



Barnabas Encourages Saul

Lesson Aim: To be a true friend to others.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26

What He Has Done: God sent Barnabas to help Saul.

THE WAY

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17a

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:1-7	Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven.	To know God can change our hearts to want to be more like Jesus.
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25, 28	God protected Saul as a witness for His kingdom.	To keep telling others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God helped Peter bring Tabitha back to life.	To know we can help others.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	God showed He does not have favorites.	To know God loves everyone the same.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:5-17	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To know praying together is important.
11	Barnabas Encourages Saul, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	God sent Barnabas to help Saul.	To be a true friend to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Colossians 2:2-3. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for faithful friends who encourage us. Fill us all with Your Spirit that we might be faithful friends encouraging and building up the church. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Sharing is a skill children learn over several years. We can help by playing cooperative games and encouraging them to take turns. When children do share, be sure to praise their efforts.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a smiley face
		Coloring Center: Barnabas Encourages Saul	Coloring pages of Barnabas and Saul, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Well Done!	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Activity Center: Do Your Best	Any toy or play center
		Bubble Center: Friends Stick Together	Bubble solution, bubble wand
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 11
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 11:25 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, bubbles
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Friendship Frame	Sturdy white and colored paper, assorted craft decorations*, glue, crayons or markers, optional: photos of the children in your class with their friends (see craft)
		Game: Bridge of Encouragement	None
		Game: Say It and Show It	None
		Snack: Food with Friends	Favorite snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 11
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Creation" Ball Toss	Soft ball
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about friends encouraging each other

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a smiley face. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a smiley face remind you that you can make someone smile when you are a friend to them.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: BARNABAS ENCOURAGES SAUL

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Barnabas and Saul, crayons

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible story today is about two friends named Barnabas and Saul. Do you have a friend? (Children respond.) **What is your friend's name?** (Children respond.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: WELL DONE!

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while encouraging each other. Encourage children to make some of their favorite things with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

As the children are playing with the play-dough, ask them questions about what they are doing. Tell them what you like about what they are making and end your statement with the words, "Well done!" For example: "Sarah, I like the pretty flower you are making. Well done!" Guide children in encouraging each other in the same way. For example, "Jason, did you see the airplane Ben is making? What do you like about it? Can you tell Ben, "Well done"?"

THE WELCOME *continued...*

ACTIVITY CENTER: DO YOUR BEST

SUPPLIES

Any toy or play center

DO

Children play while talking about Barnabas and Saul.

TALK ABOUT

Barnabas and Saul were friends. Barnabas helped Saul to do his best in loving God and others. How can we show God we love Him? (Pray, read the Bible, sing praises, etc.) How can we show others we love them? (Help each other, tell others about Jesus, etc.) You are all friends. Let's work together and help each other do our best.

BUBBLE CENTER: FRIENDS STICK TOGETHER

SUPPLIES

Bubble solution, bubble wand

DO

Teacher or helper blows bubbles. Each time children see bubbles which are stuck together, they will give each other a high-five (or shake hands, give a pat on the back, hug, etc.).

TALK ABOUT

God gives us friends who care for us and help us do our best to love God and others. Friends stick together. I'm going to blow some bubbles. If you see bubbles that are stuck together, I want you to give someone a high-five.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

(one) Index finger is held upright.

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**he is a new
creation."**

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

2 Corinthians 5:17a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



God gives us friends who we can care for and who can care for us. Let's thank God for our friends. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for our friends. Show us how to be a true friend to others. Amen.**



Barnabas and Saul were true friends who served God together. They told people how much God loved them and helped many people to follow Jesus. Sing: "How Wide?"

A true friend helps you do your best to love God and others. We can love God and others by giving our offering. Let's do that now. Leader prays. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.



Let's see what Delbert and Lello know about Barnabas and Saul. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 11.



Barnabas helped others see that God had changed Saul's heart. Barnabas knew he could trust Saul because he had Jesus in his heart. If you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him. Your heart will become like new. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Say verse together two or three times.

"If anyone is in Christ,

(one) Index finger is held upright.
(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

he is a new

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

creation."

2 Corinthians 5:17a

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation."



Barnabas was Saul's true friend

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 11:25, picture of the Bible story, bubbles

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Before blowing bubbles, you may want to set down some safety guidelines for the children such as whether they need to remain seated. Begin blowing bubbles. **I love bubbles, don't you? Can you catch a bubble?** Take some time to blow bubbles and allow the children to catch them.

When you see two or more bubbles stuck together, point them out. **Can you see how the bubbles are sticking together? I think true friends are like bubbles. Do you know why?** (Children respond.) **It's because true friends stick together, too. Our story today is about a man named Barnabas who stuck with his friend Saul when no one else would. Let's learn about these true friends.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 11:25.



WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 9:26-28; 11:22-26

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Everyone was afraid of Saul.**
- **They didn't know God changed his heart.**
- **Barnabas helped them trust Saul,**
- **And give Saul a brand new start.**

- **Then, Barnabas moved to Antioch,**
- **Teaching others to stay close to the Lord.**
- **He was filled with the Holy Spirit;**
- **More people started following the Lord.**

- **Then, Barnabas went to Tarsus**
- **And brought back his friend Saul.**
- **These true friends taught together,**
- **And after that Saul was called Paul.**

Who was a true friend and helped Saul when no one else would? (Barnabas.) What did Barnabas and Saul do together? (Taught people about Jesus.)



We can be a true friend

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: FRIENDSHIP FRAME

Purpose: To remind the children that Barnabas and Saul were true friends.

