


Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch

Acts 11:19-26

First- and second-graders have a strong sense of competition with others. So in a lesson like today's where encouraging others is the focus, you may have to remind kids that it's important to put others first. That is an idea that doesn't come naturally to young children, so be sure to explain that encouraging others is what God wants us to do.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Be a Cheerleader (about 15 min.) Make pompoms and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, crepe paper, scissors, tape, drinking straws	
2 Bible Exploration	Mask Making (about 15 min.) Make masks to use, and learn to encourage others to believe in Jesus.	Bible, paper plates, scissors, markers, craft sticks, tape	
	Seeking Saul (about 15 min.) Pretend to travel from Antioch to Tarsus and back again to discover why Barnabas wanted Saul to join him in Antioch.	Teacher Pack: "Saul and Barnabas Encourage Christians" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **Bible Point**
Encourage each other to believe in Jesus.

Key Verse
"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will encourage others in faith.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Ways to Encourage <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn practical ways to encourage others.	My Bible Fun, crayons	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Reason to Praise

Reason to Scatter

Spreading the News

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Be a Cheerleader Supplies

Bible
crepe paper
scissors
tape
drinking straws

1

GETTING STARTED

Be a Cheerleader

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we're learning to ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Let's make something to help us do that!**

Explain that kids will be making pompoms, like cheerleaders use, to help them cheer each other on in their faith. Have kids cut thin, long strips from the crepe paper, about 6 to 10 inches long. Encourage kids to cut the strips thin enough so there are at least 12 per child.

Give each child a drinking straw and tape. Help kids tape the strips to the end of their straws to make pompoms.

Encourage kids to practice different ways to shake their pompoms. Then have kids put the pompoms to the side for a moment.

Open your Bible to Hebrews 3:13, and show kids the verse. Then read aloud: **"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).** Have kids repeat the Key Verse with you several times.

Say: **One way to encourage is to cheer someone on. The verse tells us to cheer each other on every day. Let's practice encouraging each other now.**

Have kids form two lines facing each other. Let each child walk between the lines as everyone else shakes their pompoms and cheers, "[Name of child], be strong in your belief! You can do it!" After every child has been affirmed, have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **Now we've practiced the first part of the verse. The other part says not to be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. That means don't turn your back on what God says and don't be tricked into doing wrong things. Did you notice our cheer was encouraging but it also reminded us to be strong in following God? Let's encourage each other again using the same words.**

Have kids stand in two lines again, and repeat the cheer process.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to have everyone cheer for you?
- What are some other ways you can encourage others throughout your day?
- Why do you think it's important to encourage each other?

Say: **We all need encouragement as we follow God and believe in him. That's why our Key Verse tells us to ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Today we'll hear about a man who encouraged some Christians. Take your pompoms home with you to remind you to cheer others on this week and encourage them to keep believing in Jesus.**

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2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Mask Making

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 11:19-26, and show kids the passage.

Say: **We'll read in the Bible today about something that happened after Jesus went back to heaven. Some of the people who believed in Jesus had scattered around to different cities. One of those cities was called Antioch. What happened in Antioch was different from what was happening in some of the other cities. I'll show you what I mean.**

Put kids in four groups, and assign each group a color. For example, you might have a red group, yellow group, green group, and blue group. Set out paper plates, scissors, and markers. Explain that kids will be making paper plate masks but can color their masks only in their group's color.

Show kids how to draw simple facial features on the paper plates to make masks. Then help kids use scissors to cut holes for the eyes and mouths. Finally, demonstrate how to tape a craft stick to the back of the paper plate as a handle.

Say: **Let's pretend that we're the people in Antioch.** Have kids hold up their masks.

Say: **The Jewish people who believed in Jesus were telling others all about Jesus, how he loves us, how he died on the cross for our sins, and how he came back to life. But there was one big problem. The Jews were only telling other Jews about Jesus. They weren't telling the people who weren't Jews! Let's see what that might have been like.**



Mask Making Supplies

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Bible
paper plates
scissors
markers
craft sticks
tape



Choose one group (for example, the blue group) to be the Gentiles. Explain that when you give the signal, children should hold up their masks and the other three groups should walk around the room telling things about Jesus. But no one should talk to anyone in the blue group.

Give the starting signal, and let kids begin. After a few minutes, call time.

Play the game again, this time having the kids in the first three groups tell the fourth group about Jesus. Then have everyone sit together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to tell only certain people about Jesus?
- What was it like to be in the group that no one told about Jesus?
- Why is it important to encourage each other to believe in and follow Jesus?

