

LESSON 7: PEOPLE THINK PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE GODS

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Adventure

 Acts 14

10/04/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 14
- In This Passage: Paul and Barnabas travel around, preaching and healing people. When they heal a crippled man in Lystra, the people think Paul and Barnabas are gods! Paul and Barnabas quickly point people to the only true God, sharing how he's already been at work in their lives.
- Bible Point: God is the only God...
- Application: ...so we point people to him.
- Summary Verse: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is the only God.* Kids probably can't relate to Paul and Barnabas' experience exactly—they've probably never mistaken them for a god, and they probably never mistook someone else for a god. However, kids *do* sometimes forget to give God the glory for the amazing things he does in and through them. Use this lesson to help kids see how God is at work in their lives and point others to him as he works.
- Think About: What has God done for you? Tell someone!

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to give your kids opportunities to point others to him.

Quick Tip

- Being authentic and vulnerable with your kids is an important way to point them to God. Kids often view their Sunday school teachers as people who have all the answers, live near-perfect lives, and have it all together. We all know nothing could be further from the truth! Help kids see what God is doing in your life and how much you need him by sharing age-appropriate personal stories. (When we ask you to share first, do it!) It'll take the focus off you and move it onto God.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids act out the story and go on a hunt.

Supplies

- Bible
- sticky notes
- crayons



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids sing songs that point to God.

Supplies

- music
- music player



OBJECT LESSON

Kids keep track of a cotton ball under cups.

Supplies

- cotton balls (1 for every 5-8 kids)
- opaque plastic cups (3 for every 5-8 kids)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids spin and play.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Supplies

- multicolored pompoms (1 per person)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make fake plants and compare real and fake.

Supplies

- foam cups (1 per child)
- 18-inch lengths of 20-gauge floral wire (3-5 pieces per child) (check your local craft or hobby store)
- permanent markers in a variety of colors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

- tissue paper in a variety of colors
- glue sticks



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids perform in a talent show and give God the credit.

Supplies

- Bible

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

[5 min]

Welcome

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids pat the people next to them on the back.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “Appy-hay irthday-bay!” (“happy birthday” in pig Latin).
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that God is the only God. He’s the one who made the *whole* world! No one else could’ve done that. There were some men in the Bible who loved to talk about God and tell everyone that God is the only God. Let’s start today by sharing about things we love to talk about all the time.**

Share

- Share about a topic *you* like to talk about often. Maybe you love running and you love talking to people about running techniques. Or maybe you love talking about an organization you visited overseas on a mission trip. You might even share about a band, book, or favorite TV show that you enjoy discussing with others.
- In small groups, have kids share what things *they* like to talk about. Maybe they like to tell everyone about their new puppy, or maybe they like to talk about trains or cars.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **We all have something we like to talk about, and we’ll hear in the Bible about two men who loved to talk about God. They wanted to tell everyone that God is the only God, that he loves everyone, and that he’s our friend. Let’s find out more about that.**

Pray, thanking God for being amazing, and acknowledge that God is the only God.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- sticky notes
- crayons

Act It Out

Say: **Today we'll learn that God is the only God. God made the whole world, and he made everything in it! There's no other God—he's the only one!**

Open the Bible. **Let's find out how people learned that God is the only God. The Bible says God asked two of his friends, Paul and Barnabas, to travel to new places and tell people how much God loves them.** Have kids partner up and lock arms with their partners. Lead them in traveling around the room once.

Say: **Paul and Barnabas told people in many places that God is the only God, and they shared how much God loves everyone. Some people liked Paul and Barnabas and believed in God. Lead kids in jumping up and down, cheering "Yeah, God!" Other people *didn't* like Paul and Barnabas because they didn't want to learn about the one true God. Lead kids to cross their arms over their chests and make angry faces. Even so, Paul and Barnabas kept telling people that God is loving and kind and patient. And God helped Paul and Barnabas do some amazing things so that many people saw and believed in God's power. God helped them make people who were sick, sad, and hurt better. What they did was amazing!**

Share about something *you've* seen that amazed you. You might share about something God did in your life or something God made that amazed you.

