



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

May 16, 2021 – The Church Grows (Acts 9:26-31)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Love

Paul arrived in Jerusalem as a true outsider. His old friends were now his enemies. His old enemies, the Christians, did not trust him. Most people still did not believe in Paul's conversion. Barnabas was an early convert to Christianity and was well-respected by the Christian leaders. He became Paul's friend and spoke to the Christian leaders on Paul's behalf.

He told Christian leaders about the amazing transformation Paul had experienced. He told them about when the Lord spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus. He explained that Paul believed in the message of Jesus, and that he preached with confidence. The Christian leaders began to trust Paul.

Known as the "Son of Encouragement," Barnabas was a man of spirit and of faith. The courage Barnabas showed in standing up in love for his friend, Paul, made a large impact on the new church. The Christian leaders could have turned on Barnabas because of his support of Paul, but they listened to him and accepted his words.

Paul got into arguments with the Greek-speaking Jews. They did not trust him the way the Christian leaders did, and they wanted him killed. The Christian leaders heard that Paul was in danger, so they helped him escape to Tarsus.

Through love, the church continued to grow. Barnabas loved Paul and stood up for him. The Christian leaders loved Barnabas and trusted what he said about Paul. Paul loved Jesus and through the love of others, was able to continue his ministry sharing God's love and growing the church.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- The church Grows, from Acts 9:26-31 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and

moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews,^[a] but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/09jix398kT0>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Love – means a closeness and connection we feel with God and others. Barnabas praised Paul to the Christian leaders because he loved Paul. Through the love and encouragement of Barnabas, Paul continued to share God’s love and grow the church.

WONDER Together:

1. How do you think Paul felt when the Christian leaders didn’t trust him?
2. Why do you think Barnabas spoke up for Paul?
3. Who do you like best in the story? Why?
4. How can you help share God’s love and grow the church?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 24 & 25). On page 25 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

The stories of Jesus continued to be shared in all areas of the world. More and more people became followers and believers in Jesus.

Ask each family member what they love to do that brings them closer to God. Have them practice the action each day. Check in at the end of the week and share how you felt closer to God by practicing the action.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **“You are a blessing to God and others.”**

Prayer: Dear God, help grow the church by loving others. Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

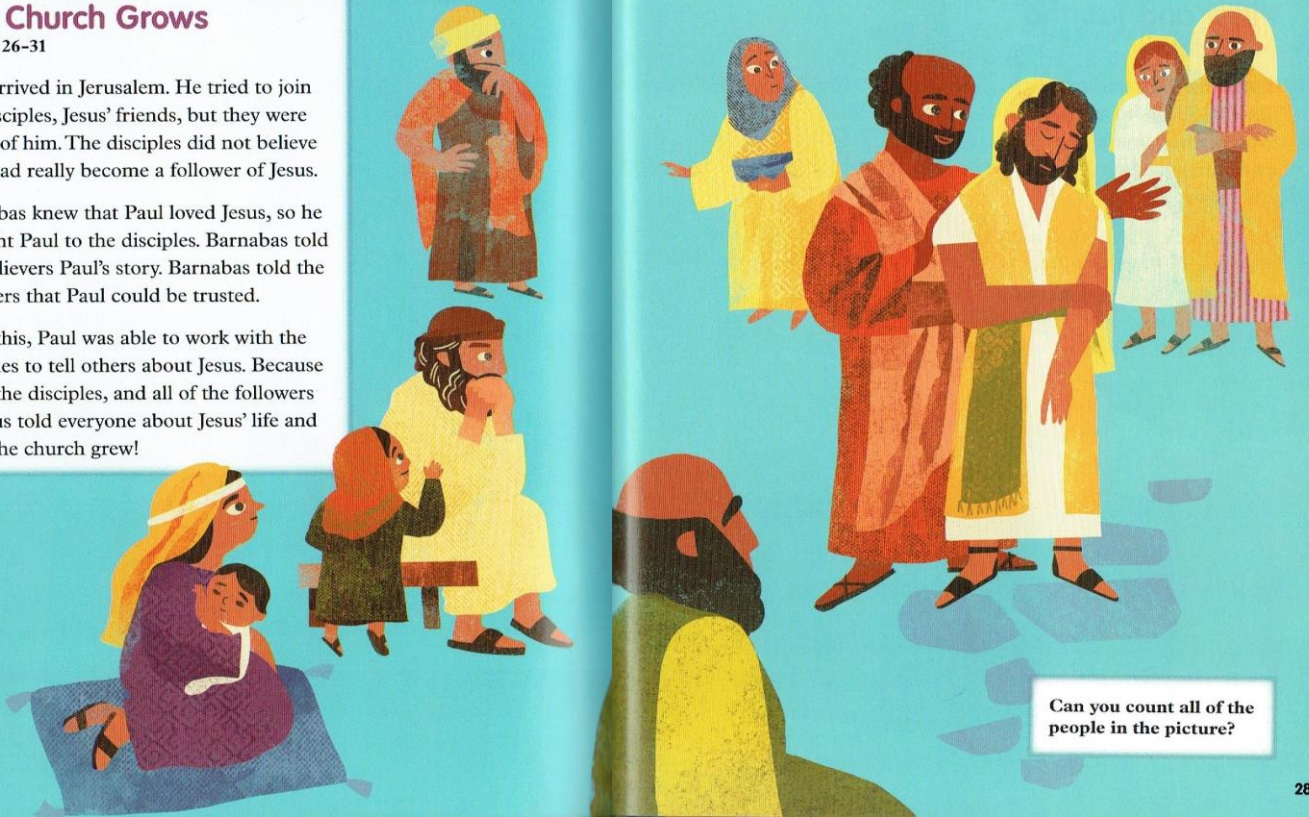
The Church Grows

Acts 9:26-31

Paul arrived in Jerusalem. He tried to join the disciples, Jesus' friends, but they were afraid of him. The disciples did not believe Paul had really become a follower of Jesus.

