



PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

Dear Parents,

Jesus' followers preached the gospel in Jerusalem, and the good news spread to places like Judea and Samaria. More and more people believed, and new churches began as both Jews and Gentiles began to follow Jesus. Barnabas went to Antioch—a city about 300 miles north of Jerusalem—where he brought Paul to help teach the believers. The church in Antioch grew. It was in Antioch that the disciples first became known as Christians. (See Acts 11:26.)

The Holy Spirit told the believers at the church in Antioch to send out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel. The church obeyed, and Paul and Barnabas traveled to several cities and all over the island of Cyprus, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

Consider Paul—once a devoted persecutor of Christians—now a Christian missionary, devoted to obeying God's call to go and tell others the good news about Jesus. This was Paul's first missionary journey, and it wasn't easy. Paul and Barnabas faced rejection in every place that they traveled. Some of the people believed, but some of them were angry. Many people rejected the truth about Jesus. In some places, the Jews made plans to kill Paul.

In no place did Paul and Barnabas soften their message or abandon their mission. In Lystra, Paul healed a man, and when the witnesses to this miracle began to worship Paul and Barnabas, the two men emphatically gave credit to the one true God. When Paul's enemies attacked him and left him for dead, Paul continued on. Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel in Derbe (DUHR bih), and many people believed.

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. If Paul had not taken the gospel to the Gentiles, many of us would probably not be believers today. God uses people to tell others about Jesus so that people all over the world can be saved from their sin by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Paul and Barnabas faced many people who rejected the good news about Jesus. But God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles Paul faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel was shared so that people all over the world could be saved from their sin by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Christians tell about Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit had a special job for Paul.
 - Paul and Barnabas told people about Jesus.
 - Many people believed the good news.

- **Preschool**
 - How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

- **Kids**
 - How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.
 - The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Acts 1:8**

NEXT WEEK

- **“The Message: ‘Christ Alone’” (Acts 15:1-35)**



Our Vision for Children

At Harlan Baptist Church we take seriously the Lord's command to "bring [our children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

We envision a church culture or atmosphere that reflects that of Moses' instruction to God's people as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land as found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

In fact, Psalm 78 sets forth the very desire of our heart, that our children would hope in the Lord and not forget the God who gives them life.

Therefore, it is our desire to partner with parents in seeing our children come to faith in Christ and prepare them for life-long obedience to His Word.

At Harlan Baptist, we use a number of different methods and teaching styles to achieve these desired goals.

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