Ask: • **What's something you've seen that made you say "wow"?** Help kids think of ideas, if needed. They might share about something an older sibling did that they thought was amazing, or they might share about seeing a skydiver jump or a pilot fly a fast plane over their heads.

Say: **What Paul and Barnabas did was incredible, and they couldn't have done it without God's power. That's the same with any of the wonderful things you shared about. God made every person, and God gave us our hands and feet. He gave us all our talents and the cool things we can do. That's why we point people to God—we tell people that God is the only God, and he makes us to do incredible things.**

Show the Bible. Say: **Let's look back in the Bible at what happened. It says Paul and Barnabas kept sharing about God and some people got so mad that they wanted to hurt Paul and Barnabas.** Lead kids to stand up and stomp a foot as if they're angry.

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone got mad at *you* for telling the truth about something.** It's okay if all the kids don't have an answer.

Say: **Paul and Barnabas didn't want to stop telling people that God is the only God and he loves us. So they kept sharing about God's love. One day Paul saw a man with feet that didn't work. Have kids sit down, and lead kids to hold a foot as if it's hurting. Paul could tell the man believed God could help him. God gave Paul the power to make the man's feet better. Paul said to the man, "Get up and walk." And the man did!** Lead kids to stand and walk in place for a few seconds.

Say: **When some people saw what Paul did, they said, "Paul and Barnabas are gods!" But Paul and Barnabas weren't gods. God is the only God. The people were confused.** Lead kids to spin in a circle until they become dizzy, and then have them sit.

Ask: • **How did you feel after spinning?**

Say: **Spinning can help us think a little about what it's like to be confused. We have a hard time seeing straight! The people in the Bible were so confused that they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. They even brought Paul and Barnabas gifts.**

Tell about a time you gave someone a gift to say "You're special."

Ask: • **When have you given someone a gift to say "You're special"?** Kids might tell about giving gifts for birthdays, when friends or family members are sick, or just because someone is a friend.

Say: **These people brought gifts to Paul and Barnabas, not just because they could tell they were**

special—and they were special—but because they thought they were gods! But Paul and Barnabas didn't take the people's gifts, because they wanted the people to know that they weren't gods. They pointed people back to the real God. They said, "God made the world. He made all of you. He made all the animals and plants. God made everything you see, and God is the only God." Some people hurt Paul for saying that, but nothing could stop him from telling people about God's love.

Go on a Hunt

Say: Like Paul did, we can point people to God. Paul did that by sharing all the amazing things about God, and he reminded people that God made everything. Find something in our room or outside that you think is amazing or cool, and bring it back if you can. We'll do something to help us remember that God is the only God, and we can point people to him.

Invite kids to each find something they think is amazing. If they find something they can't physically bring back, have adult and teen helper provide sticky notes and crayons so kids can draw a quick picture of the thing. Help kids as they hunt for something amazing to share about. They might see the sun, a tree, or a bird outside the window that they can draw a picture of. Or they might draw a picture of a friend or find a toy they think is amazing.

When kids return, have them sit in a circle with their objects and/or their drawings. Have kids take turns sharing what they think is wonderful. If you have a group larger than 20, have kids share in groups of 10 instead. After each child shares something, lead everyone to say "Wow, God!" and remind kids God made the amazing thing.

Say: God made everything. He's the only God, so we can always point people to him when they're amazed by a beautiful sunset—or even by something cool we do. When we do something cool, like when Paul fixed that man's feet, we can point to God by saying, "God made me! And God gives me the power to do amazing things!" It's awesome to let people know about God so they can enjoy his love, too. He's the only God, so it's important for people to be friends with him.



