

Behavior

Lesson 5

Antioch in Pisidia

Behaviors

Begin with
Prayer

Lesson 5

Antioch in Pisidia

Acts 13:13-52

Memory Verse

Don't insist on getting even. Romans 12:19 (The Message)

Lesson Goals

Understand that God does not want us to get even.
Understand that God wants us to bless our enemies.
Understand that sometimes it is best to get away from mean people.

Behavior Focus Scripture

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath.... Don't hit back....Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." Romans 12:14-19 (The Message)

Bible Story

Read Acts 13:42-52 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

Has anyone ever been mean or unkind to you? Has anyone ever made fun of you? Did you want to be nice to that person or did you want to hurt that person? Let's find out what Paul and Barnabas did when they were mistreated.

Paul and Barnabas went from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia. They preached in the synagogue. Paul told the story of the Jewish people and how Jesus was the descendant of King David. Then Paul told them that they could have forgiveness for their sins through Jesus. He told them that they could be made right with God if they believed in Jesus. The Jews left, but the Gentiles were so excited about their message that they asked them to return the following week, which they did.

The whole town came out to the synagogue to hear them preach. This made the Jews jealous. The Jews contradicted (said the opposite of) what Paul and Barnabas preached. The Jews did not like Paul and Barnabas because they followed Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas told the Jews that it was necessary that they take the word of God to the Jews first. Paul was a Jew. He wanted the Jews to hear the message because they were his people. But the Jews did not believe that Jesus had been sent by God. They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Since they rejected the gospel message, Paul and Barnabas went to the Gentiles.

They told the Gentiles that they had been sent to be light so that they could believe. "The Gentiles ...were glad and glorified the word of the Lord...and believed."
(Acts 13:48)

This made the Jews even more angry. They began to stir up the people so that they would persecute Paul and Barnabas. The Jews ran Paul and Barnabas out of the city. Jesus had told the disciples to shake the dust from their feet when people did not accept the gospel message. (Mark 6:11). The Jews were jealous. They felt threatened because the people wanted to hear Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas **did not try to get even**. They did not try to force the Jews to believe. They could have asked God to perform miracles. They could have asked God to punish the mean people. But they didn't.

Week 4

Memorize:
Romans 12:17-19
(The Message)

Paul and Barnabas **just shook the dust from their feet** when the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia refused to believe.

Sometimes because we are believers, people make fun of us. Sometimes they say mean things. Sometimes they treat us badly. God still wants us to **tell them** about His love.

When we talk to people about God's love and about Jesus' death and resurrection, we cannot force them to believe. We are not responsible if they choose not to believe. We are to tell them. We can pray that they will believe. Sometimes if people are really mean to us, we need to stay away from them. We can still pray for them.

Do you know Jesus? The Gentiles were happy to receive the message of Jesus Christ. Paul and Barnabas were faithful to share that message to the Jews and the Gentiles so that both would have an opportunity to respond to Jesus Christ. Would you like to know Jesus?

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 **bless my enemies**. Help me not to want to get even.

Review:

1. **Why were the Jews jealous?** (because the whole town came to hear Paul and Barnabas)
2. **What did Paul say to the Jews who rejected the message of Christ?** (it was necessary to speak the word of God to you first)
3. **How did the Gentiles respond to the message?** (they were very glad and glorified the word of the Lord ...and believed.)
4. **What did Paul and Barnabas do when the Jews stirred up the people against them and ran them out of town?** (shook the dust from their feet)

Pray:

Pray that God will help you **not to want to get even**.

Pray that God will help you to **bless your enemies**.

Pray that God will help you know when it is best to **get away** from mean people.

Challenge:

Have you ever had an enemy or someone who was mean to you? It is not easy to **be nice to mean people**. That is exactly what God wants us to do. Barnabas and Paul could have gotten discouraged and said, we can't do this anymore. People want to beat us and kill us when we tell them the Good News. But they continued preaching. Sometimes they had to leave a city because the people wanted to kill them. God wants us to have common sense. We are not going to stick our hand in the fire because someone tells us to do it. We need to seek God and know what He wants from us. When Paul and Barnabas were sure that it was **time to go** they left. Ask God to help you when you face mean people.

Application:

Give up the right to **get even**. **Tell** people about God's love. **Tell** your enemies about God's love. Do nice things for people who are mean to you. Pray for them. Ask God to **bless them**. If necessary **stay away** from them.

Planning Ahead:

Lystra
Acts 14:8-28

End with
Prayer

Hands-on Activities For Antioch in Pisidia

Memorize: Romans 12: 17-19 (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 made up word that will help the children remember the verses. Put one letter of the word in different areas of the room (or wherever you meet). Have the children walk the area practicing. Example: DIOGE could be sung to the tune of B-I-N-G-O. (first letter of each word in the verse). Example: DDIDI (first letter of each word in the memory verse for the week).

Prayer journal: Work on your prayer journal. Write down what God has said to you about your attitude, about your enemies, about getting even, about forgiving. Write down what you need to change. Ask God to help you.

Play a quiet game. Have the children sit in a circle. Tell the children they must be absolutely still. Ask one child ahead of time to be the first one out. The child may make a noise or wiggle. After that child is out, he is to try to cause the other children to be out. Tell the children that it is easy for us to be influenced by others. Tell them that it is important to let God be our strongest influence.

Create a drama about the story. Assign each child a part to act out as you narrate. You may want to coach them on how to act out their parts. Talk to the children about staying away from mean people. Tell them sometimes the best thing we can do is stay away.

Record your voice using different tones. If you have help you may also just turn your back to the children. Ask the children to identify the emotion. Say, "Help me put the toys in the box."

1. Voice one - happy voice
2. Voice two - angry voice
3. Voice three - frightened voice
4. Voice five - no emotion

Tell the children that our real enemy is Satan. Sometimes people are not nice for many reasons. They may be tired, upset, or busy. Tell the children that we have to ask God to help us to be nice even to the people who are not nice to us. We have to forgive.

Tell this true story. One little girl was a mean bully. She was mean to the daughter of the Bible study leader. When the Bible study leader had a carnival everyone came. They had games, hot dogs, face painting. They even had a bouncy house. The bully was afraid to come because she knew she had been mean. The daughter of the Bible study leader invited the bully to join in. She told her that she knew that Satan was her real enemy. She told the bully not to let Satan use her to be mean to others. She told her she was not mad at her. The bully joined in the festivities. Ask the children to talk about what they think about this story.

1. How would you feel if you were the daughter?
2. What would you do if the bully wanted to come to games?
3. Would you talk to the bully and invite her?
4. Do you think it would be easy to be nice to the bully?
5. What does God want you to do?

**Don't insist
on getting even.
Romans 12:19
(The Message)**

Romans 12: 17-19 (The Message)

**Don't hit back;
discover beauty in everyone.
If you've got it in you,
get along with everybody.
Don't insist on getting even;
that's not for you to do.
"I'll do the judging," says God.
"I'll take care of it."**

Romans 12: 17-19 The Message

Forgiveness

Have two of the children stand facing each other with their palms up. Place a brick (small brick) in each hand of one of the children. Give them two or three minutes. Have them trade places.

Ask the children to talk about the experience.

Forgiveness

Ask the children to write down one thing that they need to forgive. Pray with them about the thing they need to forgive.

Place a basin with a picture of hands. Ask the children to put their grudge (the piece of paper) in God's hands.