

Missionary Journeys of Paul Begin

Acts 13:1-12



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 13-18

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 8 [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 13:1-12; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Peter 2:15

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; but since you reject it..., we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, 'It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles'" (Acts 13:46).

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.

- ["Paul and Barnabas"](#)
- ["Wise Kids"](#)
- ["Read Your Bible, Pray Everyday"](#)

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 13-26](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 8 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 (DISCLAIMER: 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)
- [Map of Palestine](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Paul's First Missionary Journey Visual (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=331>)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

The devil does not want us to believe in/trust God and His Word. He uses other people to discourage us, to make fun of us, to tell us that God really isn't important—just like he tricked Eve in the Garden of Eden. The best way to prepare ourselves for these attacks from the devil is to talk to God and to study His Word every day.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

In our story last week, why was Peter arrested and put into prison? How did he get out? What were many Christians doing at Mary's house while Peter was in prison? Is prayer very important? We need to remember we can always pray to God! Today we are going to talk about more great men who taught others about Jesus; sometimes they traveled to faraway places to share the Good News. Today we call them "missionaries" or evangelists.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Tell the children about the missionaries supported by your congregation (who they are, where they are, what they do, etc.). Today we are going to talk about more great men who taught others about Jesus; sometimes they traveled to faraway places to share the Good News. Today we call them "missionaries" or evangelists.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review ABCs of Acts covered thus far.
2. "M" is for Missionary Journeys of Paul Begin.
3. At the end of Acts 12, Barnabas and Saul of Tarsus (Paul) return from Jerusalem to Antioch. With them was a young man named John Mark; he was a relative of Barnabas (considered by some to be his cousin, by others to be his nephew).



NOTE: The journey from Jerusalem to Antioch of Syria was about 400 miles long. Antioch became the city from which Saul would leave and to which he would return on each of his missionary journeys.

4. Chapter 13 tells us that the Christians in Antioch recognized Barnabas and Saul (Paul) as prophets and teachers from God. This means that they were part of a small group of men who received messages (revelations) from God and shared those messages with other people. One such message directed the church to send Barnabas and Saul on their first "missionary

journey” or “evangelistic trip” (around A.D. 47 or 48, 14 or 15 years after the beginning of the Church). From this point on, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) is portrayed in Acts as the most well known preacher of the Gospel to the Gentiles, even though Peter preached the first sermon of the Church (Acts 2) and converted the first Gentiles (Acts 10).



Missionary: Someone who leaves his/her home and travels to a place where the Church is not strong/does not exist (often a foreign country) to spread the Gospel.

5. The men traveled to Seleucia (15-20 miles from Antioch), and then sailed to the island of Cyprus, where Barnabas was from (Acts 4:36). [Cyprus is about 70 miles west of the coast of Palestine. It is a small island—only 190 miles long from east to west.] They literally traveled the length of the island, from Seleucia to Salamis (about 100 miles), then to the port and provincial capital of Paphos. Everywhere they went, Barnabas and Paul went to the Jewish **synagogues** as Jesus did because they provided a ready-made audience.