Supplies

- music
- music player

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Choose Favorite Songs

Say: **Today we learned that God is the only God, so we point people to him. We found out that we can point people to God by telling them God loves them and he made them. Anytime we tell someone about God, we point people to him. And when we sing songs about God or to God, we point people to God, too. Let's choose our favorite songs from church and sing a little bit of them to point people to God.**

Invite kids to share their favorite songs from church. Lead kids in singing a verse from each song as kids mention their favorite songs. After singing the verse, ask kids to share something the song teaches them about God, and remind kids that when we sing a song to or about God, we point others to God. If kids can't think of any songs, you might start them off by using the songs from the Music Video block. Continue as time allows.

Pray

Say: **It's wonderful to hear your beautiful voices pointing others to God. Singing is a great way to tell people about our amazing God, and when we sing, we point people to God. Because God is the only God, we want them to know that he wants to be friends with them! Let's think of someone we can point to God this week by sharing about his love.**

Share about someone you want to point to God, and invite kids to share. Then lead kids in a brief prayer, asking God to remind them that He's is the only God.

Thank kids for coming to church to learn about the only God, and encourage them to come back next week to share about how they pointed people to God.



OBJECT LESSON

Confusing Cups

[10 min]

Supplies

- cotton balls (1 for every 5-8 kids)
- opaque plastic cups (3 for every 5-8 kids)

Watch a Moving Cotton Ball

Hold up a cotton ball. Say: **We'll put this one cotton ball under one of these three cups. Watch carefully and try to keep track of which cup has the cotton ball. Remember, only one cup will have the cotton ball!**

- Form groups of five to eight kids, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group.
- Have adult or teen helpers sit on the floor, and have the kids form half-circles facing them.
- Have helpers place a cotton ball on the floor and then place the cups upside down in a line with one of the cups over the cotton ball.
- Have helpers tell kids to watch carefully to keep track of the cotton ball as they move the cups.
- Ask helpers to shuffle the cups and then let kids call out guesses of which cup the cotton ball is under.
- After a couple of rounds, have kids take turns being the cup shuffler while the rest of the kids in their group guess where the cotton ball is. Continue as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Was it hard to keep track of the cotton ball? Why or why not?**

Say: **We might have felt a little confused and wondered where the cotton ball was. In our Bible story, people got confused and thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods. That's silly! Paul and Barnabas told them that there is only one God. It was so important for them to point people to God by telling them God is the only God.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Completely Confused

[10 min]

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Spin and Play

Say: **Today we're learning that God is the only God, and we read about a time some people got confused and thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. The people were confused, so Paul and Barnabas helped them learn about the one and only God. Let's play a fun game where we'll feel what it's like to get a bit confused!**

- Have everyone spread out around you. When you call out "Spin!" everyone will spin for about 15 seconds.
- After 15 seconds of spinning, call out "Stop!" and then call out an object in the room you want everyone to walk to, such as a poster on a wall, a TV, a bookshelf, or things that are certain colors.
- Allow a little break after everyone has walked to the object to get ready to spin again. Kids can even sit down for the break if they need to.
- Increase the spin time little by little. Remind kids to take a break from spinning if needed.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to walk to something in the room when it felt like the room was spinning?**

Say: **That's kind of like when we're confused! When the people were confused about the amazing things Paul and Barnabas had done, they weren't sure who to point to or whose power had made the surprising things happen. I bet most of us know what it's like to see something amazing and wonder, "How did that happen?" or "Who did that?" I was confused once when I saw... Tell about an amazing thing you've seen that left you in wonder, such as a painting that filled the entire side of a tall building or an airplane taking off.**

Say: **You know who does so many amazing things around us? God! God is so powerful, and God is the only God. We can watch for the things God's doing all around us and even through us. God worked through Paul and Barnabas, and like Paul and Barnabas, we can point people to God and help people not be confused.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Who Did It?

