

## Bible background

Acts 13; 11:19-30; 12:25

## Aim of lesson

To set the context/scene for the rest of Saul's life of service to God and Jesus.

## Preparation required

- (a) Collect pictures/posters and a map of the Mediterranean, Cyprus and Asia Minor.
- (b) Special jobs - think of simple tasks that two children can do together.
- (c) Collect requirements for 'special jobs'.
- (d) Prepare a 'things to take on your travels' list.
- (e) Cut the boats from the worksheet for easy assembly.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. In twos, give the children special jobs to do, e.g. (a) making a drink of orange/lemon for everyone in the class, (b) making a small sandwich to share with everyone. When they have finished doing the job, talk together about how they got on with it - working together - what did they have to do; share, talk, listen - discuss whether they managed to do the job; how well; are they pleased with it?
2. Remind them of the story of Paul so far - do they know what special job God and Jesus had for Saul to do? Where did we leave Saul? When Saul had been making life difficult for the Christians in Jerusalem, many of them went away to different cities and countries to escape from him. Talk about what they did there - teaching about Jesus to other Jews and non-Jews - Gentiles, using Antioch as an example. Explain how Barnabas remembered Saul and went to find him.
3. Think about the special jobs the children did at the start of the lesson - how did they know what to do? How did God tell Saul and Barnabas what to do? What did the teacher have to do before the children were able to do the jobs? - planning, thinking ahead, assembling ingredients, etc. What did the children have to do before they could do the jobs? - get ready, wash hands, listen and understand what to do, etc. What did Saul and Barnabas have to do before they could do God's special job? - fast, pray, prepare.
4. Use the 'things to take when you travel' list to help the children 'plan' Saul and Barnabas' journey - give them each the boat model worksheet to colour and to put in all the things they think Saul and Barnabas needed to take! Make up the models and sail them away to Cyprus. Show the children the map and pictures of the Mediterranean, and Cyprus. Tell the children briefly of the apostles' encounter with Sergius Paulus and Elymas, 'and sail on to Asia Minor'.
5. Explain that wherever Paul (mention Saul's change of name from Hebrew to Greek) and Barnabas went, they talked first to the Jewish people about how Jesus had died and been raised from the dead. But the non-Jews were understandably also very interested to hear all about this message, and many of them believed it. Talk about the way in which the Jews became jealous of the popularity of Paul and Barnabas, and their subsequent behaviour.

## Alternative activities

1. Use play dough, junk, or Lego to make model boats. Use play dough to make some of the things Paul would need to take on his journey.
2. If you have room, use furniture, a sheet or blanket to make a ship for the children to sit in. Dress up and role-play the loading of the ship, rowing, pulling on the ropes, steering, keeping watch etc.
3. Play a memory game, "When Paul went to preach he took ...". Each child recalls the previous item from the list and adds something new. For very young children, make a set of picture cue cards and give one to each child. They can then name the object on their card and easily remember what the others have said. Some of the items could be: a scroll, money, cloak, stick, food, drink, a helper/friend, pen, bag.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Share the drinks and sandwiches the children prepared at the beginning of the lesson. Talk about the special jobs God and Jesus ask the people who are part of their family to do - share the gospel, care for the church, care for others, grow and help others to grow in living properly for God and Jesus.

## **Prayer**

Thank you, God, for the special job you gave Paul and Barnabas to do. Help us to do our special jobs just as well for you. Thank you for all your kindness to us in Jesus.

## **Verse**

'God raised Jesus from the dead.' Acts 13:30 (Paul and Barnabas' message).