

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 3/7/21

SCRIPTURE: Acts 11

LESSON: Barnabas in Antioch



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - Last week we talked about a lesson Peter learned about food and people, do you remember what it was? Yes! God washes everyone clean who believes in Him! This week, we are going to learn about a new follower of Jesus named Barnabas.

Optional Activity: Be an Encourager! Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn. Supplies: Craft paper, markers

Help kids to think of a short list of people they see and talk to each week - in person or in online school or on the phone (e.g. teachers, friends or family members). Help them write a short note on encouraging that person. You can give them prompts like *Thank you for helping me grow in my faith with Jesus*. List a few encouraging Bible verses that kids could also include in their notes (*Psalms 119:114; Mark 10:27; Luke 12:32; Philippians 4:7; Psalm 46:10; Deuteronomy 31:6, and so on*). Decorate the cards. Remind kids to sign their names on their cards. Help them send their card in the mail!

Say - How does it feel when you encourage someone else? Today we are going to learn about someone who was known for encouraging the believers in the early church!



LESSON - BARNABAS IN ANTIOCH

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [Barnabas in Antioch](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

Jesus' friends started teaching the Gospel to everyone. (Kids repeat!)

Remember Peter's dream from last week? This dream told Peter to tell EVERYONE the good news about Jesus. Peter then went and told both the Jews and the Gentiles (Non Jewish people) the story of Jesus. The Gentiles believed and received God's Holy Spirit and were baptised.

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

Some people thought the gospel was just for the Jews.(Kids repeat!)

Until Peter shared the Gospel with the Gentiles, only Jews really knew about Jesus and the good news of his sacrifice. The Jews were surprised that the Gentiles were starting to follow Jesus, but Peter explained that the Gospel was for ALL people. This led to God's people spreading the message of Jesus throughout all the world.

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

God showed His people that the gospel is for everyone. (Kids repeat!)

Barnabas went to Antioch when he heard there was a group of believers there preaching the Gospel. When Barnabas got there, he saw that God was good and gracious to the Gentiles in Antioch just like He was to the Jews. This was great news and showed that God cares for all people, not just the Jews. Barnabas and Paul stayed in Antioch for a year and encouraged and taught the new believers. It was there that followers of Jesus were first called Christians.

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

The gospel is for everyone. (kids repeat)

The first group of Jesus' followers that were called Christians was a group of Gentiles in Antioch. That's amazing since many Jewish people would never have expected for God to save this group of Gentiles! God did not want the Gospel to be only for the Jews. Just like He did with Peter and Barnabas God wants to open our eyes to the fact that the good news of Jesus is for everyone, regardless of their race, age, good or bad behavior, wealth, personality. Jesus wants us to love and help everyone know about Him!.



RESPONSE

Sing: [Rejoice Be Glad](#) (Key Passage Song)
[Psalm 40:5](#)

Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for the Gospel and for the good news of Jesus. Thank you for being a God that loves and seeks ALL people of the Earth. I pray that we can be like the apostles and spread the good news of Jesus to ALL of God's people around the World. We need You and love You, Amen.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- After Jesus left the Earth, who did his followers first share the news of the Gospel with? *Only other Jews (Acts 11:19)*
- Who began to spread the good news of the Gospel with the Gentiles after receiving a vision from God? *Peter (Acts 10)*
- In what city were followers of Jesus first called Christians? *Antioch (Acts 11:26)*
- Who can we share the gospel with? *Direct kids to see that God's plan all along has been for people of all nations and tribes and walks of life to come to faith. As a result, we can be sure that God wants us to share the gospel with everyone we meet.*
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?
 - *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know but will try to find out.*
 - *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#) of Barnabas

Parent Share - Have you ever shared about God's love with someone different from you?

Home Bowling Alley - *Supplies: ten empty cans or bottles, a ball*

Use empty cans or bottles to create your own bowling pins. Take some time to decorate them to look like bowling pins or just to look cool. And then line them up in a triangle, stand ten feet away, and enjoy some fun times bowling together in the living room or the yard!