Supplies

- multicolored pompoms (1 per person)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Version of Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Say: **We read in the Bible today about Paul and Barnabas, two men who did amazing things because of God's power in them. Some people were confused and thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. They weren't sure who had really done the amazing things they'd seen. Let's play a game where you'll try to figure out who did something cool!**

- Have kids sit side by side in a line, and give each child a pompom.
- Invite a willing adult or teen helper to be the first Guesser so kids can see how the game works.
- Have the Guesser sit a few feet away from the kids facing them.
- Kids will hold their pompoms behind their backs while the Guesser turns his or her back to everyone and closes his or her eyes.
- Then you'll tap someone on the shoulder, and he or she will *quietly* get up and place his or her pompom just behind the Guesser, then sit back in the same spot in the line.
- Make sure kids all have their hands back behind their backs, and then allow the Guesser to open his or her eyes and turn around to face everyone again.
- Then allow the Guesser three tries to guess who placed the pompom behind the Guesser.
- If the Guesser chooses correctly, then that person can be the new Guesser.
- If the Guesser doesn't choose correctly, then the first person he or she guessed can be the new Guesser.
- Have the child who placed a pompom behind the Guesser retrieve it after the Guesser has finished guessing so everyone can continue playing throughout the rounds of the game. Continue until everyone has been the Guesser.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell whether it was hard for you to guess who left the pompom.**

Say: **In our game, there was only one person who left the pompom behind you. We could guess that it was other people, but it was really only one person. In the Bible people thought Paul and Barnabas were doing the incredible things—but it was really God doing them! God is the only God. Paul and Barnabas pointed to God by telling everyone they weren't gods and that God is the only God.**



CRAFT

Fake Plants

[20 min]

Supplies

- foam cups (1 per child)
- 18-inch lengths of 20-gauge floral wire (3-5 pieces per child) (check your local craft or hobby store)
- permanent markers in a variety of colors
- tissue paper in a variety of colors
- glue sticks

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Fake Plants

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a foam cup. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and lead kids through these directions to make fake plants.

- Bend a piece of floral wire into the stem of a plant. It could be a stem with leaves, a spiral, a cactus shape, or anything else you want to do!
- Poke the bottom of the stem into an upside-down cup.
- Add crumpled tissue paper to complete your flower or add buds to your cactus.
- Create more plants as time allows.
- Decorate the cup with permanent markers. Be sure to include the point: God is the only God. Adult and teen helpers can write for kids who want help.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What would you say if someone told you the plants you just made are real plants?**

• **How is what happened in the Bible a little like someone saying those plants are real?**

• **Why can't you make real plants?**

• **Why can't people—even Paul and Barnabas—do miracles without God's power?**

Say: God is the only God, so we point people to him. If someone thought the plants we just made were real, we'd know that person was wrong! They're really cool-looking, but they're obviously not real plants. In the Bible story, people thought Paul and Barnabas were the real God, but God is obviously much more powerful than any human! And he's the only one who can make real plants. When you

show your plants to other people, talk about the difference between the one and only real God and other things people worship as if they're gods. Plus, you can point people to God as they see how creative he made you to be!

Have kids take their fake plants home and show their friends and families what they've learned about the one true God.



Supplies

- Bible

Perform Talents

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **Friends, God made each one of you to be so talented! That means you can do amazing things, and it's all because God made you that way! In the Bible we learned about Paul, who made a sick man all better just by talking to him—Paul didn't even have to touch the man! That's awesome, but Paul pointed people to God because he knew the one and only God gave him the power to do that. God gives you power to do amazing things, too, and he wants you to point people to him when you do.**

Share about a couple of wonderful things (your talents) *you* can do. Demonstrate, if possible.

Ask: • **What wonderful things can you do?** Invite kids to take turns performing “amazing” acts, such as whistling, snapping, jumping high, balancing, drawing, or doing a cartwheel. After each child performs an action, encourage the other children to cheer, and say: **God made our amazing** [bodies, minds, voices, and so on]. **God is the only God, and we can point people to him.**

Continue encouraging kids to show off any talents they have and reminding them of the Bible point.

Talk About It

Say: **God gave us our bodies and our minds, so every amazing thing we do comes from God.**

Ask: • **How might you point to God after someone compliments you for doing something wonderful?**

Say: **We can always point people to God when we do something amazing, because he gave us everything and we want everyone to know that God is the only God!**