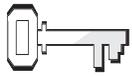


A New Name and a New Friend



References

Acts 11:19-26;
The Acts of the Apostles,
pp. 128, 129, 155-165



Memory Verse

"God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right" (Acts 10:34, 35, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God loves all people and wants everyone to know about His love.
Feel excited about the good news about Jesus.
Respond by looking for evidence of God's grace at work in the world.



The Message

God's grace includes everyone.

Monthly Theme

God never stops loving us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Christians are still preaching only to the Jews. But in Antioch some believers begin telling the good news about Jesus to the Greeks. The Lord blesses their efforts, and a great number of people believe and turn to the Lord. Barnabas is sent from Jerusalem to evaluate the situation in Antioch. When he discovers how the grace of God is at work, he finds Saul (Paul) and brings him to Antioch to become a part of the growing community. They stay in Antioch for a year.

This is a lesson about grace.

Grace opens its arms to all. It is not exclusive; not just for the believers. Here we see the beginning of the church's understanding that God sent His only begotten Son because He loved everyone. We also learn how important it is for new believers to grow in a community that understands grace.

Teacher Enrichment

"Paul's labors at Antioch, in association with Barnabas, strengthened him in his conviction that the Lord had called him to do a special work for the Gentile world. At the time of Paul's conversion, the Lord had declared that he was to be made a minister to the Gentiles, 'to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.' Acts 26:18. The angel that appeared to Ananias had said of Paul, 'He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.' Acts 9:15. And Paul himself, later in his Christian experience, while praying in the temple at Jerusalem, had been visited by an angel from heaven, who bade him, 'Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.' Acts 22:21.

"Thus the Lord had given Paul his commission to enter the broad missionary field of the Gentile world. To prepare him for this extensive and difficult work, God had brought him into close connection with Himself and had opened before his enraptured vision views of the beauty and glory of heaven" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 159).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>The Eyes Have It</i> B. <i>Keeping a Secret</i>	stickers or small present for each child none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> simple offering device relating to the field of mission emphasis none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult male Bible-times costume, adult male none Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>What Is a Christian?</i> B. <i>All Included</i>	chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/ marker ball
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>World Bookmarks</i>	globe copies (see p. 143), card stock, scissors, markers/crayons

***Prayer and Praise me be used at any time during the program.**

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- stickers or small present for each child

A. The Eyes Have It

Look at the children and ask those who are wearing a particular color, or have a certain characteristic, to stand. Start with something very specific. For example, **Everyone who is wearing red (or who is left-handed, or whose name begins with B, etc.), please stand.** Give them a sticker and ask them to remain standing. Continue to more general things, and finally to the obvious: **Everyone who has eyes, please stand.** Make sure everyone has a sticker.

Debriefing

Ask: **Have I missed anybody? Is anybody still sitting down? Was anyone afraid that they would not be included? Why? God’s grace is like this. He loves everyone. No one is excluded. Our message for today is:**



GOD’S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

Say that with me.

B. Keeping a Secret

Form two equal groups. Send Group 1 outside the door with a teacher. Tell them Group 2 has a secret. Their task is to find out the secret by asking questions. Tell Group 2 a secret, but say that they cannot share it with Group 1 no matter what they do. Allow the two groups to mix for two or three minutes.

Debriefing

Ask Group 1: **How did you feel knowing that Group 2 had a secret they would not share?** (jealous, not special, angry, frustrated, it was unfair) Ask Group 2: **How did you feel being told a secret?** (special, better than others) **How did you feel about not sharing the secret?** (mean, powerful, bad, OK) **After Pentecost the disciples concentrated on telling the Jews about Jesus. But God wanted everyone to know about His grace. As Barnabas and Paul worked in Antioch they began to understand this. Our message for today tells what they learned:**



GOD’S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25)

"Can You Imagine?" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 29)

"Bless His Holy Name" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 9)

"God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13)

"O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 28)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize that God's grace is available to everyone all around the world.



