

LESSON 7: PEOPLE THINK PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE GODS

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers act out the story and go on a hunt.

Supplies

- Bible
- sticky notes
- crayons



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing songs that point to God.

Supplies

- music
- music player



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers 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

Preschoolers spin and play.

Supplies

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



LOW-ENERGY GAME

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

Supplies

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



CRAFT

Preschoolers make spinners and play a game.

Supplies

- paper dinner plates (1 per child)
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- For each child, cut out the spinner on the handout.

- small stickers
- “#1 Spinner” handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- glue sticks
- paper fasteners (1 per child)
- transparent tape
- zip ties (1 per child)
- scissors

**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.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers give an “elbow-five” to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say, “Three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It’s your birthday!”
- 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 leader-led small groups, have preschoolers 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 adult or teen helpers 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 "Yay, God!" **Other people *didn't* like Paul and Barnabas because they *didn't* want to learn something new.** 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 like they're angry.

Say: **But 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.** Lead kids to each find an object in the room to bring to the center of the room as a gift. Have them quickly show their objects and set them in the center.

Say: **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 by telling them God is the only 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. It was so important for him to point people to God by telling them God is the only God.

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 bring back to the room, have adult and teen helpers provide sticky notes and crayons so kids can draw a quick picture of the thing. Help preschoolers 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 10, have kids share in leader-led small groups instead. After each child shares something, lead the whole group in singing the following verse to the tune of “Who Stole the Cookie From the Cookie Jar?” and inserting the amazing thing the child shared. Repeat until all the kids have shared.

Who made this [thing a child is showing, preferably two syllables]?

It’s so amazing! (*point to the thing or drawing the child’s sharing about, and then make jazz hands*)

God made this [thing a child is showing].

He made everything!

Who, God?

Yes, God!

He’s the only God!

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 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: **How many cotton balls am I holding?** Pause for preschoolers' response. **Yes, I have only one cotton ball. 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 preschoolers, 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.
- Have helpers lead kids in a celebration of cheers and claps when a cotton ball is found.
- Have helpers reshuffle the cups and cotton balls and play for as many rounds 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 five seconds.
- After five seconds of spinning, call out "Stop!" and then call out an object in the room you want everyone to point 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 pointed out the object to get ready to spin again. Preschoolers can even sit down for the break if they need to.
- As you play, if it seems it's too easy for preschoolers to quickly find what you've called out, increase the spin time by a little bit. Just be cautious to not allow them to spin so much they'll start to feel ill or take a hard fall to the floor.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to point 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 preschoolers 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

#1 Spinner

[20 min]

Supplies

- paper dinner plates (1 per child)
- crayons
- small stickers
- “#1 Spinner” handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- glue sticks
- paper fasteners (1 per child)
- transparent tape
- zip ties (1 per child)
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- For each child, cut out the spinner on the handout.



Explain

Say: In our Bible story, we heard how **God is the only God**. Another way to say that is that God's number one! He's the very best! Let's make a craft that reminds us that God's number one.

Make Spinners

- Give each child a paper plate and a spinner from the handout.
- Have kids use crayons and stickers to decorate the circles, not covering any pictures with stickers.
- Help kids glue the spinners to the bottoms of the paper plates, centering them as best they can.
- Help each preschooler use a paper fastener to poke a hole through the center of both the spinner and the paper plate. Bend the paper fasteners so they stick up a little bit, and tape the paper fasteners in place from underneath.
- Help each child zip a zip tie around the paper fastener, leaving it a little loose so it can spin. Cut off any excess.

Play a Game

Say: Let's use our spinners to play a fun game! The goal of the game is to get across the room. If your spinners land on “#1 God,” you can run across the room and win the game! Point out the “#1 God”

on a spinner and check that kids can recognize it apart from the other pictures on the spinner. **If you don't land on the "#1 God," you'll sit and keep spinning.**

Let kids spin their spinners until they land on "#1 God," then have them run across the room. Play for several minutes.

Ask: • **What was it like to spin for a number one?**

Say: **Like there was only one number one on our spinners, there's only one God. When we spun our spinners, we never got it right until we got the number one. Our God is the only God, and he wants to be friends with us so we can have the best life possible. And we can point others to God when we tell them how much God loves them.**

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