

Paul and Barnabas Tell About the Living God

Lesson 6



Scripture: Acts 14:8-18













Bible Memory: 2 Peter 3:18

Focus: ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

You have the awesome privilege of teaching children about God and His Son, Jesus. As you teach, you can guide the children to understand that they too can help others know about God and Jesus. Take a few moments to reflect on how you are doing at helping children identify ways to share their belief in God and Jesus. Pray for the wisdom to make the most of every opportunity that comes your way.

Lesson 6 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore things that seem impossible to do</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Try It!</p> <p> Option Impossible!</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • whiteboard, dry-erase marker and eraser • Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>tell what happened when Paul and Barnabas healed a man who could not walk</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Acts 14:8-18</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Peter 3:18</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-ons 4a, 5a, and 6a; <i>Resources</i> sheet 6 Paul's Face Mask; <i>Teaching Picture</i> 6 • <i>Activities</i> p. 19, <i>Resources</i> CD lesson 6 Review Questions printable file • <i>Resources</i> sheet 8 Unit 2 Bible Memory Strips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive • markers • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>explore ways to worship God</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Helping Others Worship</p> <p> Option Preparing for Worship</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 20 • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • items to use for worship (see activity), 4 boxes with lids • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>worship God and His Son, Jesus</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step More Than a Word</p> <p> Option Worship Now</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of More Than a Word reproducible page • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (optional: CD player and CD with songs about God and Jesus) • items used in Make It Real "Preparing for Worship" activity • none

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one of these activities to help children **explore things that seem impossible to do**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verses.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 2 page.

Quick Step Try It!

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Today we are going to hear a Bible story about something that seemed impossible, but it really happened. Let's see if we can do some impossible actions.** Tell the kids you are going to name some actions that are impossible for most people to do, even though the actions seem quite simple. Encourage kids to try doing each action as it is named. Actions: 1. Raise only one eyebrow. 2. Lick your elbow. 3. Touch your nose or chin with your tongue.

SAY: **Many things are impossible for us to do, but nothing is impossible for God. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.**

Option Impossible!

Have children gather in a circle. At the top of the board, write "Impossible!" Ask for a volunteer to read the word. SAY: **The word impossible means something just cannot happen. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about something that seemed impossible, but it really happened. Let's make a list of things that are impossible to do. For example, it is impossible to sneeze without closing your eyes, or it is impossible for a pig to fly.** Encourage the children to be creative in suggesting things that would be impossible to do. Write the ideas on the board as they are named.

After a couple of minutes, stop and read the list. Then erase the "im" in *impossible*, leaving the word *possible*. Ask what the new word is. Write "God" under the new heading. SAY: **Many things are impossible for us to do by ourselves, but with God's help, the impossible can become possible. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.**

Bible Memory 2 Peter 3:18

ASK: **Did you ever have something that you thought would be impossible to learn, but eventually you did learn it? What did you learn?**
Allow children to share their experiences.

Read 2 Peter 3:18 from the Bible. SAY: **This verse helps us understand that we don't know everything there is to know about Jesus. But we can grow and learn more about Jesus. As we learn more, ♥ we should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus, too. And while we are learning, we can give praise to God and worship Him—now and forever!** Lead the children in repeating the verse, a few words at a time. Start softly and get a little louder each time you add new words.

Focus

♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.

Materials

none



Added Fun!

For a bonus action, have the children try moving the right leg in a clockwise motion. Keep this motion going while drawing the number 6 on a piece of paper!

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker and eraser



Children who struggle with language may have difficulty coming up with impossible actions on their own. Draw a couple fun pictures to start kids thinking. (Examples: baby driving a car, person flying)

Teaching Tip

If you have an assistant, form two groups. Set a timer for 1 minute and challenge the groups to see which can come up with longest list of things that are impossible.

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what happened when Paul and Barnabas healed a man who could not walk.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

In Iconium, the people were divided; some were ready to stone Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:1-7). The threats didn't stop Paul and Barnabas. Finding out about the plot to kill them, they fled to the area of Lycaonia and continued telling about Jesus.

The healing of the man in Lystra was immediate, evidenced by the fact that this man who had never walked before now jumped up. Zeus was the patron god of Lystra, and his temple was there. Zeus was frequently linked to other gods such as Hermes. According to an ancient legend, Zeus and Hermes had once visited earth disguised as ordinary men. Now the people thought these gods were visiting earth again.

