



## Paul and Barnabas

Acts 9:19-31; 13:1-12



WEEK 10

**POINT** ➔ **WE HELP  
OUR FRIENDS OBEY GOD.**

Open your Bible to Acts 9, and show children the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book. It tells us about a man named Paul, who got a lot of help from his friends. As you listen to what happened to Paul and his friend Barnabas, repeat each line after me. You can clap along, too!** Bang the *Kaboom Sticks* together to make a beat as you read the poem below. Pause after each line for kids to repeat.

Paul is a bully, he hurts Jesus' friends;  
When he meets Jesus, the bullying ends.  
Paul tells everyone all about Jesus—  
Bad guys say, "Hey! This doesn't please us."  
They come up with a plan to hurt poor Paul;  
They wait for him at the city wall.  
But Paul's friends have a different plan.  
Paul gets in a basket as big as a man,  
And from a window, friends lower him down,

And that's how Paul escapes from town!  
Barnabas and Paul become best buds.  
Barnabas tells others that Paul is good.  
Then Paul and Barnabas go to towns  
And spread the good news of Jesus around.

ASK: Tell about a time someone hurt your feelings because you believe in Jesus.

Even though Paul used to be a bully, Barnabas was kind to him. How can you be kind when someone's been mean?

Tell about a time a friend helped you do a good thing.

SAY: **At one of the towns Paul and Barnabas traveled to, they went to see the governor, who helped run the town. But there was a bad man who tried to stop them from telling the governor about Jesus. God made the bad man go blind so the governor could hear what Paul and Barnabas had to say. And the governor believed in Jesus! Like Paul and Barnabas, ➔ WE HELP OUR FRIENDS OBEY GOD** and tell others about him.





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Give each child *Buzz Boing Putty*, and place the *Buzz Hopper* on the table.

**SAY: The Christians helped Paul obey God by lowering him in a basket to get him out of the city. Let's pretend the *Buzz Hopper* is Paul. Make a basket with your *Buzz Boing Putty*. I'll wind up the *Buzz Hopper*. Try to catch the hopper with your basket as it falls off the table and then lower it to the floor slowly.** Let children take turns catching the *Buzz Hopper*.

**ASK: What did you do to help the *Buzz Hopper*?**

**What can you do to help your friends?**

**SAY: Paul's friends helped him obey God by keeping him safe and out of danger. That way he could keep telling people about Jesus.**

➔ **WE HELP OUR FRIENDS OBEY GOD, too.** We can help them tell people about Jesus or do other things to obey God.



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**SAY:** I'm going to name a way that Paul's friends helped him. Then you tell me a way you can do something like that for your friends.

**First, Paul's friends protected him by lowering him in a basket to get him out of the city where people were trying to hurt him.**

**ASK:** What can we do to help our friends stay safe?

**SAY:** Barnabas helped Paul serve Jesus by helping him meet other Christians.

**ASK:** What's a way we can help our friends do important things?

**SAY:** Barnabas helped Paul obey God by going with him to tell other people about Jesus.

**ASK:** What's a way we can help our friends obey God?

**SAY:** God loves our friends. He has planned for them to do good things for him. He has good plans for us, too. When ➔ **WE HELP OUR FRIENDS OBEY GOD,** we're obeying God, too.



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Teach the following chant:

**Barnabas was a good friend.** (*Clap in rhythm.*)

**He helped Paul obey God.** (*Point up.*)

**He introduced his friend.** (*Shake hands with someone.*)

**He traveled far with him.** (*Hold hand up to forehead as if shielding eyes to look into the distance.*)

**Barnabas was a good friend.** (*Clap in rhythm.*)

**He helped Paul obey God.** (*Point up.*)

**ASK: What's something you've seen one of your friends do to obey a parent or a teacher?**

**How can you help your friend keep doing that?**

**SAY: Without Barnabas' help, Paul would've had a hard time obeying God. He needed a friend to introduce him to others and to help him tell others about Jesus. Barnabas obeyed God by helping Paul obey God. ➔ WE HELP OUR FRIENDS OBEY GOD** as well.





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Set a chair in the middle of the room and clear space around the walls like a track for kids to run. Have kids line up in pairs. As you explain how to do the following obstacle course, walk through it to show the kids.

**SAY: Today you're going to help each other finish an obstacle course that'll remind you of how Paul's friends helped him obey God.**

**First, when it's your turn, you'll introduce each other to the pair behind you and shake their hands like Barnabas introduced Paul to other Christians. Next, you'll help each other climb over this chair safely the way the Christians helped Paul safely escape from the city. Finally, you'll travel around the room the way Barnabas and Paul traveled around the world. As you travel around, pretend to tell people that Jesus loves them.**

Let pairs take turns completing the obstacle course. You may need to keep reminding them of the next

step. The pair in the front of the line will introduce themselves to the pair behind them and shake their hands. To go over the chair safely, one should hold the chair firmly in place while the other climbs onto it and steps off; then they should trade places and do it again. Finally, they should walk as quickly as they can around the perimeter of the room, waving at pretend people and saying, "Jesus loves you!" When they reach the end of the line, the pair at the front can take the next turn.

**ASK: What did your partner do to make the obstacle course easier for you?**

**What things can we do to make obeying Jesus easier for our friends?**

**SAY: Barnabas, Paul, and the other Christians all helped each other obey God. ➔ WE HELP OUR FRIENDS OBEY GOD. too.**