

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 258: PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY
ACTS 12:25 - 13:52

After Barnabas and Saul delivered the contributions from the people in Antioch to the leaders in Jerusalem, they returned to Antioch from Jerusalem. They brought John Mark with them. Barnabas, Simeon (called the Niger, which means Black), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (who grew up with Herod the tetrarch), and Saul were prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for me. I want them to do the work for which I called them." After fasting and praying, Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul, and released them from their work they were doing in Antioch so they could go do the Lord's work where He was going to send them. After Barnabas and Saul were sent by the Holy Spirit, they went to the city of Seleucia and from there sailed to the island of Cyprus. Arriving in the city of Salamis, they began to spread God's word in the synagogues of the Jews. John Mark had gone along to help them as their assistant. They went through the whole island as far as the city of Paphos. In Paphos they met a Jewish man named Barjesus. He was an astrologer who claimed to be a prophet. He was associated with an intelligent man, Sergius Paulus, who was the governor of the island. The governor sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. Elymas, whose name means astrologer, was against them and tried to wrongly change the meaning of the faith so that the governor wouldn't believe. But Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He stared at Elymas and said, "You are full of dirty tricks and schemes, you son of the devil! You hate everything that has God's approval. Quit trying to wrongly change the truth about the way the Lord wants people to live. The Lord is against you now. For a while you will be blind, unable to even see the light of day." Suddenly, Elymas couldn't see a thing. He tried to find people to lead him. When the governor saw what had happened, he believed. The Lord's teachings amazed him. Paul and his men took a ship from Paphos and arrived in Perga, a city in Pamphylia. John Mark departed from them there and went back to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas left Perga and arrived in Antioch, a city near Pisidia. On the day of worship they went into the synagogue and sat down. After reading from Moses' Teachings and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent a message to Paul and Barnabas. The message said, "Brothers, if you have any words of encouragement for the

people, feel free to speak." Then Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Men of Israel and converts to Judaism, listen to me. The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors and made them a strong nation while they lived as foreigners in Egypt. He used his powerful arm to bring them out of Egypt, and he put up with them for about forty years in the desert. Then he destroyed seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as an inheritance. He did all this in about four hundred and fifty years. "After that he gave his people judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. "Then the people demanded a king, so God gave them Saul, son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin. After forty years God removed Saul and made David their king. God spoke favorably about David. He said, 'I have found that David, son of Jesse, is a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.' "God had the Savior, Jesus, come to Israel from David's descendants, as he had promised. Before Jesus began his ministry, John the Baptizer told everyone in Israel about the baptism of repentance. When John was finishing his work, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I'm not the person you're looking for. He will come later. I'm not even good enough to untie his sandals.' "Brothers-descendants of Abraham and converts to Judaism-the message that God saves people was sent to us. The people who live in Jerusalem and their rulers didn't know who Jesus was. They didn't understand the prophets' messages, which are read every day of worship. So they condemned Jesus and fulfilled what the prophets had said. Although they couldn't find any good reason to kill him, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had finished doing everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. But God brought him back to life, and for many days he appeared to those who had come with him to Jerusalem from Galilee. These people are now witnesses and are testifying to the Jewish people about him. We are telling you the Good News: What God promised our ancestors has happened. God has fulfilled the promise for us, their descendants, by bringing Jesus back to life. This is what Scripture says in the second psalm: 'You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.' "God stated that he brought Jesus back to life and that Jesus' body never decayed. He said, 'I will give you the enduring love promised to David.' Another psalm says, 'You will not allow your holy one to decay.' After doing God's will by serving the people of his time, David died. He was laid to rest with his ancestors, but his body decayed. However, the man God brought back to life had a body that didn't decay. "So, brothers, I'm telling you that through Jesus

your sins can be forgiven. Sins kept you from receiving God's approval through Moses' Teachings. However, everyone who believes in Jesus receives God's approval. "Be careful, or what the prophets said may happen to you. 'Look, you mockers! Be amazed and die! I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if it were reported to you!'" As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak on the same subject the next day of worship. When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas talked with them and were persuading them to continue trusting God's good will. On the next day of worship, almost the whole city gathered to hear the Lord's word. When the Jews saw the crowds, they became very jealous. They used insulting language to contradict whatever Paul said. Paul and Barnabas told them boldly, "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject the word and consider yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, we are now going to turn to people of other nations. The Lord gave us the following order: 'I have made you a light for the nations so that you would save people all over the world.'" The people who were not Jews were pleased with what they heard and praised the Lord's word. Everyone who had been prepared for everlasting life believed. The word of the Lord spread throughout the whole region. But Jews made some of the religious important women and the officials of the city to be angry. These people started to persecute Paul and Barnabas and threw them out of their town. In protest against these people, Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet and went to the city of Iconium. Meanwhile, the disciples in Antioch continued to be full of joy and the Holy Spirit.

