4

Christ Folk

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.



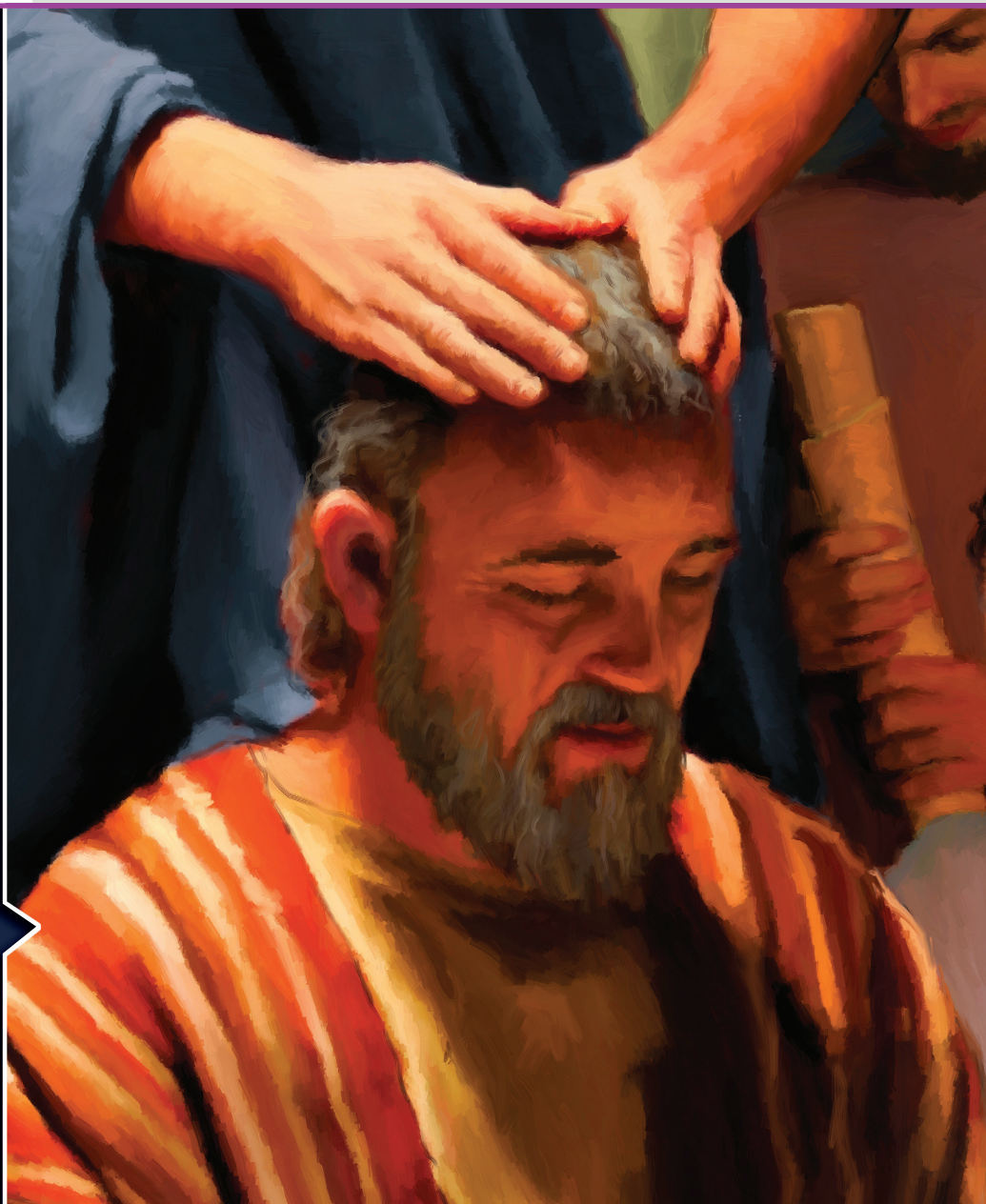












powertext

"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).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 33.

powerpoint

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

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."

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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.

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!"



4

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.

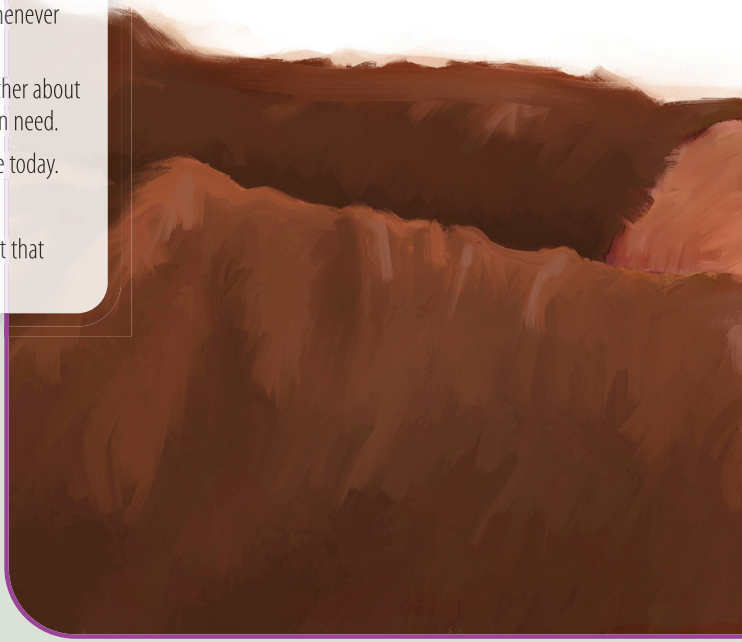
Visitors came regularly to meet with Barnabas and Paul. One day some special guests—prophets from Jerusalem—arrived. Barnabas and Paul scheduled a meeting with them and all the other believers that night.

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 told 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 sugges-



tions," 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."

