

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to talk about Paul and an important lesson he learned about God and favorites. Paul was Jewish and he used to hate people who followed Jesus. But, his heart changed when Jesus appeared to him. From that point on, he taught about Jesus everywhere he went. In fact, it was while Paul was traveling around that he learned an important lesson. Paul and another guy, Barnabas, were traveling from city to city teaching the Jewish people about Jesus. But, some Jews didn't like what they were teaching. They felt like they were God's favorites, already. They didn't need Jesus to save them. So, some people were really mean to Paul and Barnabas and eventually ran them out of town. It was at this point that Paul realized that God loved Gentiles, too. Gentiles were the non-Jews. They didn't know God or the law. So, Paul turned his attention to the Gentiles and starting teaching them about Jesus. This was a big deal. See, God wants everyone to know him. He offers forgiveness to anyone who asks, no matter who they are.

Big Idea

God didn't play favorites when he gave the gift of Jesus.

Key Question

Why do we need Jesus?

Memory Verse

Acts 13:47 "I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What's your favorite movie? What's your favorite dessert? What's your favorite item in your room?** (Tip: We all have our favorite things. God doesn't have favorites. He wants relationship with all of us.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **He forgives our sins and makes us right with God.** (This is what the Jewish people got wrong. They thought they were God's favorites and all they had to do to be good enough was to follow the law. But, that's not what the Bible teaches. The law can't save us, only Jesus can. He came to die to pay for our sins that keep us from having a relationship with God. So, the only way to be one of God's favorites, is by trusting in Jesus.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** What did the Jews think they needed to do to be right with God? What does the Bible say we need to do? **4-5th:** The Gentiles were like the outcasts. What do you think they thought when Paul said they could know Jesus, too?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read [Galatians 3:26-28](#). What do you think it means that we are all one in Christ? According to this passage, who is God's favorite?** (Answer: This is the best news of all. It doesn't matter what family you were born into, if you're tall or short, an athlete or an artist. All it takes to be in God's family is putting your trust in Jesus. Heaven will be full of people from all over the world who have trusted in Jesus.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: GOD DOESN'T PLAY FAVORITES BOOKMARK

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Bookmark template (page 5).
- Have them color and decorate their bookmark. Then have them cut out each box and have them glue them onto their bookmark.
- As they work, read the story of Paul and Barnabas from Acts 13:38-49. Remind the kids that God didn't play favorites when he sent Jesus. Jesus died for everyone's sins, no matter who they are.

Supplies needed: Bookmark template (pg. 5, 1 per kid), Crayons, Scissors, Glue

OPTION 2: MEMORY VERSE GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, place the Memory verse words (page 6-7) in a bowl or basket.
- Have kids take turns coming up and pulling a word out. Each time, tape the word up on the whiteboard.
- Once all the words are on the board, work as a class to get the words in the correct order to say the memory verse.

Supplies needed: Memory verse words (pg. 6-7, pre cut) Tape, Bowl/Basket

Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- Paul and Barnabas went on a big missionary _____. Acts 13:13-15
- Some of the Jews were _____ and said _____ things about Paul. Acts 13:44-45
- Paul made a decision to go to the _____. Acts 13:46-49
- God didn't play _____ when he gave the gift of Jesus.

Big Idea

God didn't play favorites when he gave the gift of Jesus.

Key Question

Why do we need Jesus?

Memory Verse

Acts 13:47 "I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth."

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. What's your favorite movie? What's your favorite dessert? What's your favorite item in your room?
3. Who were Paul and Barnabas teaching about as they traveled around?
4. Who were the Gentiles? Why did the Jews think they were God's favorite?
5. Read Galatians 3:26-28. What do you think it means that we are all one in Christ? According to this passage, who is God's favorite?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

GOD DIDN'T PLAY FAVORITES WHEN HE GAVE THE GIFT OF JESUS

Key Question

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Memory Verse

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PAUL PREACHING AT THE
SYNAGOGUE



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