

Bon Voyage



The Holy Spirit calls Barnabas and Saul from the church in Antioch to work together to carry the Gospel message to other areas. So they begin their first missionary journey. It is during this journey that the writer of Acts begins referring to Saul as "Paul." Paul and Barnabas are received with mixed reactions as they are frequently opposed by the Jewish leaders and welcomed by the Gentiles.



Have your group form a circle. Select one player to begin. He or she should name any town or city. The person on the right must then name another town or city that begins with the last letter of the one just mentioned. The next player should do the same, and so on. Give each person just five seconds to come up with a name. If someone can't come up with one, he or she is out. Here's an example chain: London-New York-Knoxville-Edmonton-Niagara Falls-Sarasota. No player can use a city or town already mentioned. When the chain is broken, the next person in line should start a new chain. If your group is large, consider playing this game in several circles, and have the winners of the different circles play against each other. In this chapter, Paul begins his extensive travels. Taking the Gospel to other places becomes a lifelong mission for him.

DATE I USED THIS SESSION _____ GROUP I USED IT WITH _____

NOTES FOR NEXT TIME _____



1. What's the most exciting trip or vacation you've ever been on?

2. In this chapter, Saul and Barnabas begin a two-man missions trip. What motivated them to go (vss. 1-3)? (They had been working together for a while in Antioch [11:25, 26]. But this trip was in response to a call of the Holy Spirit.)

3. One of the first stops for Saul and Barnabas was the island of Cyprus, where good news awaited. A local official sent for them because he wanted to hear the Word of God. But what threatened to keep them from teaching Paulus (vss. 4-8)? (Paulus had another advisor—a sorcerer and false prophet. If Paulus believed Saul and Barnabas, then the sorcerer would lose the position of authority he had established.)

4. Can you think of ways that Christianity seems threatening to some people, even today? (Yielding to the will of God; tough teachings like the existence of hell, etc.)

5. How did Saul deal with this particular threat (vss. 9-11)? (With the power of God, he inflicted the sorcerer with temporary blindness.) **What was the result (vs. 12)?** (The miracle convinced Sergius Paulus of the power of God, and consequently, the truth of the Gospel. He became a believer as a result.)

6. Why do you suppose Saul's name changed to Paul (vs. 9)? (Saul is a Hebrew name; Paul is more of a Roman name. This reflects his new emphasis to take the Gospel to Gentile regions.)

7. Paul and Barnabas had picked up Barnabas's cousin, John Mark, along the way (vs. 5). But at this point, for an unexplained reason, John Mark leaves them. This parting will later cause conflict between Paul and Barnabas (15:36-41). Have you ever made a commitment to do something, but changed your mind after you got into it? (This is a common occurrence for young people as they try out a lot of things in order to see what they enjoy and are good at. But point out the importance of sticking with Chris-

tian commitment—even if it seems a little burdensome from time to time.)

8. In the next town Paul again presented the Gospel very clearly (vss. 13-41). What is some of the “good news” that Paul included in his talk? (God has sent a message of salvation through Jesus. This message is for both Jews and Gentiles. God fulfilled His promise by sending His Son and raising Him from the dead. Through Him, we can receive forgiveness for sins.) In what ways were people’s reactions to Paul’s message similar to the ways people respond to the Good News today (vss. 42-52)? (Some believed; some had their curiosity aroused and wanted to hear more; some were openly hostile.)

9. What can we learn from how Paul and Barnabas responded to those who didn’t want to believe? (When we share about Jesus, not everyone will accept the message. When this happens, we shouldn’t take it personally; rather, we should seek out others who might be more open.)



Paul and Barnabas were excellent missionaries. They were aware of the need to tell people in other places about Jesus, and they were sent to share this good news. Use the reproducible sheet, “The World outside Your Door,” to get your kids thinking about some of the needs in the world. All true/false answers are “true,” and all multiple choice answers are “d.” Discuss: **Which of these questions surprise you? What are some of the needs identified here?** (Food; clean water; to hear the Gospel; Bible translation; illiteracy; poverty; more people living in cities, which will cause more pollution, etc.) **What can we possibly do to make a difference in a world with so many needs?**

THE WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR

The world is a pretty needy place. Just how needy is it? Answer these questions to find out:



MULTIPLE CHOICE

- In industrial countries, about 95% of those employed receive regular wages. What's the percentage who receive regular wages in developing countries?
 - 90%
 - 50%
 - 25%
 - 10%
- How many distinct cultural groups in the world don't have a Christian witness in them?
 - 16
 - 160
 - 1,600
 - 16,000
- In North America, the average life expectancy of males is a little over 72 years. What is it for males in Afghanistan?
 - 77
 - 67
 - 57
 - 37
- What percent of the world's population lives in shelter considered less than adequate by the United Nations?
 - 5%
 - 10%
 - 15%
 - 25%
- What percent of the world's water supply is fresh water?
 - 94%
 - 51%
 - 24%
 - 2.4%
- How many people in the world die each day as a result of drinking unsafe water?
 - 25
 - 250
 - 2,500
 - 25,000
- What percentage of all deaths in the world are of children under 5 years old?
 - 3%
 - 13%
 - 23%
 - 33%
- What percent of African adults are illiterate (can't read)?
 - 10%
 - 25%
 - 45%
 - 70%
- What percent of the world's population doesn't have radio or television?
 - 7%
 - 17%
 - 47%
 - 67%
- The world's rural population has doubled since 1950. How about urban population?
 - 10%
 - +10%
 - +100%
 - +1000%

TRUE / FALSE

- Over 500 million people in the world are severely malnourished.
- There's enough food in the world to adequately feed every person twice over.
- More people in the world claim to be Christian than any other religion.
- The whole Bible has been translated into about 5% of the known languages of the world.
- Over half of the 250,000 children under 5 who die each week could live if they had adequate food and access to medical attention.
- Over 80% of Muslims have never heard the Gospel.