



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

TRUE STORY

BIG IDEA

Jesus helps us share His story.

THE BIBLE

Paul and Barnabas' Missionary Travels: Acts 13:1-5; 38-39; 14:21-28 (Ephesians 6:19; Mark 16:15)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | World Adventure Relay
- **ACTIVITY** | Around the World
- **QUESTION** | What is the best trip you've ever taken?
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Globe
- **BIBLE STORY** | Acts 13:1-5; 38-39; 14:21-28
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus helps us share His story.
- **ACTIVITY** | Jesus Loves You Tag
- **OBJECT LESSON** | One Cut Cross
- **ACTIVITY** | GeoGuessr
- **SCRIPTURE** | Ephesians 6:19
- **PRAYER** | Pray for Everyone Sharing Jesus' Story
- **TALK | RECAP OF THE MONTH**
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
 - Why were Paul and Barnabas traveling?
 - What do you think it would have been like to travel in those days?
 - How did God help Paul and Barnabas on their mission?
 - Who are some people you know today who are sharing Jesus' story with others?
 - How can you be a missionary and share Jesus' story?
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

TRUE STORY

BIG IDEA

Jesus helps us share His story.

THE BIBLE

Paul and Barnabas' Missionary Travels: Acts 13:1-5; 38-39; 14:21-28 (Ephesians 6:19; Mark 16:15)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | World Adventure Relay

- Welcome to the last week of our True Story series! We're having fun learning about the true stories of the Bible! We've learned about Saul's transformation, Peter's vision and rescue, and today we are going back to Paul to learn about how he embarked on an amazing journey to share Jesus with others!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the group into two teams. For each team, set up identical obstacle courses for the relay races. Each course will have four simple parts: When you say, "Go," one kid from each team will work their way through the four stations. When they get all the way to the end, the second person will go. The game ends when an entire team has completed the entire obstacle course.*
 - **JUNGLE:** *Kids will army crawl on their bellies through the jungle part.*
 - **MOUNTAIN:** *Set chairs or bins for kids to climb over.*
 - **RIVER:** *Kids must pretend to swim through pool noodles on the ground to get to the next part.*
 - **DESERT:** *Kids jump from one hula hoop to the next to avoid the hot sand of the desert.*
- Great job, adventurers! God has made a beautiful and diverse world filled with beautiful and diverse people who need to know about Him.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *If you have kids who aren't able to do the physical activities on their own, you can have a volunteer prepared to assist them or modify the obstacles for them. For kids who are physically able, this is a spectacular activity for them to do engage in.*

ACTIVITY | Around the World

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This is a basic game of hot potato, which kids love to play. Pass the globe or paper map around and when the music stops, have kids name a country from the map. Ask the kids to pray for the people of that country, that the Jesus-followers there will have courage to share the story of Jesus with others. If your church is connected with any individuals or organizations in those countries, you can pray for them specifically.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Let your preteens toss the globe around and when the music stops, try to guess the name of the country their right thumb landed on (without looking at its name).*
- It's amazing how people all over the world share God's story! Today in our True Story, we will learn about two of God's followers who traveled the world to tell others about Jesus! What's so cool about this is how God helps us share His story with others!

QUESTION | What is the best trip you've taken?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask kids to share about the best trip they've taken or a place they wish they could visit.*
- **What are some of the fun parts of taking a big trip? What are some of the downsides of a big trip?**
- In today's True Story, two of God's people traveled many miles and spent many days just so they could share the good news of Jesus with others.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

OBJECT LESSON | Globe

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, find a globe or world map and show it to the kids.*
- We live on a huge planet. If you start at the North Pole and go all the way to the South Pole and back up, you would travel 24,860 miles. There are seven continents and 195 countries. There are more than 7.5 billion people living on earth who speak more than 6,500 languages.
- There are plenty of people in this big, huge world for us to share His story with. Sometimes those people live far away, but sometimes those people live in our very own neighborhoods.

BIBLE STORY | Acts 13:1-5; 38-39; 14:21-28

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Ask preteens to share what it was like when they went to their first day of school last year, and what they think it will be like going to their new school this year. Ask them to share how they would feel if they were going to a new school.*
- **Have you ever gone somewhere you've never been before? What was it like? Maybe a new school or a new church? Maybe you've gone to visit a new city or country? Was it fun to go somewhere new? Was it scary?**
- Paul and Barnabas became some of the first missionaries. "Missionary" means someone who is sent out with a mission.
- Paul and Barnabas' mission was to travel around the world telling people about Jesus. But before

they left on their journey, their church and God did something special.

- **Who said to set apart Paul and Barnabas?** The Holy Spirit set them apart. That means He chose them particularly for this job.
- The Holy Spirit said to send Paul and Barnabas out to share God's story, and that's what the church did. The people prayed for them and sent them out. Then Paul and Barnabas traveled from city to city, preaching and sharing the good news about Jesus.
- **What true story were they telling the people in each city?** They could be forgiven if they believed in Jesus.
- **How do you think people responded to this true story?** Some believed, some did not. Some were angry. Some trusted in Jesus.
- Paul and Barnabas also encouraged and helped the churches in many of the cities.
- **How do you think Paul and Barnabas felt when the Holy Spirit told them to go share the Gospel?** They may have been nervous or a little scared, but they obeyed. They knew God would help them share His story.
- **Do you think God wants us to share His story, too?** Yes, He does! And He will help us.
- That bring us to our Big Idea of the day ...