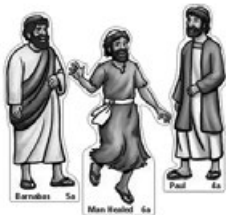
Paul used this situation to launch into an explanation of who really is God. Since these people had not been influenced by Jewish beliefs and practices, Paul had to start with very basic information. His tactic was to point out the true, living God as creator of everything, versus the pagan gods that the people had known before.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 2 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard; dry-erase marker; Bibles; *Resources* sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-ons 4a, 5a, and 6a; reusable adhesive (or self-adhesive magnetic strip); *Resources* sheet 6 Paul's Face Mask; *Teaching Picture* 6



Before Class

Display the map on a wall, a bulletin board, or a whiteboard. Press out story add-on 6a. If you are using a whiteboard, put a piece of magnetic strip on the back of 6a.

How to Say It

Lystra (*Liss-truh*)

Bible Exploration Acts 14:8-18

Write "Acts 14:8" on the board. Ask whether Acts is in the Old Testament or New Testament. (New) Have children turn to the table of contents in their Bibles and look in the New Testament section until they find Acts. Help children as needed in finding Acts 14:8. Ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

Tell the children they will help you act out the Bible story. Choose a child to play the part of Paul. Give this child the face mask of Paul to hold. Choose children to play the parts of Barnabas and the man who could not walk. Other children can be part of the crowd. SAY: **As we act out the story, listen for what Paul and Barnabas told the people about Jesus.** Use the Map of Paul's Travels. Give cues for actions to do as the story progresses.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to many cities to tell people about Jesus.

Have Paul and Barnabas walk around room and then return to the group. **One day Paul and Barnabas arrived in the town of Lystra.** Point to Lystra on the map. Attach Paul 4a and Barnabas 5a by Lystra. **Paul began to tell about Jesus. People stopped to listen. Soon a big crowd of people had gathered.** Crowd gathers around Paul and Barnabas. **Nearby was a man who had never been able to walk. The man listened very carefully to Paul.** Actor can sit on floor near Paul and Barnabas.

Paul saw the man and realized that the man believed what Paul was saying about Jesus. Paul looked at the man and called to him, "Stand up." Paul repeats statement.

The man knew what was happening: he was being healed. He didn't just stand up; he jumped up and began to walk around! Man does so. Attach man 6a by Paul and Barnabas on map. Show *Teaching Picture* 6.

The people were astonished! They probably had never seen a miracle before. They believed in pretend gods. They were sure that Paul and

Barnabas must be gods come to earth in human form. The people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. Crowd cheers and some bow before Paul and Barnabas.

Paul and Barnabas ran out to the crowds of people. They said, “Why are you doing this? Don’t worship us. We are only human like you. But we have good news for you. The gods you worship are not real; they are not worth anything. You can worship the living God. He is the one who made the heavens and the earth and the seas. He has been so kind to you already. He has given rain and makes plants grow in every season. He has given you plenty of food. He fills your hearts with joy.” Paul and Barnabas point up to direct the crowd’s attention to God in Heaven.

Everywhere Paul and Barnabas went they preached the good news about Jesus. They told people that Jesus is the living God. They taught people to worship God and His Son, Jesus. We can do that too!

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **What did Paul and Barnabas tell the people about God?** (God is living. He made the heavens, the earth, and the seas. He has been so kind to them. He gives rain and makes plants grow in every season. He gives them plenty of food. He fills their hearts with joy.)

Distribute the activity pages and markers. Read the directions aloud and do the page together. Use the *Resources* CD printable file for more questions about the story. SAY: **Paul and Barnabas helped people know about the living God. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.**

Bible Memory 2 Peter 3:18

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Write “2 Peter 3:18” on the board and point to it. Encourage the children to work in pairs to find the verse in a Bible. Ask two volunteers to read the verse together. Next, distribute the Bible Memory strips. (If you have enough children, give each strip to a pair or small group of children.) Have the children work together to put the strips in order. Ask for two volunteers to read the verse from the Bible Memory strips. SAY: **Paul and Barnabas traveled and worked together to help people learn about God. We can work together to learn God’s Word. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus. We can work together to do that too!**

Materials

Activities p. 19, markers,
Resources CD lesson 6



Review Questions printable file

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase
marker, Bibles, *Resources*
sheet 8 Unit 2 Bible Memory
Strips, reusable adhesive (or
self-adhesive magnetic strip)



