

YEAR A | QUARTER 2

4

Christ Folk

Community
We experience God's love in our church.

POWER TEXT

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 11:19-30
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 16, pp. 155-165
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 65-67
- Student story on page 52 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 12, The Church
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that we are stronger when we work together.
- **Feel** grateful for the support of their church family.
- **Respond** by being supportive of their friends and church family.

POWERPOINT

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Some of the Christians who are persecuted go as far as Phoenicia, Antioch, and Cyprus. In Antioch a church is raised up with many believers. This church needs support. The church at Jerusalem sends Barnabas to support the church in Antioch and the other churches in this area. Some time later a great famine comes to Palestine, and the members in these new churches collect relief aid and send it to assist people in the church in Jerusalem.

This is a lesson about community.

When members of a community work together for the common good, everyone benefits, and God's work of spreading the gospel of His grace expands exponentially.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. The name was given [to] them because Christ was the main theme of their preaching, their teaching, and their conversation. . . . They preached Christ and addressed their prayers to God through Him.

"It was God who gave to them the name of Christian. This is a royal name, given to all who join themselves to Christ" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 157).

How do I work together for the good of the community? What else can I do to contribute to others' needs?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. Disaster Daze	paper, pens/pencils
		B. All About You	bag filled with various objects that remind of our relationship with God
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 47. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 149)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, Bible maps, pushpins (optional)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenarios*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Plan a Project*	church calendar, pens/pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and closing comments	
		B. Reminder to parents	
		C. Coming up next week	

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens or pencils

Disaster Daze

Say: **Everyone is in a panic. A big disaster has struck your town. You learn that yours is the only family in the church whose house is not destroyed. You alone have a supply of food, water, clothing, and electricity. How will your family help the other church members? In groups, design a step-by-step plan to supply everyone's needs.** When the plans are finished, have each group report to the class.

Debriefing

Ask: **What about the other members of the community who don't belong to your church? Are you supposed to help them too? Why or why not?** (Encourage responses.) **Will you put the needs of church members first? Why or why not?** (Encourage responses.)
Let's say together our power text:

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

Say: **Remember our power point:**

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ bag filled with various objects that remind of our relationship with God

All About You

Before Sabbath School begins, fill a bag with various items that remind of the importance of maintaining a consistent relationship with God (i.e., Bible, mirror, small branch with fruit on it). Place chairs in a circle. As the students come in, explain to them that they will choose one item from the bag as they sit in a circle. After students have arrived, all should sit in a circle and pass around the bag. Each of them will then take out an item and try to explain how it reminds them of their relationship with God.

Debriefing

Ask: **In what way can our possessions tell others about our relationship with God?** (Accept responses.) **Why is it important to have a close relationship with God?** (God helps, supports, and saves us.) **Why does God want Christians to live in such a way that non-Christians can tell they have a relationship with Him?** (So they will know where to go when they need support or answers to life's questions; so our love and helpfulness will draw others to know God; so church will be a warm, friendly place.) **Let's say together our power text:**

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

Say: **Let's say together our power point:**

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

Take suggestions for a song that has the same topic as the power point.

Mission

YOU NEED:

- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:

- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Whether for missionaries at home or abroad, our gifts are needed to send God's Word to those who need to hear it.**

Prayer

Have student volunteers thank God for the support of your church family and pray for people in your church who are doing missionary work. Close by praying for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

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BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three *Net Kids* scripts (p. 149)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words.

(Refer to Lesson 1 for background and setup information.) Make three copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 149 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **In what way are missionaries part of God's plan?** (They help other people find out about God.) **Would you like to be a student missionary? Where would you like to go as a student missionary?**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Bible maps
- ☐ pushpins (optional)

Experiencing the Story

Have students read Acts 11:19-30, going verse by verse around the class. Then divide the students in groups and distribute copies of various maps of Bible times and current times. Have each group make a chart of who was sharing the gospel and where they were when the early Christian church was scattered, and pinpoint these places on the maps. When everyone is finished, let them share what they found.

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you think the early Christians kept track of where people were going?** (probably, don't know) **Why might they think it important to keep track of everyone?** (to send their support; to pray for them) **Remember:**

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Before the time of Christ, other people named in the Bible shared their knowledge of a Creator God with people of other cultures. Let's look at some of them.**

Have the students look up and skim the following passages to discover who shared their knowledge of God, with whom they shared, and where they were when they did.

2 Kings 5:1-15 (Naaman and the servant girl)
Genesis 41:25-40 (Joseph)
Daniel 1; 3:19-30 (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)
Daniel 2:46, 47; 5:13-29 (Daniel)

Debriefing

Ask: **What did each of these people have in common?** (They witnessed.) **How did their witness help others?** (gave them support; helped them know God better) **Let's repeat together our power text:**

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

Say: **Remember:**

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

Scenarios

In advance, prepare slips of paper with one of the following written on each slip: broken arm, two broken legs, blind, deaf, blind and deaf, one broken leg, two broken arms. Provide one slip for each student. Distribute the slips and then tell the kids that they are the victims of a terrible disaster, each with the resulting injuries on the slip. They are to act out those injuries as they get from inside the room to outside (or if you have a large room, you could move from one side to the other). Each person's chair must also be moved with them. Give them five minutes and then call time.

Ask: **What made the activity difficult? What made it easy? Who needed help? Why? How much easier was it when someone else supported or helped you? How do you think this illustrates our power point?**

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

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SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ church calendar
- ☐ pens/pencils

Plan a Project

Divide the class into groups and have them share what they have done during the past week to tell others about Jesus, to encourage someone, or to start saving money for a disaster relief project or mission project, etc. Brainstorm ideas for a church social, vesper program, senior citizens' Sunday brunch, etc. As a class, choose a project and use the church calendar to set a date. Make a list of items needed and jobs to be done. Assign the different tasks and encourage accountability on the part of the students.

