

Lessons for the Leader

What would you consider to be some of the most difficult jobs in today's work force? What makes these tasks difficult? Did you add missionary to your list? Though rewarding, the job of a missionary does not begin when the individual arrives on the field, but when God calls and the individual responds. Consider the first missionaries.

- Read Acts 13. God did not create people to live in "silos," but to work together to spread the message of salvation. This message did not begin and end with Jesus, it began after the fall of man. Paul and Barnabas taught anyone who would listen to them about God's redemptive plan of salvation. Who do you tell about God's work? What impact does your obedience to God have on people's lives?
- Read Acts 14. Their actions of healing led people to believe Paul and Barnabas were Hermes and Zeus (Greek gods). The situation elevated so much among the Jews that Paul was eventually stoned and left for dead. However, God was not through with Paul. Notice the words of verse 22. Do you feel like you have or are currently passing through troubles as you serve God? Do you consider it joy or dread when you face hardships? What is God teaching you through these challenges?
- Ask yourself, "How would I respond if God called me to be a missionary?" All Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus. How committed are you in fulfilling your God-given responsibility? Pray the story of Paul will evoke the children to be hungry for God's Word. Pray God will strengthen and empower you to carry out His plan for your life.

What do these symbols mean?

1 → Application Activities Format: Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



Paul's First Journey

Focus Passage: Acts 13–14

Key Bible Verse: 1 John 4:14

Life Application

I can tell people about Jesus.

Level of Biblical Learning

(Community and World)

All Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6-8 minutes)

Welcome the Children

Play "Honk the Horn"

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Whoa!"

Sing "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Pray

Learn the Key Bible Verse

Introduce the Bible Story

Tell the Bible Story

Review the Bible Story

Make Life Application

Show "Backyard Explorers" Video #2

Sing "Make Him Known"/Receive

Offering

Pray

Application Activities (20 minutes)

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

1 → Welcome the Children

2 → Play "Honk the Horn"

Pull it Together

Bicycle horn, stopwatch

- Print "Questions" (CD).

- Guide each child to select a partner.
- Say: "I will read aloud a question. You and your partner have 20 seconds to share your answers. When the horn honks, find a new partner."
- Read aloud the questions. Pause for 20 seconds after each question, then honk the horn.
- Say: "Is it fun to travel to different places? Let's learn about Paul's first journey."

Worship

3 → Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 3 minutes)

4 Sing "Shine, Jesus, Shine" (DVD, 3 minutes)

5 → Pray (1 minute)

6 → Learn the Key Bible Verse (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

Permanent markers, contact paper, scissors, ruler

- Cut 2-by-8-inch strips of contact paper (1 per child).

- Distribute strips and markers.
- Say: "Write the words of 1 John 4:14 on the contact paper."
- Assist as needed.
- Say: "Ask a friend to place your sticker on your back, like a bumper sticker."
- Continue: "Turn so you can see someone's bumper sticker. Let's read the words together."
- Read aloud 1 John 4:14.
- Ask: "What does this verse tell us about God? What does it mean to testify?"
- Say: "To *testify* means 'to tell what you believe is true.' Let's discover who Paul testified about."

7 → Introduce the Bible Story (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

Worship Guides, pencils

- Ask: "What is a mission trip? Why do people participate in mission trips?"
- Say: "A *mission trip* is 'a time people travel somewhere to tell others about Jesus.'"
- Talk about mission trips your church supports.
- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils.
- Say: "Let's follow the path of Paul on his first missionary journey. Open your Bible to Acts 13. Complete 'Number the Places' as you listen to the Bible story."

8 → Tell the Bible Story (10 minutes)

Pull It Together

Scissors, tape

- Print "First Trip" Teaching Picture (CD). Display.
- Print and cut apart "Names" (CD).

Teacher Tip

Utilize the pronunciation guide on the CD item.

- Open your Bible to Acts 13.
- Call attention to the teaching picture.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Display "Names" as stated.

Paul's First Journey

Based on Acts 13–14

The Holy Spirit said to the **Antioch** church, "Set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to." The people fasted, prayed, laid their hands on the men, and sent them off.

Barnabas and Saul went to **Seleucia, Cyprus** and **Salamis**, where they preached about Jesus in the synagogues. When they arrived in **Paphos**, they met a false prophet named Bar-Jesus, also known as Elymas. Saul (also known as Paul) told Elymas, "You are filled with lies and deceit. When will you stop people from knowing the truth? God is against you and you are going to be blind for some time." Elymas became blind and needed someone to guide him.

Next, Paul and the men traveled to **Perga in Pamphylia**, then to **Antioch in Pisidia**. On the Sabbath, they listened as men read the Scriptures in the synagogue. The synagogue leaders said, "If you have anything encouraging to say, you may speak."