Teaching Tip

If you are displaying the strips on a whiteboard, make sure each strip has a piece of magnetic strip on the back.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Using the table of contents, have children find the book of Acts in their Bibles. Point out the section headings included in most Bibles. Read some of the headings in the book of Acts. Stop when you reach chapter 14. Ask the children to find Acts chapter 14, verse 8. ASK: **According to the section heading, where were Paul and Barnabas when they healed a man who had never walked?** (in Lystra)



Focus

♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **explore ways to worship God.**

Materials

Activities p. 20, pencils



Quick Step Helping Others Worship

SAY: Paul and Barnabas wanted people to know about and worship the living God. Let's discover some ways to worship God. Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Read the directions aloud and do the page together. Note: The word for the first picture should be written down; the second word across.

ASK: What ways to worship are shown on this page? (write a poem, draw a picture, sing a song)

What are some other ways to worship Jesus? (pray and give praise to Jesus, do something for another person in Jesus' name, read Bible verses that praise Jesus)

What is your favorite way to worship God and Jesus?

SAY: ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus. We can help others learn to worship God and Jesus.

Materials

items to use for worship (drawing paper, markers, rhythm instruments, writing paper, pencils, Bibles, bookmarks), 4 boxes with lids (or bags)



Option Preparing for Worship



SAY: Just as Paul and Barnabas helped the people in Lystra, ♥ we should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus. We can help others worship the living God. Inside these boxes are items that can be used as we worship God in different ways. Let's see what is inside each box. Then we'll use the items to set up worship stations.

Distribute the boxes to four children or groups of children. Be sure that children with special needs are included in groups that best fit their abilities. Let the children open and reveal the contents of their boxes. Ask the children to name ways they could use the items inside their boxes to worship God. (Possible ways to worship: draw a picture or make a card that shows love for God, sing or play a worship song, write a letter or poem of praise, read/mark Bible verses of praise and worship.) Display the items from each box on a separate table or in a different area of the room. Note: The items will be used to worship God as this activity continues in Live It Out.

Before Class

Place inside four boxes items that can be used for various forms of worship:

Box 1—drawing paper, markers,

Box 2—rhythm instruments,

Box 3—writing paper and pencils,

Box 4—Bibles and bookmarks.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 6



Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

Read "My Best Friend." **SAY: When people know about Jesus and all He has done for them, they want to worship Him. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.**

ASK: What are some ways we help people know that Jesus is God's Son? (talk about Jesus, help others, show love, write a letter, draw a picture, sing a song, give money and supplies to people who tell about Jesus, invite friends to Sunday school)

What is your favorite way to worship God and His Son, Jesus?

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **worship God and His Son, Jesus.**

Focus

♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.

Quick Step More Than a Word

SAY: **One way to worship God and Jesus is by reading Bible verses that help us worship. Let's read some verses and worship God and Jesus.**

Distribute copies of the More Than a Word reproducible page. Help children read the verses and questions, and then do what is suggested for each verse. You can do this activity as a large group, or form smaller groups with an adult leader assisting each group. You may want to provide an audio player and songs about God and Jesus that children know. Sing a few worship songs after reading Psalm 100:2.

SAY: **When we invite our friends to worship with us, we can tell them about Jesus. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.**

Option Worship Now




SAY: **We prepared worship stations where we can worship God and Jesus in various ways. Let's worship God and Jesus now. You can go to the station that has your favorite way to worship—drawing, singing or playing an instrument, writing, or reading the Bible.** Encourage children to go to a worship station and be involved in the worship activities offered. If children finish at one station, they can move to another. They do not need to go to each station.

After an appropriate amount of time, have the children gather in a large group. SAY: **When we invite our friends to worship with us, we can tell them about Jesus. ♥ We should help others know about God and His Son, Jesus.**

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 2 page.


Materials

copies of More Than a Word reproducible page (optional:  audio player and tracks of songs about God and Jesus)

Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. The More Than a Word activity is also provided with the lesson 6 printable files on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

items used in Make It Real "Preparing for Worship" activity 

Teaching Tips

If you did not use the Make It Real "Preparing for Worship" option, see the instructions for that activity and set up four worship stations now.

Have an adult volunteer at each station to facilitate the worship activity. If you do not have extra adult help, consider combining a couple of the stations.

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

