



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 26 October 2008
Released on Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

"Going Out to Serve"

DEVOTIONAL READING: Matthew 28:16-20

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:1-52

MEMORY VERSE: "...The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2)

LESSON TEXT: Acts 13:1-12

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God Himself chooses what work each believer will do.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God knows what each of His children can do best, since He gives us our abilities.
2. God puts us where we best fit into His plans.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, find or make stick-figure pictures of a small group of church leaders, a small sailing ship, a man wearing a crown, Saul, and Elymas.

For Helping to Remember, take for each student a sheet of yellow construction paper. Provide crayons, paste, and glitter.

Review the "Teacher's Notes" below and make a copy of the word search for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Sam was not happy. You remember Sam, the boy I told you about last week. He thought he would get the best part in the school play.

"I wanted to be the king," he complained to his mother, "or even the general. But Miss Brown made me just a doorkeeper."

Sam thought Mom would say, "Oh, I am so sorry." Instead she smiled and said, "And I think I know why."

Sam was surprised. "Why?"

"Because your teacher is a wise lady," she told him. "She knows you will make a better doorkeeper than a king. And when you do what you do best, you make the whole play go better."

"Oh," Sam said. He had not thought of that.

Did you know that when you do what God has made you able to do best, all of God's work goes better too? Our lesson this week gives us an example of this.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Time: A. D. 47-48

Place: Syrian Antioch

In last week's lesson, we learn about the new start that God gave to Saul. Saul thought that his purpose in life was to persecute, arrest and/or kill every Christian. But God had other purposes in mind and wanted to use Saul to teach others about Jesus. Saul was baptized, spent some time with his new brothers and sisters in Christ, and then returned to his home in Tarsus (Acts 9:19-30). We do not hear of Saul again until Barnabas needs him to help out in the fast-growing church in Antioch (Acts 11:25-26).

Saul and Barnabas became leaders in the Antioch church and even traveled together to Jerusalem to take donations to help the believers during a famine (Acts 11:27-30). When they returned to Antioch, they probably expected to resume the earlier positions that they had in the church, but, as we learn in this week's lesson, God had something else planned for them now.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

Our Father in heaven is wise. He is all-knowing. He is good. Put these together, and we have reason to give joyful thanks for His plans for our lives. Based on His foreknowledge and His good purposes, He has equipped each believer for the work that best fits into what He wants done. The Bible tells us how He equipped Saul and Barnabas to go to faraway lands to preach about Jesus. Why those two in particular? And certainly why us? Give your students a glimpse

of God's truly amazing grace.

People who you will encounter in this week's lesson: Barnabas, Saul (Paul), Simeon (called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, John Mark, Bar-jesus (Elymas), and Sergius Paulus.

Places that are discussed in this week's lesson (Paul's first missionary journey): Antioch, Seleucia, Cyprus, Salamis, and Paphos.

Words that you may want to be prepared to explain to your students: equipped, missionary, synagogue, sorcerer, and deputy.

TELLING THE LESSON:

The church leaders were meeting together. Saul was there, and his friend Barnabas and other men were there too. (Show small group.) This group was the prophets and teachers at the church in Antioch and included Saul, Barnabas, Simeon (called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene and Manaen. They were talking about the Lord and talking to Him and thanking Him. For a while they did not even stop to eat. All at once the Holy Spirit let them know He had a special job for Saul and Barnabas to do. (Point to Saul and Barnabas in the picture.)

That special work would take them on a long trip to many faraway places. The Lord wanted the people in those places to hear about Jesus, and He knew that Saul and Barnabas would be good at telling them. So the church leaders prayed for Saul and Barnabas on their trip and let them go.

Did you notice that Saul and Barnabas did not decide to go on a preaching trip just because they wanted to go? God decided. And did you notice He especially chose Saul and Barnabas? The others were good men too. But the Lord is wise. He knew Saul and Barnabas were the best ones for that work at that time. He Himself had made them that way, and that is why He chose to send them.

First they went down to the seashore (a city called Seleucia) and got on a ship. (Show ship.) Away they sailed to the island of Cyprus and landed at the biggest city called Salamis. They began looking for meeting places (synagogues) where Jewish people came to hear preaching. These people knew about God, but they had not believed in Jesus yet. And remember, God knew Saul and Barnabas were the best ones to tell them. That is why He sent them and not someone else.

