



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

Whisper Verse: "Well done."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a smiley face
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Well done."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Change My Heart, O God" "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 Visual: Any item showing a smiley face
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Friendship Frame	Sturdy paper, assorted craft supplies (sequins, glitter, gems, yarn, buttons, shells or other items from nature), glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: photos of each child sent in by parents or taken in class
		Game: Bridge of Encouragement	None
		Game: Say It and Show It	None
		Snack: Food with Friends	Favorite snack
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 11 Color This Story: "Barnabas and Saul Are True Friends"
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 Heart" Memory Pass	Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about friends encouraging each other

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Well done

THE 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 to help your friends smile by telling them, "Well done!"** Today's Whisper Verse is "Well done." Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Well done."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Well" With the fingers together, tap the chin with the right hand fingertips and then place the backside of the right hand firmly in the upturned palm of the left hand.

"done." With all five fingers on each hand spread widely apart, simultaneously tap the right fingers to the right shoulder and the left fingers to the left shoulder. Then, flip both hands out from the shoulders one time as if shaking water off the fingers.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Well done," Matthew 12:21. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

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.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who changes us. He changes each of us to be more like Him. We can become a true friend. When we see someone trying to do his or her best, we can be a true friend by saying, “Well done.” That is today’s Whisper Verse. Let’s try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “Well done.” Include sign language.



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



Today, we will hear a story about Barnabas who was a true friend to Saul. Let’s see if Delbert and Lello know anything about Barnabas. 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 was a new creation. Sing: “A New Creation.”

Barnabas and Saul were true friends who served the Lord together. They helped many people to keep following Jesus and many to believe in Jesus for the very first time. They reminded the followers that the Lord is with us, and He is mighty to save. Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.”



Barnabas was Saul's true friend

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison. Today, we will see how God sent Barnabas to be Saul's true friend. A true friend helps you do your best to love God and others. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 11:25.

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

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display any item showing a smiley face. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **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 looked for Saul? (Barnabas.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 11:25 from the teacher's Bible. **Barnabas was a true friend to Saul. He helped Saul to do his best at teaching others about Jesus.**

Barnabas brought Saul to help him teach the people about Jesus. Saul was a very good teacher. When we see someone do their best, we can say, "Well done." Imagine Barnabas saying, "Well done!" to his friend Saul. That's our Whisper Verse today. Let's say it together: "Well done." Include sign language or hand motions.



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 supplies (sequins, glitter, gems, yarn, buttons, shells or other items from nature), glue or tape, 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.

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.)
- **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.)
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- Ask children to show and tell you the names of their friends in their pictures.
- **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 and sign, "**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. How does it make you feel when your friend says "Well done" to you? (Children respond.) On my signal, say and do the sign language for "well done" to as many people as you can before I finish counting to ten!

Directions:

1. Give your signal to start and count to 10 as they say and sign, "Well done" to each other.
2. At the end of the 10 seconds, tell children to freeze in place.
3. Play again. Each time you play, substitute one of the following actions in place of signing: shake hands, pat on the back, give a high-five, clap hands, 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 drink. Wait to serve the snack.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **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 was Saul's true friend?** (Barnabas.)
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the Whisper Verse motions: "Well done."
 - **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.)
 - **What can you tell your friend?** ("Well done.")



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Friendship Frame" craft. Tell someone how Barnabas and Saul were true friends. Explain that a true friend helps you do your best in loving God and others.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family.** Talk about how you can say, "Well done!" when you are proud of your friends and family.

COLOR THIS STORY: "Barnabas and Saul Are True Friends." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "A New Creation," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

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 HEART" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give the heart to a child. Lead the children in saying the first word of the verse: "If."
3. Child passes the heart to the next child. Lead the children in saying the next word in the verse: "anyone."
4. Continue passing the heart with each word until the children have repeated the entire verse.
5. Play again. Each time you play, try to say the verse faster.



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! Read Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26 with your family. A true friend helps you do your best at loving God and others. Who was Saul's true friend? How did Barnabas help Saul when others were afraid of him? What did Barnabas and Saul do together in Antioch? Has God given you a true friend?

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

PLAY! Gather your friends or family in a circle. Roll a ball to someone in the circle, and tell that person something he or she does well. Then say, "Well done." That person rolls the ball to someone else. Tell that person something he or she does well and say, "Well done." Continue until each person has a turn. When you see someone do their best, say, "Well done."

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17