

Paul and Barnabas



New Testament 3
Part 2: New Testament Teams (Cohorts)

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 4:32-37; 9:19b-27; 11:19-30; 13:1-14; 14:1-28; 15:1-12; 36-41; 1 Corinthians 9:6;
Galatians 2:1,9,11-14; Colossians 4:10

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See"](#)
- ["Let the Lord Use Us"](#)
- ["Angry Words"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Apostles & N.T. Teams](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 3 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Hand puppets to re-enact an argument (for younger kids)
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Good friends sometimes disagree and have arguments, but God wants us to make things right, forgive one another, and still be friends.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Having good friends is a blessing from God. We should be thankful for our friends and pick friends who will help us do the right thing. How can we be a good friend? Do good friends ever disagree? Today, we are going to study about two friends who did much good for the Lord together, but the Bible tells us that they had a disagreement. Their names were Paul and Barnabas.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Having good friends is a blessing from God. We should be thankful for our friends and pick friends who will help us do the right thing. How can we be a good friend? Do good friends ever disagree? Today, we are going to study about two friends who did much good for the Lord together, but the Bible tells us that they had a disagreement. Their names were Paul and Barnabas.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. During the Feast of Pentecost, many Jews came from all over the world to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. One day during the feast, Peter and the other apostles preached the first sermon about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and about 3,000 Jews became Christians. Many of them stayed in Jerusalem for awhile after the feast was over and ran out of money to buy food and to pay for a place to stay. So all the Christians shared what they had with each other. Some Christians in Jerusalem who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles so that it could be given to those who needed the most help. One of those generous people was a man named Joseph, or Barnabas, who was also a new Christian.
2. Barnabas was a Jew from the island of Cyprus. The New Testament tells us that he was a "good man" with a strong faith—a hard-working, kind-hearted, generous, Christian man (Acts 11:24). One of the most important things we know about him is that he was a great encourager. In fact, his name means "son of encouragement" [or "son of consolation"]. To encourage means to help someone have the courage to face difficult decisions or situations. Barnabas was a special encourager for a man named Saul of Tarsus.

NOTES:

More about Barnabas: Acts 4:36 tells us that Barnabas was a Levite. Under the Mosaic Law, the Levites were entrusted with the care of the Tabernacle and its furnishings, and later, the Temple and its furnishings. Those that returned to Palestine from Babylonian captivity were mainly teachers and musicians. [Aside from this mention of Barnabas, there are only two other references to Levites in the N.T. (Luke 10:32 and John 1:19), and one mention of the Levitical priesthood (Hebrews 7:11-17).] So, we can assume that Barnabas was well-versed in the Law and involved in the Jewish community and synagogue worship on the island of Cyprus before becoming a Christian. (cont.)





NOTES (cont.):

As a Christian, he is said to have been “full of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 11:24), which means he was given special abilities (like Stephen and the other six men chosen as special servants in Acts 6) to preach and/or perform miracles (vss.3,5,8,10). He did, however, disappoint Paul greatly when he took Peter’s hypocritical position regarding the inclusion of Gentiles in the Church (Galatians 2).

3. Saul of **Tarsus** was a very well educated Jew who thought it was his duty to find and persecute Christians (take them to prison; punish them in many ways—sometimes to the point of death). After Jesus spoke to Saul on the road to the city of Damascus (the capital of Syria), he became a Christian, too, and immediately began preaching in that city. He had to leave Damascus to get away from Jews who wanted to kill him, and he went to Jerusalem to be with the brethren there. Unfortunately, no one trusted him at first—no one except Barnabas. None of the Christians wanted to welcome Saul into their church family, because they were afraid of him. They were not yet convinced that he was a different man from the one who had hunted down and mistreated Christians.



NOTES: Tarsus was a city in the southeastern part of Asia Minor; the capital of Cilicia.

