



Date: _____
Series: A Miraculous Church
Spring Year 2, Lesson 56

A Miraculous Help – The New Church in Antioch

Take Home Point: *Help carry one another's burdens. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 11:19-30

Key Verse: Galatians 6:2, "Help carry each other's burdens. In this way you will follow Christ's teachings."

We will help kids know:

- A prophet, Agabus, predicted a severe famine and the believers in Jerusalem would have a future need.
- The believers in Antioch made plans to meet those needs.
- We are to carry one another's burdens, especially those who are fellow believers.
- It is through God's love for us in Christ that we can have a miraculous response to another's burdens.




We will help kids feel:

- Moved to help carry another's burdens.
- Compassion for those in need.

We will help kids do:

- Play a game illustrating how a person may be lifted if many fingers are used.
- Design a plan of action, to be carried out in the next month to meet someone's needs.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|
| Small Group Warm-Up  | 3 | Kids are challenged to lift one of their group members using only their fingers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none |
| Large Group  | 4 7 9 9 | Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Unburdened” – Gordy learns a burden is a heavy load someone carries much like a backpack full of books. Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> —Acts 11:19-30. Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Unburdened” – Gordy learns that we can help others carry their burdens because Jesus carried the burden of our sins. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • backpack filled with schoolbooks • Kit Kat® candy bar • Gordy’s “News Boy” hat • Gordy puppet • Bible • <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> video. Produced by Visual Bible International, 1997 • notepad and pencil |
| Small Group Application  | 4 | Make a plan of action for the group to help lift the burden of someone else. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In advance, research some needs of others. It may be a ministry project in your church or community. (See your pastor or local newspaper.) • roll of LifeSavers® to be shared in the group |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Note: If your group is small in number, you may want to combine with another group for the beginning activity.

Say to kids:

I have a challenge for you to lift someone off the floor using only two fingers.

Allow someone to try, but watch for safety.

Here's how this can be done.

Have one volunteer that would like to be lifted up lie stiff on the floor. Have nine other kids, four on each side and one at the head.

For safety, allow the kids to lift the volunteer only one foot high.

Those who are going to lift need to fold your hands like you are praying but extend your two index fingers. Slide your two fingers under a part of the person to be lifted. There should be a lifter at the ankles, legs, back, shoulders, and one person at the head.

On the count of three all lift together until this person is one foot off the floor.

Make sure the person on the floor is very stiff, legs together, and arms at his/her side.

Ready? One, two, three, lift.

Allow others to have a turn. Then say:

When have you ever felt someone lift you up – not physically lift you up, but someone made you feel better? Maybe you were very sad and someone did something nice for you.

In the Bible, this is referred to as lifting someone else's burden. A burden is a load. Today we will learn, **Help carry one another's burdens.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Unburdened” – Gordy learns a burden is a heavy load someone carries much like a backpack full of books.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts* – Produced by Visual Bible International 1997. Show Acts 11:19-30.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Unburdened” – Gordy learns that we can help others carry their burdens because Jesus carried the burden of our sins.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 11:19-30 in their Bibles.

What happened to the believers after Stephen's death? (Acts 11:19.
They were scattered to other cities far away.)

What did the believers in Antioch do according to Acts 11:20-21?
(*They spread the Good News about Jesus to the Greeks. The Lord's power was with them and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord.*)

What did the church in Jerusalem do to help encourage the believers in Antioch to keep up the good work they were doing? (Acts 11:22.
They sent Barnabus to encourage them.)

Barnabus later brought Saul back to Antioch with him to teach and train these believers. What were these believers in Antioch called for the first time? *(Acts 11:26. The disciples were called Christians for the first time in the city of Antioch.)*

What did the believers in Antioch decide to do when the prophet Agabus predicted there would be a famine that would affect the entire world? *(Acts 11:29. They collected all they could afford to help believers in Judea.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How do you think the people of Jerusalem felt receiving help from the people in Antioch? *(Amazed, thankful, relieved, joyful.)*

How do you think the people from Antioch felt about giving to the people of Jerusalem? *(Joyful.)*

What does this act show about the faith of the believers in Antioch? *(They had grown in their faith. They trusted God to provide for their needs and they loved others enough to share with them. They were not selfish.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Our key verse from Galatians 6:2 says, “Help carry each other’s burdens. In this way you will follow Christ’s teachings.”

