



Ask questions about the story of Paul and Barnabas:

- Ask the children, “What are other examples of people who have gone to new places to take the good news to them?”
- Let the children give examples.
- If the children dramatize this story for the adults, then let them ask the adults this same question.
- Let the children also ask the adults the questions that are listed near the beginning of this study.

Memorize Joshua 1:9

Recite Poetry: Let four children each recite one of these verses from Psalm 29:1-4.

Let the older children write a poem, song or short story about people taking the Good News to far away places. They might do this during the week.

Prayer: “Dear Lord, You want to send many people like Paul and Barnabas to those who do not know you. Help us to hear your voice when you tell us to go. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we can speak your Good News with the boldness of Paul and Barnabas.”

The Good News Goes to New Places

Introduce the First Missionaries to Children

Choose any of these children's learning activities.

Let an older child or teacher **read or tell the story** of how the Church of Antioch sent missionaries (Acts 13:1-16 & 32-52). Tell how the Church sent Paul and Barnabas to take the Good News about Jesus to other places.

Ask these questions. *(An answer follows each question.)*

- What were the believers doing when God said to set apart Saul and Barnabas? *(See verse 2)*
- What did the believers do before they sent off Saul and Barnabas as their missionary team? *(See verse 3)*
- How did God stop a sorcerer who tried to keep people from knowing Jesus? *(11)*
- How can people have their sins forgiven? *(38)*
- Which group of people rejected the Good News? *(45-46)*
- What did Paul and Barnabas do when they were expelled from the city? *(51)*

Dramatize parts of the story.

- Arrange with the leader of the main congregational worship for the children to present this drama.
- Use your time with the children to prepare the drama.
- You do not have to use all the parts.
- Let older children help to prepare the younger children.
- Let **older children** or adults play the parts of Paul and the Narrator.
- Let **younger children** play these parts:

Barnabas
Proconsul
Sorcerer
Christians
Jews
Gentiles

Drama, Part 1, Acts 13:1-3

Narrator: Tell the first part of the story from verses 1-3. Say, "Hear what the Christians say."

Christians: "It is good to fast and pray to God together."
"The Holy Spirit is telling us to send missionaries."
"God is telling us to send Paul and Barnabas!"

Barnabas: "Yes! We will take the good news to other places."

Christians: "Kneel here."
"We will pray for you and lay hands on you."
"This is to send you where God wants you to go."

Paul and Barnabas: Kneel.

Christians: Lay hands on Paul and Barnabas and pray for them.

Paul and Barnabas: Walk to one side.
Part 2, Acts 13:4-12

Narrator: Tell the second part of the story (verses 4-12). Say, "Hear what the Roman Proconsul says."

Proconsul: "Go get Paul. I want to hear about Jesus."

Sorcerer: "No, Sir. Do not get Paul. You should not listen to his false message."

Paul: "Sorcerer, you are trying to deceive this man. God will strike you blind!"

Sorcerer: Stagger around; covering your eyes. Say, "I cannot see. Please take my hand!"

Proconsul: "Paul, your God is more powerful than the gods of this sorcerer. I want to hear more about your God!"

Part 3, Acts 13:13-16 and 32-52

Narrator: Finish the story, verses 13-16 & 32-52.

Say, "Hear what Paul says."

Paul: "Listen to the good news about Jesus. God raised him from the dead. He will forgive your sins."

Jews: "Do not listen to this crazy man!"

Barnabas: "We had to speak to you first. But you reject Jesus. Now we will talk to the Gentiles, the people who are not Jews."

Gentiles: "We are glad that God sent you to us." "Tell us more about Jesus. We believe in Him!"

Jews: "We must get this man out of our town!"

(Push Barnabas and Paul away.)

Barnabas and Paul: Shake dust off your feet and walk away.

Narrator or older child: Thank everyone who helped with the drama. Thank the adults for listening.

Draw a Picture of feet. Let the children copy it. They can show their pictures to the adults at the next worship time and explain that this illustrates how God sends us to new places to find people who are ready to listen to the good news about Jesus. Let older children help the younger ones. (See page 4.)