



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 live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. —Romans 12:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What is something that must be charged before it works?
- Curiosity Questions
- Interactive Game: Face-Off!
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Word of Wonder: Romans 12:2
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Responding in Worship: Prayer and Praise



[Transformed Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

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

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WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power

SCRIPTURE: Acts 13

WORD OF WONDER: 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.

Large Group or Small Group

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

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WORD OF WONDER: Romans 12:2

Pre-Service (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small group 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

I’m curious ...

- **What happens when you get a good night’s sleep? What happens when you don’t get enough sleep?**
- **How do you think sleep for our bodies is like a charger for electronics? How is it different?**

Small Group Begins: Welcome Question 2–3 min

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

As kids arrive, invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: **“What is something that must be charged before it works?”**”

Right at your service time, move into Small Group time by sharing your own answers and allowing kids to talk about their answers.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Acts 13 in the New Testament. Explain that Acts comes after the Gospel of John and tells the story of the first followers of Jesus. Help kids find Acts 13.

Read Acts 13:1–12 aloud.

- One of the men in today's part of God's big story had two names. What are they?
- What message did the Holy Spirit send Paul and Barnabas?
- What was Elymas' job?
- How do you think you would feel if you were Paul and had to stand up to Elymas?
- What are some things the Holy Spirit can help God's people do?
- The Holy Spirit gave Paul power and courage to speak the truth to Elymas. When do you need the Holy Spirit's power?

"Just as the Holy Spirit gave Paul and Barnabas power to speak the truth to Elymas, He gives us power too. Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us power to follow Jesus."

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to gather for a time of prayer. Encourage kids to share their praises and requests for the week and remember these requests when you pray. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit gives us power and can provide for our needs and help us to live more like Jesus.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Acts chapter 13. Let kids know today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of Acts, which is in the second half of the Bible. Help kids find Acts 13.

Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.

Invite three volunteers to read Acts 13:1–12. One volunteer may read verses 1–3, another 4–6, and another 7–12.

- **Who are the two men the Holy Spirit sent on a mission in today's part of God's big story?**
- **What news did Jesus want Paul and Barnabas to spread?**
- **Why didn't Elymas want Paul and Barnabas to share the truth about Jesus?**
- **Have you ever had a time when you had to stand up for the truth? Tell about it. How did you feel?**
- **The Holy Spirit gave Paul and Barnabas the power to speak the truth about Jesus. Why do we need the Holy Spirit's help to live like God wants us to live?**
- **Where do you need the Holy Spirit's power in your life?**

"The Holy Spirit gave Paul and Barnabas power to share the good news about Jesus, even when others tried to stop them. Let's ask God to fill us with His Spirit of power so we too can share His love boldly with the world around us."

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share their praises and prayer requests from the week. Remind kids they have the same Holy Spirit as Paul and Barnabas, and the Spirit will help them to live as Jesus lives. Ask for volunteers to pray for one another's needs and to ask for the Holy Spirit's power.

Word of Wonder

"The Word of Wonder for the Transformed series is Romans 12:2.

Today, we've learned that the Holy Spirit can give us power just as He gave Paul and Barnabas power to tell others the truth about Jesus. This verse explains that the Holy Spirit can change our thoughts to be more like Jesus when we seek to follow Him. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

Have kids open their Bibles to Romans 12:2 and display the Word of Wonder Slide on the screen. Read the verse several times together. Consider beginning the verse in a grumpy voice and then switching to a happy voice after the word "changed" or "transformed."

For an optional discussion, gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **This verse says that when we let the Holy Spirit change our thinking, we'll be able to know what God wants for us. What are some things God wants for us?**
- **Why do we need the Holy Spirit's power to change our way of thinking?**

Word of Wonder Activity

The Word of Wonder for this series explains that we should not conform or live the way the world lives. When we conform, we act and think in ways God doesn't want us to act and think in order to it in. God doesn't want us to try to it in; He wants us to be who He created us to be. He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us become more like Him in our thoughts and our actions. We're going to practice not conforming when we say the Word of Wonder today!

Explain to kids that several volunteers will say the Word of Wonder. However, each person who says the Word of Wonder must do so in a way that's different from anyone else. For example, someone might use an accent or someone might say the verse while striking a certain pose. The goal is for each kid to say the verse differently from anyone else to emphasize the point of not conforming. Ask for volunteers to say the Word of Wonder.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. If kids need help getting started, give them simple suggestions for how to say the verse. For example, suggest that one kid can say the verse while standing on one foot. Another could say the verse in a squeaky voice. Have fun with your suggestions!

Large Group!

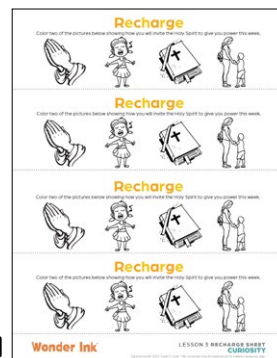
Responding in Worship: Prayer and Praise

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), crayons

RESOURCES: [Recharge Sheet \(1 per 4 kids\)](#) [Transformed Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print copies of the Recharge Sheet and cut them into four strips along the cut lines. Each kid will need one strip.

Gather kids together and give each kid a slip from the Recharge Sheet and crayons. Discuss with kids the Wonder Truth and how the Holy Spirit gives us power: "**We started our time together thinking about all the objects that need charged in order to have power. We listed objects like phones and watches. Some lawnmowers need to be charged. Even some cars need to be charged!**"



Leader Tip: If you plugged a device into a charger at the start of the lesson, check it now and show kids how its stored power has increased.

We also need power from outside ourselves to follow Jesus well, and that power comes from the Holy Spirit! However, we don't strap on a battery to be filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Instead, we invite the Holy Spirit to charge us, to give us His power. You see, the Holy Spirit works in us and gives us strength and power when we simply invite Him into our lives.

How do we invite the Holy Spirit to give us God's power? There are lots of different ways, but we're going to talk about four of them.

We can read the Bible. When we read the Bible, we're reading God's Word, and the Holy Spirit helps us to understand it and put its words into practice.

We can talk with God in prayer, and the Bible says God's Spirit can pray for us. The Holy Spirit prays for us when we don't know what to pray for!

We can worship God by singing and making music. The Holy Spirit works in us to show us all the reasons we have to praise God.

We can also talk to other wise Jesus-followers about God. The Holy Spirit can work through these people to help us understand more about Jesus, comfort us when we need comforting, or encourage us to do something God wants us to do.

Isn't it amazing the Holy Spirit can give us power to follow Jesus through so many ways?"

Encourage kids to color two pictures on their Recharge Sheet to show ways they will invite the Holy Spirit to recharge them this week with God's power. Invite kids to take a few moments to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to recharge them with His power so they can follow Jesus with their whole hearts and minds.