Paul stood and told about God leading the Israelites to the Promised Land, about the prophets, and even King David. Paul told how Jesus came from King David's family, how the people of Jerusalem rejected Jesus, and although they found no grounds to do so, they crucified Him. Paul explained how Jesus was buried in a tomb, but God raised Him from the dead. Paul said many people saw Jesus after His resurrection. Paul said, "We tell you God has fulfilled what He said He would do. It is through Jesus forgiveness of sin is provided."

The next week, almost the whole town gathered to hear Paul and Barnabas. The Jews became jealous and spoke against what Paul said. Paul and Barnabas said, "God wanted you to hear the word first, but since you did not listen, we will tell the Gentiles (non-Jewish people)." As a result, the message about Jesus spread throughout the area and many believed. However, the Jews caused problems for Paul and Barnabas. The Jews threw them out of the area so Paul and Barnabas traveled to **Iconium**.

In Iconium, many people, believed what Paul and Barnabas said about Jesus. The Jews who refused to believe caused trouble. God did miracles through Paul and Barnabas and helped people understand more about Jesus. However, Paul and Barnabas learned some people were going to stone them, so they left.

In **Lystra**, a man who had never been able to walk listened to Paul. Paul told the man, "Stand up!" The man jumped up and began to walk around. When the people saw this, they thought Paul was a god. They called Barnabas, Zeus and Paul, Hermes. Paul and Barnabas told the people, "We are men just like you. We are telling you the good news of Jesus so you can turn away from these false gods and believe in the one true God."

Some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came to Lystra and convinced the people what Paul said was wrong. They stoned Paul and drug him out of the city, thinking he was dead. The believers of Jesus gathered around Paul. He got up and went into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for **Derbe**.

After telling the people in **Derbe** about Jesus, Paul and Barnabas returned to **Lyrsra, Iconium** and **Antioch** to help the believers. They then traveled through **Pisidia** and to **Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia** and back to **Antioch** where they began. They told the believers in Antioch everything God did for them and how He helped them tell the Gentiles as well.

9 Review the Bible Story (3 minutes)

- Ask: "Who were the first missionaries? Why did they travel to so many different places? What impact did they have on people?"
- Guide the children to look at the map on their Worship Guides.
- Say: "Paul and Barnabas traveled about 1,250 miles. We do not know how many people listened to Paul and Barnabas. We do know many people believed what they said."
- Guide the children to complete "Treasure Chest" on their Worship Guides.

10 → Make Life Application (5 minutes)

- Ask: "How can we be like Paul and Barnabas?"
- Say: "All Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus. We can tell people about Jesus. Where are some places we travel that we can tell about Jesus? What are some things we can say?"

11 → Show "Backyard Explorers" Video #2 (DVD, 7 minutes)

- Show video.
- Ask: "Was it easy for Jack to confront the player on his soccer team? What did Jack learn about telling people about Jesus? How willing are you to tell people about Jesus?"

12 → Sing "Make Him Known" (DVD, 3 minutes)/Receive Offering

13 → Pray (2 minutes)

- Guide the children to silently think of people they can tell about Jesus.
- Pray God will provide opportunities to tell about Jesus this week.
- Call attention to the definition of missionaries and the information on the Worship Guides.

14 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

15 Sing "I Will" (DVD, 3 minutes)

16 Review Life Application (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

"Names" from step 8

- Read aloud 1 John 4:14.
- Say: "Look at all of the places Paul and Barnabas traveled. They told people about Jesus in each of these places. This week we may not travel outside our city, but there are many places we can tell people about Jesus. Whether we go to the dentist, grocery store, water park, or anywhere else, there are people who need to know about Jesus. Be like Paul and Barnabas, be brave and trust God to help you tell people about Jesus."

17 Play "True/False Review" (4 minutes)

Pull It Together

Print "Review" (CD).

- Guide each child to select a partner.
- Say: "I will read aloud a statement. If it is true, stand facing your partner. If the statement is false, stand back to back."
- Read aloud the statements. Invite the children to correct the false statements.

18 Dismiss the Children to Their Parents

- Play "Live to Worship" (DVD) as parents receive their children.

Teacher Tip

Looking for additional resources to enhance your teaching? Check out the Levels of Biblical Learning resources available at www.lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicalllearning.