Say: **In the first round of our game, we told only certain people about Jesus. And that's what happened in the time we'll be reading about in the Bible. But that's not what was happening in Antioch. In Antioch, the Jews were telling everyone about Jesus, and lots of people came to believe in him! The people there knew to ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

Seeking Saul

Seeking Saul Supplies

Teacher Pack

"Saul and Barnabas Encourage Christians" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

What You'll Do ■■■■

Show the "Saul and Barnabas Encourage Christians" poster. Say: **When the church back in Jerusalem heard what was happening in Antioch, they sent a man named Barnabas to check things out there. Barnabas was a strong believer in Jesus. So he packed up and traveled to Antioch. Let's do some traveling ourselves!**

Have kids pretend to pack their suitcases for a long trip. Ask them what they would take if they were going away for a long time. Explain that Barnabas stayed in Antioch for more than a year! Give each child a turn to share, and have everyone pretend to pack that item as it's mentioned.

Then lead kids in "traveling" around the room several times. When they "arrive" in Antioch, have them sit down.

Say: **When Barnabas got to Antioch, he was so happy about what he found! Everyone was talking about Jesus and helping others believe in Jesus.**

Ask:

- What kinds of things could you tell others about Jesus? Allow time.

Say: **After seeing how great things were in Antioch, Barnabas went to find his**



friend Saul to tell him the good news. Saul was in the city of Tarsus. Uh-oh, I guess that means we'll have to pack our suitcases again!

Have kids pretend to pack up again, and lead them in skipping or speed walking around the room once or twice. When kids arrive in Tarsus, have them form pairs. Explain that the person in each pair wearing the most blue will be Barnabas, and the other partner will be Saul.

Say: **Barnabas wanted to share the good news about the Christians in Antioch with his friend Saul. He took Saul back to Antioch with him so Saul could see for himself how the people believed in Jesus. Let's go back to Antioch ourselves!**

Have partners link arms and walk backward around the room several times as if traveling back to Antioch. When kids arrive back in Antioch, have them sit with their partners.

Say: **Barnabas and Saul knew that God wants us to ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Barnabas and Saul stayed in Antioch for a whole year, telling others about Jesus and encouraging them to have faith in Jesus. And do you know what? The people in Antioch were so good at telling others about Jesus that the city of Antioch is where people who followed Jesus were first called Christians!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What kind of news do you like to share with your friends?
- Why is it good to share news about Jesus with others?

Say: **Encouraging others to have faith in Jesus is an important job. And it's a job that we can do, too, just as Barnabas and Saul did. Let's talk more about how we can ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS and follow him.** Have kids remain in their pairs.

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3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Ways to Encourage

What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning to ► **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS, just as Barnabas and Saul did. Our faith in Jesus helps us no matter what happens in our lives. Let's look at our My Bible Fun pages to learn more.**

Ways to Encourage Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons

Ways to Encourage Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.



Distribute the Lesson 12 My Bible Fun pages, and point out the pictures. Set out crayons for kids to share. Have kids write their names on the pages. Have partners work together as you lead kids through the pictures.

Say: **The first picture shows a time you might be scared. Talk with your partner about a time you were scared.** Give partners a few moments to share. If you have time, invite a few kids to share their answers with the rest of the group. Then say: **It's important to remember our faith in Jesus even when we're scared!**

Ask:

- **How could your belief in Jesus help you encourage someone who's scared?**

Say: **A good way to encourage someone when they're scared is to remind that person to pray. Draw a line from the scary picture to the prayer picture.** Pause for kids to draw.

Say: **The second picture shows a time you might be sad. Tell your partner about a time you were sad.** Allow time. **It's important to remember that our faith in Jesus helps us even when we're sad!**

Ask:

- **How could your belief in Jesus help you encourage someone who's sad?**

Say: **A good way to encourage someone who's sad is to show Jesus' love to that person. Draw a line from the sad picture to the picture of two children hugging.** Pause for kids to draw.

Say: **The third picture shows a time you might be angry. Tell your partner about a time you were angry.** Allow time. **It's good to remember that our faith in Jesus helps us even when we're angry!**

Ask:

- **How could your belief in Jesus help you encourage someone who's angry?**

Say: **A good way to be encouraged when you're angry is to remember that Jesus forgives us and he wants us to forgive others, too. Draw a line from the angry picture to the forgiving picture of two kids shaking hands.** Pause for kids to draw.

Talk With Kids ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Say: **Barnabas and the Christians at Antioch encouraged each other to believe in Jesus and to follow him. In our lives, God wants us to ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS, too.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how to ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Remember to pray when you get scared.**
- **Give someone in your family a hug when he or she seems sad.**
- **If you see someone get angry, remind him or her that Jesus forgives us and we can forgive others.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **When we ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS, it makes God happy. Like Barnabas, we can tell our friends and family about all the great things Jesus does in our lives. This week, let's ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and that they learned to encourage each other to believe. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he gives us people who we can encourage and who can encourage us. Let each child pray for someone he or she would like to encourage this week. Pray: **Lord, thank you for giving us other Christians to encourage us in our beliefs. Help us be like Barnabas and Saul as we encourage others this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

