



### LESSON 3

## PAUL AND BARNABAS

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 13

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** The Holy Spirit sends Paul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus. When Elymas tries to stop them, the Holy Spirit gives Paul and Barnabas power to carry out their mission.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Don't copy the ways of the world. Let God transform you. —from Romans 12:2

### CURIOSITY

### BELIEF

### FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





## 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.



## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 13

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Romans 12:2

## Welcome

### Slide: Series Welcome Loop

#### As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

### Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Leader:** Hey, everyone! It's time for us to visit with Tac the Cat! Tac is always curious about something. I wonder what he's going to ask us today.

**Tac the Cat:** Hey, kids! I'm so happy to see you! What are you learning about today?

**Leader:** We're glad to see you too! Today, we're learning about things that need power in order to work!

**Tac the Cat:** Neat! Do you mean power like when I charge my electronic cat scratcher machine?

**Leader:** Tac, you have a machine that scratches you?! That sounds fun.

**Tac the Cat:** Oh yeah! Best thing ever! Except I have to charge the batteries all the time. So, is that the kind of power you're talking about?

**Leader:** That's one kind of power! But there's another kind of power we can have: power from the Holy Spirit.

**Tac the Cat:** Oh! How can people have power from the Holy Spirit?

**Leader:** Good question, Tac! We can have power from the Holy Spirit when we trust Jesus as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in us and guide us and help us!

**Tac the Cat:** Wow! God is so good!

**Leader:** Yes, you're right, Tac! God is so good to give us power through the Holy Spirit, Tac, we're going to keep learning so we'll see you next time. Thanks for coming to see us!

**Tac the Cat:** Anytime! See you later!

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Why is power important? Allow the kids to respond. Can you think of a time when God gave you power to obey Him? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God loves us so much that He gives us everything we need to follow Him?"**

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER**. Today, we'll discover more about the power from the Holy Spirit!"

## **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 all the 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!"**

## **Declaring God's Wonder**

### **SLIDE: DECLARATION**

Encourage the kids to say the declaration with you and do the motions.

**"Let's say these words together.**

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

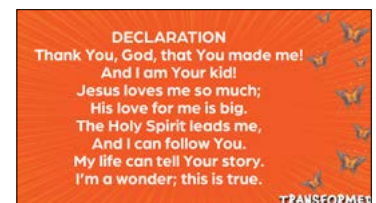
Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.



**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers celebrating ("praise hands").

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words Use this example if needed:

**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.**

## Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit gave power to Paul and Barnabas. Let's sing about the Holy Spirit together!"

**WORSHIP SONGS: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, NEVER BE**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Tell kids today's story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.

**Bible Time Rhyme**

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (Point to yourself.)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

"During God's big story today, listen for the words **Holy Spirit** and **power**. When you hear these words, you can put your arms up beside you and flex our muscles. Model the movement and let the kids practice. This will help us remember that the **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) gives us **power** (flex muscles)! All right, let's listen to God's big story!

Paul was one of the leaders in the church. One day when all the teachers and prophets were praying, the **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) sent them a message. The **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) is the presence of God with the followers of Jesus. The **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) told Barnabas and Paul they should go on a special mission to tell people about Jesus.

So Barnabas and Paul went on a mission trip to share the good news of Jesus with anyone who would listen. They got on a boat and went all the way to the island of Cyprus.

The government leader there was named Paulus. He was excited to meet Paul and Barnabas and hear what they had to say, but there was one problem. One of Paulus' trusted advisors was a magician and false prophet named Elymas. He lied to people by pretending that he spoke for God. Elymas told Paulus not to listen to the good news about Jesus. But Paul was filled with the **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) and told Elymas that he was wrong and that he would be blind for a while.

When the government leader Paulus saw what happened, he knew that the **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) was with Paul and Barnabas and that God's Spirit gave them **power** (flex muscles). Now Paulus was ready to listen and learn about Jesus.

No magic or lying can stop God's plans. Jesus sent the **Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) to be with His people. **The Holy Spirit** (flex muscles) gives us **power** (flex muscles)!"

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

A false prophet is someone who pretends to speak for God, such as Elymas in today's story. Throughout the Bible, God warns His people against false prophets and tells them to test prophets to see if they are false. A true prophet acknowledges that Jesus came as God "in the flesh." Only the Spirit of God speaks for God. That same spirit is in us when we follow Jesus!"

## Prayer and Blessing

Pray over kids thanking God for changing us. Use the prayer below as an example if needed.

**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. Speak a blessing in your own words, using the one below as a guide if needed.

**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.