

# Acts-Revelation

## The church grew Acts 11:19-30

### Younger Verse

Change your ways and be baptized. Acts 2:38a

### Older Verse

Change your ways and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38a

### Welcome Time

Have you ever seen a plant grow and grow? Today's lesson is about how the church grew—how people started following Jesus and believing in Him.

### Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. It is **NOT** to be read to the children. Instead, use your Bible to explain the story. Make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you wanted to ask.*

A few weeks ago, we learned about a man named Stephen. He believed in Jesus and stood up for Him.

Many people traveled far away to escape being killed or hurt for their belief in Jesus like Stephen did. Wherever the people went, they always told the townspeople about Jesus. They had to share this good news with everyone they met.

Some stopped at a town called Antioch (Ant-e-ock). One of the new churches heard about the believers in Antioch and sent a man named Barnabas. He encouraged the people and helped them know more about God.

Barnabas knew Paul could help the people in this town, so he traveled and brought Paul back to the town. They stayed a year to help the people learn about Jesus. They taught them many things about Jesus and how He died and came back to life again.

The town of Antioch was the first place that followers of Jesus were called Christians. Christian means "little Christ."

Soon God helped the people know that hard times were coming. There would be a famine and lots of food would not be available. Instead of being nervous or scared, they trusted God and helped more people know about Him.

### Lesson Goals

See how the Church grew when people told others about Jesus  
Know the importance of believing in Jesus

Just like the believers followed Jesus, we must follow Jesus too.

Jesus did something that no one else could ever do to help us get to Heaven. Jesus died on a cross for all the bad stuff we have done. He took the punishment for all the bad things we have done. We can get to Heaven if we trust in Jesus with all our heart and ask Him to be our best friend. Jesus cleans out all the sin in our life and makes us clean. He promises us that He will take us to Heaven one day!

Jesus also wants us to help others know about Him like the people of Antioch did. He wants us to help others learn how Jesus is the only way to Heaven. When we do this, our church will grow, too. As more people hear about what Jesus did for us, the more people will come to church and be saved.

**Learning Activities**

Try activities that will help the kids see the importance of telling others about Jesus.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Talk about what it means to be baptized. Share how it is a picture of how Jesus had changed your life—washing away your wrongs and helping you start living a new life for Jesus.

**Prayer Time**

Prayer was a big part of the church growing. People were scared of what might happen to them, so they prayed to God for help and strength. When we pray, God listens and wants to help us with our needs. Talk to God today about needs that you have.

**Clean Up/Snack time**

Enjoy snacks and listen to the kids. See how you can help them learn more about Jesus.

Planning for March 28th  
An Angel helps Peter escape  
Acts 12:1-17

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
The Church Grew

After Jesus went up to Heaven, many people traveled to other places to live. As they went through different towns and villages, they always told the people about Jesus. They were so happy and they wanted others to know about how much God loved them.

Because of this, many people believed in Jesus. The people started meeting together in little groups. They were having church!

One man named Barnabas came to the town. It was called Antioch (Ant-e-ock). He came to teach the people and help them know more about Jesus. He was so excited, he sent for his good friend Paul to help too. Barnabas and Paul stayed in the town for a long time to teach the people and help them know more of God's love.

This town was the first place people who believed in Jesus were called Christians. They loved Jesus and were happy to tell others of His love.

Did you know that God loves you? He does. He cares for us and wants us to tell other people about how wonderful He is.

Let's sing the song, "My Best Friend is Jesus."

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
The Church Grew

Make the Bible Story Box about Barnabas.

Make a growth chart for the kids. Talk about how the church grew—not in a building, but grew with more people. Talk about how your church can grow.

This will take a little preparation time. Soak beans in water so that they begin to root. Let each child take one home and watch it grow (plant it in a little cup or put it in a zipper bag with a water-soaked napkin).

For the memory verse, bring a bowl of water, pepper and dishwashing liquid (or soap). Sprinkle the pepper in the water. Now, squeeze a drop of liquid in the middle of the water. The pepper will immediately move to the rim of the bowl. Talk about how the believers moved out and told others about Jesus.

Share how the early Christians identified each other by drawing the Icthus symbol. Now, Roll biscuit dough into a long roll and shape into a fish symbol. Now, cook them. These yummy treats will help the kids remember the story about the fish symbol.

Bring coffee filters and mark on them with washable markers. Now spray the filter with water. The colors will run and make a pretty design. Share how news of Jesus spread just like the colors did.

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