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

15 → Sing "I Will" (DVD, 3 minutes)

16 → Review Application Activities (4 minutes)

- Invite the children to share their Application Activity experiences.
 - ➔ Arts and Crafts—Hacky Sacks
 - ➔ Dramatic Play—Telling Videos
 - ➔ Games—Stand Still Soccer
 - ➔ Exploration and Discovery—Story Cloths

17 → Review Life Application (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

"Names" from step 8

- Read aloud 1 John 4:14.
- Say: "Look at all of the places Paul and Barnabas traveled. They told people about Jesus in each of those places. This week we may not travel outside our city, but there are many places we can tell people about Jesus. Whether we go to the dentist, grocery store, water park, or anywhere else, there are people who need to know about Jesus. Be like Paul and Barnabas, be brave and trust God to help you tell people about Jesus."

18 → Dismiss the Children to Their Parents

- Play "Live to Worship" (DVD) as parents receive their children.

Ask Yourself



What did the children hear about telling people about Jesus?



What will the children know about sharing their faith?



As a result of this session, will the children share their faith with people this week?

Application Activities

Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

Pull It Together

11-inch round balloons (3 per child), lentils ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup per child), funnels, scissors, table, measuring cup

- Prepare and post an allergy chart listing balloons and lentils.

Teacher Tip

Allow the children to make additional hacky sacks to share with their friends.

Worship Through Arts and Crafts

Hacky Sacks

- Select a volunteer to read aloud 1 John 4:14.
- Say: "Paul and Silas traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus. Tell me some of the places they traveled."
- Call attention to the places listed on the Worship Guides.
- Ask: "Why did Paul and Silas travel to these places?"
- Continue: "God wants us to be like Paul and Silas and tell people that Jesus can be their Savior."
- Say: "Let's make hacky sacks to use in a game."
- Place the materials on the table.
- Say: "Inflate a balloon and hold for 30 seconds to allow the balloon to stretch. Let the air out. Insert the funnel in the balloon and pour about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of lentils into the balloon. You may need to ask a friend to help you squeeze and push the lentils until the balloon is firm but squishy."
- Assist as needed.
- Continue: "Tie the end of the balloon as close to the lentils as possible. Snip off the neck of a second balloon, and stretch it over the first balloon with the knot on the inside. Repeat with a third balloon."
- Ask: "Can any of you juggle? If so, show us how to juggle while you quote 1 John 4:14."
- Explain: "If you cannot juggle, select a partner. Toss your hacky sacks back and forth as you say 1 John 4:14."
- Pray for opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

Pull It Together

Video camera, phone camera, or laptop computer with camera; monitor to play back videos; scissors

- Print "Scenarios" (CD). Cut apart.

Teacher Tips

- Select scenarios that best fit your group.
- Help children understand and connect the Scriptures to the questions about faith.
- Invite someone who grew up in a different religious background to be interviewed by the children.

Worship Through Dramatic Play

Telling Videos

- Select a volunteer to read aloud 1 John 4:14.
- Say: "Paul and Silas traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus. Many of the people they met believed in other gods. God wants us to tell people He sent Jesus to be the Savior of all people."
- Discuss how God wants all Christians to tell others about Jesus.
- Say: "Even in our country, people have different religious beliefs. Let's make videos to practice telling people with different beliefs about Jesus."
- Form two groups.
- Assign each group a scenario.
- Guide groups to talk about and practice how they would address the scenario.
- Gather the children together. Take turns filming the scenarios.
- Prepare to share the videos in Wrap-Up.
- Pray the kids will be ready to tell people about Jesus when faced with questions or different beliefs.

Pull It Together

Foam ball, paper plates (1 per child), masking tape

- Tape goals at opposite ends of the playing area.
- Mark masking tape boundary lines on the floor.
- Tape the plates in random order on the floor.

Teacher Tip

Invite a sports player to share how she tells about Jesus through sports.

Worship Through Games

Stand Still Soccer

- Select a volunteer to read aloud 1 John 4:14.
- Say: "Paul and Silas traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus. Many of the people they met believed in other gods. God wants us to tell others that He sent Jesus to be the Savior of all people."
- Discuss how God wants all Christians to tell people about Jesus.
- Form two equal teams.
- Say: "Let's play 'Stand Still Soccer.' I'll select a player from each team to be the 'rover.' The 'rovers' will attempt to kick the ball into the goal. They are the only players who can move. Everyone else will stand with one foot on a plate. You can only kick the ball with your other foot, not moving the plate or your foot on the plate. When you kick the ball say, 'Jesus saves,' 'Jesus loves me,' or another phrase you can tell someone about Jesus. Remember which team you are on and help the 'rover' score a point."
- Select "rovers."
- Guide the children to select plates to stand on.
- Play the game selecting new "rovers" every minute or so.
- Ask: "Was this game easy to play? What made it challenging? What were some challenges Paul and Silas faced? How did God help Paul and Silas? How does God help us tell people about Jesus?"
- Pray for opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

Pull It Together

12-inch white or cream colored fabric squares (1 per child), markers, safety pins

Teacher Tip

Order a Bible story cloth from the International Mission Board (www.imb.org).

