



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Credit Where Credit Is Due

[10 min]

Supplies

- pieces of paper or scrap paper (1 for every 2 people)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

- If you have small pieces of scrap paper you'd like to use, simply have kids ball together smaller pieces of paper to create their paper footballs.

Play Finger Football

Say: **Today we're digging into the truth that God is the only God. When people got confused and thought Paul and Barnabas were gods, they made sure they pointed people to God instead of themselves. We can point out evidence of God all around us in big and small things. Let's play a fun game where you'll see we can celebrate God and give him credit for everything good.**

- Form pairs and give each pair a piece of paper.
- Have pairs crumple the paper to make a ball. If kids know how to do so, they could fold finger footballs instead.
- Partners can take turns being the Goal and the Punter.
- As the Goal, kids hold their hands with thumbs touching and pointer fingers up to make a football goal for the Punter to get the ball through.
- As the Punter, kids hold the ball between their fingers with one hand and flick it with the other hand, aiming for the ball to go through the goal.
- Each time a partner makes a goal, the pairs can celebrate and think of something God's made or done that made the goal possible (such as hands, fingers, eyes, the ability to aim, the ability to learn from past tries, the trees that made the paper that made the paper balls, and so on).
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What things did you discover could point to God as you made goals in the game?**

• **What are things in you or your life that can point to God?** Share your own example first, such as a way God has changed your heart toward a person or healed a friendship you thought was over.

Say: **God is the only God, and he's always doing things around us. We'd usually celebrate ourselves for making a goal, but instead, we can give God credit and help others know to watch for God. Paul and Barnabas pointed people to God, and we can, too!**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO Animal Crackers

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Animal Crackers” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “Animal Crackers”

Ask: • **Do you ever like to play with your food? What do you do with it?**

Say: **Let’s see some food act out today’s Bible story.**

Watch “Animal Crackers.”

Ask: • **Which gift from the animal crackers seemed like the best gift for a god?**

Say: **In our Bible story today, people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods because they healed people.**

Ask: • **What could someone do today that would cause others to think that person might be a god?**

• **Why is it important to know that there’s only *one* real God?**

Say: **God is the only God, so we point people to him. When people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods, Paul and Barnabas wouldn’t accept any kinds of gifts or praise. They just told people about the one true God! When people are impressed by you, that’s a great chance to point them to God, even if it means giving up a great gift like a stinky-cheese wheel.**



DEEPER BIBLE What Can We Give God Credit For?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens

Set It Up

Say: **We're learning that God is the only God, so we point others to him. Paul and Barnabas could've taken credit for all the miraculous signs and wonders God allowed them to do. They could've said, "Yeah, we're pretty cool—we did all that!" But they gave God the credit for those awesome things—because *God* had actually done them. Unlike Paul and Barnabas, you've probably never had anyone mistake you for a god. So what can we give God credit for? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **We're going to look at four things in our lives that we can use to point to God. The first one is our talents.**

Read Ephesians 2:10.

Ask: • **What's something you're good at?**

• **How does it change your thinking to consider that God made you with that skill?**

Distribute paper and pens. Ask kids to think of all the things they're talented at, and have each child begin a list on a sheet of paper. Then have kids set the lists aside.

Say: **Sometimes we do good deeds. That's awesome, and it's another thing we can use to point to God! But listen to this.**

Read Matthew 6:1.

Ask: • **What's the difference between doing good deeds to bring *yourself* praise versus to bring *God* praise?**

Say: **When we do good things in order to be admired by others, that's pointing to ourselves and taking credit for God's work through us. But God is the only God, so we point others to him.**

Have kids add to the lists they started by listing good deeds they've done.

Say: **Another thing we can give God credit for is success, or our accomplishments.**

Read Proverbs 16:9.

Say: **Wherever we go and whatever we're successful at, it's because God made a path for us to get there.**

Ask: • **Think of something you've been successful at. How did God make the way for that to happen?**

Have kids add to their lists by writing down their accomplishments.

Say: **Let's look at one more thing we can give credit for.**

Read James 1:17.

Say: **God gave us all the things we have!**

Ask: • **Quick—name one thing that's in your bedroom.**

Say: **Every good and perfect thing we have is a gift from God. Whether God's given us a lot of stuff or just a little, those things are blessings from God! We can point to God instead of bragging about how much we have.**

Have kids finish their lists by writing down at least 10 items they have at home.

Thank God

Say: **When you look at your list, it could be tempting to take credit for your talents, good deeds, accomplishments, and possessions. But as we saw in the Bible, all those things are actually opportunities for us to point people to God.** I have a little rhyme to help you remember that:

**Whatever I have, whatever I do,
I'll use it all to point to you.**

Have kids repeat the rhyme with you several times.

Say: **Let's thank God for all the things on our lists. We'll all read our lists aloud at once so we're talking over each other. Even though we won't be able to hear each other, God can hear us all!**

Pray: **Thank you, God, for...** Have kids read through their lists aloud.

Close with: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Let's read one more verse as a closing prayer.**

Read Psalm 115:1, and then have kids repeat the first half: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory."



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Pointing Prayers

[5 min]

Pray and Point

Say: **God is the only God, so we point others to him. Let's thank him and point to him as we pray.**

- Have kids each think of something they've never thanked God for before, such as toilet paper, a pillow, or school.
- Give each child a turn to pray aloud, "Thank you, God, for...", pointing up as they pray.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, we praise you because you're the only God! You've done so much for us, and we want your help pointing others to you. In Jesus' name, amen.**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Only One God

[10 min]

Supplies

- “People Think Paul and Barnabas Are Gods” Activity Page (1 per reader)
- pencils
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **God is the only God. When people treated Paul and Barnabas like gods, they tried to stop the people and point to God instead. Let’s do a puzzle that helps us point to God.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will determine which path points to God.

Ask: • **Which path did you try first? Why?**

• **These paths are all jumbled up, and it’s hard to tell which one points to God. Sometimes people think there are lots of paths that lead to God. What would you say to those people?**

Say: **Some people might believe that any religion can lead to God.**

But we know God is the only God, and Jesus is the way to God. We can help people sort out that truth by pointing them to the right path to God: Jesus!

ANSWER KEY: Path D

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **God is the only God.**

When people treated Paul and Barnabas like gods, they tried to stop the people and point them to God instead. Let’s color that.

Allow time for kids to color.