



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 10



Sharing

Acts 4:32-37

Supplemental Scripture

Acts 2:37-47
Matthew 6
John 17:20-21
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Hebrews 13:1-18

Memory Verse

Share with God's people
who are in need. Welcome
others into your homes.
Romans 12:13 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that when we
do the right thing people
notice

Understand that we
should get along with
others, especially other
believers

Understand that unity
among believers is
essential to salvation

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

In this “dog eat dog” world, where everyone looks out for himself, how can we know what God expects of us? Is life only about taking care of ourselves or is there more to it? Let’s see what we can learn about this race that we are on from our lesson today.

Let’s review a little first, though. What has begun to happen in Jerusalem? Well, the disciples were obedient to God because they waited for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came with great power and three thousand people chose to follow Jesus that day because of the Holy Spirit’s work through the disciples. Because of the way the believers lived and how they cared for each other, more people were believing every day.

Then one day, as Peter and John were going to the temple to pray, they met a man. The man had been lame since birth. They spoke to him and they healed him. Because of this, more people decided to put their trust in Jesus and follow Him. The new believers now numbered five thousand!

That’s a lot of people! What sometimes happens when a large group is together? Everyone wants their own way and they begin to disagree. The Bible says of these new believers that, “the whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn’t even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, “That’s mine; you can’t have it.” They shared everything.” (Acts 4:32 MSG) That’s pretty amazing!

Because of the generosity and unity among the new believers, there wasn’t anyone among them who was needy. Some of the believers sold houses or land. When they did, they would bring the money from the sale to the apostles (disciples). The apostles would then give the money to anyone who needed it.

There was even a man from Cyprus, named Joseph, who sold a field that he owned. He, too, brought the money from the sale and gave

Application

What does John say about the world believing that God sent Jesus? When will they believe? When we are “one.”

That means that our unity as a group of believers affects the salvation of others. Have you ever thought about that? Have you ever thought that if you are bickering and fighting with other believers then non-believers may not believe what you tell them about Jesus being sent by God?

If you don't get along with another believer, will you commit today to forgive that person? You don't have to agree with someone to get along with them.

If you aren't a believer yet, what are you waiting for? God sent Jesus, His one and only Son, to die in your place, for your sins. He loves you and wants to be a part of your life.

it to the apostles. The apostles called Joseph by the name of Barnabas. Barnabas means “Son of Encouragement (Help).”

While the believers took care of each other, the apostles kept teaching. They did this in the power that the Holy Spirit had given them. They shared that Jesus had risen from the dead and God blessed them! They were able to do this because the believers got along so well, there was unity among them. John 17:21 says, “The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, So they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me.” (MSG)

Review

1. How can the believers be described after they began following Jesus? (They were united as one.)
2. What did they do? (They shared with those in need.)
3. What were the apostles able to do because the believers got along? (They were able to continue preaching about Jesus.)

Next Week
Ananias and Sapphira
Acts 5:1-16

Preschool Lesson

Let's review a little. What happened in Jerusalem? Well, the disciples were obedient to God. They waited for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came with great power. Three thousand people chose to follow Jesus that day. (Count 1,000-2,000-3,000.) Because of the way the believers lived and how they cared for each other, more people were believing every day.

Then one day Peter and John went to the temple to pray. They met a man. The man could not walk. Peter and John spoke to him and they healed him. Because of this, more people decided to follow Jesus. The new believers now numbered five thousand! (Count 1,000-2,000-3,000-4,000-5,000.)

That's a lot of people! What sometimes happens when a large group is together? Everyone wants their own way and they begin to disagree. The Bible says these new believers were, "united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything." (Acts 4:32 MSG) That's pretty amazing!

They didn't fight with each other. Instead, they helped each other. They even sold their houses or land that they owned. When they did, they brought the money to the apostles. The apostles would then give the money to anyone who needed it.

There was even a man from Cyprus, named Joseph, who sold a field that he owned. He, too, brought the money from the sale and gave it to the apostles. The apostles called Joseph by the name of Barnabas. Barnabas means "Son of Encouragement (Help)."

While the believers took care of each other, the apostles kept teaching. They did this in the power that the Holy Spirit had given them. They shared that Jesus had risen from the dead and God blessed them! They were able to do this because the believers got along so well, there was unity among them. John 17:21 says, "The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, So they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me." (MSG)

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Review the memory verse. Talk about practical ways to live out this verse. Make plans to do at least one of those things in the coming week.

Barnabas was from Cyprus. Provide an atlas and help your students locate Cyprus. (It is an island in the Mediterranean Sea between Turkey and Egypt.) Bring a model of the flag of Cyprus as well.

Look at a Baby Names book. Find the meaning of each student's name. Encourage them to decorate a poster with their name and its meaning. For younger students, help each student trace his hand onto construction paper. Print their name and its meaning in the hand print.

Play Hopscotch. Talk about the believers who shared. Talk about Barnabas. Barnabas was from Cyprus. Part of present day Cyprus is still Greek. Greek children would have played hopscotch as well.

Make an abacus. Use the lid of a shoe box. Make horizontal slits in the box lid and insert brass brads for the counters. Talk about how the apostles received the money. They would have counted what they had. Then, they helped those who were needy.

Sing "The Mission."

Talk about how you can help others. Encourage your students to share their ideas. If your congregation is a large one, consider helping another, smaller congregation of believers in your area.

Talk about the significance of Barnabas. His name means "Son of Encouragement (or Help or Consolation)." In Greek, the original language of the New Testament, the word encouragement (or help or consolation) is *paraklēsis*. *Paraklēsis* was a word used to talk about the Messiah, God's promised One. Another form of that same word, *paraklētos* (Comforter), is used for the Holy Spirit (John 14:16.)



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with God's people
who are in need.
Welcome others
into your homes.
Romans 12:13

Racing Riddles

SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Barnabas was one of the believers of the early church. He shared what he had with others. His name means “son of encouragement.”

How many new words can you form from the words “Son of Encouragement?”

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Word Search

s o l s s p o r i p s t h s
p h a o e t e n c o i n s o
e r a l g a p o s t l e s l
s o l d l a n d f h l m n d
e t s h a r e d i a s e d n
r e o o b j v o n p e g l e
s p n u e b a r n a b a s s
l e a s y m g y o t s r b s
n o g e g d p o d u e u s s
w o n s o l d l a e t o p i
a f c y d e t s e r e c o r
g n e n o s a d e t i n u t
e b e i l e b r a d e e n e
v e t s u n i t a s o n e n

united as one

shared

Barnabas

encouragement

sold land

sold houses

apostles

gave

needy

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s o l s s p o r i p s t h s
p h a o e t e n c o i n s o
e r a l g a p o s t l e s l
s o l d l a n d f h l m n d
e t s h a r e d i a s e d n
r e o o b j v o n p e g l e
s p n u e b a r n a b a s s
l e a s y m g y o t s r b s
n o g e g d p o d u e u s s
w o n s o l d l a e t o p i
a f c y d e t s e r e c o r
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