4. Barnabas knew how much Saul (who would become known as Paul in Acts 13:9) needed new friends. He needed a place to “belong,” because he had left everything to follow the Lord. Barnabas convinced the other Christians that Paul was really a changed man and was no longer a threat to them. From that point on, the other Christians supported Paul and helped him when he was persecuted.
5. Barnabas was sent to Antioch to encourage the Christians there. After some time, he went to find Paul, and they returned to Antioch to work together for about a year, preaching the Gospel. [Barnabas had to go to Tarsus to find Paul because Paul had left Jerusalem after more threats against his life.] It was during their work in Antioch that the disciples “were first called Christians” (Acts 11:26). When they returned to Jerusalem, they brought money the Christians in Antioch had collected to help their brothers who were suffering because of a famine (Acts 11:28-30).
6. Acts 13 tells us about their first missionary journey, which included work in Barnabas’ homeland, Cyprus. They took with them a cousin of Barnabas named John Mark (who would later write the Gospel of Mark). They traveled to many different places telling people about Jesus. But John Mark, for whatever reason, decided he didn’t want to continue traveling with them and returned to Jerusalem.
7. Later, when Paul was preparing to go on his second missionary journey, to encourage all the people they had brought to Christ, he wanted Barnabas to go with him. But Barnabas was not willing to go unless John Mark could go with them. Paul refused to travel with the young man, apparently because he didn’t think the young man was strong enough to deal with the responsibilities of preaching the Gospel and the hardships of another journey. Paul and Barnabas had such a terrible disagreement that they decided they would no longer work together. Paul left with Silas, and Barnabas took John Mark with him back to Cyprus.
8. Paul and Barnabas had done a great deal of good together in the early years of the Church, and had suffered persecution together as they preached about Jesus. But, as far as we know, their disagreement about John Mark kept them from working together anymore. Barnabas is not mentioned in the book of Acts after this disagreement (chapter 15), but later, in his letters to different churches, Paul wrote

about him with respect and kindness. And later Paul wrote that John Mark was profitable to him for the ministry (1 Timothy 4:11).

9. How do you feel when you have an argument with a friend, or when you hear other people arguing? What does God want us to do when we disagree? It is important for us to remember that friends are special blessings from God. When we have an argument or disagreement, God wants us to try to “make up” (forgive one another after making things right; overcome pride or selfishness) so that we can work together for Him. When we get involved in an argument, we need to think, “What would Jesus do?”
10. When you get angry, upset, or involved in an argument:
 - Get away from the situation for awhile so you can have some time to think.
 - Find someone else to talk to who can help you think clearly (but be careful not to gossip or violate Matthew 18:15-17).
 - Talk to God about your feelings.
 - Never be disrespectful or insulting.
 - Be willing to admit when you’re wrong.
 - Be willing to compromise (if the argument doesn’t involve doctrinal issues/doing something wrong).
 - Don’t be so quick to criticize.
 - Be willing to forgive your friend if he/she has done something to hurt your feelings.
 - Be willing to say, “I’m sorry.”
 - Remember that you are not on opposite sides, but are on the same side trying to help each other get to heaven.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5

- “[Paul and Barnabas Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a hop-scotch grid on the floor with masking tape. Let the children take turns tossing a beanbag onto a square on the grid, jumping to that square, and then answering a question about the lesson. If the child answers the question correctly, he can toss the bag again, jump to the square where it lands, and try another question. He can continue until he misses a question.
- Act out a mock argument and talk about ways to settle it.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Scriptures Regarding Anger](#)” Game: Give the students slips of paper with scriptures regarding anger and forgiveness. Allow them age-appropriate amounts of time to look up the passages (provided in activity sheets).
- Divide the kids into teams of two or three. Give each team a concordance, and have them find age-appropriate numbers of scriptures about anger, friends, and forgiveness.
- Have a small map of the New Testament world that is marked with cities that Paul visited on

his missionary journeys. The teacher should have a copy of the same map on a transparency (or dry erase board) so that he/she can mark the journeys along with younger kids. Older kids should be able to look up scriptures and locate the cities on their own.

