Preschool–Grade 6

Paul and Barnabas

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God sends me to tell others about Him.
Bible passage: Acts 13 and 14. Read Acts 13:1–5 and 14:8–20 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work" *Acts 13:2 (KJV)*. **Separate me** means "set them apart for Me." Saul is Paul's other name.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 14.

1. Opening game: Stand Up Tall! (5 minutes)

Kids sit on the floor. When you say **"Stand up!"** they jump up and stand tall. When you say **"Sit down!"** they sit. Mix them up, slow and then fast. Say: "Good job! Today we will hear a true story about a man who had never stood up or walked, and God healed him!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 13. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God picked two friends, Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:2). *(Hold up two fingers.)*
The church prayed for them (13:3). *(Fold your hands.)*
They went to tell people about God (13:4–5). *(Walk in place.)*
A man sat who had never walked (14:8). *(Sit down.)*
Paul said, "Stand upright on thy feet" (14:10). *(Point up.)*
He leaped and walked! (14:10) *(Jump up and walk in place.)*
Say it with me: "God made him walk!"
The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods (14:11). *(Shake your head no.)*
Paul and Barnabas said, "We also are men." They told the people to turn to the living God (14:15). *(Point up high.)*
People hurt Paul, but Paul got up again (14:19–20). *(Stand up tall.)*
Say it with me: "I can tell others about God!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who were the two friends God sent? *(Paul and Barnabas, Acts 13:2)*
2. What did the man do when Paul said, "Stand upright"? *(He leaped and walked, 14:10)*
3. Who did Paul say to turn to? *(The living God, 14:15)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The Bible says, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work.' That means God picked them for a special job." Teach the motions: hold up two fingers for "Barnabas and Saul," and walk in place for "for the work." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Acts 13:2" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: He Leaped and Walked (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw the man standing up tall on his feet, and then color it. While they color, ask: "What did Paul say? What did the man do?" Kids who finish early can play Stand Up Tall! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for making the man walk.
Help me tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the focus on God healing the man and on telling others about God. This lesson leaves out the stones (Acts 14:19); it says only that people hurt Paul and he got up again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks what "never walked" means: say, "His feet did not work, so he could not walk, ever. God made his feet strong!"

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