Offering

Say: **One way of communicating God's grace to others is to show that we care about them. Our offerings support many hospitals, schools, and other institutions that make a difference in people's lives and show that we care.**

You Need:

- simple offering device relating to the field of mission emphasis



Prayer

Have everyone find a space in the classroom and stretch out their arms. Move toward the nearest person and lightly touch their outstretched fingers. Say: **God's grace includes me, and it includes you. Whom else does it include?** Move with the person you touched so they can touch someone else. Repeat until everyone is touching someone. Say: **God's grace includes everyone.** Pray that the children will reach out to others and tell them about God's grace.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- adult male Bible-times costume
- adult male

Experiencing the Story

Invite a man to dress up as Barnabas and tell the story. As he talks, have the children do the following actions:

Words:

Barnabas or Paul believers

Actions:

Hands up.
Put thumb and fingertips together to make a “mouth.” Open and close them as if “talking.”
Put fingertips together like the roof of a house.

Antioch**Read or tell the story.**

My name is **Barnabas**. I’m a Christian, one who believes in Jesus Christ as the Messiah and my Savior. Much has happened since Jesus went back to heaven and the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Every day new people are accepting the good news about Jesus. But many new **believers** are moving away from Jerusalem. It is becoming dangerous for **believers** to remain here. You may have heard about Saul and other Jewish leaders putting people in prison, beating them, and sometimes putting them to death.

As the **believers** move away, they are so full of the joy that comes from knowing Jesus that they just can’t stop telling others about Jesus. The news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is spreading everywhere. This is certainly not what our persecutors had in mind. They don’t want us to tell others about Jesus.

Some of the new **believers** moved here to **Antioch**. There is a large Jewish community, and many Gentiles (people who are not Jewish) also live in this place.

Antioch is an important city. It is a very beautiful but also very wicked city, dedicated to heathen Greek gods.

When the **believers** moved here to **Antioch**, they began to tell their new neighbors about the wonderful gospel. They told everybody—Jews and Gentiles. This was something different. The Lord blessed them, and many Gentiles have joined the **believers**.

The news about these new converts spread back to the apostles and other **believers** in Jerusalem. Some of the church leaders there were worried. They were not too sure that God wanted everyone to hear the good news. After all, the Jews are God’s chosen people. So the leaders asked me to travel to **Antioch** and find out what was happening.

When I arrived, I saw that the **believers** here have truly been blessed by the Lord. They really do understand the grace of God. I am so happy. I’m encouraging the **believers** to “remain true” to the Lord and to continue telling others about Jesus. As a result, many more people are becoming followers of Jesus.

I quickly realized that I needed help. I thought about Saul and how he had changed after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. He even had a new name. Now he is called **Paul**. It took me some time to find him. I traveled to the city of Tarsus, where **Paul** was born. When I found **Paul** there, he was teaching others about Jesus. **Paul** agreed to come back to **Antioch** with me, and we began working together to spread the good news. We have been here for almost a year now. And many people, both Jews and Gentiles, have accepted Jesus as Lord.

We have a new name. Because all the **believers** talk about Christ, we are called Christians. I have heard rumors that the name is spreading to other places as well. I think it is a good name. It tells

everyone who we believe in. I'm glad **Paul** and I have become friends. And I'm glad that we are teaching the Gentiles the good news about Christ. How about you? Are you telling others about Him?

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did the believers begin to move away from Jerusalem?** (They were being persecuted.)

What was so special about the believers who moved to Antioch? (They talked to everyone about Jesus. They did not just talk to the Jews; they also talked to the Gentiles.)

Why did Barnabas ask Paul to come to Antioch? (So many people wanted to learn about Jesus that Barnabas needed help to reach them.)

What were the believers first called in Antioch?

Paul and Barnabas discovered that God's grace is freely available to everyone. And that's what our message says. Say it with me.



GOD'S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

Memory Verse

Use the actions to teach the memory verse. Repeat as necessary.

God	Point upward.
does not	Shake your head.
show favoritism	Point as if choosing someone.
but accepts	Beckon.
from every nation the one who fears him	Stretch arms out wide. fold hands as if in prayer
and does what	make a fist with

is right.

both hands but keep index finger pointing, bounce right hand on left

Acts 10:34, 35, NIV

Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

Say: **In the beginning, the apostles spread the gospel only to other Jews. Let's read Matthew 28:16-20 to find out what Jesus told them to do.** (Tell everyone about the gospel.)

Now let's read Acts 8:1. What happened that made the new believers decide to move away from Jerusalem? (The church was persecuted.)