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

(ACTS 12:25 - 13:52)



"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set Barnabas and Saul apart for me. I want them to do the work for which I called them.'" **ACTS 13:2**
"So, sent out by the Holy Spirit, left for Seleuci, and from there they sailed to Cyprus." **ACTS 13:4**

258. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

ACTS 12:25 - 13:52

MEMORY VERSE:

"...I have made you a light for the Gentiles, so that all the world may be saved." **ACTS 12:11**

Review Questions

True or False

1. Barnabus, Simeon who was called Niger (which means Black), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been raised with Herod, and Saul were all prophets in the church at Antioch.
2. While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set Barnabus and Saul apart for me, I want them to do the work for which I called them." But they did not go down to Seleucia, or on to Cyprus.
3. When they got to Salamis they found an astrologer named Elymus who tried to wrongly change the word of God so that the governor wouldn't believe.
4. They left and came to a city called Antioch of Pisidia and went to the synagogue, and the officials sent them a message saying, 'We want you to stay away from the people, you Christians!'
5. Paul stood up and got their attention and told them the whole story from Moses all the way through to Jesus and how they can have forgiveness of sins through Jesus.
6. As Paul and Barnabus were leaving the synagogue, the people asked them to come back the next Sabbath day and teach them more, and the Jews there who saw all these people coming, were very happy and they tried to agree with everything Paul said.

Questions

1. While the believers were worshiping and ministering to the Lord and fasting at the church in Antioch, who did the Holy Spirit want to separate for Himself to do the work for which He called them to?
2. When they got to Paphos there was a man named Elymus, which means astrologer, and he tried changing God's word so the governor would not believe. What happened to Elymus because he did this?
3. After they went to Antioch of Pisidia and were asked to speak to the people in the synagogue there on the Sabbath, what did Paul say to the people there? What story did he tell? (let the children repeat some of the stories 'Moses and Egypt', '450 years', 'John the Baptist' 'How you can be forgiven your sins through Jesus', etc.)
4. After Paul and Barnabus spoke to the people, were the Jews who were there happy? What did they do?
5. Did that stop Paul and Barnabus from speaking?
6. When the Jews refused to listen about Jesus, who did Paul and Barnabus say they were going to tell the Good News to?
7. Were the people who weren't Jews happy to hear about Jesus? Did some of them believe now?
8. What did the important women and city officials do to Paul and Barnabus after the Jews made them angry?

Lesson 258 Activity

Divide your class into two teams. Copy each part of the following two plays and give each team one of the plays. Let them practice for five or ten minutes. If you have props, great!

Present the plays to the class.

(Younger children, just let them pick their parts, and tell them what to say – let them recite their lines after you)

PLAY #1

FARMER: I'm the farmer. I have fertilized my field, plowed it, and planted grain. I have prayed for rain and harvested the wheat and then I delivered it to the miller.

MILLER: I'm the miller. I have taken the wheat from the farmer and ground it in my mill to make fine bread flour.

BAKER: I'm the baker. I have taken the fine bread flour that the miller ground and have mixed it with water, oil, and yeast and made delicious bread.

GROCER: I'm the grocer. I have put the delicious bread into my store for people to buy.

MOTHER: I'm the mother. I have bought this beautiful bread at the grocery store to feed my family.

CHILD: I'm the child. Hey, Mom, I'm hungry; what's for breakfast?

PLAY #2

SHEPHERD: I stay out here in this field all day watching these sheep. Sometimes they fall down and can't get up, so I help them up. Sometimes a hungry wolf will try to steal one of them and I have to chase it away. I make sure they have water and plenty of grass to eat.

SHEARER: I come to the farm and cut the wool off of the sheep. It is scary for them so I must wrestle them to the ground and hold them as I cut. It is really just like a haircut and doesn't hurt them.

WEAVER: I take the wool and wash it, then I comb it out until it is all untangled. This is called carding. Then I spin the carded wool into yarn. Then the yarn will be threaded onto my loom. On the loom I weave the yarn into cloth.

TAILOR: I take the wool cloth and cut it and sew it into a sweater.

MERCHANT: I take the sweater and put it into my store.

FATHER: I buy the sweater for my son who is a missionary in Tibet; it is very cold there.

Explain to your class that each person represented in the skits had a part to play in the making of the real item. Who had the most important job? If anyone of them had not done their job, the final product would be in jeopardy. Every one of the players was necessary. Each person had a contribution. **God has a calling on the life of every one of His children.** Each one of His children needs to realize God's calling so that he can contribute to the whole work that God wants to do. Not everyone is called to go. Some are to stay here and support those who go. But everyone's contribution to God's work is important.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to seek the calling God has placed on their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.