Synagogue: a Jewish house of prayer and study

6. At Paphos (a famous city for the worship of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love) they met and taught a Roman proconsul named Sergius Paulus. [As the proconsul, he would have been the highest-ranking Roman official on the island. Historical records prove that Sergius Paulus began his term as proconsul in A.D. 45 or 46.] Like Cornelius, Sergius Paulus was a Gentile, but unlike Cornelius, the Bible doesn't describe him as a God-fearing man (like the centurion). He was, however, amazed by the powerful message that Saul and Barnabas taught.
7. Saul and Barnabas also encountered a Jewish sorcerer/false prophet whose name was Elymas (or Bar-Jesus, which means “son of Jeshua/Jesus/Joshua,” a common name in the first century). It was not uncommon in New Testament times for Jewish men to claim to be sorcerers/astrologers and prophets, though sorcerers were forbidden under the Old Law. Elymas did not want Sergius Paulus to listen to the Gospel message, probably because he was afraid he would lose the financial support (patronage) of an influential official. Saul quickly put the false prophet in his place, calling him a liar, a fraud, and a “son of the devil.” He told Elymas that because of his interference and his lies, he would be struck blind. This immediate miracle caused Sergius Paulus to believe the Gospel message and become a Christian. [Remind the kids that this was the purpose of all miracles in both the Old and New Testaments—to confirm the words spoken by God's messengers and to demonstrate God's power (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3-4).] He was undoubtedly not the only person in that city who decided to become a Christian; it is likely that he is singled out because of his position—more evidence that the Good News was/is for everyone.
8. There are people like Elymas today who want to keep us from listening to God's Word and obeying it. And just like Elymas, they're working for the devil. The devil tries to get us to forget about God in many ways—through friends, famous people, movies/TV programs, and even some teachers at school. How can we defend/protect ourselves? God created most animals with the ability to protect themselves from danger. We don't have hard shells like turtles or spines like porcupines, or sharp claws, etc. When we're in danger, what we have is better; we have God's Word! We should always be prepared to protect our bodies and our souls from the devil by studying God's Word and talking to Him all the time. [Discuss this as much as is appropriate for your class. Remind older kids about Jesus' temptation and how He defended Himself against the devil with “It is written....”]



NOTE: Chapter 13 is the first time that Saul of Tarsus is called Paul. It was not uncommon for people in Bible times to have two or three different names. Using the name Paul instead of Saul does not necessarily indicate a name change, per se; “Paul” was simply his Roman (or Greek) name and “Saul” his Jewish name. Using a Roman or Greek name may have become more appropriate as he worked more and more among the Gentiles. (“Paul” means “small one.”)

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:

- [“Missionary Journey #1 Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) page 13 provided in activity sheets)
- [“‘M’ is for Missionary”](#) activity: Draw a large “M” on construction paper, one per child. At the top of the paper, write “M is for Missionary.” Write or type key words from the story on separate sheets of paper; cut the words out ahead of time for younger children. Let the children glue the words onto their Ms. Review with them the significance of each word to the story. [For 2 and 3-year-olds, write the words on their Ms. Then let them match the cutout words you have prepared to the words on their Ms.]
- Help the children make cards to send to missionaries supported by your congregation. [Display pictures of these missionaries; mention them in class prayers.]

1st-2nd Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) page 13 provided in activity sheets)
- Put a large map of the New Testament world on a magnetic board ([“Map of Paul’s Evangelistic Trips”](#) provided in activity sheets). Put magnetic tape on the back of a male figure to represent Paul; figure can be from an old flannelgraph, for example. As you ask review questions about the story, let the children move the figure from place to place on the map. **Or** draw the map on a shower curtain (or plastic table cloth); make a 3-D figure of Paul with a toilet paper roll or small plastic bottle.
- “Life of Paul” egg carton game: In each section of an egg carton, write the name of a place important in the life of Paul. Write statements or questions describing what happened to Paul in each place on small scrolls (or small cardboard disks, plastic eggs, or milk carton lids). Ask the children to match each question to its correct answer by putting the scrolls/disks in the correct sections of the carton.
- Give each child a piece of construction paper and ask them to write “Paul and Barnabas were missionaries for God” at the top. Provide each child with an outline map of the New Testament world; make sure the places Paul visited are marked (but not labeled). Have them trace the map on the construction paper (or print off the maps for the children). On a separate piece of paper, write or type the names of places where Paul and Barnabas traveled. Help the children glue the place names to the correct locations on their maps. ([“Paul and Barnabas Were Missionaries for God”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children make cards to send to missionaries supported by your congregation. Send a

note to the parents, explaining that your class would like to send a “care package” to missionaries; ask the parents to help provide small items their kids can send in the package (along with notes, cards). [Display pictures of missionaries your congregation supports; mention them in class prayers.]