Why did early believers find it so difficult to understand that they had to share the good news with the Gentiles? Let's read Acts 10:28 to discover what Peter said when he went to visit a Gentile. (Jewish laws said that Jews would be unclean if they went into a Gentile's house.)

What did Peter learn after he had been to see the Gentile Cornelius? Look at Acts 10:34, 35. What did you learn about God? (God accepts everyone.)

Now let's read Acts 9:15. What did Jesus tell Ananias about Saul? (Saul was God's chosen instrument.) **What does that mean?**

Debriefing

Ask: **Was the good news of Jesus just for the Jews?** (No, it was for everyone.) **What does this tell us about God's grace today?** (It is available for everyone. No one is excluded.)

God wants everyone to experience His grace. Like Saul who became Paul, we are channels of grace when we show God's love to those around us. Let's say our message together:



GOD'S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- chalkboard/
whiteboard
- chalk/marker

A. What Is a Christian?

Say: **Jesus' followers were first called Christians in Antioch. Let's look at the word *Christian* and see how many words we can find that describe what it means to be one.**

Write the word CHRISTIAN vertically in all capitals on the board. Give the children a few examples, which can be words or phrases, such as:

- C—comes to worship on Sabbath;
cares when others are hurt
- H—helps others
- R—respects others

Come up with as many alternatives as possible for each letter.

Divide into small groups. Give each group one or more letters and ask them to discuss how they can put these things into practice in their lives. Allow time for each group to report to the rest of the class.

Debriefing

Say: **Sometimes it is easy to live the Christian life, but sometimes we find it difficult. God is always there to help us, and His grace includes us all the time.**

What happens when we try to live a Christian life? (Others notice.) Others get a glimpse of God's grace and want to know more. Let's say our message together:



GOD'S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

B. All Included

Stand in a circle.

Say: **God's grace includes everyone. I am going to throw the ball to someone and say the word *family*. Name one person in your family who is included in God's grace. Then throw the ball to someone else. They name someone in their family and throw it to someone else.**

You can't throw it to someone who has already had it. When everyone has caught it once, throw it back to me. Begin the process again using friends, groups in society such as those in prison, the wealthy, local government officials, countries, etc.

Debriefing

Say: **Before Saul was converted, he sent people to be tortured and to their deaths, yet after his conversion God used him as a messenger. What does this tell you about God's grace? (It is available to everyone.)**

Is anyone excluded from God's grace? How does this affect us when relating to people we don't like or who are mean to us? (We should treat them well. God loves them and wants them to know of His grace.)

Let's say today's message together:



GOD'S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

You Need:

- ball

4

Sharing the Lesson

World Bookmarks

In advance, copy the globe onto card stock, one copy or more for each child. (See p. 143.) Have the children cut them out, then cut a slit in the middle so that the globe may be placed over the corner of a page and used as a bookmark.

On the back of each globe, have them write: **GOD'S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.** Explain that you would like their help in giving the bookmarks out at the close of services today. Arrange where the children will stand.

Debriefing

Say: **Giving our bookmarks to others is one way of telling people that God loves them and His grace includes everyone.**

What is an even better way? Yes, following God's plan for our lives. When we follow Jesus, others see God's grace working in our lives.

Let's say our message together:



GOD'S GRACE INCLUDES EVERYONE.

Closing

Have the children join hands and stand in a circle. Pray that God will bless each one as they share His love, and invite others to be a part of His circle of love.

You Need:

- globe copies (see p. 143)
- card stock
- scissors
- markers/crayons

A New Name and a New Friend

References

Acts 11:19-26;
The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 128, 129, 155-165

Memory Verse

“God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right” (Acts 10:34, 35, NIV).

The Message

God’s grace includes everyone.

Sometimes people call us by our nickname. Maybe you have a nickname. Usually, something we do or say can give us a nickname. Sometimes people call us nasty names. The early believers were called names. One of them stuck, and it is still used today.

It was becoming dangerous to be a believer in Jesus and remain in Jerusalem. The Jewish leaders were putting people in prison. Sometimes they were beaten, and sometimes even put to death. So, many of the new believers began moving away from Jerusalem.

Many new believers moved to villages and towns and cities. They were so happy and full of the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. They just could not stop telling others about their new faith. The news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection began to spread everywhere. This was not

what the priests and rabbis had in mind. They didn’t want people to tell others about Jesus.

