



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Mission Adventures  
Spring Year 3, Lesson 52

# Paul and Barnabas Begin Their Journey

**Take Home Point:** \*God set you apart to do something special for him. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 12:24-13:33

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you as a good manager must use the gift God has given you to serve others."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Paul and Barnabas who were set apart by the Holy Spirit for missionary service.
- God sets apart every Christian for a special work wherever he calls that person to serve him.
- God calls some people to be missionaries as a vocation, but he calls all believers to have a mission.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Special that God calls them for a unique purpose and mission.
- Valuable in the ways God would use them to reach others.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify goals for their life that give them a special mission to achieve.
- Discuss what mission God may have for them in completing the goal of serving him.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids discuss possible goals and the methods they might use to attain them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small tote bag, brief case, or backpack</li> <li>• trail mix for a snack (optional)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  9  10  12	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Joins the Circus”—Gordy talks about different ways he could achieve his goal to join the circus.</p> <p><b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>—show clip covering Acts 12:24 through 13:33.</p> <p><b>Teaching Point:</b> The presenter shows different items from the suitcase that demonstrate how God used Paul and Barnabas. The kids interact to figure out the meaning of the items.</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Joins the Circus”—Gordy realizes he has been called for a mission to serve God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small backpack for Gordy, filled with something to juggle such as oranges, balls, etc.</li> <li>• rubber mouse or cat’s toy—<i>optional</i>: mouse drawing in Appendix B</li> <li>• a fake beard</li> <li>• video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International—order from <a href="http://www.christiancinema.com">www.christiancinema.com</a></li> <li>• suitcase</li> <li>• deflated balloon</li> <li>• blindfold</li> <li>• a Bible with a cross bookmark</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Kids draw pictures or list the gifts God has given them to serve him on a suitcase picture. This shows how God has equipped them for their journey in life as set apart for him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitcase picture (see Appendix A)</li> <li>• markers</li> </ul>

# 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.

*Supplies: small tote bag, briefcase, or backpack; trail mix for a snack (optional)*

If you have a snack, pass it out as you welcome the group. Explain that because they will go on a special journey in their imagination, they will have trail mix as a snack.

Ask every child to finish the following statement:

**“Someday, I would like to \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**What would you like to do someday? It can be anything. You might have the goal of going to college or becoming something amazing like an astronaut. Maybe it would be to learn a hobby... or a sport like ice-skating... or to work with clay to make pottery.**

Pass each kid the briefcase or tote bag as he/she answers the following questions.

**As you think about what you would like to do someday, what will it take for you to accomplish that goal? Use your imagination and pretend to put something in this bag that will help you achieve that goal.**

**For an example: Someone might want to be a football player. What would they put in the bag? It might be a football. It might be hours and hours of football practice. It might be special skills in throwing or catching.**

**What will you put in the bag to complete your mission or goal?**

Let the children discuss the steps needed to complete their mission or goal.

**What would it be like if you heard God say to you, “I am setting you apart to do something very special? I’m giving you a mission.”**

**What mission do you think he would give you? What would you have to put in this bag to achieve it?**

Let kids discuss what God may have them do. Then say:

**Today we will learn that *\*God set you apart to do something special for him.***

# Large Group Overview: 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.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy Joins the Circus”—Gordy talks about different ways he could achieve his goal to join the circus.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Acts*—show the portion covering Acts 12:24 –13:33. Order from <http://www.christiancinema.com>

**Teaching Point:** The presenter shows different items from the suitcase that demonstrate how God used Paul and Barnabas. The kids interact to figure out the meaning of the items.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy Joins the Circus”—Gordy realizes he has been called for a mission to serve God.

# 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 12:24 –13:33 in their Bibles.

*This passage uses the name for Saul and Paul interchangeably. Acts 13:9 clarifies this. We will refer to him as Paul in the questions.*

**According to Acts 13:2, who set Barnabas and Paul apart for God's service? (The Holy Spirit.)**

**In Acts 13:4, who sent Paul and Barnabas to the island of Cyprus? (The Holy Spirit.)**

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Read Acts 13:9-12.

