

Lesson One

Barnabas Was A Good Man

Scripture: Acts 11:22-30 with emphasis on verse 24. Also read Acts 12:25; 13:1-3.

Lesson Aim: To learn about Barnabas, a good man, who pleased God by helping others. They will also learn that little children can please God when they do good things.

Bible Words: Do that which is good (Romans 13:3).

Pre-Class: Have the pictures-to-color for **Lesson One** on the table when the children arrive (*or hand them out as they enter the room*). Also have crayons and other items they will be using on the table. Before class, color one of the pictures as an example for the children to follow.

The picture is divided into two separate parts. The top one shows a little girl crying because her tricycle is broken. The bottom one shows her daddy repairing the tricycle for her.

Show the picture you colored and talk about it. *See the little girl in the top picture? How does she look? Why do you think she is sad? Yes, she is sad because her trike is broken and she cannot ride it.*

Now look at the other picture. How does the little girl look now? She surely does look happy. Why do you think she is happy? Yes, her daddy is fixing her broken trike for her. She is also happy because she has a daddy who is good to her. Soon she will be riding her tricycle again.

As the children color the pictures, get them to tell you about something good someone did for them. Tell them that in the Bible lesson today you will tell about a good man who pleased Jesus by doing something very nice.

When it is time for class to begin, label the pictures and take them up until **Closing**.

Attendance And Welcome: The attendance chart for this first theme, **We Please Jesus When We Are Good**, shows a little boy who has been playing in his sandbox. Whenever he hears his

mother call, he comes running to see what she wants. He is a good boy to obey his mother.

Call the children, one at a time, to come to the attendance board (or area). When a child comes forward, let him know you are glad he came to Bible class today. Sing **The Welcome Song** and assist him as he adds a sticker to his chart. (See **Attendance and Welcome** in the **Introduction** of the manual for how to display the attendance charts.)

The Welcome Song

We're glad you came to class.

We're glad you came to class.

With all the others boys and girls,

We're glad you came to class.

Bible Lesson: Hold up your Bible. *Our Bible words this week are: **Do that which is good** (Romans 13:3). The Bible tells us about a good man. Show picture #1. His name was Barnabas. Can you say Barnabas? Very good. Barnabas was a Christian man. That means he loved Jesus and God and he obeyed them and did things to please them.*

Show picture #2. *Barnabas and others at the church heard about some people in another city who needed help because they had no food.* The men and women of the church collected food and money to send to those who had none.** When everything was ready to go (Show picture #3), Barnabas and another man named Saul took the food to the people who needed it.*

Show picture #4. *How do you think the people felt when they saw Barnabas and Saul coming with some food for them? Yes, I think they felt happy. I am glad God has good people, like Barnabas, who do good to others. Do you know someone who does good things?*

* The children might ask why the people had no food to eat. The Bible says there was a famine throughout all the world. Perhaps it was due to a lack of rain and crops could not grow (Acts 11:28).

**The relief sent to Judea could have been in the form of food and/or money (Acts 11:29).

Songs: Have the children move to the area designated for songs. You will need song charts for: *The Bible, The Bible; Bible Words; Do Good To All;* and *The Prayer Song*. The songs are in the back of the manual.

The Prayer Song should be sung last, followed by a prayer, thanking God for good people like Barnabas who help others.

See **Songs** in the **Introduction** for how to make and use song charts.

Application Lesson: You will need: a ball, toys to scatter on the floor, a box in which to put the toys, and a child's toothbrush.

Today we learned from the Bible about a man named Barnabas who was a good man. Do you remember what Barnabas and some other people did which was good? You are right. They gave food to some people who had no food. Jesus is happy when we do good, too. Let us look at some ways we can be good boys and girls.

What is this I have in my hand? Of course you know this is a ball. If you had a ball like this and a friend came to play with you, how would you be good to your friend? Yes, you would share the ball with your friend. Mommy is happy and Jesus is, too, when boys and girls know how to share their toys.

Where should you play with a ball — inside the house or outside the house? Yes, you always play with balls outside the house. Do you know why? Give them time to respond. Explain the dangers of throwing a ball in the house.

Scatter the toys on the floor. Look at the mess I made on the floor. Sometimes when children get finished playing with their toys, they leave them on the floor like this. What is the good thing to do when you finish playing with toys? Yes, you should pick them up and put them away. Will you please help me pick up the toys and put them in this box?

Thank you for helping me. You are all good boys and girls. That makes me happy and it makes Jesus happy, too.

Show the toothbrush. Here is something and I am sure you know what this is. Yes, it is a toothbrush. What do good boys and girls do after eating? That is right. They brush their teeth. It keeps their teeth healthy and clean. Mommy and Daddy are happy when their children brush their teeth. Do you brush your teeth? I am glad you are all good boys and girls.

The ball, strewn toys, and toothbrush are just suggestions. Other items can be used to teach similar lessons. Use whatever you have available if you do not have any of the items listed here.

Take-Home: Before class remove the pictures for **Lesson One** from the workbooks and punch out the wheels to be added to the pictures. The wheels can be stuck on or attached with brads. Complete one picture to show the children how theirs will look when finished.

Give each child a take-home picture, a set of wheels and two brads. The children will probably need assistance using the brads. Show the completed picture and talk about it before they begin working on theirs. *Look at my picture. You can make one just like mine. See this little girl? She is being a good helper for her mom. It is Daddy's birthday and Mom wanted to make Daddy a cake. The little girl wanted Mom to pull her in the wagon. When Mom told her she could not pull her in the wagon because she wanted to make a cake, the little girl cried. Her big sister said, "Mom, I will pull her in the wagon. Then she will be happy and you can make the birthday cake for Daddy." Her mom was very proud of her for being a good big sister and a good helper. The girl is pleasing Jesus because she is being good.*

Assist them as they add the wheels to the picture. Ask them ways they can be good to their brothers, sisters, and friends this week.

Label the pictures and take them up until **Closing** when they will be returned.

(See **Other Ideas** for a way to enhance the picture.)

Bible Lesson Review: Show picture #1 used during the Bible lesson. *Do you remember this man? What is his name? It is Barnabas. Was Barnabas a good man? Yes, he was a good man. He helped take food to some people who needed it. He liked doing good for other people. Our Bible words are, Do that which is good. Please help me say the Bible words. Say the words with the children helping you. Then sing **Do Good To All**.*

If you have prepared a review area, as suggested in the **Introduction**, pin the picture on the board. You will be reviewing it again next week.

Closing: Return all papers and personal belongings to the children. Remind them to return next time when you will be telling them more about Barnabas.

Say a dismissal prayer, thanking God for all who came to Bible class today. If you have visitors, get their addresses so you can send them cards letting them know you were glad they were in your class and inviting them back again.

Other Ideas:

1. The week before, write a note to the parents asking them to allow their children to bring canned goods to class. After the Bible lesson, let the children help you fill a "Helping Basket" with the food they brought. If your congregation has a pantry where such food is collected, you and the children could take the basket of food to the pantry. If your congregation does not have a food pantry, you can still do the project. Tell the children the food will be given to someone who is in need. Then, sometime during the week, take the food to a family who needs some assistance.
2. Enhance the take-home picture by allowing the children to glue bits of green construction paper or tissue paper to the trees in the picture.