Preschool–Grade 5

Barnabas Craft

Barnabas took him · Acts 4:36–37; 9:26–31; 11:22–26 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



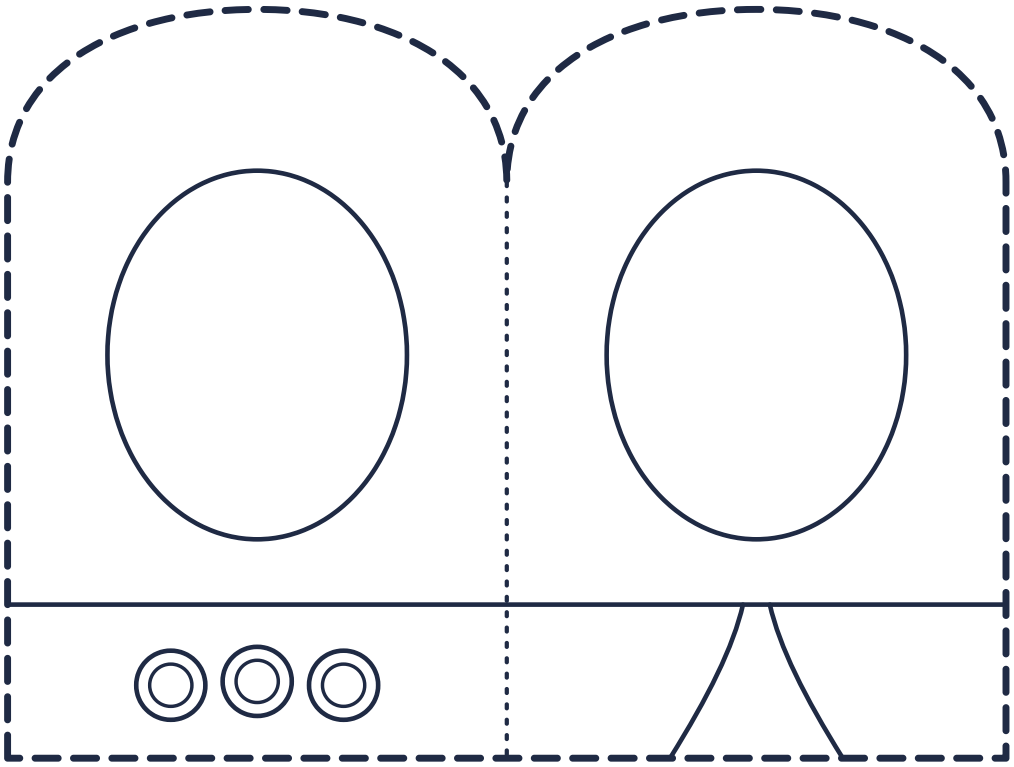
Harder

Both levels are a stand-up card of arched panels with a light blue sky and green grass. On the left, Barnabas, with three yellow coins for the money he brought and "laid it at the apostles' feet" (Acts 4:37). On the right, Saul, with the brown road where he "had seen the Lord in the way" (Acts 9:27). Kids draw each man in his oval. Folded, the panels stand side by side, because when the disciples were all afraid of Saul, "Barnabas took him" (9:26–27). Medium (left): Barnabas and Saul. Harder (right): the same, with a third panel, the apostles at Jerusalem behind a gray city wall, so Barnabas brings Saul to the apostles.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



left: draw Barnabas in the oval
coins yellow

right: draw Saul in the oval
road brown

both: sky light blue, grass green · fold on the dotted line, do not cut it

For he was a good man,
and full of the Holy Ghost
and of faith:
and much people
was added
unto the Lord.

Acts 11:24 (KJV)