What are we supposed to do for each other? *(Carry each other’s burdens.)*

What is a burden? *(Something very heavy we carry in our lives.)*

What can our actions of helping others do for them? *(Encourage them.)*

How does helping to lift others’ burdens help us? *(We grow in our faith and trust in God to provide our needs. We can experience the joy of seeing others helped.)*

Application Activity:

Supplies: LifeSavers® candies

Share what you have learned about someone in your community that is carrying a burden or is in need.

Spend the remainder of the time planning how your group can help lift their burden. Write down your game plan to be followed within the next month. While discussing, pass out the LifeSavers® candies. Ask kids why they think this was the snack chosen for this activity. *(They can help be a lifesaver for someone else.)*

Remind kids of who is our true lifesaver.

Jesus is our lifesaver and saved us from the consequence of our sins. He carried the burden of our sins for us. Because he loved us this much, we can show others our love and thanks to God by helping to carry their burdens.

Today we have made plans to **help carry one another's burdens.* Let's pray for that now.

Closing Prayer:

Thank Jesus that he is our burden bearer. Ask for God's guidance in helping carry the burden of the person(s) your group chose. Ask that through your actions, this person(s) would come to know Jesus, if they don't already know him.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy Gets Unburdened Puppet Presentation

Supplies needed: Backpack filled with school books (Gordy's size or larger), hat for Gordy with "Newsboy" on it used in previous lessons, Gordy's notepad and pencil, Kit Kat® candy bar, the Visual Bible: Acts cued up to show Acts 11:19-30.

Mr. King: Kids, should we welcome Gordy?

Gordy enters pretending to fly back and forth.

Mr. King: Gordy, what's up?

Gordy: Man, I can fly.

Mr. King: What are you talking about?

Gordy: You should have seen how high they lifted me up.

Mr. King: I bet.

Gordy: Yeah, I don't think I weigh as much as you, Mr. King.

Mr. King: That's correct, Gordy. Did you have a chance to lift someone up?

Gordy: Yeah, a bunch of us did. I never realized how strong I am.

Mr. King: But, it wasn't just you, Gordy. It was all of you working together.

Gordy: I guess I did have some help.

Mr. King: That's it. Today we are learning that together we can carry one another's burden. Do you know what a burden is Gordy?

Gordy: Sure. It's what a person says right after he builds a snowman.

Mr. King: What?

Gordy: When it's really cold outside, and I have just finished building a snowman, I say, "Brrrr, done."

Mr. King: Oh, I get it. Well, the burden we are talking about is something that a person carries. It can be very heavy and weigh you down. It is like a backpack.

Gordy: I have one of those.

Mr. King: I've seen you carry it on the way to school. Today, though, we are learning that since God has helped carry our burdens by giving us Jesus, we can help carry one another's burdens.

Gordy: That's great! Wait right here, Mr. King. I have something for you.

Gordy disappears behind the stage and reappears with a heavy backpack.

Mr. King: Gordy, this looks like your school backpack.

Gordy: Yup! It's my burden.

Mr. King: But, this is just a backpack.

Gordy: No, it is much more than that. Go ahead and open it up.

Mr. King opens the backpack.

Mr. King: This looks like your schoolbooks.

Gordy: Bingo!

Mr. King: Why are you giving it to me?

Gordy: So you can help carry my burden. I really need you to do my homework for me.

Mr. King: Spending time helping someone with his or her homework is a good example of helping carry someone's burden. But doing it all for them is not a good idea.

Gordy: I figured you would say that.

Mr. King: Gordy, there are many other things we can do to help carry one another's burdens.

Gordy: Like what?

Mr. King: Gordy, I have a big "scoop" for you to write about today. We are going to watch a video about Christians in the early church. They were learning to trust Jesus and to show his love

by sharing what they had with those in need. They learned to carry one another's burdens.

Let's listen to Luke, the author of the book of Acts, tell us what happened. Something miraculous! Let's check it out.

Gordy: Wait right here. I need to get my pad and pencil.

Gordy goes behind the stage.

Video

Show *The Visual Bible: Acts*, Acts 11:19-30, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997.

Gordy Gets Unburdened Puppet Conclusion

Gordy returns when the video is done with notepad and pencil.

Gordy: Wait a minute, I think I missed part of it.

Mr. King: We'll have an eyewitness come up front and see if he/she can help you out.

Bring up a volunteer. Have the student bring his/her Bible or have one available for him.

Gordy: I heard something about God's hand being on the believers. But I don't understand what happened.

