Preschool–Grade 6

Paul and Barnabas

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God sends us to tell others about Him, and we give God the glory.
Bible passage: Acts 13:1–5 and Acts 14:8–20. 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, about six folded paper "message cards" that say "God loves you," paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 13. Ask a helper to stand at the far side of the room.

1. Opening game: Sent Out Two by Two (5 minutes)

Kids line up in pairs. Give the first pair a message card and say, "I am sending you!" The pair walks together to the helper across the room, gives the card, and says, "God loves you!" Then they walk back and the next pair goes. Say: "Today we will hear about two friends God sent out together to tell people about Him. Their names were Paul and Barnabas!"

2. Bible story: Sent by God (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 13, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

In the city of **Antioch** there was a church. Barnabas and Saul were teachers there (Acts 13:1). Saul had another name too: **Paul** (13:9). One day the church was worshiping the Lord and **fasting**, which means going without food to spend time with God. Then the **Holy Ghost**, God's own Spirit, spoke: "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (13:2). God had a job for them!

The church fasted and prayed, put their hands on Barnabas and Saul, and sent them away (13:3). They sailed on a long trip, and they **preached** the word of God, which means they told people what God says (13:4–5).

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The story continues: One day Paul and Barnabas came to a city called **Lystra**. A man sat there who had never walked, not even one time in his whole life (Acts 14:8). He listened to Paul speak. Paul looked right at him and saw that he had faith to be healed (14:9). **Read Acts 14:10 from your Bible:** "Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." The man jumped up and walked!

When the people saw what Paul had done, they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods, and they wanted to worship them (14:11–13). But Paul and Barnabas ran in among the people and said, "We also are men," which means "We are only people, just like you!" They told them to turn to "the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea" (14:14–15). They gave God the glory.

Later some men turned the people against Paul. They threw stones at him and dragged him out of the city, and they thought he was dead. But as the disciples stood around him, Paul **rose up**! The next day he and Barnabas went on to the next city, Derbe (14:19–20).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who did the Holy Ghost say to separate for His work? *(Barnabas and Saul, Acts 13:2)*
2. What did Paul and Barnabas do on their trip? *(They preached the word of God, 13:5)*
3. What did Paul say to the man who had never walked? *("Stand upright on thy feet," 14:10)*
4. What did the man do? *(He leaped and walked, 14:10)*
5. Who did Paul and Barnabas tell the people to turn to? *(The living God, 14:15)*

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4. Memory verse: Two by Two (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **ministered to the Lord** means worshiped and served God, **fasted** means went without food to spend time with God, **separate me** means set apart for Me, and **whereunto** means that. Say the verse together twice in these four parts: *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.* Then kids stand in pairs. Pair one says part one, pair two says part two, and so on. Everyone says "Acts 13:2" at the end.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Paul and Barnabas told people about the living God. Here is the good news they told. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: tell one person something good God did for you, and give God the glory.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Paul and Barnabas word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/paul-and-barnabas-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the Paul and Barnabas craft (vbshq.com/crafts/paul-and-barnabas-craft), or **Who Can I Tell?:** each child draws one person they can tell about God this week (a friend, a cousin, a neighbor) and writes or says one good thing God did. Let a few kids show their pictures.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for sending Paul and Barnabas to tell people about You. Send us too. Help us tell others about You, and help us give You the glory for every good thing. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child is upset that Paul was hurt: say, Paul was hurt badly, but God took care of him. He rose up and went on telling people about God (Acts 14:20).

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