**How do you think Paul knew Elymas was from the devil?** (*Acts 13:9. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit.*)

**How did the governor respond when he saw how Paul recognized this man as a false prophet and caused him to become blind?** (*Acts 13:12. He believed and the Lord's teachings amazed him.*)

**In Acts 13:13-31, Paul shares the Good News. What is this Good News as summarized in Acts 13:32-33?** (*"...What God promised our ancestors has happened. God has fulfilled the promise for us, their descendants, by bringing Jesus back to life..."*)

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Who will call you apart for God's service?** (*The Holy Spirit.*) **How do you think you will know it is him?**

**The key verse from 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you as a good manager must use the gift God has given you to serve others."**

**What are some gifts the Holy Spirit has given you to use to serve God and others?** (*If kids have a hard time thinking of their gifts, ask them what they are good at and how they can do that for God. If they still struggle, tell them what you see in them or ask them to think of things others compliment them in.*)

**Let's talk about all the things God has done for us.** (*God gave us all things, but, especially, God gave us his Son Jesus. Because Jesus gave his life for us, we can live forever with God. This is the best gift of all and what we want to give away to others.*)

Application Activity: Travel bag

*Supplies needed: a suitcase picture for each child and markers*

Pass out the suitcase picture and markers. Have them fold the picture in half so the suitcase is on the outside. Say:

**This suitcase will symbolize the journey for which God has called you and set you apart. He does not leave you empty handed, though. He equips you with the tools needed to serve him, just like he did for Paul and Barnabas.**

**We discussed some of the unique gifts God has given you. Draw a picture on one half of the inside of this card that reminds you of the gift that God has given you.**

While the kids draw, further discuss:

**What are some of the ways we can talk about what God has done for us? What are some of the ways we can show others God's love?**  
*(Talk to others, be friends, be helpful to our families, pray for others.)*

Have kids then write some words or draw some pictures on the other half of the inside showing ways they would like to share with others what God has done for them.

**Even though this is a simple paper suitcase, it is a wonderful way to remember that *\*God set you apart to do something special* for him. You may not be a missionary going to the other side of the world, but you certainly are going to be able to share his love with people around you this week.**

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the Good News of Jesus. Thank God that he has set each of us apart and equipped us for his service. Pray that all would listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and be obedient to his calling. Ask kids to pray for the special needs of people they know.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation:

20-30 minutes

## Series Overview: MISSION ADVENTURES

*For the next several weeks, we will investigate Paul's first and second missionary journeys. Week to week children will be reminded that though Paul and others were set apart to be missionaries by vocation, God has not called all of us to be missionaries. He has, however, called us to have a mission. That mission is to serve him.*

*A suitcase and a backpack are used to illustrate the main point in the large group presentation. The presenter uses the suitcase to talk about Paul and one of his adventures---specifically, a mission adventure. The small backpack or knapsack is attached to Gordy, the puppet. Some weeks Gordy will have an object in his pack that will help explain his perception of having a mission. Most weeks, however, an object from the traveling suitcase will be given to Gordy to be put in his pack. Week to week Gordy will discover more about how God has called him to serve.*

### Gordy Joins the Circus

Puppet Presentation

*Supplies: small backpack for Gordy filled with something to juggle such as oranges, balls, etc.; rubber mouse or cat's toy—optional mouse drawing in appendix, a fake beard, suitcase, balloon, blindfold, the Bible with a cross bookmark*

*Gordy has a backpack strapped on or taped to his hand. The presenter needs a large suitcase on stage.*

**Presenter:** Kids, shall we call Gordy?

Kids call for Gordy: **Gordy...Gordy...Gordy**

Gordy: Yo, (presenters name). Yo, kids. How are you today?

**Presenter:** Great.

Gordy: What's in your suitcase, (presenters name)?

**Presenter:** Well, I will tell in a few minutes but how about me asking you the same question? Why are you carrying your backpack?

Gordy: My shepherd borrowed my backpack to use for today's Warm-Up questions.

