

Acts-Revelation

Paul and Barnabas separate

Acts 15:36-41

Younger Verse

God showed us how much He loved us. Romans 5:8

Older Verse

God showed how much He loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful. Romans 5:8 (CEV)

Welcome Time

Have you ever had a disagreement or argument with someone? Let's see what happens when two people who love God get into a little argument.

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.*

We have been learning many things about Paul and his friend, Barnabas. They traveled to many towns and told the people about Jesus. Sometimes they stayed for many days or even months. Other times, they continued on their journey. They always tried to listen to God and go where He sent them.

One day, Paul told Barnabas that they should go back to some of the towns and check on the believers. He wanted to encourage them and help them learn more about Jesus.

Barnabas wanted to take John who was also called Mark. He knew that John Mark could learn many lessons and learn how to share Jesus with others.

Paul did not want John Mark to go with them. Paul remembered something that John Mark had done earlier. John Mark had traveled with them earlier and decided to quit. This made Paul very upset. Paul remembered this and did not want John Mark coming again.

On the other hand, Barnabas probably saw John Mark's potential as a leader and helper. He wanted him to learn how to continue and not give up.

Paul and Barnabas continued to disagree on the matter. In fact, they decided to go different ways. Barnabas and John Mark went one way to help the people learn about Jesus. Paul and his friend Silas went another direction to help people in the churches learn more.

Paul and Barnabas did not agree on something. They took time to talk about the issue and see what they needed to do. They did not get angry or try to hurt the other person.

Lesson Goals

To share what happened in the story

To see how we must act with others who do not agree

Think of someone we need to forgive or someone that we need to go to and ask forgiveness

The decision was not easy to split up and go two different ways. God used the split up to help more people grow in their understanding of Jesus. God also used the time to help Paul, Barnabas and John Mark grow in their understanding.

John Mark did not quit this time. He was a great helper to Barnabas and helped him share Jesus with others. He also saw the importance of not giving up.

Paul saw John Mark's improvement too! Believe it or not, Paul asked John Mark to come and help him 3 different times! He saw how John Mark was a changed person and how he could help tell people about Jesus.

When we have disagreements with others, how do we handle it? Do we burst out with an angry statement, try to hurt someone else with words, clam up and say nothing, or try to work out the problem. God wants us to work out problems and stay calm about the issue.

Another thing we can remember from the story is not to judge people because of their past mistakes. Paul remembered John Mark's behavior in the past and could not see how he could be trusted. Barnabas saw the future and how God could use John Mark to help spread God's message. We need to see people through God's eyes and not judge them for how they may have been in the past.

Most of all, we need to see how God can clean away all our mistakes. How? Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven of all our wrongs. Jesus died on a cross and came back to life to make a way for us to go to Heaven if we believe. We must tell God we are sorry for all our wrongs and ask Him to forgive our mistakes (sin). Then, we ask Jesus to come into our heart and stay with us. Jesus will stay with us forever and help us do things God's way. If you want to know how to be forgiven, talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Try different things to help them see how to deal with people and accept them.

Memory Verse Activities

Because of Jesus, we can go to Heaven, if we believe. That's how much God loves us! Talk about it!

Prayer Time

Ask God to help you share Jesus with someone this week.

Clean Up/Snack time

Share snacks and get to know the kids.

Planning for April 25th
Timothy
Acts 16:1-10

Preschool Lesson
For
Paul and Barnabas separate

Have you ever had someone that was mean to you or called you a name that hurt your feelings? We all have people that we have had problems with.

Remember Paul in the Bible. We have learned how he and his friend Barnabas walked around to many places to tell people about Jesus.

One day, Paul and Barnabas talked about traveling to some places. Barnabas wanted their friend John Mark to come. Paul did NOT want John Mark to come. Paul remembered some of the things that John Mark did. Barnabas thought about how John Mark had learned from his mistakes.

Paul and Barnabas did not agree. They did not fight about it. They talked and talked to each other. Finally, they decided to go two different ways. Paul and his friend Silas went one way and Barnabas and John Mark went another way.

They still liked each other, but they decided to go different ways.

Both Paul and Barnabas helped many people learn about Jesus. Their friends did too! In fact, John Mark helped many people. Paul saw how John Mark helped and did well. Paul later asked John Mark to come and help him! Paul was glad that they all were able to tell people about Jesus.

When we have a problem with people, we should be nice and try to talk about the problem together. That is how God would like for us to take care of problems. He wants us to like each other and be nice even when there is a problem. The best thing we can do is pray for the other person and treat them like we want to be treated.

Thank God that He loves us. Ask Him to help us when we get upset with others.

Hands-On Activities For Paul and Barnabas Separate

If someone in your group is having a disagreement, talk about how to calmly settle the problem. If appropriate for your group, set up a “mock” disagreement and show the kids how they could calmly settle things so that everyone is OK.

We must accept others and not judge them. Bring two cups that are plastic, one very pretty and one ordinary. Coat the inside of the pretty cup with dirt or mud. Now ask which cup the kids would prefer to use to drink. Most will say the pretty cup. Now show the inside of the cups. Explain that God does not want us to judge by what someone looks like on the outside. God looks at our inside—our hearts.

We must learn from our mistakes like John Mark did. He knew that if he had a second chance, God could help him persevere and help him not quit. John Mark did succeed! When we feel like giving up, we can remember John Mark’s example and persevere!

When you are angry, instead of yelling or lashing out, try this idea. Pretend that you are winding a watch, even if you do not have one on! Count to 30 before you say anything.

Sometimes one of the hardest things to say is “I’m sorry” or “I made a mistake.” Instead of being prideful, be humble and tell someone you are sorry for the mean things you said or did.

Bring a sheet of paper and Ziploc bag. Share how harsh or mean words separate friendships. Tear the piece of paper in half. Explain that when a person says or does something that hurts someone, the relationship changes. Just like it is hard to put torn paper back together again, it is hard to mend wounded relationships. God wants us to repair hurt feelings and make things right. He can help us put friendships together again. Zip the zipper bag closed and show how friendships can be repaired with God’s help!
