

Spreading the Word

Acts 13:1-12; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 166-169

Have you ever been on a long trip? How did you travel? Paul and Barnabas were sent on a special trip—a trip to tell others of God’s grace. But not everyone was happy as they preached. Read on to discover what happened.

Paul and Barnabas had worked together in Antioch for a year. They kept busy teaching, preaching, and helping people. And the church in Antioch grew and grew.

One day some of the members were fasting and praying. They were asking God to guide them, to tell them what He wanted them to do. While they were praying, the Holy Spirit spoke to them. He said, “I have called

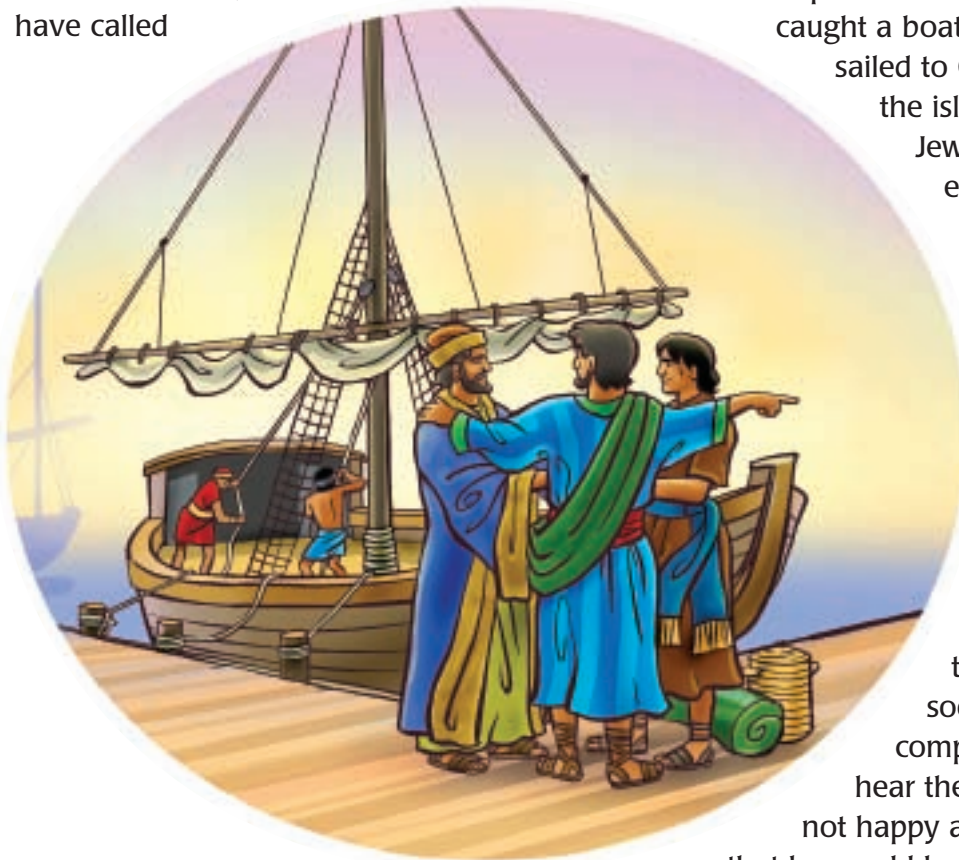
Paul and Barnabas to do a special work for Me. Place your hands on them. Then pray for them and send them off to tell the good news in other places.”

Everyone was sad when they heard that Paul and Barnabas were going away. But they also wanted others to hear about Jesus. So the Antioch believers fasted and prayed. Then they gathered for a special prayer meeting. The elders in the church laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them. Then they sent them on their way.

Paul and Barnabas took a young man, John Mark, with them. He would learn from them and help them in their work. The three of them caught a boat at the port of Salamis and sailed to Cyprus. They traveled across the island, stopping at all the Jewish synagogues and teaching everyone who would listen.

Soon they moved on to Paphos on the other side of the island. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet called Bar-Jesus or Elymas. He was an important man and one of the Roman proconsul’s attendants.

Cyprus was not a huge island, so news of strangers traveled fast. The proconsul soon heard about Paul and his companions. He was curious to hear the Word of God. Elymas was not happy about that. He was afraid that he would lose his influence with the



The Message

God sends us as messengers of His grace.

Memory Verse

*"The Holy Spirit said,
'Set apart for me
Barnabas and Saul for
the work to which I
have called them' "*

(Acts 13:2, NIV).

proconsul. So he tried to turn the proconsul against Paul and his friends.

But the Holy Spirit showed Paul what was happening. Suddenly, Paul turned and looked directly at Elymas. "You are a child of the devil," he said. "You are an enemy of everything that is right. You are full of tricks and ways to fool people. You will never stop trying to put roadblocks in the way of the Lord. Because of your actions, you will be blind for a while. You will not be able to see the light of the sun."

Immediately, Elymas felt a dark mist rolling in front of his eyes. He blinked. He rubbed his eyes. He tried to push it away. Everything got darker and darker. Elymas really was blind. He could not see a thing! He began to reach out for a hand to guide him so he did not fall.

The proconsul was amazed. One moment Elymas could see; the next he was blind. This convinced the proconsul that Paul was teaching the truth. He listened and learned, and he soon believed in God.