**Presenter:** What did you talk about today?

Gordy: We talked about what we might like to do someday.

**Presenter: So what do you want to do someday?**

Gordy: That's easy. I want to join the circus.

**Presenter: Join the circus? What would you do?**

Gordy: Look inside my backpack. It just so happens I've been practicing.

Peek into Gordy's backpack. Then pull out the balls.

**Presenter: Ahh. What are all these for?**

Gordy: I'm going to be the only one who can juggle 21 ping-pong balls (*or an inordinate amount of whatever is in Gordy's backpack*).

**Presenter: Well, that sounds pretty complicated and difficult. Are you sure you can do it?**

Gordy: If I can't do it, I've got a second way to join the circus.

**Presenter: What's that?**

Gordy: Check out what else is in my backpack.

Pull out a rubber mouse or other object.

**Presenter: Well, what's this mouse for?**

Gordy: This is so I can be an elephant tamer. I want to teach elephants how to square dance.

**Presenter: Square dance?**

Gordy: Yeah. Up on two legs. You know—dosido and round the corner I go.

**Presenter: Elephants?**

Gordy: Sure. I've got the mouse.

**Presenter: How will that help? Elephants are afraid of mice.**

Gordy: If they don't do what I want, I'll just pull out the mouse and scare them with it and make them dance.

**Presenter: Gordy, are you sure that will work?**



Gordy: If it doesn't, I'll do this...

Pull a fake beard out of the backpack.

**Presenter: Huhhhhh? What's this?**

Gordy: Well, if elephant taming doesn't work, I could always be the bearded lady.

**Presenter: (*Shaking head*) I'm glad you've got the goal to join the circus; and you've thought about a couple of different ways to get there.**

Gordy: Thank you, (*presenters name*). Say, I've showed you what was in my bag. Show me what's in yours.

**Presenter: The things in my suitcase will help tell about a special mission God gave the disciples Paul and Barnabas.**

Gordy: Paul and who?

**Presenter: Paul and Barnabas. Paul was the same guy who was first named Saul. Earlier, he persecuted Christians. Jesus showed himself to Saul, changed his life, and renamed him Paul. Paul became a follower of Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God set him apart for a new work... to be a missionary. Paul joined together with Barnabas and traveled through many lands telling others about Jesus.**

Gordy: So what is in the suitcase?

**Presenter: I'll show you right after we look at this video. It will cover what is in the Bible from Acts 12:24 and following. Paul went on three missionary journeys. This describes the beginning of his first one. Let's watch it and I'll talk to you again afterwards.**

Gordy exits.

## Video

Show the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts* – show the clip covering Acts 12:24 through 13:33. When the video is finished continue with the teaching point. Order from <http://www.christiancinema.com> .

## Teaching Point

**Boys and girls, you saw several followers of Jesus at the beginning of this video. Did God call all of those people to be missionaries? Were all of them called to deliver a message to people in other lands? No, God called only three men: Paul, Barnabas and John Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark.**

**What did they need for their journey? I will take an object from my suitcase and let different people from the audience guess how it relates to what we saw in the video. Please raise your hands when you want to answer the question.**

The first object is a balloon. Take it out and blow it up and let it fly across the room.

**What does this balloon show is necessary for missionaries to serve God? Hint: we talked about it a few weeks ago on Pentecost Sunday. (Answer: the Holy Spirit.)**

**The Holy Spirit is like the air inflating the balloon. The Holy Spirit can fill our life. He is the power that sends us to wherever God wants us to be. The Holy Spirit led Paul, Barnabas and John Mark to be missionaries. That doesn't mean we are all called to be missionaries but we all are called to have a mission to serve God.**

The next object is a blindfold. Pull it out of the suitcase. Ask a child to come from the audience. Put the blindfold on him/her.