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus helps us share His story.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **Jesus helps us share His story.**

ACTIVITY | Jesus Loves You Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose one person to be "it." They will run to tag others and say "Jesus loves you." Those who are tagged also become "it" so that more and more people are "it" at the same time. The game ends when the last person is tagged.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *This game may be overstimulating for kids with special needs. See your weekly instructions for ideas to engage them.*
- This game is a whole lot like how apostles like Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel. We can start by telling one person at a time. Then those people can start telling other people, and eventually lots of people will hear the gospel.

OBJECT LESSON | One Cut Cross

- **Does anyone think you can make the shape of a cross in this paper with only one cut? Do you want to come up and try?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hold up a piece of paper and some scissors. Ask the kids if any of them can make a cross in the paper with only one cut. Let them come try. Then follow the directions below to show them how to do it: You can also watch [this](#) video to see simple instructions.*

- Start with a regular piece of printer paper. Fold one top corner down so it makes a triangle.
- Then fold the other corner down to make the paper into a house shape.
- Fold the house shape in half lengthwise.
- Fold it in half vertically again.
- Then make one cut right down the middle.
- Open up the larger piece, and it will be a cross!
- **Can you believe I was able to make a cross out of this paper with only one cut?** It seemed impossible! When we share God’s story with others, He can help us do things that seem impossible.
- You can all take a piece of paper home and use this cool trick to share with others about Jesus.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Geoguessr

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can register an account on this website and play the official GeoGuessr game, or you can play this version, using the images provided. Show the kids an image of a place somewhere in the world. Let them guess where they think it is, just based on what they see in the picture. You can split the kids into teams and give each team 10 points per correct guess.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Before the service, sign up for a free account on GeoGuessr website, and choose a map category to play with the kids on a computer or a phone (\$1.99 on an iPhone).
- **Was it easy or hard to guess where each picture was located on the earth?** Adventurers and explorers get to go to different places all around the world. Some are full of people and animals while others seem empty. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many different cities and places to share God’s story. **Can you name any of the cities they traveled to?**
- **How many different states or countries have you traveled to? What is it like traveling somewhere far away?**
- **How do you think Paul and Barnabas felt when they went somewhere far from home?**

SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 6:19

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- Paul wrote this verse to a church in a city called Ephesus. Paul first visited this city on his second missionary journey.
- **What was he asking for them to pray for? For Paul to be able to share the gospel boldly.**
- **What might Paul have been afraid of?**
- **Can you think of reasons people might be scared to share the gospel sometimes?**

PRAYER | Pray for Everyone Sharing Jesus’ Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Identify people or organizations that share Jesus’ story with others and are either supported by or connected to your church in some way. Be sure to include both people or organizations who serve locally and internationally. Share a little bit about those people or organizations and lead kids to write encouraging letters (younger kids can dictate letters or draw pictures) to send to them. Pray for them together, and then pray for each other, that you would all have the courage to share Jesus’ story, too.

TALK | RECAP OF THE MONTH

- We've learned so much this month! We've been talking all about the true stories of the first Jesus followers. Let's see if you can remember what we talked about.
- When we heard the story of Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, we learned **Jesus changes lives.**
- When we heard the story of Peter going to Cornelius's house, we learned **Jesus loves everyone.**
- When we heard the story of Peter being set free from prison, we learned **Jesus gives us freedom.**
- And today, when we heard the story of Paul and Barnabas' missionary journeys, we learned **Jesus helps us share His story.**

MEMORY VERSES | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Kids with special needs often enjoy singing and find it easier to remember words set to music. Find a fun song to go with the "Fruit of the Spirit" verse, and play it for the kids and teach it to them. You can also play this fun song to teach them the sign language for this verse.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **if you could travel anywhere, where would you want to go?**
- **Why were Paul and Barnabas traveling?** (To tell people God's story.)
- **What do you think it was like to travel around back in those days?**
- **How did God help Paul and Barnabas on their mission?**
- **Who are some people you know today who are sharing Jesus' story with others?**
- **How can you be a missionary and share Jesus' story?**
- **How do you need Jesus' help to share His story?**

SCRIPTURE | Mark 16:15

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **Who do you know that needs to know about Jesus?**
- **How can you share Jesus with that person?**

ACTIVITY | Be a Youtuber

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids to pretend they are a famous YouTube star with thousands of subscribers. They will create an episode where they explain what missionaries are. If you have the capabilities, you can even record to show the whole group later on.
- **How would you explain what a missionary is to someone who has no idea?**
- **What are the most important things a missionary does?**
- **How can you be a missionary?**

MEMORY VERSES | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22

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