greek. The believers there had really good things to say about Timothy. Paul decided to take Timothy along on the journey.

"Paul and his companions traveled from town to town. They reported what the apostles and elders in Jerusalem had decided." (Acts 16:4a NIV) What had the apostles and elders in Jerusalem decided? We mentioned this at the beginning of the lesson. As Paul and Barnabas ended their first journey and returned to Antioch, Judeans came teaching things that weren't true, that believing in Jesus wasn't enough. Paul and Barnabas went to the leaders in Jerusalem who made it clear that there is salvation in no other name than "Jesus" and that it is through Him that we come to God. So, this is what Paul, Silas, and Timothy were sharing.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy visited the churches and encouraged them, and more and more people were believing in Jesus every day.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Play Balloon Volleyball, practicing the memory verse with each volley. When your students have mastered the verse, talk about practical ways to put this verse in practice.

Sing “Blessed Be the Tie,” and “They Will Know We are Christians By Our Love.”

Provide coloring pages and activities from the Lystra lesson as a review.

Discuss Barnabas and John Mark. Barnabas was willing to give John Mark a second chance. Who can you give a second chance to?

Before Paul’s Second Missionary Journey began, John Mark had been inspired by God to write the Gospel of Mark, the second book of the New Testament. Talk about the books of the New Testament and its divisions. Talk about who wrote what.

For older students and adults: Look through the supplemental Scripture from page 2. Discuss what you might have done and what you have learned from today’s lesson and memory verse.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, talk about the need to run well, not just to run however you want to. Talk about the need to be kind and tenderhearted and forgiving.

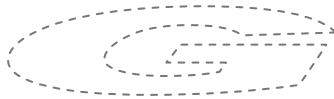
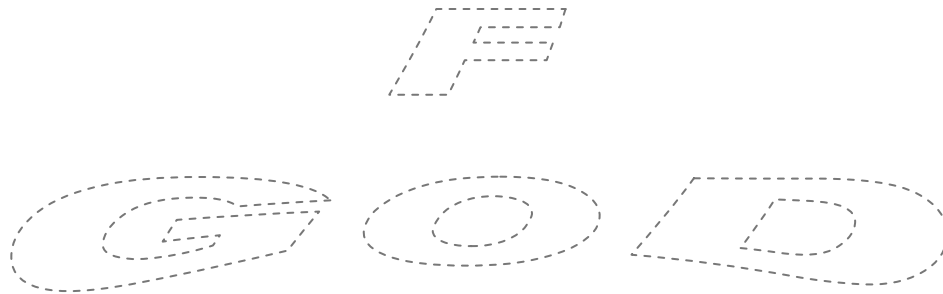


Be kind
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just as God in Christ
also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

Racing Riddles

Trace the letters below to find out an amazing truth. Look at the shaped formed by this truth. What does the shape have to do with God's forgiveness?



Word Search

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

Paul

Barnabas

disagreement

John Mark

Silas

Derbe and Lystra

Timothy

second journey

new believers

Word Search

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