

# Behavior

## **Lesson 4**

### **Barnabas is a Friend**

# Behaviors

Begin with Prayer

## Lesson 4

### Barnabas Is a Friend

**Acts 13:1-13; 15:36-41**

#### Memory Verse

**Be good friends who love deeply. Romans 12:10 (The Message)**

#### Lesson Goals

Learn to be a true friend.  
Learn that God forgives our mistakes.  
Learn that God gives second chances and wants us to do the same.

#### Behavior Focus Scripture

Love from the center of who you are.... Be good friends who love deeply. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Romans 12:9-10; 14-16 (The Message)

#### Bible Story

*Read Acts 13:1-13 aloud.*  
*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

#### Welcome Time

Have you ever been around someone who is your friend sometimes depending on who is around? Have you ever been around someone who acted one way if certain friends are around but acted differently when they weren't? We are going to learn about someone who did just that.

Some time after taking Saul to Jesus' disciples, Barnabas continued to be a good friend and companion to Saul. Barnabas took Saul to Antioch where he spent a year teaching in the church. This was where the followers of Jesus were first called Christians. (Acts 11:25-26)

The church at Antioch had several teachers including Saul and Barnabas. The church worshipped God. They fasted and prayed. One day while they were worshipping, the Lord told them, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2) So the church fasted and prayed. Then they placed their hands on them to separate them for the work.

Saul and his friend, Barnabas, went to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. John Mark was with them. He went to help them in the work of the Lord. Barnabas was a native of Cyprus. But the friends traveled on their first missionary journey because God's Spirit led them.

Saul and Barnabas preached in the synagogues in Salamis. Then they went across the country to Paphos. The friends encountered Bar-jesus, (Elymas—sorcerer in the Semitic language) a Jewish false prophet who was a sorcerer. Bar-jesus was an attendant to the proconsul (governor of the country). Sergius Paulus was the proconsul and he wanted to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:6-8)

Bar-jesus tried to keep Sergius Paulus from becoming a believer. He opposed the preaching of God's word by the friends. Then Saul who was also called Paul (means little; this is the first time Saul is called Paul) confronted Bar-jesus. "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right," and told him he would be blind. (Acts 13:9-12)

When Sergius Paulus saw that Bar-jesus was blind, he believed. The sorcerer went around

Week 4

Memorize:  
Romans 12:14-16  
(The Message)

looking for someone to lead him. (Acts 13:11-12)

From Paphos the friends traveled to Perga in Pamphylia where John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem. (Acts 13:13) We are not told why John Mark left them.

*Later Paul and Barnabas decided to go back and visit the churches where they had been. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. Paul did not want to take him because he had left them on their first missionary journey. Barnabas disagreed with Paul and they went their separate ways.*

*Barnabas took John Mark and they went to Cyprus. Paul took Silas and they went to Cilicia. We do learn later that the friendship and partnership in the gospel continued. (John Mark: Colossians 4:10; II Timothy 4:11; Philemon 1:24; I Peter 5:13; Barnabas: I Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 2:1, 9; Colossians 4:10)*

Do you know Jesus? Barnabas, Paul and John Mark were friends who traveled together to tell people about Jesus. When Sergius Paulus heard them preach, he not only heard the word of God, he responded to it and believed. Would you like to tell God that you believe.

**Pray this prayer:** Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that He has risen from the dead; and because He lives I can have a personal relationship with you. Please forgive my sins. Please come be a part of my life and help me to be the kind of friend that you want me to be.

**Review:**

1. **What happened to John Mark on his first missionary trip?** (he left and went home)
2. **What did Paul say when John Mark wanted to return?** (No, because he left and went home)
3. **What did Barnabas say when John Mark wanted to return?** (Barnabas disagreed with Paul and decided to take John Mark with him)
4. **Explain that being a true friend means sticking by a person even when they have made mistakes.** *Barnabas disagreed with Paul. He felt that there was potential in John Mark. He would support John Mark and invest in him. Barnabas had done the same for his friend Paul. Both investments would prove to worthwhile.*

**Pray:**

Pray that God will help you be a true friend.  
Pray that God will forgives your mistakes  
Pray that God will give you second chances.  
Pray that God will help you give others a second chance.

