



## 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

- Play Stations:
  - Transportation Toys
  - Paul and Barnabas Go!
  - Paul and Barnabas Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Romans 12:2
- God's Big Story/Snack
- Circle Time: Pass the Luggage
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Make You Strong
- Craft: Paul and Barnabas' Boat
- Game: Tell Others!



[Transformed Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## 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

## 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)

**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 RBKids! 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.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Have kids sit in a circle. Review Romans 12:2 several times with the group. After you remind them of the Word of Wonder, play a game where the kids can “pop up” one word at a time as they memorize the verse.

**"Our Word of Wonder has the word copy in it. If I shake my head like this** (shake your head in a no motion), **what would you do to copy me?** Allow kids to shake their heads. **Right! You would shake your heads too. We're going to play a game with our Word of Wonder that has to do with copying others. Each of you will get a chance to say the verse, and everyone else will have to copy how you say it. You can say it in a silly voice or do some kind of motion, such as jumping while you say it. Don't worry; if you need help remembering the verse, I will help you!"** Allow kids to each take a turn either saying the verse in a silly voice or doing some kind of action while saying it. Then let the other kids say the verse copying the leader's voice or action. Repeat as time allows.

### WORD OF WONDER

**Don't copy the ways of the world.**

**Let God transform you.**

—from Romans 12:2

**"You did a great job copying our leaders and saying our Word of Wonder. That was just a silly copying game. But when it comes to following Jesus, our Word of Wonder reminds us that we shouldn't copy the bad things that other people do. Instead, we should let God transform us to become more like Jesus!**

**This time, everybody will pick an action or voice to do, and we will all say the verse together one more time."** Repeat the verse with the kids a final time.

- **DON'T COPY**—Shake head and place open palms together.
- **THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.**—Draw a large circle in the air.
- **LET GOD**—Point up.
- **TRANSFORM YOU.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **ROMANS 12:2**—Hold your hands open, as if holding a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What should we not copy from the world?**
- **The “ways of the world” are the bad things that happen or that we choose. What might happen if we copy bad things?**

**Leader Tip:** When asking kids questions, make sure to give plenty of time for their responses. Kids need time to think, process, and then speak, so don't feel rushed to give the answer if kids don't respond quickly.

## God's Big Story/ Snack

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### 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 read a true story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible."**

[Read pages 294-297 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.](#)

\*Note - this is not the exact Bible story from today, but will help kids have a framework of who the Holy Spirit is before they hear the story in Large Group!

## Circle Time: Pass the Luggage

**SUPPLIES:** paper, scissors (prep only), writing utensil, piece of small luggage (such as a duffel bag, suitcase, toiletry bag, or backpack)

**RESOURCES:** music from the [Transformed Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, cut a sheet of paper into six pieces and write a discussion question (or corresponding number) on each piece. Place the pieces of paper in the luggage.

Invite the kids to join you and sit in a circle. Remind the kids that Paul and Barnabas went on a trip to tell people about Jesus. **"When we go on a trip, we usually pack a bag. We will pass this bag around while we listen to the music. When the music stops, the person holding the bag can reach into it and pull out a piece of paper. Then, pass the paper to me and I will ask you the question that is written on it.** Start and stop the music for each discussion question.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What are the names of the two men who went on a trip to tell others about Jesus?**  
(*Paul and Barnabas*)
- **Who told them to go tell others about Jesus?** (*the Holy Spirit*)
- **How did they get to the island of Cyprus?** (*on a boat*)
- **What things did Elymas do that weren't good?** (*magic, lying, telling Paulus not to listen to Paul and Barnabas*)
- **What did Paulus discover about Paul and Barnabas?** (*The Holy Spirit was with them.*)
- **The Holy Spirit gave Paul power and courage to speak the truth. What are some other things the Holy Spirit can help God's people do?**

**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. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

## Head to Large Group!

### Responding in Worship: Make You Strong

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, posterboard, writing utensils

Before you begin, write Ephesians 3:16 on a posterboard in large letters: "I pray that [God] will use his glorious riches to make \_\_\_\_\_ strong. May his Holy Spirit give you his power deep down inside you." Make sure to leave a large blank space between the words make and strong. Draw a big spot on the posterboard and tell the kids it is the "power button."

**"We've spent a lot of time today talking about Paul, Barnabas, and the Holy Spirit. Did you know that Paul wrote a book of the Bible called Ephesians? In that book, he said that he prayed that God would make the people strong and that the Holy Spirit would give them power. Wow! That's exactly what we are learning about today. We can pray that for ourselves too, asking God to make us strong and give us power! I'll call you up and you can come pretend to push the "power button". When you do, pray and tell God, "Thank You" for giving you power!"**

One at a time, invite the kids to the posterboard to pretend to push the power button as you say the verse aloud, inserting each child's name in the blank as you read. Then encourage kids to pray and thank God for giving them power. Remind them that the power button is only pretend, and they can have access to God's power any time.

## Craft: Paul and Barnabas' Boat

**SUPPLIES:** Sail Template (1 sail per kid), Wonder Truth Label (1 label per kid), paper plates (1 per every 2 kids), paper, scissors (prep only), tape, 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 out the sails from the Sail Template. Cut labels from the Wonder Truth Label Page.

**"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 sail, half of a paper plate, and craft stick. Instruct kids to color and decorate the sail and paper plate however they'd like.

Show the kids how to tape the craft stick to the sail and paper plate so that it resembles a boat. Attach the Wonder Truth label to each boat.



## 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.