

# CALLED CHRISTIAN

The Church in  
Antioch Grows  
Acts 9:26–31;  
11:19–30  
AD 39

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit works through God’s Word.

### BIBLE VERSE

Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.  
John 13:34

### LEARNER GOAL

I can describe how the Holy Spirit works through the Word to spread the Gospel.

### LAW & GOSPEL

I disgrace the name of Christ when I fail to live as one of His followers.

**Through His grace, God forgives my sin and makes me His child, giving me His name.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Following his conversion, Saul (also called Paul) is introduced by Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. The Church had spread to Antioch, so the leaders in Jerusalem send Barnabas there. He exhorts the people to remain faithful, and he brings Saul from Tarsus to help him minister among the people in Antioch for a whole year. The name *Christian* is first used for the believers in Antioch. The Church in Antioch sends relief to the believers in Judea.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Acts 9:26–31; 11:19–30 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

**IN DEPTH** Read Acts 11:1–18 with study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible* for more context on the work of the Spirit during this time.

## SUPPLIES

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Sticky notes
- Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- Dry-erase marker or marker
- Flashlight, electric lamp, candle

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities
- [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



### LEADER NOTE

Help youth think through the reason they want to share good news with others. We have the best reason for sharing the Gospel with others—it promises eternal life to all who believe it!



### DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 4.



### LEADER NOTE

If you have time, take a few minutes to read Acts 9:1–19 to review Paul’s conversion from a persecuting Pharisee to a proclaimer of Christ.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Pull out your guitar (or digital device) and encourage youth to think about sharing God’s love with “Pass It On.”

# LAUNCH

## WALK-IN QUESTION

Who brought you to church today?

## SHARE GOOD NEWS

Hand everyone a sticky note and ask them to write a bit of good news that they would want to share with others, such as “Our team made it to the playoffs!” Have willing volunteers share their good news and ask what made them want to share it.

**SAY** When we have good news, we want to share it with other people! The apostles couldn’t keep the Good News to themselves. They had to share it too.

**PRAY** Dear God, You’ve given us the best news—salvation in Jesus. Help us share that news and Your Word with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

# LEARN

## READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

▷ Why do you think the Jews wanted to kill Paul?

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Before his conversion, Paul had been one of the Pharisees, who persecuted believers. After his conversion, Paul spoke against the Pharisees and showed how the Scriptures prove that Jesus is the Christ.

## LEARN ABOUT “CALLED CHRISTIAN”

Read Acts 9:26–31 or ask volunteers to read as others follow along in their Bibles. Direct youth to the *Defend Journal* and ask them to write down the differences between the Pharisee Saul and the Christian Paul in the shaded boxes. Ask youth to share.

▷ What changed Paul from persecutor of Christians to proclaimer of Christ?

- Jesus Himself appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus.
- As Ananias spoke God’s words to Paul, the Holy Spirit worked in Paul’s heart to create faith in Jesus.

Read Acts 11:19–26 or ask volunteers to read.

▷ What changes do you see happening in the Early Church in this section?

- Because of the persecution in Jerusalem, believers had been scattered to other areas and began sharing the Good News with Jews in other places.
- Some started sharing the Gospel with Hellenists and non-Jews as well.
- The Holy Spirit worked through the proclamation of the Word and many came to faith.
- The Church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to strengthen and teach the new believers in the Church in Antioch. Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch to help him teach.

Read Acts 11:27–30.

As the Church in Antioch grew, it began to minister to others within the Church, gathering gifts to support believers in Jerusalem during the famine.

▷ How does the Holy Spirit work through the members of your church to share the Gospel and help those in need?

# LIVE

## DISCUSS “THE POWER”

Ask youth to gather around a whiteboard or large sheet of paper and to draw things that supply or demonstrate power (think lightning bolts, electric poles, weightlifters, etc.). Ask youth to describe the kind of power that each item provides. Then discuss the question below. Use the discussion points and “Apologetics Helps” on the back page of this leaflet for support as you discuss.

### ► What is the power of God’s Word?

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

- **2 Timothy 3:16:** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”  
God’s Word teaches us His will for our lives, corrects errors in our thinking, and trains us to do what is right.
- **Romans 1:16:** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”  
God’s Word gives salvation to all who believe.
- **Isaiah 55:11:** “So shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”  
God’s Word causes things to happen according to His will.
- **Acts 6:7:** “And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”  
God’s Word brings people to faith in Jesus.

#### CONSIDER “BE A BARNABAS”

The name *Barnabas* means “son of encouragement.” Talk about how Barnabas lived up to his nickname (his birth name was Joseph; see Acts 4:36). Ask youth to talk about the following question in pairs, then let pairs share.

### ► How can you encourage others in the faith?

#### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to turn to a partner and share how the Holy Spirit works through the Word to change people’s hearts.

# LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

**Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34**

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



#### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus Christ is the Word who has sent us the Holy Spirit to create faith as God’s Word is heard and spoken.



#### LEADER NOTE

Option: Bring in a flashlight, electric lamp, candle, and Bible for a quick object lesson. Turn on or light each one, then ask what gives each item the power to give light. Read Psalm 119:105.



#### BONUS ACTIVITY

Help youth learn more about your church with “Church Historian Visit.”



#### SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

# APOLOGETICS HELPS

## DEFEND THE FAITH

The Hellenists were those Jews who had accepted the Greek language and culture after the rule of Alexander the Great (356–323 BC). There was tension in the Jewish community between the Hellenists and those who followed traditional Jewish culture and language. In the Book of Acts, we read that many Hellenists converted to Christianity. Hellenist Christians were active in spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles.

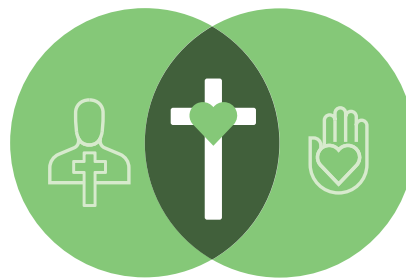
## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ► How do people come to faith in Jesus?

The Bible teaches that we cannot come to faith on our own. The Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God, opening people's hearts to receive the Gospel as it is read or heard. Here are some Bible verses that talk about how faith is created: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17); "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13).

### ► How does the church grow?

You may have heard people talk about the "big C" Church and the "little c" church. The Church is invisible, made up of all believers all over the world. The local church is visible, the community of believers in one place. The visible church grows when people join a local congregation of believers. The invisible Church grows whenever a person comes to faith in Jesus by the Holy Spirit. God has given us, His people, the privilege and the command to go and share His Word so more people may hear His Word and come to faith in Him and become part of both the local, visible church and the invisible Church, the Body of Christ.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me His own name in my Baptism.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can rejoice in my name as Christian and use my gifts to grow the Christian Church.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can consider why understanding the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word matters so much for the Church.

### YOUTH

I can describe how the Holy Spirit works through the Word to spread the Gospel.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that the Holy Spirit works through God's Word.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus loves me and helps me to love others.

## BONUS ACTIVITIES

### PASS IT ON

5–10 minutes

If you play, bring a guitar or ukulele to class and play the favorite camp song "Pass It On." You can also look online for words and music. This song is an oldie but goodie that encourages us to share God's love with those around us.

### NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

10–15 minutes

Hand out printed Christian note cards, or search online for "printable Christian cards" and print some out for your group. Ask youth to write notes encouraging friends in the faith. Have them deliver their notes sometime during the week.

### CHURCH HISTORIAN VISIT

15–20 minutes

Ask a longtime member of your church to come and speak to your group about the founding and history of your church. They could also share special memories and events that helped shape their faith life and the faith life of their family.