After that they went all the way across the island to the city of Paphos where the ruler lived. (Show ruler.) He was a good ruler, but he did not know about Jesus, either. When he heard about Saul and Barnabas, he asked them to come tell him what they were preaching. God knew Saul and Barnabas would know how to tell him, and they did.

But God's enemy Satan did not like that. Satan did not want the ruler to believe in Jesus. He had one of his own people there to make trouble, a man named Elymas. (Show Elymas.) Elymas told the ruler, "Do not listen to Saul and Barnabas."

Well, the Holy Spirit showed Saul just what to do. (Show Saul.) He looked at Elymas and said, "You child of the devil, will you always try to spoil the good things God is doing? The Lord is going to make you blind for a while!"

All at once, Elymas could not see a thing. He kept feeling around, trying to find somebody to take his hand and lead him.

(Show ruler.) Now, when the ruler saw all this happen, he thought, *What these men are saying must really be true.* And he believed the truth about Jesus.

After that, Saul and Barnabas went on to other places to do the work the Lord had sent them to do.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

If you belong to Jesus, there is some special work He wants you to do someday. He knows you will be the best one to do it, for He made you with that in mind. He will show you what it is at the right time. Let us thank Him for whatever work He has for you to do. (Teacher, lead in prayer.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Tell the children to pretend they must tell their class at school what Saul and Barnabas did. Have them draw Saul and Barnabas at the ruler's house doing the work God sent them to do; then add a bit of paste and a sprinkle of glitter to the ruler's crown.

Have each student complete the word search, with key words from this week's lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"...The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2).

The church leaders had met to pray and think about the Lord and to thank Him. For a while they did not even stop to eat. They were ready to do whatever the Lord might want them to do. Then the Holy Spirit let them know they should send Saul and Barnabas to preach about Jesus in faraway places.

CONCLUSION:

God wants all of His children to believe in Him and to serve Him. Each of us has special abilities that God has given us to do the work He wants us to do. However, when there is a very special job to do, God will choose who He knows can do the very best job possible. The same way that He chose Barnabas and Saul from those working in the church, He still does the same today. The job may be different from going to faraway lands like these two did, but whatever it is, we can trust that those selected by God are the best that He has at the time.

PRAYER:

Father God, we know that You are wise and that You have good plans for us. Help us to do the work that You have for us to do. Thank You for helping us to tell others about You, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Living for Jesus**" and describes how believers should behave toward each other and how we each have at least one special ability to help others. Read 1 Corinthians 12:3-21 and Ephesians 4:1-16.

Lesson Summarized by:

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WORD SEARCH
Going Out to Serve
(Acts 13:1-12)

Find each of the following words.

SERVE

MINISTERED

SYNAGOGUES

BARNABAS

PAUL

JOHN MARK

SORCERER

BARJESUS

MISSIONARY

BELIEVED

ANTIOCH

DEPUTY

PRAYED

PREACHED

SANCTIFY

FASTED

C S S O A C R J U O C H E Y M B E L I E V E D D I
A C S Y R A N O I S S I M E K I S E B E E B E O R
R P O A R B E S H R R D B R H A N E H A S U Y O D
R A R P S E Y H I G O B A H N S B I V I U I T S D
D J C B I H A P S C B M H C N E R E S E V R E S T
Y I E C R S A N E B N B T N C U D P I T N S K V E
G C R O R S U D T H F I R S U G I R N E E N U A R
A N E N A I F Y O I F S A R J O N E S B E R I Y A
S I R H R K A J S Y O R B N M G P A U A V N E R Y
B F A S T E D E E R T C O G Y A A C S A T S S D A
N R Y Y P S D P A U L L H T I N U H E A R J S A S
Y F E P R A Y E D R A A U E N Y Y E J C J S H H B
S I C I E S P K A M N P E H E S E D R F I B F L N
E D E C A M S S C K E N S E E A E S A A E P D R H
B A R N A B A S N D V G A D S D U S B R E E M G S
B T E O C E I T U D N E E B M E S A E R M H T H V

Solution to Word Search – Going Out to Serve (Acts 13:1-12)

M B E L I E V E D
S Y R A N O I S S I M K I S
O R A N
R A N S I
C A M C E S E V R E S
E N N T U P T
R T H I G R E
E O I F O E S R
R J Y O G A U E
F A S T E D C Y A C S D
P A U L H T N H E
P R A Y E D U Y E J
P S D R
E A
B A R N A B A S D B

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