3rd-4th Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 13 provided in activity sheets)
- Put a large map of the New Testament world on a magnetic board (“[Map of Paul’s Evangelistic Trips](#)” provided in activity sheets). Put magnetic tape on the back of a male figure to represent Paul; figure can be from an old flannelgraph, for example. As you ask review questions about the story, let the children move the figure from place to place on the map. **Or** draw the map on a shower curtain (or plastic table cloth); make a 3-D figure of Paul with a toilet paper roll or small plastic bottle.
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- Have the children make cards to send to missionaries supported by your congregation. Send a note to the parents, explaining that your class would like to send a “care package” to missionaries; ask the parents to help provide small items their kids can send in the package (along with notes, cards). [Display pictures of missionaries your congregation supports; mention them in class prayers.]
- Have the children read the following:
 - Acts 13
 - *Paul’s Journeys*, by Loyal Kolbrek, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: remove the sentence starting with “He felt the Spirit…” on p. 6)

SONGS:

“PAUL AND BARNABAS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Bannie Burt

(Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)

Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Barnabas,
Were chosen to work, chosen to work,
By our Heavenly Father, by our Heavenly Father,
And they worked, and they worked.

“WISE KIDS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock)

Wise kids read their Bibles every day.
(open hands like book)
Wise kids read their Bibles every day.
Wise kids read their Bibles every day,
And we trust upon the Lord! (point to heaven)

Wise kids learn to pray every day.
(fold hands in prayer)
Wise kids learn to pray every day.
Wise kids learn to pray every day,
And they wait upon the Lord! (point to heaven)

So read your Bible, pray, and you'll be wise. (open hands like book, then fold in prayer)
So read your Bible, pray and you'll be wise.
So read your Bible, pray and you'll be wise,
No matter what your size!

“READ YOUR BIBLE, PRAY EVERYDAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: See Internet)

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you'll grow, grow, grow. (REPEAT)
Grow, grow, grow, grow,
Grow, grow, grow.

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you'll grow, grow, grow.
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.
(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying “No,” and like a child shrinking.)
(REPEAT)

Shrink, shrink, shrink, shrink,
Shrink, shrink, shrink.

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.
(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying “No,” and like a child shrinking.)

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow.
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.) (REPEAT)
Grow, grow, grow, grow,
Grow, grow, grow.

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow.
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

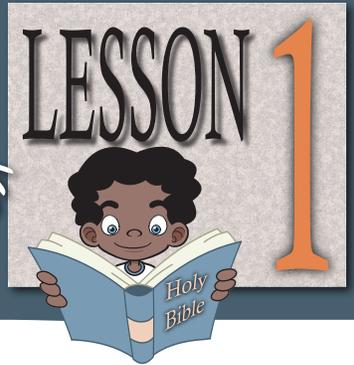
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Missionary Journeys of Paul Begin

Acts 13:13-52



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 13-18

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 13:13-52

MEMORY WORK:

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OLDER CHILDREN: "Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, 'It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles'" (Acts 13:46).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

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INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday's lesson (See N.T. 8 Review Questions for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.
2. (OLDER CHILDREN) From Paphos, Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark sailed to Perga in Pamphylia; there Mark decided to return home to Jerusalem.
3. From Perga, Paul and Barnabas traveled to another city called Antioch (Antioch in Pisidia) where they again went to the synagogue to preach to the Jews first. This was Paul's first recorded sermon (13:16-41); it is a recounting of Jewish history and the evidence that Jesus was the Messiah.
4. The message was so powerful that the following Sabbath almost the entire city came to hear another sermon about Jesus. The huge crowd made some of the Jews very jealous, and they began to persecute Paul and Barnabas. [Remind the kids what “persecute” means. These Jews were obviously not the same people described in Acts 13:43 who urged Paul and Barnabas “to continue in the grace of God.” Many **did** want to know about Jesus, along with many Gentiles.] The Jews ran Paul and Barnabas out of town! Acting according to a custom of the day, as well as according to Jesus' words to His disciples in Matthew 10:14, Paul and Barnabas left that area and shook the dust off their feet to symbolize the fact that the people had been given an opportunity to hear the truth, but they remained unreceptive. Then they went to the next city in their journey; they were determined to continue on, however, preaching the Gospel wherever they went.

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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