



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power

SCRIPTURE: [Acts 13](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Romans 12:2](#)

As you flip through the pages of God’s Word, you are likely filled with awe at the amazing things God does. He spoke the universe into existence. He made a donkey talk, destroyed cities with fire from heaven, and made the sun stand still for an entire day. Then we read about all the times God’s power was displayed through others. Demons were cast out, the lame were healed, the dead were raised to life ... all from mere humans in the name of Jesus.

Living in the twenty-first century, we can forget that miracles still happen. God’s power isn’t just limited to Bible times. Take some time to read [Acts 13:1–12](#). You may never face a situation like Paul and Barnabas did with Elymas, but God still has a plan for your life. And that plan will not be something you can do on your own.

With the Spirit’s power helping you, you can speak the right words to a child or friend who is lost. You can do the right thing when your heart wants to do the opposite. You can do exactly what God has called you to do, no matter how hard it may be or how ill-equipped you may feel. Spend time in prayer. In what areas do you need power so you can do what God has called you to do?

—**Amber Pike**

Kidmin Leader and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

In [Acts 13:9](#), Luke first tells us that Saul was also called Paul. Jews could be given an alternative Roman name at birth, and Paul became the preferred name when traveling outside Jewish circles. The name has nothing to do with his following Jesus.

WHAT?

“Blindness” almost always has a metaphorical meaning in the Gospels and Acts. The magician Elymas had the role of advisor, but he was leading the proconsul astray as a false prophet. Thus he becomes temporarily blind and has to himself be led ([Acts 13:11](#)).

WHERE?

The island of Cyprus is in the Mediterranean Sea, and it was known to have a prominent Jewish community. [Acts 4:36](#) tells us that Barnabas is from Cyprus, and his connections may have been the reason for the missionaries to travel there.

WHEN?

Sergius Paulus governed Cyprus around 45–46 AD. He was a Roman senator, and Luke gives the accurate name for this proconsul.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

God commanded His people to test prophets for falsity ([Deuteronomy 18:20–22](#)). Similar cautions are found in [1 John 4:1–3](#). No one who denies that Jesus came as God “in the flesh” speaks for God, and only the Spirit of God speaks for God.



Curiosity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Curiosity Activity: Power On, Power Off

SUPPLIES: flashlight, anything that can easily turn on or off (light switch, toy that lights up, etc.)

I'm curious about what makes things like flashlights turn on. What do you think causes this flashlight to turn on? Hold up a flashlight and allow kids to respond. **The batteries give it power to turn on. Electricity makes the lights in this room turn on.** Demonstrate turning the room lights and a flashlight on and off. Hold up other items that can easily turn on and off, such as toys that light up.

I'm going to choose a few people to do the activity first. When I say, "power on," you will choose one of the things we just saw and turn it on. When I say, "power off," you'll turn it off! Call on a few kids and call out, "power on" and "power off" and allow them to turn things on and off. Then call on a few more kids. Repeat until all the kids have had a turn.

Thanks for helping us see how things get power! I'm still curious about one thing. How does God give us power? Allow the kids to respond. **Sleep and nutritious foods give us energy, but how do we get the power to follow God and obey Him?** Interact with answers. **The Holy Spirit gives us power!**

Make It Virtual!

This activity works great in a digital or virtual ministry. Encourage the kids to turn lights on and off wherever they are.



Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for this time to study Your Word and learn more about You. We invite the Holy Spirit to lead us and fill us with power so we can share the love of Jesus with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p278

Paul's 1st Journey

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

—from Romans 12:2b NiRV

Repeat the verse with the kids.



Faith

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Craft: Paul and Barnabas' Boat

SUPPLIES: paper plates (1 per every 2 kids), paper, scissors (prep only), blue construction paper (1 sheet per kid), glue sticks, craft sticks (1 per kid), coloring utensils (optional), stickers (optional)

Ahead of time, cut paper plates in half. (One half is needed for each child.) Cut one triangle shape per child from the paper to use as a "sail" on the boat craft.

How did Paul and Barnabas get to the island of Cyprus? Allow time for responses.
Yes, they took a boat! The Holy Spirit gave them power to go tell others about Jesus! Let's make our own boats today to remind us that the Holy Spirit gives us power.

Hand each child a blue sheet of construction paper, half of a paper plate, and glue. Show the kids how to glue the paper plate half onto the blue paper so that the curved side of the plate (i.e., the boat's hull) is along the bottom of the sheet.

Next, have each kid glue a craft stick onto the paper in a vertical position to be the boat mast. After that, the kids can glue the triangle shape as a "sail" along the side of their craft stick. If you have time, allow the kids to decorate the boat with coloring utensils or by adding stickers. They can also draw a sun in the sky or waves around boat. Consider writing the Wonder Truth on the completed crafts. Then the kids to take them home or display them in the room.





Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving us power.

God, thank You that when we trust in You, You give us the Holy Spirit. We are thankful that You make us strong and give us power. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God give you power as you ask the Holy Spirit to work in you and transform you. May the power He gives you help you follow Jesus all your days! Go in the strength and courage that comes from God.

Closing Activity: Anywhere We Go

SUPPLIES: paper (4 sheets), marker, tape, map, globe (optional)

Before kids arrive, use paper and a marker to make one sign for each direction: north, south, east, west. Tape the signs in your room on the walls facing each direction. You can also write just the first letter of each word on the paper.

Paul and Barnabas went to a place called Cyprus to tell people about Jesus. Later, Paul went to many more places to tell even more people about Jesus. No matter which direction Paul and Barnabas traveled, God was with them. God is always with us too! He is with us no matter which direction we go!

Hold up a map or globe. **What do you think this helps us do?** Allow responses. **Yes, it gives us direction so we can find our way to different places. Let's play a game of direction.**

Point out the signs in your room. Read the words on the signs. Then call out a direction so kids can run as quickly as possible to that sign. Repeat several times, calling out and pointing toward each direction.

10:45 Service