Supplies: Sturdy white and colored paper, assorted craft decorations*, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, cut a 6-inch x 8-inch rectangle. From sturdy colored paper, cut a 6-inch x 8-inch rectangle. Cut a 4-inch x 6-inch rectangle from the center of the colored paper. At the bottom of the frame, print:

**Barnabas and Saul were true friends.
Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26**

Optional: Ask parents to send in a photo of their child with a friend or take a picture of your class for each child. Adjust the picture frame to fit the size of the photos.

***Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** When considering craft decorations for younger children, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, felt, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

Directions:

1. Glue the 6-inch x 8-inch colored frame on top of the 6-inch x 8-inch white paper.
2. Draw and color a picture of you and your true friend doing something together on the white paper in the center of the frame.
3. Decorate the frame.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who was Saul's friend?** (Barnabas.)
- **When other people were afraid of Saul, who helped them trust him?** (Barnabas.)
- **Who helped Saul tell people about Jesus?** (Barnabas.)
- Ask each child to show and tell you the name of the true friend he or she drew.
- **A true friend helps you do your best to love God and others. Was Barnabas a true friend to Saul?** (Yes.)
- **When your true friend does their best, what can you say to them?** (Well done.)
- **Remember to say, "Well done!" to your friends!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: BRIDGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Purpose: Children will be encouraged just as Barnabas encouraged Saul.

Supplies: None

Who was Saul's true friend? (Barnabas.) A true friend helps you do your best to love God and others. When you see a friend doing his or her best, you can say "Well done!"

Directions:

1. Face your helper or a tall child.
2. Hold hands and raise your arms up in the air to create a bridge.
3. Children walk in a circle, passing under your bridge. As they walk, sing together the following rhyme to the tune of "London Bridge" (or make up your own tune):

We see that you do your best, do your best, do your best.

We see that you do your best. We say, "Well done!"

4. On the last word of the rhyme, drop your arms to surround the child passing under the bridge at that moment.
5. Say the child's name.
6. Optional: Make a specific encouraging comment about each child after you say his or her name. For example: Sarah, you share so well. Danny, when you smile, you make everyone happy. Bobby, you do a great job cleaning up after the craft.
7. All other children say, "**Well done!**" to the child.
8. Play until each child has a turn receiving encouragement.

GAME: SAY IT AND SHOW IT

Purpose: Children will practice encouraging each other.

Supplies: None

We are all friends. Let's have some fun by showing each other we are true friends. On my signal, give a high-five to as many people as you can. When I say "freeze," stop where you are.

Directions:

1. On your signal, the children give each other high-fives. After a short time, tell the children to "freeze."
2. Play again.
3. After giving each other high-fives a few times, you may wish to substitute one of the following "true friend" actions: shake hands, pat on the back, hug, etc.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FOOD WITH FRIENDS

Purpose: Children will discuss how they can encourage their friends as they eat a snack.

Snack Suggestion: Favorite snack

Let's eat a snack together to celebrate our friendship!

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who was Saul's true friend?** (Barnabas.)
 - **What does it mean to be a true friend?** (Children respond.) **A true friend helps you do your best in loving God and others.**
 - **Who is a true friend to you?** (Children respond.) If a child does not know the name a true friend, then identify yourself or another child in the group as that true friend.
 - **What does your friend do very well?** (Children respond.) **When your friend does something well, you can tell them, "Well done!"**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

**he is a new
creation."**

2 Corinthians 5:17a

(one) Index finger is held upright.

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 9:26-28; 11:22-26

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Everyone was afraid of Saul.** (Put hands on cheeks, as if frightened.)
- **They didn't know God changed his heart.** (Put hands on heart.)
- **Barnabas helped them trust Saul,** (Shake hands with each other.)
- **And give Saul a brand new start.** (Thumbs up.)

- **Then Barnabas moved to Antioch,** (Walk in place.)
- **Helping others stay close to the Lord.** (Wrap arms around self, as a tight hug.)
- **He was filled with the Holy Spirit;** (Wave hands back and forth like a wind.)
- **More people started following the Lord.** (Point to heaven.)

- **Then Barnabas went to Tarsus** (Walk in place.)
- **And brought back his friend Saul.** (Beckoning motion.)
- **The true friends taught together,** (Hold hands with each other.)
- **After that Saul was called Paul.** (Cup hands around mouth and whisper.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

2 Corinthians 5:17a

GAME: NEW HEARTS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. First child stands in the center of the circle with both hands covering his or her own heart.
3. All the children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, replacing the word "anyone" with the name of the child standing in the center of the circle.
 - If child's name is in Christ,** (Children repeat.)
 - He/She is a new creation.** (Children repeat)
 - The old has gone.** (Children repeat.)
 - The new has come! Hooray!** (Children repeat.)
4. Child in the center removes his or her hands to uncover his or her heart.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "NEW CREATION" BALL TOSS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Soft ball

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." That means if you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him.

Teacher Tip: Two and three-year-olds are still learning motor skills such as tossing and catching. You may choose to have the children sit in a circle and roll the ball depending on the age and skill level of the children.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Toss the ball to the first child.
3. While child holds ball, child recites the Bible Memory Verse: **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."** If a child is uncomfortable saying the verse alone, have the class say it together.
4. Child tosses the ball back to you or to another child.
5. Repeat until each child has at least one turn.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about friends encouraging each other.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 11: Barnabas Encourages Saul

PONDER! God sent Barnabas to be a true friend to Saul (Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26). What did Barnabas and Saul do together? (Taught people about Jesus.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving us friends. Help me to be a true friend by helping my friends love You and others. Amen."

PLAY! Blow bubbles together. Friends stick together just like the bubbles! God gives us friends who care for us and help us do our best to love God and others.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

**he is a new
creation."**

2 Corinthians 5:17a

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