Preschool–Grade 6

Paul and Barnabas

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God sends us to tell others about Him, and when good things happen, we give God the glory.
Bible passage: Acts 13:1–5 and 14:8–20 (and Acts 11:25–26). Read them before class.
Memory verse: "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." *Acts 13:2 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, paper and pencils, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Under it, write "Who gets the glory?"

1. Opening game: Who Gets the Glory? (5–10 minutes)

Read each one. Kids stand up if the person should say, "Thank you, God did that!" 1) Your team wins, and everyone cheers for you. 2) Your grandma gets well after the church prayed. 3) A friend says your drawing is amazing. 4) Your family has food on the table. Talk about it: it is fine to say thank you, but every good gift comes from God. Say: "Today two men are treated like gods, and they run to stop it."

2. Bible story: Sent Out Together (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Acts. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Friends in Antioch. Barnabas brought Saul to the church in Antioch, and they taught there a whole year. That is where the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:25–26).

Set apart. Look up Acts 13:2. While the church **ministered to the Lord**, which means worshiped and served Him, and **fasted**, went without food to seek God, the **Holy Ghost** spoke. The Holy Ghost is God's own Spirit. God called Barnabas and Saul to a special work.

Sent forth. Look up Acts 13:3–4. The church fasted and prayed, laid their hands on them, and sent them away. They sailed to Cyprus and preached the word of God (13:4–5). Saul is also called **Paul** (13:9).

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At Lystra. Look up Acts 14:8–10. A man sat in Lystra who was **impotent in his feet**, which means his feet had no strength, and he had never walked. Paul looked **stedfastly**, which means steadily, at him and saw he had faith to be healed. Paul said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on thy feet," and he leaped and walked!

Not gods. The people said, "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men," and the priest of their false god brought oxen to offer to Paul and Barnabas (14:11–13). **Look up Acts 14:14–15.** Barnabas and Paul **rent**, or tore, their clothes and ran in among the people: "We also are men of like passions with you," which means we are people just like you. They told them to turn "unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea."

He rose up. Look up Acts 14:19–20. Some men came and turned the people against Paul. They threw stones at him and drew him out of the city, thinking he was dead. But as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, went back into the city, and the next day left with Barnabas for Derbe.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. God sent Paul and Barnabas out together. Why is it good to have a friend when you serve God?
2. The church fasted and prayed before sending them (13:3). Why do you think they prayed first?
3. The people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. Why did they stop them so fast?
4. Paul rose up and kept going (14:20). What does that tell you about Paul?
5. Who is one person God might want you to tell about Him?

Recall questions

1. Who said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul"? *(The Holy Ghost, Acts 13:2)*
2. What did Paul say to the man at Lystra? *("Stand upright on thy feet," 14:10)*
3. Where did Paul and Barnabas go the next day? *(To Derbe, 14:20)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **ministered to the Lord** means worshiped and served God, **fasted** means went without food to seek God, **separate me** means set apart for Me, and **whereunto** means that. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Paul and Barnabas told people to turn to the living God. Here is the good news they preached. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when someone praises you, say thank you and tell them one good thing God has done for you.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Acts 11:26: Where were the disciples first called Christians? *(In Antioch)*
2. Acts 13:1: Name two of the prophets and teachers at Antioch. *(Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, Saul)*
3. Acts 13:3: What did the church do before they sent them away? *(Fasted, prayed and laid their hands on them)*
4. Acts 13:4: Where did they sail to? *(Cyprus)*
5. Acts 14:9: What did Paul see that the man had? *(Faith to be healed)*
6. Acts 14:10: What did the man do? *(He leaped and walked)*
7. Acts 14:15: What did the living God make? *(Heaven, earth, the sea, and all things that are therein)*
8. Acts 14:20: Who stood round about Paul? *(The disciples)*

For more, use the **word search, crossword, maze or worksheet** (vbshq.com/bible-stories/paul-and-barnabas).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You made heaven, and earth, and the sea. Every good thing comes from You. Send us to tell others about You, and help us always give You the glory. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about the stoning: say it was very hard and Paul was hurt badly, but God kept him. He rose up and kept preaching (Acts 14:20–21).

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