

Kingdom also for Gentiles

Acts 11



New Testament 7
Part 2: ABCs of Acts 7-12

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 11

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "So it was for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26b).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Family of God"](#)
- ["Called Christians"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 1-12](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Paul (Series 1) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note that only the apostles received the Holy Spirit baptism in Acts 2—skip card 1.2 or remove girl)
- "The Church at Antioch" illustration (adapted from "The Church at Antioch," from



***Creative Bible Teaching: Volume 2*, by Sarah Richey): Make seven copies of a church building outline. On the front side write the letters A-N-T-I-O-C-H and on the back side, the main points of the story (specifically from verses 19-30). Begin the story with the front side of the buildings showing on a magnetic board. As you tell the story, turn each letter over, presenting the next point in the lesson. Study the eleventh chapter of Acts, verses 19-30, for details. (Example main points: The Church at Antioch; Disciples were called Christians, Acts 11:26; Told everyone about Jesus, Acts 11:20; Jews and Gentiles Obeyed, Acts 11:21; Worshipped God, Acts 11:23; Antioch Church Grew!, Acts 11:21,24; They sent help to Jerusalem, Acts 11:28-30)**

- [Map of Palestine](#) (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can be an encourager (help others feel better about themselves, etc.).

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

In last week's lesson, we learned that Peter was chosen to teach Cornelius and his family about Jesus, and they became Christians. Peter learned that Jesus came to save everyone—that the Church should be a family of many different people.

Today we're going to talk about how important it is to help each other with kind words and actions. When someone says nice things to you, sends you a card, or does something to help you feel better, they are encouraging you. In today's lesson, we are going to learn how two men encouraged new Christians. Let's see if we can learn from them how to be encouragers, too.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review the story of Cornelius from last Sunday. Remind the children that Peter learned an important lesson: God does not love some groups of people more than others. He loves everyone the same and wants everyone to hear and obey the Gospel.

What does it mean to “encourage” someone? The dictionary says it means “to inspire with hope, courage, confidence.” It can also mean to lift someone's spirits, to build him up. It feels good when someone gives you encouragement: when someone builds you up, doesn't it? When someone is a new Christian, is sick, or is having problems, it is very important to encourage him/her. In today's lesson, we are going to learn how two men really encouraged the Christians in Antioch to be strong and faithful. We can learn how to be encouragers, too.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review the ABCs of Acts covered thus far.
2. “K” is for the Kingdom (the Church) is also for Gentiles.
3. As the Kingdom of God (the Church) grew, it spread from Jerusalem and the surrounding areas to the cosmopolitan area of Antioch, the third largest urban center of the ancient world (after Rome and Alexandria, Egypt). It has been estimated that as many as 500,000 people lived in Antioch. It was a city known for its many pagan cults and shrines.

4. Because many people were becoming Christians in Antioch, Barnabas was sent by the leaders of the church in Jerusalem to see how they were doing in a hostile environment, and to encourage them to be strong. Antioch was the first place that the followers of Jesus were called “Christians.” The disciples first called themselves “the Way.”



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[The Name ‘Christian’](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the origin and importance of the word.

5. Barnabas decided to go to Tarsus to get Saul (Paul). He encouraged Paul to use his experiences and his faith to teach and strengthen others. Paul was a perfect example of someone who had become a Christian and had to endure great struggles and hardships to be faithful. For a year, the two friends, Barnabas and Paul, lived in Antioch, teaching “a great many people” (NKJV). Barnabas encouraged Paul, and he encouraged the believers in Antioch. Barnabas truly was a “son of encouragement,” which is what his name means.
6. In this chapter, two great encouragers are mentioned: Peter, who encouraged the Gentiles to become Christians and encouraged his other brethren to accept them as God did, and Barnabas, who encouraged the Christians in Antioch and in other places as well.
7. We can learn to encourage others in many ways. Like Barnabas, we can be known as “sons of encouragement.”

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Paul and Barnabas Preach Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 11 provided in activity sheets)
- Help children make notes of encouragement to give their parents, teachers, friends, etc. On smiley faces (or some other “happy” pattern) write, “I like you/love you because...” and let the children tell you something to fill in the blanks.
- Talk with the children about ways other people make them feel better when they’re sick or sad. That’s what “encourage” means—something we do to help others feel better and/or be happy. On a half sheet of card stock or construction paper, print “I can encourage others by...” and let each child tell you something he/she can do to make others happy. Let them color/decorate their papers.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 11 provided in activity sheets)
- Let the children make notes of encouragement for their parents, teachers, friends, someone who’s sick, etc. Fold half sheets of construction paper in half. Let them draw pictures on the outside and write something encouraging on the inside. (For example, “I am thankful for you because...” “I like the way you...” etc.)

- Challenge students to say something encouraging to five different people during the week.
- Common Word: Write Acts 11:26; 26:28; and 1 Peter 4:16 on the board, and let the children race to see who can discover the word that is common to all three of those verses.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 11 provided in activity sheets)
- Let the children make notes of encouragement for their parents, teachers, friends, someone who’s sick, etc. Fold half sheets of construction paper in half. Let them draw pictures on the outside and write something encouraging on the inside. (For example, “I am thankful for you because....” “I like the way you....” etc.)
- Challenge students to say something encouraging to five different people during the week.
- Common Word: Write Acts 11:26; 26:28; and 1 Peter 4:16 on the board, and let the children race to see who can discover the word that is common to all three of those verses.
- Have the children read the following:
 - Acts 11
 - *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud, Ferne Press

SONGS:

“THE FAMILY OF GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The Farmer in the Dell”)

The family of God, the family of God,
We grow in Jesus day by day,
The family of God.

The family of God, the family of God,
We learn God’s Word and pray each day,
The family of God.

“CALLED CHRISTIANS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Bannie Burt

(Tune: “Mulberry Bush”)

Disciples were called Christians at Antioch, at Antioch, at Antioch.
Disciples were called Christians at Antioch,
Where they shared the Gospel with others.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can be an encourager (help others feel better about themselves, etc.).

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Briefly review Sunday’s lesson (See [N.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.

Empasize the relationship of Barnabas and Paul. Barnabas supported Paul when others were afraid to have anything to do with him after his conversion. They traveled together teaching others about Jesus, etc.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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