**Challenge:**

Sometimes in order to be a friend we have to separate from friends. It is easy to just do what everyone else is doing. It is harder to be different. One little girl was being bullied by another. When her Bible study leader had a carnival, the girl who was a bully felt that she would not be welcome. But the little girl whom she had bullied sat beside and invited her to join in. She told her, "I'm not mad at you. Come join the fun. You are welcome here." Sometimes you have be a friend to gain a friend. Ask God to help you see opportunities to give people a second chance and to be a friend. Write about those opportunities in your prayer journal.

**Application:**

Forgive someone who has mistreated you. Give them a second chance. Tell them how God has forgiven you. Tell them God is a God of second chances. If possible be a friend.

**Planning Ahead:**

Antioch in Pisidia  
Acts 13:13-52

End with  
Prayer

Hands On Activities  
For  
Barnabas is a Friend

Memorize: Romans 12: 3-4 (The Message). Put the verse on a chalk board or poster. If you use a chalk board erase the words in the verse one at a time to practice. If you use a poster, cover the words with index cards until they are all covered.

Create a map on the wall of the verses learned to date. If you meet outside, create a map that you can carry around in a suitcase or bag. You can use plastic table cloths to lay out the map.

Prayer journal: Work on your prayer journal. Write down what God has said to you about being a friend. What has God said about forgiveness and second chances. Write down what you need to change. Ask God to help you.

Play a potato sack race. Let four children run together arm in arm. Two with one leg in the potato sack. Two to run beside the ones with the leg in the potato sack. Instruct the ones whose legs are not in the potato sack to lead by saying, "hop, hop, hop," to keep a rhythm. Talk about how much easier it was to have the extra help. Talk about how Barnabas helped Paul and then helped John Mark.

Pair up the children. Make some puppets out of paper sacks. Ask someone to be the first child in the story. Ask the others to be the second child. Tell a story about how one friend really liked the other friend. One day the first friend was with another group of kids. Those kids were not nice. When the other friend came up to join them, they were mean. They said, "What do you want?" The other friend didn't say anything because he was afraid. Using the paper sacks have the children practice saying, "I'm sorry." Have the other one respond, "I forgive you." Talk about what they think they would do or say in a situation like that. Tell them a true friend sticks by his friend. A true friend forgives.

Play a race. Put an object on a spoon (balloon, a toy, or any object). Assign three to a team. Instruct the child carrying the object on the spoon to focus and walk quickly and carefully. Privately instruct two partners. Tell one partner to be positive and say, "You can do it." Tell the other partner to say, "Don't drop it. Pay attention. Be careful." Have all the children participate in groups of three. Talk about what it was like to be the person carrying the object. Talk about what it was like to be the person saying, "You can do it." Talk about what it was like to be the third person. Tell the children that Barnabas was an encourager. God wants us to be encouragers.

Pair up the children. Create an obstacle course. Blindfold one child. Let the other lead them through the obstacle course. Instruct one child to be very, very careful not to let his partner fail the obstacle course. Talk about what it was like to be blindfolded. Talk about what it was like to lead someone who was blindfolded. Talk about friendship. Tell the children a good friend can be trusted.

**Be good friends  
who love deeply.  
Romans 12:10  
(The Message)**

## **Romans 12: 14-16 (The Message)**

**Bless your enemies;  
no cursing under your breath.  
Laugh with your happy friends  
when they're happy;  
share tears when they're down.  
Get along with each other;  
don't be stuck-up.  
Make friends with nobodies;  
don't be the great somebody.**

**Romans 12: 14-16 The Message**