



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**

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LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

PAUL AND BARNABAS

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.

9:00



Curiosity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: transportation toys (cars, trucks, planes, trains, boats, etc.), toy boat or small container, toy people figures, coloring utensils, shallow container of water (optional), towel (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Paul and Barnabas Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Transportation Toys

Set-up: Provide a variety of transportation toys for the kids to play with and explore. Consider adding a shallow container of water for toy boats and have a towel nearby for drying up spills.

Play: Invite kids to play with the transportation toys and think about all the places they can go. Ask kids to share different ways people travel.

Play Station: Paul and Barnabas Go!

Set-up: Place a toy boat and toy people figures in the play station area. If a toy boat is not available, a small plastic container or box could become a pretend boat. You can also fill a shallow bin with water and put the toy boat inside.

Play: Encourage the kids to pretend that the toy people figures are traveling by boat or ship. Show the kids how to put the people into the pretend boat and make it move around.

Play Station: Paul and Barnabas Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw their favorite method of transportation.

9:00



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 NIV

Repeat the verse with the kids.

9:00



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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Game: Tell Others!

God gave Paul and Barnabas power to tell others about Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Today, we get to do that too!

Everyone spread out around the room and stay in your spot until someone comes to you. I am going to tell one person that Jesus loves him. Then that person will run to one other kid in the room and say, "Jesus loves you!" Then the next kid will run to someone else and say, "Jesus loves you!" We'll keep taking turns until everyone has had a chance to tell someone else about Jesus' love.

Have kids spread out around the room. Begin by telling one person the message that Jesus loves her, then encourage her to run and tell another child, continuing until all the kids have been told. If time allows, play another round. This time, you can say, "The Holy Spirit gives us power."

Make It Inclusive!

If any of the kids have physical limitations, this game can be adapted. Instead of running to each other, have the kids sit or stand in a line. Give the first person a high-five and tell them "Jesus loves you." The high-fives and "Jesus love you" messages can be passed all the way down the line.

9:00



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: Boat Ride

SUPPLIES: blanket or towel, toy or paper fish (optional)

Lay a blanket (or towel) on the floor. Place pretend fish on the floor around the room (optional).

Paul and Barnabas rode in a boat to go tell people about Jesus! Let's pretend to ride in a boat like Paul and Barnabas did!

Invite kids to sit on the blanket and pretend that the blanket is a boat. Show the kids how to pretend to row the boat. Use your imagination and look for fish and other water animals as you "travel."