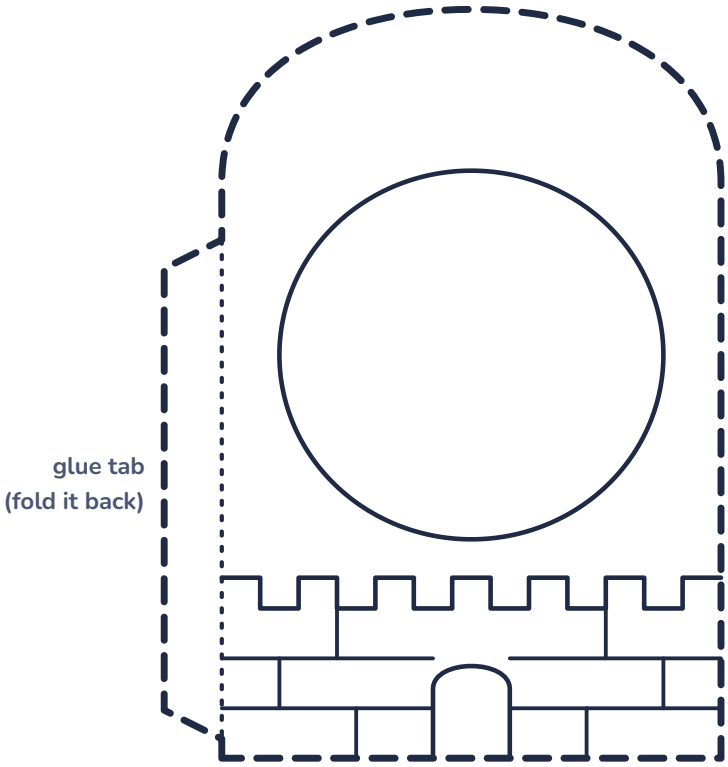
verse strip: glue it on the back of Barnabas's panel

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the two joined panels and the verse strip. Fold on the dotted line.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



apostles panel: sky light blue, wall gray, gate brown

Draw the apostles in the oval. Cut on the dashed lines. Fold on the dotted line.

How to add the apostles panel

1. Make the two panels of Barnabas and Saul from page 2 first.
2. Color the apostles panel: the sky light blue, the city wall of Jerusalem gray and the gate brown. In the oval, draw the apostles listening.
3. Cut it out on the dashed lines. Fold the glue tab back on the dotted line.
4. Put glue on the tab. Press it on the back of Saul's panel, along its right edge, so the apostles panel sits to the right of Saul.
5. Stand all three panels up in a zigzag. Tell it: the disciples "were all afraid of him" (Acts 9:26). "But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way" (9:27).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/barnabas-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock stands best), light blue, green, yellow and brown crayons or markers, crayons for drawing Barnabas and Saul, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a gray crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the two joined panels and the verse strip, and fold the panels on the dotted line.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out and fold each child's panels and verse strip. Kids color and draw Barnabas and Saul. You help glue the verse strip on the back and stand the panels up.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out and fold the panels themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the two panels like the medium level. Then add the apostles panel from page 3 with its glue tab, and stand all three in a zigzag: Barnabas brings Saul to the apostles (Acts 9:27). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the panels:** the sky light blue and the grass green on both panels. On the left panel, color the three coins yellow. On the right panel, color the road brown. Leave the ovals white.
2. **Draw:** in the left oval, draw Barnabas. In the right oval, draw Saul.
3. **Cut:** cut out the two joined panels and the verse strip on the dashed lines. Do not cut on the dotted line between the panels.
4. **Fold:** fold on the dotted line, drawings inside, and open it again like a book.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the left panel (Barnabas's side). Read it together.
6. **Stand it up:** stand the panels on the table like a book opened wide, so both drawings face you side by side, like two friends standing together.
7. **Tell it:** the disciples "were all afraid of him" (Acts 9:26). Move Barnabas close beside Saul: "But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles" (9:27).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the left panel. What new name did the apostles give Joses, and what does it mean? *(Barnabas, "The son of consolation," Acts 4:36)*
- Point to the coins. What did Barnabas do with the money from his land? *(He laid it at the apostles' feet, 4:37)*
- Where did Barnabas come from? *(The country of Cyprus, an island, 4:36)*
- Point to Saul. Why were the disciples afraid of him? *(He used to fight against the believers, 9:21; "they were all afraid of him," 9:26)*
- Point to the road. What did Barnabas tell the apostles? *(How Saul had seen the Lord in the way, the Lord had spoken to him, and he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus, 9:27)*
- Where did Barnabas go to look for Saul later? *(Tarsus, 11:25)*
- Where were the disciples called Christians first? *(Antioch, 11:26)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: surnamed** means given another name; **consolation** means comfort and encouragement; a **Levite** was a man from the tribe of Levi; **assayed** means tried; **declared** means told; **in the way** means on the road; **boldly** means bravely; **exhorted** means encouraged; **cleave unto the Lord** means hold on to the Lord and stay close.
- **What the Bible says:** Acts says Barnabas sold land and "brought the money" (4:37); it doesn't say coins, how much, or what the road and the city looked like. The coins, the road, the wall and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. Acts gives no number of apostles in Acts 9:27, so kids draw as many as they like.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** each child draws Barnabas, Saul and (harder level) the apostles in the ovals. Remind kids the men in the Bible wore robes.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and pre-fold everything. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child stand the panels up and "walk" Barnabas beside Saul.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Barnabas lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/barnabas.

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