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark traveled on to many other places. Everywhere they went, they told

everyone the good news: God's grace is free and available to everyone. We can be like Paul and his friends. We, too, can tell people we meet about God's wonderful love and grace.



S A B B A T H

DO Paul and Barnabas went to Cyprus by boat. If possible, go for a walk where you can see boats. Ask your family to name some Bible stories that involve boats.

PRAY Ask God to protect people who are traveling.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Jeremiah 29:11. What was God's plan for Paul and Barnabas? Does He have a plan for you?

DO Trace the first part of Paul and Barnabas's journey on a Bible map. How far did they travel? On a modern map, measure the same distance from your town to another city.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand His plan for your life.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read 1 John 4:9 to your family for worship. How has God shown His love for you? Find a way to show someone in your family how much you love them.

DO Cut out a paper heart. Ask your family to think of things that remind them of God's grace. Write them on the heart and put it where everyone can see it.

SING Sing some praise songs, then thank God for His gifts of grace.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship today read and discuss Acts 13:1-12. What is the lesson for your family in this story?

DO Try to find a picture of a sailing boat in Bible times. How does it compare with modern boats?

MAKE Make a boat shape out of paper and write your memory verse on the sail. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

PRAY Ask God to help you to be His messenger.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Colossians 1:12-14 during worship today. What does God's grace rescue us from? Ask two people to tell you what God's grace means to them.

SING During family worship sing "Jesus Loves Me." Then thank God for His love.

The word Cyprus means copper after a copper mine on the island.



T H U R S D A Y

READ Read the lesson story about Paul and Barnabas with your family. Who went with them? Why? What message did they share with others?

READ Look at Jeremiah 33:3. How does God keep this promise? Does He use any of the ways we use? Discuss what this means with your family.

THINK How many different ways can you send a message to a friend who lives across town? Send a message today. Tell your friend that God loves them all the time. Ask God to bless your friend.

F R I D A Y

READ During worship today read and discuss Acts 13:1-12. Act out the story of Elymas. Who will you be?

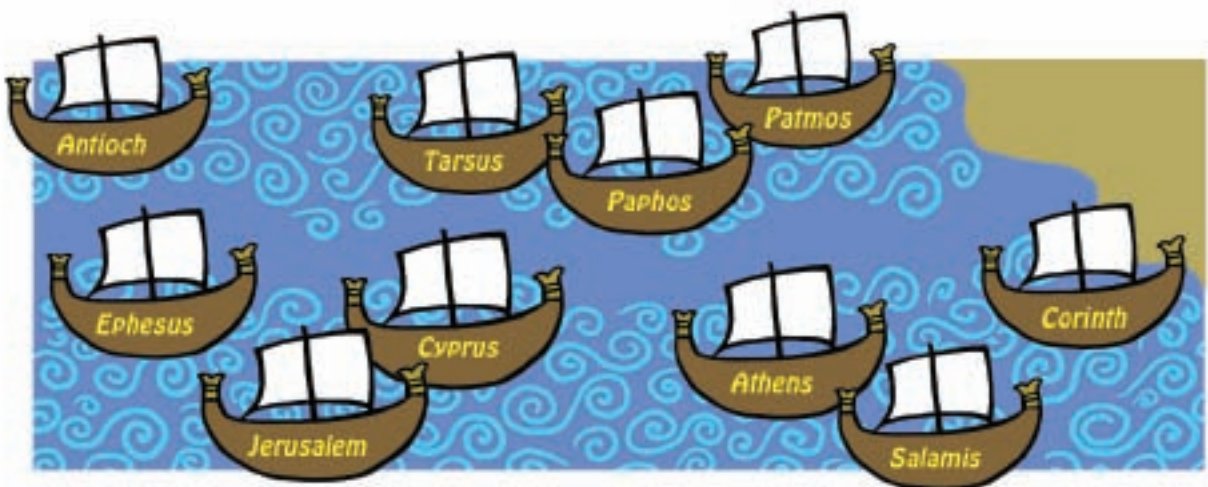
DO Look up *proconsul* in a dictionary. Ask your family: What kind of a person would be a proconsul?

DO Say your memory verse together before prayer. Thank God for a special day to spend with Him.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Help Paul and Barnabas spread the message of God's grace. Circle the boats that are named for the places that Paul and Barnabas traveled to in this week's lesson.



GRACE

Directions: Three Bible texts are provided below. To learn what they tell us about grace, look at the letter and the number under each line and find it in the code box. Copy the word in that square onto the line.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	I	world	through	thing	one	you
B	Everlasting	expressing	believes	perish	counts	only
C	Gave	God	whoever	eternal	itself	loved
D	Faith	Son	love	he	not	life

1. Jeremiah 31:3; ___ have ___ with an ___
A-1 C-6 A-6 B-1 D-3

2. John 3:16; ___ so ___ the ___ that ___ His ___
C-2 C-6 A-2 D-4 C-1 A-5

and ___ that ___ in Him shall ___ but
B-6 D-2 C-3 B-3 D-5 B-4

have ___
C-4 D-6

3. Galatians 5:6; The ___ that ___ is ___
B-6 A-4 B-5 D-1 B-2 C-5

A-3 D-3

Directions: Draw pictures of people with whom you will share God's grace. Write their names on the line provided below each frame.