Some of the new believers moved to Antioch. A large number of Jewish people lived there. Antioch was an important city. It was very beautiful and famous. But it was also a very wicked city, dedicated to heathen Greek gods.

Until now most of the believers were Jews. And they shared the good news about Jesus with their Jewish friends and neighbors. But when the believers moved to Antioch, they began to tell their new neighbors about Jesus. They told everybody. They told Jews who lived there. And they told Gentiles, people who were not Jewish. Telling Gentiles was something new, something different. The Lord blessed the believers as they shared the good news. And great numbers of people joined the early church.

The news about the Gentile converts spread back to the apostles and other believers in Jerusalem. Some of the church leaders there were worried. They were not sure that God wanted everyone to hear the good news. After all, the Jews were God’s chosen people. So the Jerusalem believers asked Barnabas for help. Barnabas was a good man, full of faith, and filled with the Holy Spirit. He was asked to travel to Antioch and find out what was happening.

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, he saw that the believers there had truly been blessed by the Lord. They really did understand the grace of God. They believed that God loved all people and wanted them to love one another. This made Barnabas very happy. He encouraged the believers to “remain true” to the Lord. He preached to the Gentiles, and many more people decided to follow Jesus.

Barnabas soon realized that he needed help. There were so many people to talk to. So many to tell about Jesus! Who could help him? He thought about Saul. He remembered how Saul had changed after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. Even his name had changed—now he was called Paul. So Barnabas began searching for him. He traveled to the city of Tarsus, where Paul had been born. There he found Paul teaching others



about Jesus. Soon he told Paul about the great work to be done in Antioch.

So Paul and Barnabas traveled back to Antioch. There they began working together to spread the good news. For a whole year they shared the good news about Jesus. And many people, both Jews and Gentiles, believed.

Because the believers talked so much about Christ, they were called Christians. Soon the name spread all around the Roman world. But it was in the city of Antioch that the name was first used. And it was in that city that Saul, now called Paul, began his work among the Gentiles. God had called him to do a special work. What work has God called you to do?

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Go for a walk with your family. While walking, think of different names of people groups—good or bad. Where did these names come from? Are all nicknames nice?
- Ask each family member to think of a name they would like to be called.
- Thank God that we are called Christians because we believe in Jesus Christ.

Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Acts 11:19-26. Who were the first Christians? Ask three people what the word *Christian* means to them. Find *Christian* in a dictionary. Tell your family what it means.
- Draw a globe or the shape of your country. Write your memory verse on it. Hang it where you will see it during the week. Use this to teach the verse to your family.
- Ask God to help you to be a good Christian.

Monday

- Read and discuss Acts 8:1-3 for family worship. What does this tell you about Saul before he met Jesus?
- Create a logo that tells what it means to be a Christian. Share it with someone today. Tell them what the word *Christian* means. Yes, *Christian* means a follower of Christ. What does your name mean?
- Thank God that He sent Jesus to die for your sins. Thank God for men like Paul and Barnabas, who shared the good news with others.

Tuesday

- With your family, read Acts 11:19. Look at a Bible map. Where did the Christians go when they left Jerusalem? Find the places on the

map. How did they get there? How do we travel today? Draw pictures of both.

- On the map, measure the distances from Jerusalem to the places mentioned in Acts 11:19. Ask God to protect people who are spreading the good news in difficult places.
- Review your memory verse each day this week.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Acts 11:25, 26 during family worship. Where was Saul when Barnabas found him? Find it on a Bible map. Where did they go when they left that place?
- Find out about the Greek gods that were worshipped in Antioch. Was it easy for Paul and Barnabas to spread the Word of God? Why? Encourage your pastor today. Make and send him or her a card of thanks for all he or she does.
- Ask God to help you share His love with others.

Thursday

- With your family, read 1 John 3:1. What is the good news? Make a "Good News" newspaper. Include pictures from your favorite Bible stories. Share the paper and tell the stories to a friend.
- Ask a friend to come to Sabbath School with you this week. Pray for that person today.

Friday

- During worship today, read and discuss Acts 11:19-26. How long did Paul and Barnabas stay in Antioch? What did they do there?
- Whom do you like to spend time with? Draw a picture of yourself and that person. Tell your family why you like to be with them.
- Say your memory verse together. Then pray for all those who are spreading the good news about Jesus. Ask God to help your family share the good news too.