Debriefing

Ask: **What church events have you enjoyed in the past? How do church events help bring about a feeling of community?** (help church members get to know one another; work together)

How does our power text help us nurture a spirit of community with one another? Let's say it together:

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

Say: **Remember also our power point:**

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray a closing prayer for unity in the class and in the church.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul used new approaches to evangelism. God wants us to accept and love others.**

Notes

Student lesson

Christ Folk

Have you known anyone who has left everything and everyone familiar to serve God in another place? Is it something you think you could do? This week we'll read about two missionary pioneers, Paul and Barnabas.

At the end of a service with the believers in Jerusalem, one of the deacons said, "Friends, we received word today from those who left here because of persecution. Their teaching is being well received by the people in Antioch. I think we have the beginnings of another church!"

Everyone began speaking at once. "Praise God!" "That's really good news!"

"I think it's time to send someone to Antioch to help our brothers and sisters there," he continued. "What do the rest of you think?"

"We've got to help them," someone spoke up. "They'd do the same for us."

"I think Barnabas should go," someone else said. "He's proved his ability to encourage new believers."

"Yes, Barnabas is a good choice," everyone agreed.

"Are you willing to accept this assignment, Barnabas?" the deacon asked, turning to him.

"I'll go where I can help most," Barnabas said. "I can be ready to leave tomorrow."

After most of the believers had left, Barnabas talked with those remaining about Antioch. Someone asked what he knew about the city.

"It's the third-largest city within the Roman Empire," Barnabas said. "People come from all over the world to trade and do business there. Antioch is a beautiful place on the outside, but there's a lot of corruption there too. The people worship the goddess Daphne."

"It sounds as if you have your work cut out for you," one of the apostles said.

"Yes, but it is God's grace that can change people's lives," Barnabas said.

Arriving in Antioch, Barnabas found a place to stay and began searching for other believers. He found the reports about their devotion to the Lord to be true. Within a short time he, too, was teaching and leading people to Jesus.

One evening after a long day of teaching and preaching, Barnabas sat thinking. *It's exciting to see so many people accepting Jesus, but there's more work here than I can do alone. Maybe I'll ask Saul to come and help me.*

The next day Barnabas left for Tarsus, where Saul, also called Paul, had been working. Paul immediately agreed to work with Barnabas. Back in Antioch, they began teaching the Gentiles about Jesus. Soon they were being called by a new name: Christians.

"Have you heard what they've been calling us?" Paul said to Barnabas one day.

Barnabas nodded affirmatively. "Yes. Christians. They think calling us 'these Christ folk' insults us. They have no idea what a great honor it is to be named after our Lord!"

Visitors came regularly to meet with Barnabas and Paul. One day some special guests—prophets from Jerusalem—arrived. Barnabas and Paul scheduled a meeting with them and all the other believers that night.

The group gathered that evening and listened as the men gave reports from Jerusalem, Phoenicia, Cyprus, and other territories where people were teaching about Jesus. Then a man named Agabus stood to speak. Barnabas motioned for everyone to be quiet and listen.

"Recently God has given me a distressing message," he said to the group. "There will be a drought in Palestine. Our friends in Jerusalem are going to have a very difficult time."

As Agabus sat down, men and women started talking and planning. Barnabas raised his hand to silence everyone.

"It sounds as if you all have suggestions," he said, smiling. "Let's hear them."

"Let's give as much as we can to help the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem," someone suggested. Everyone nodded in agreement.

Then one by one the believers brought money or pledged goods to be given to the community of believers in Jerusalem. When the gifts were collected, the believers handed them to Barnabas.

"You and Paul should deliver our freewill offerings to the elders in Jerusalem," they said.

Barnabas and Paul looked at each other and smiled gratefully. Barnabas spoke:

"We'll leave first thing in the morning."

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 11:19-30
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 16, pp. 155-165
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 65-67
- Our Beliefs nos. 12, 14, 11

POWER TEXT

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

POWER POINT

God's people are stronger when we support one another and work together.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 33.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 11:19 and this week's story, "Christ Folk."

WRITE Write the power text on a card and review it. Don't forget to include the reference.

PRAY Pray for your pastor and the leaders in your church.

Monday

READ Read Acts 11:20, 21.

THINK What did the disciples do as they spread to different regions because of the persecution?

TELL Tell someone how God works things for your good.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you recognize the good in every situation.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 11:22–24.

THINK What do you do for the Lord that makes a difference in the lives of others?

PLAN Plan to do three things today to be an encourager like Barnabas.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to keep words of encouragement on your lips.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 11:25, 26.

THINK Based on this passage, what are the benefits of making yourself available to God wherever He leads you and for as long as He needs you?

CREATE Create an acrostic of the word "Christian," using words that describe what it means to be a Christian.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the privilege of being called a Christian.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 11:27–30.

SAVE Plan to save money each week for a disaster relief fund and pray for the disaster relief workers at ADRA.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the opportunity to help someone.

Friday

READ Reread Acts 11:19–30 with your family at worship.

THINK When did you receive help from someone? How did you feel? What are you prompted to do whenever you see someone in need? How do you help?

DISCUSS At family worship, talk with each other about ways you can help church members who are in need.

PLAN Plan to do something to help someone today.

SAY Repeat the power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God to continue to give you a heart that desires to help His people.