- Help the kids make a door-hanger or mini-poster with the above verses on how to deal with anger. Leave blanks in each sentence for kids to fill in. Let them decorate with markers or stickers.
- Act out a mock argument and talk about ways to settle it.
- [“Hooray for Friends Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Barnabas and Paul Crossword Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- [“Scriptures Regarding Anger”](#) Game: Give the students slips of paper with scriptures regarding anger and forgiveness. Allow them age-appropriate amounts of time to look up the passages (provided in activity sheets).
- Divide the kids into teams of two or three. Give each team a concordance, and have them find age-appropriate numbers of scriptures about anger, friends, and forgiveness.
- Have a small map of the New Testament world that is marked with cities that Paul visited on his missionary journeys. The teacher should have a copy of the same map on a transparency (or dry erase board) so that he/she can mark the journeys along with younger kids. Older kids should be able to look up scriptures and locate the cities on their own.
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- Act out a mock argument and talk about ways to settle it.
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SONGS:

“OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))
(Author: Unknown*)

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.
(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little eyes what you see.

Oh, be careful little feet where you go.
(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little feet where you go.

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear.
(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little ears what you hear.

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say. (REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little mouth what you say.

Oh, be careful little hands what you do.
(REPEAT)
For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.
So, be careful little hands what you do.

“LET THE LORD USE US” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: “Angry Words”)

VERSE 1:

Paul and Bar-na-bas did not a-gree.
John Mark was the cause of it.
Bar-na-bas said, “He’ll come with us.”
Pau-l thought John Mark was not fit.

CHORUS:

Di-d they shout and fight?
Di-d they rant and rave?
Di-d they cause a great big fuss?
No-o they com-pro-mised,
Each man went on his way.
We need to let the Lord use us.

VERSE 2:

When you have a dis-a-gree-ment,
Try to set-tle it in love.
You should show re-spect to o-thers,
Honor our Fath-er up a-bove.

2nd CHORUS:

Wil-l you shout and fight?
Wil-l you rant and rave?
Wil-l you cause a great big fuss?
No, we can com-pro-mise,
Have peace and unity;
We need to let the Lord use us.

“ANGRY WORDS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: H.R. Palmer

(Tune: See church song book)

VERSE 1:

Angry words! O let them never,
From the tongue unbridled slip,
May the heart’s best impulse ever,
Check them ere they soil the lip.

CHORUS:

Love one another, thus saith the Savior,
Children obey the Father’s blest command,
Love one another, thus saith the Savior,
Children obey the blest command.

VERSE 2:

Love is much too pure and holy,
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment’s reckless folly,
Thus to desolate and mar.

(CHORUS)

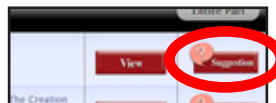
VERSE 3:

Angry words are lightly spoken,
Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken,
By a single angry word.

(CHORUS)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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INTRODUCTION:

[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Before their disagreement and decision to work separately, there were many other times when Paul and Barnabas worked well together and did many great things for the Lord.
 - When Paul and Barnabas came to Antioch in Pisidia, Paul preached in the synagogue on the Sabbath, “as was his custom” (Acts 13). After Paul’s sermon, the Gentiles asked him to preach to them again the next Sabbath. He agreed, and most of the city came to hear him again. That made the Jews very angry. They were jealous of Paul. They tried to contradict Paul’s sermon, and they made fun of him. Paul and Barnabas told the Jews that the Word of God was to have been spoken to them first, but since they were not willing to listen, God wanted the two preachers to teach the Gentiles. The Jews escorted them out of town. Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet as a sign that they couldn’t do anything else there.
 - In Acts 14, Paul healed a crippled man in the town of Lystra. When the people of the city saw this, they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. They even called Paul “Mercury” or “Hermes” and Barnabas “Jupiter” or “Zeus”—names of idols they worshipped. The people of Lystra tried to offer sacrifices to the two preachers, but Paul would not allow it. The Jews convinced the people to stone Paul. Afterward, thinking he was dead, he was dragged out of the city and left. Amazingly, he got up, and the next day left with Barnabas to continue preaching in other cities.
 - They traveled through many cities, appointing elders in each congregation, teaching and preaching, and helping the Christians to be strong. Theirs was a great partnership. Good friends can help one another, learn from one another, and help others—like Paul and Barnabas.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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