**Paul told a sorcerer he was a "child of the devil." That means the man was walking in spiritual darkness. He didn't follow God. So when he tried to influence the government leader not to listen to Paul, Paul used God's power, the Holy Spirit, to show everyone that the sorcerer was spiritually blind by making him physically blind in his eyes. When God sets people apart for a special mission, he will always give them whatever they need to do it, even the power to do miracles.**

Remove the blindfold from the child and send him/her back to the audience. Then pull out the Bible with the cross bookmark.

**What does this Bible and bookmark remind you of?**

Take some answers, and then continue.

**This is the word of God. Paul and Barnabas always spoke in the Jewish synagogue, the Jewish church, when they went to a city or town. Sometimes the people there didn't want to hear God's word. They got angry and wanted the disciples to leave. If the people did**

not want to hear the Good News about Jesus, the disciples took off their sandals, shook the dust off of them, and went to another place. This meant that they were no longer responsible for those people who refused to listen. They went to other places or towns to share the gospel of Jesus' love to people who wanted to hear about him and how he gave his life so they could be rescued from the power of sin.

And now the question is this. How many of you think God is calling you—setting you apart—to be a missionary? Do you know the answer to that? I don't know. Some of you could be called to be missionaries, called to go to another place or country. You may be called to serve other people and they may come to know Jesus as their Savior. But God doesn't call everyone to be missionaries.

So how many of you does God give the mission to serve him? Every hand should be up. Because if you are a believer—and know, love and follow Jesus—then he has given you a mission to do something special for him. 1 Peter 4:10 says,

*“Each of you as a good manager must use the gift that God has given you to serve others.”*

Boys and girls, you all have been given gifts. *\*God set you apart to do something special.* That something special may be inviting a friend to church or Kingdom Quest; or being a friend to someone at school who has no friends; or it might be telling someone about how Jesus has given his life for you—and because of that, you will be with him forever.

Some of you have special gifts. Some of you can sing and can serve in worship. Some of you are good with your hands and can help in artwork or construction. Some of you are very kind and can help other people. Some of you are bold leaders and can influence others when they want to go in the wrong direction.

Let me call Gordy back out so we can talk about what special things you can do for God.

# **Gordy Joins the Circus**

## **Puppet Conclusion**

**Presenter:** So, Gordy, what did you think about today's Bible event?

Gordy: I liked the part where the sorcerer got it in the eyes!

**Presenter:** That was something. But I think it was even better that Paul and Barnabas helped people see.

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Presenter:** They helped people see the truth about who God is and how he sent his Son Jesus.

Gordy: Paul and Barnabas were pretty important people in the Bible, weren't they?

**Presenter:** They sure were. God set them apart to do something special.

Gordy: Even better than joining a circus?

**Presenter:** Yes, Gordy, even better than joining a circus.

Gordy: Wow! I wish God would do something like that for me.

**Presenter:** He does.

Gordy: What? I'm not a missionary.

**Presenter:** God may not set you apart to be a missionary. He may not send you to other countries, but he is setting you apart.

Gordy: What do you mean setting me apart?

**Presenter:** Gordy, God has something very special for you to do right where he has you.

Gordy: Where?

**Presenter:** In your home... at your school... in your neighborhood. God set you apart to do something special everyday to serve him.

Gordy: Like, what am I supposed to do?

**Presenter:** Well, think about it. You could invite a friend to church or Kingdom Quest. You could be a friend to someone at school who doesn't have friends.

Gordy: Yeah, I'm good at that.

**Presenter:** There's more! You can always talk about what Jesus has done for you: how he gave his life for you so you can live with him forever. Other people will be interested in Jesus, too.

Gordy: Yes, I could talk to them.

**Presenter:** So, do you see, Gordy? God is setting you apart to serve him. You don't have to be a missionary and go to another land.

Gordy: Or join the circus and become a bearded lady.

**Presenter:** Right. And this is so much more important. Would you pray?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for guys like Paul and Barnacle or Barnabas, whatever his name was. Thank you for sending them to tell others about you—or maybe we would have never heard about Jesus. Help us to remember that you set me apart to do something special for you—just like you set everyone here apart to do something special, too. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Appendix A: Copy on cardstock. Fold in half.*