Worship Through Exploration and Discovery

Story Cloths

- Distribute material and markers.
- Guide the children to draw pictures of Bible stories on the cloths.
- Ask: "Does God want all Christians to tell people about Jesus?"
- Say: "Paul and Silas were the first missionaries. They set an example for all Christians to go and tell people about Jesus."
- Explain: "Missionaries are called by God to tell people about Jesus. Missionaries use a variety of methods to help people learn about Jesus. Some methods are similar to what we do at church, classes and worship services with music and preaching. Another method missionaries use is story cloths. Let's put our pictures together to form a large quilt."
- Guide the children to pin their cloths together.
- Continue: "Jesus told stories to help people understand things about God. Some people cannot read or do not have Bibles in languages they can read. To reach these people, missionaries use pictures to tell the stories of Jesus. Let's pretend we are missionaries. Point to your picture and tell us the Bible story."
- Assist as needed.
- Say: "Missionaries face many challenges. What challenges do we face in telling about Jesus? How does God help us tell about Jesus?"
- Pray for opportunities to tell about Jesus.



Have you flown in an airplane? If so, to where?

What are the names of the seven continents?

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you not want to go? Why?

Where is your favorite vacation spot?

If you could travel to space, which planet would you visit? Why?

If you could travel back in time, who would you like to meet? Why?

If you could only take one thing with you on a trip, what would you take?

Antioch

(AN tih ahk)

Antioch in Pisidia

(AN tih ahk, pih SID ih uh)

Attalia

(at uh LIGH uh)

Cyprus

(SIGH pruh)

Derbe

(DUHR bih)

Iconium

(igh KOH nih uhm)

Lystra

(LISS truh)

Paphos

(PAY fahs)

Perga in Pamphylia

(PUHR guh, pam FIL ih uh)

Pisidia

(pih SID ih uh)

Salamis

(SAL uh miss)

Seleucia

(sih LYOO shih uh)

Pronunciation Guide

Antioch (AN tih ahk)

Antioch in Pisidia (AN tih ahk, pih SID ih uh)

Attalia (at uh LIGH uh)

Barnabas (BAHR nuh buhs)

Cyprus (SIGH pruhs)

Derbe (DUHR bih)

Elymas (EL ih mass)

Iconium (igh KOH nih uhm)

Lystra (LISS truh)

Paphos (PAY fahs)

Perga in Pamphylia (PUHR guh, pam FIL ih uh)

Pisidia (pih SID ih uh)

Salamis (SAL uh miss)

Seleucia (sih LYOO shih uh)

True or **False**: According to 1 John 4:14, God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

True or **False**: The Holy Spirit spoke to the church in Bethlehem saying, "Set apart Barnabas and Saul for work I have called them." (*Antioch*)

True or **False**: In Paphos, Barnabas and Paul met a false prophet named Bar-Jesus or Elymas (EL ih mass). Paul told Elymas he was filled with lies and deceit and that God was against him.

True or **False**: Elymas became deaf and could not hear what Barnabas and Saul said. (*He became blind.*)

True or **False**: Paul is not the same person as Saul. (*He is the same person.*)

True or **False**: While in Antioch of Pisidia, Paul told the people how God led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the desert into the Promised Land.

True or **False**: Everyone, Jews and Gentiles, were glad to hear what Barnabas and Paul said about Jesus. The people received Jesus as their Savior and Lord. (*not everyone was happy*)

True or **False**: In Lystra, people thought Barnabas and Paul were Greek gods. Paul allowed the people to worship him and Barnabas. (*Paul told them to not worship people.*)

True or **False**: Paul was stoned and left for dead after teaching in Lystra.

True or **False**: When Barnabas and Paul returned home, they told the believers of Jesus everything God did for them and how He helped them tell the Gentiles about Jesus.

True or **False**: God wants us to tell people about Jesus.

True or **False**: Christians should only tell people living in their neighborhoods about Jesus. (*tell everyone*)

Bonus Questions:

- What did you hear about telling people about Jesus?
- What do you know about sharing your faith?
- What will you do this week based on what we studied today?

**A friend at school asks:
"Aren't all religions the same?"**

(Acts 4:12)

**A neighbor asks:
"Is Jesus really the only way to God?"**

(John 14:6)

**A teammate asks:
"Don't I have to stop sinning
before I can become a Christian?"**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

**An older relative asks:
"Could God still love me
after all the bad things I've done?"**

(Romans 5:8)

**A friend asks:
"Don't we all pray to the same God,
but just call Him different names?"**

(1 John 5:11-12 or Acts 4:12)
