

Acts 13

The First Missionary Adventure (Part 1)

Scripture: Acts 13

Memory Verse: Acts 13:49 “And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all of the region.”

Lesson Focus: We will follow Barnabus and Saul as they are “sent out” on their missionary adventure into new lands. There is plenty of ACTION along the way and our prayer is that the kids will not only be amazed at what God did through them, but that they would also consider how God might “send them out” into their week.

Activities and Crafts: Barnabus and Paul Sent Out Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Connect the Dots Map

Starter Activity: Where Do You Get Sent?

Consider getting the lesson started by playing a game that will get the kids moving around. We will give you four signs * that you can put on your walls (New Mexico, Utah, Kansas, and Wyoming). Have the kids in the middle and then mention that you will be “sending” your kids to one of these neighboring states. Shout out each one and “send” the kids to each wall. If you want to make it a little more fun, then mix it up a little by “sending” them to the state of their choice, but have each state in a bowl and pick one after each turn ([4 Corners elimination-style](#)). The kids in the one state are “out” and sit back down in the middle. Continue until one kid is left! *

Afterwards, have some discussion about where your kids may actually have been “sent”.

Q: What are some places that your parents “send” you?

A: School, kids church, outside to play, etc. *

Q: Have you ever been “sent” anywhere a little crazy? (**Teachers:** First see how the kids answer and then consider sharing this story below)

- Any of you heard of the show “[Old Enough](#)” on Netflix? It’s a Japanese reality show that films toddlers being “sent” on errands on their own like to the grocery store! Can you imagine your Mom sending your 3-year old brother to King Soopers to get some bread and milk? *

As we continue in the book of Acts today, we are going to see the early church “sending” Christians out to foreign lands to share the good news of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection for sinners. Just as RMC’s church logo is, “Be, Make, SEND” disciples, we are going to see how God decided it was time to SEND some of His best disciples of the early church out. Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

Acts 13:1: We learned about this church in Antioch a few weeks ago where we read that believers were first called Christians here (**Acts 11:26**). This church is growing in size and influence and these men were the leaders of this church.

Acts 13:2: And as they were worshiping together, God the Spirit speaks (WOW!) and directs them to set apart two of them. *

Q: Which two did He call out? A: Barnabus and Saul: The “Son of Encouragement” and the former chief villain against the church. *

Acts 13:3: And here we see the church leaders doing what? **SENDING** them out on mission to reach the nations with the gospel just as Jesus said the church would! *

Acts 13:4: So Barnabus and Saul (and John Mark) are traveling to new lands, even having to set sail! What an adventure! * **1st & 2nd Grade Teachers:** As you teach through the verses that describe their journey, consider using the map “craft” during the lesson and have the kids follow along by connecting the dots. *

Acts 13:5: First stop was a city on the island of Cyprus.

Q: What did they do there? A: Preached the word of God and the good news of Jesus!

Acts 13:6-7: Traveling ~100 miles to the other end of the island they now meet the governor of the area who appears to have a sneaky sorcerer for a sidekick. The governor is described as a smart guy and he was curious to hear more from Barnabus and Saul. This is a **BIG** deal to be invited before someone so high ranking! *

Acts 13:8-9: As we have seen before in this book, here we see some **ACTION**. The sneaky sorcerer sidekick makes his move to try and prevent the governor from hearing the word of God. * But Saul, filled with the Spirit, is about to make his countermove! *

Acts 13:10-11: Wow! This is the first miracle we see God do through Saul who is now called Paul. Let’s be sure we all understand that this isn’t magic, but God working a miracle through Paul so that people would take notice, believe, and trust in Jesus!

Acts 13:12: And that is exactly what happened! Even the governor became a believer after he saw the miracle and heard the message of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. *

Acts 13:13: Remember Paul and Barnabus were **SENT** out! The adventure continues as they set sail for the city of Perga in modern day Turkey. However, John Mark went back home for reasons we don’t know.

Acts 13:14-15: Traveling inland they come to another city called Antioch where they * were invited to speak in the Jewish synagogue to a large audience. What an opportunity!

Acts 13:16: Paul gets up and gives the first sermon we have of his recorded in the Bible.

Teachers: I recommend summarizing the passages as below to the kids. *

Acts 13:17-25: Paul first takes his audience through most of the Old Testament and points to how Jesus Christ, the Rescuer, was promised throughout the pages of the OT. *

Acts 13:26-37: Paul then describes the rejection, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus even quoting OT passages that prophesied all of this! *

Acts 13:38-41: Paul wraps it up with an appeal to believe and be saved by faith! *

Acts 13:42-43: And it appears many of them believed! One group was so moved that they “begged” Paul and Barnabus to speak again the following week. *

Q: What is something that you have begged your Mom or Dad for? Well, these folks were begging to hear more about Jesus!

Acts 13:44: And they must have gotten the word out to their friends, because almost the “whole city” gathered to hear the word of God. Wow! Imagine if that happened today!

Acts 13:45: But not everyone is happy about this!

Q: What does it mean to be “filled with envy”? A: Jealous! And they were jealous of the people’s attention shifting away from them and onto Jesus.

Acts 13:46-47: Unmoved, Paul and Barnabus boldly tell them that they had their chance to receive everlasting life, but they “blew it”! Instead, the “cheese-touch” Gentiles (see Acts 11 lesson) are responding just as God had fore-told in the Scriptures. *

Acts 13:48-49: And the number of Gentiles becoming Christians continues to grow and the gospel spreads like wildfire throughout the region!

Acts 13:50: But instead of joining the salvation party, the unbelieving Jews (let’s call them the “blew-its”) manage to get the authorities to kick Paul and Barnabus out of the region! *

Acts 13:51-52: But even though Paul and Barnabus got kicked out and were forced to move onto another city, God used them to get the party started! New disciples of Jesus Christ were made in the region and they were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit!

Key Point: Wow! What an adventure! After two ships, six cities, miracles, and other ACTION, we end this chapter right where we began it: with the Holy Spirit. While it wasn’t easy, God empowered Paul and Barnabus to bring the gospel message to new places and we see God accomplishing what He said He would: reaching the nations with the good news! *

But not everyone responded. The “blew-its” had their chance, but rejected Jesus. What about you? Have you repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Now is YOUR chance! Don’t blow it, but come! * And if you are a believer, know that God is sending YOU out this week to stand out and make a difference for Christ! *

FIND THE TREASURE



Read Acts 13:8-12
What caused this governor to believe in Jesus?

PARENT CHALLENGE
What lands on the above map did Barnabus and Saul reach in Acts 13?

Read Acts 13:42
What were these people "begging" for more of? Why?