Mr. King: How about having a volunteer read Acts 11:21 to find out? Read it for us, please. (*"A large number of people believed and turned to the Lord."*)

Gordy: I forgot the person's name that was sent from the church in Jerusalem to the church in Antioch. Do you know who that was?

Mr. King: (*To volunteer*) Look at verse 22. (*Barnabas.*)

Do you know what was predicted to happen? Agabus the prophet made the prediction.

Gordy: If it were me, I'd predict changing his name. Agabus to Agacore or Agabite.

Mr. King: Now is not the time to be funny, Gordy. Let's have our volunteer see if he/she can remember. If you can't, check verse 27 and 28. *(A famine)*

Gordy: What's a famine?

Mr. King: When there is not enough food harvested for everyone and many go hungry.

Gordy: *(To volunteer)* It seemed that the followers of Jesus decided to do something to help the people in Jerusalem. But, I don't remember what it was. Do you remember?

Mr. King: If you need help you can look at verse number 29. *(They sent whatever they could to help the people in Jerusalem.)*

Mr. King: Our volunteer did a great job today. We have a special treat for you. It's a Kit Kat® candy bar. This is a reminder to share one another's burdens. So, keep half and give the other half to someone else to encourage them. Keep the "Kit" and give away the "Kat."

Have volunteer return to his/her seat.

Mr. King: So, Gordy, do you have enough information for your story?

Gordy: Just about. Only one more question.

Mr. King: What is it?

Gordy: Why do we have to help others?

Mr. King: You mean why should we help carry others' burdens?

Gordy: Yes, that's it.

Mr. King: Gordy, tell me something. Who carried the biggest burden in the whole world?

Gordy: Spiderman? He helped out a lot of people.

Mr. King: Gordy, do you know who is real and bigger than Spiderman?

Gordy: I know...Jesus!

Mr. King: Do you know what burden he carried?

Gordy: He carried the burden of all of our sins. Is that right?

Mr. King: Absolutely! He died for us on the cross so that we wouldn't have to carry that burden around. We are freed because of his forgiveness. We can now serve Jesus because we want to.

Gordy: Is that why we want to help others?

Mr. King: It sure is. We help carry others' burdens, because Jesus carried ours.

Gordy: They did that a lot in the early church, didn't they?

Mr. King: They sure did. They shared everything.

Gordy: I wish people would do that today, too.

Mr. King: Gordy, they do. The church today can share just as much as they did back then. It can be a miraculous church.

Gordy: What do you mean by a miraculous church?

Mr. King: Here is a story about a real family and how their church lifted a burden. Listen carefully to the story, Gordy, so when we're through, you say the closing prayer. We want all of our churches to be like this and **help carry one another's burden.*

LISA'S STORY

Lisa loved Jesus. "Everything in my life is so good," she thought. "I have a wonderful healthy husband, two beautiful children, and a big house filled with everything we need and want. I am really happy."

Everything seemed so perfect until one day the unexpected happened. Lisa's husband, Jack, had a heart attack. The doctors told him, "You only have two to three years to live. We can give you medicine that will cost about \$1,000 a month. But, there is no surgery to help make you better."

Jack was not able to go to work while he was sick. Because of this, he was fired from his job. Lisa was very burdened. "How will we be able to pay for our house and food? How can I take care of the needs of my children?"

The bank took away Lisa and Jack's house because they were not able to make the necessary payments.

Lisa, Jack and their children had to sell everything inside their house to pay for the medicine Jack needed. Then they had to find another place to live.

Friends from Lisa's church heard what was happening. "What can we do to lift the burden they are carrying?" they asked one another. As the need was passed on, miraculous things began to happen.

When Jack and Lisa sold all their furniture from their house, many church people came to the sale. They paid higher prices than what was asked for. Then people offered to give back Lisa and Jack's belongings, if they wanted them back. One person offered them a home with furniture in it.

Still, other people gave Lisa food, clothes, and money. Lisa and Jack cried as they experienced their burden being lifted by so many people helping their family.

Even though it was a very hard time, Lisa was able to say, "I love Jesus more today than yesterday. My Christian friends have shown me by their example how much God loves me. My burden has been lifted."

Mr. King: You see, Gordy, miraculous things still happen today in our churches. Gordy, would you pray?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for giving us examples of people who help one another. Help us lift others' burdens when something bad happens to them. Thank you for giving us Jesus, who lifts our burdens so that we can help lift others. Let our church be like that miraculous church that really helps those in need. In Jesus' name, Amen.