Barnabas knew that Paul loved Jesus, so he brought Paul to the disciples. Barnabas told the believers Paul's story. Barnabas told the believers that Paul could be trusted.

After this, Paul was able to work with the disciples to tell others about Jesus. Because Paul, the disciples, and all of the followers of Jesus told everyone about Jesus' life and love, the church grew!

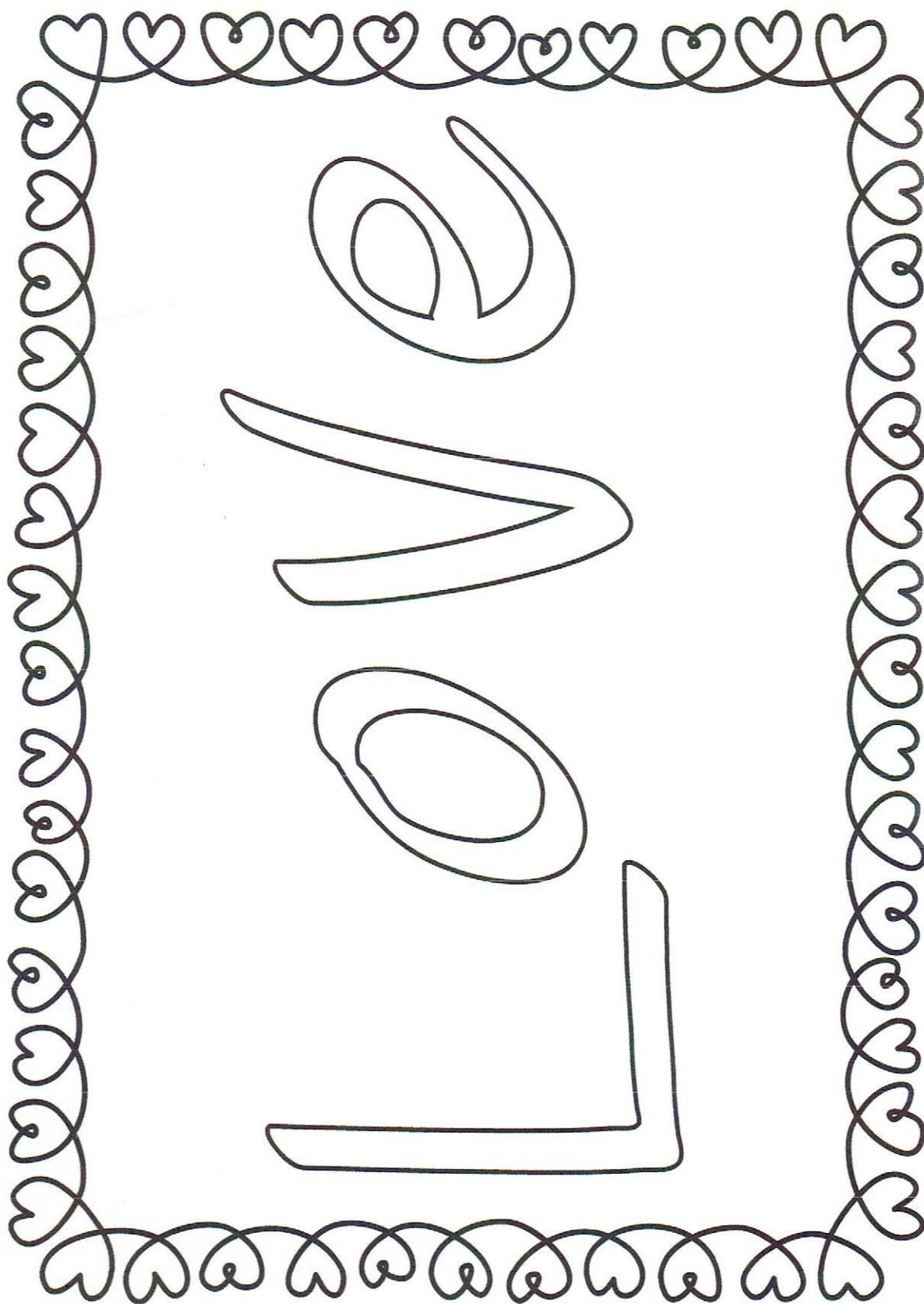


Can you count all of the people in the picture?

Color Sheet for all



Unit 3 Faith Word



Preschool Activity

Spiritual Practice

Supplies: none

Say: Our church started long ago with just a few people. It grew and grew because of people like Barnabas who encouraged and loved everyone.

Guide your child through the following.

- **Show them how to lace their fingers together so fingers stuck up when the palms are open. Have them place hands together with fingers laced.**

Say: Here is the church, here is the steeple



Open the door, and see all the people (wiggle fingers inside).



Say: Our church would have stayed small if the people had not come together. Because of their love for God, the people came together and today we have a lot of people in our church.

Early Elementary Activity

In Your Shoes

Supplies: at least two people (one child and one adult or more) have everyone take their shoes off

Say: **We do not always understand why someone acts a certain way. But when we put ourselves in someone else's shoes, we might be able to see who they truly are.**

To put ourselves in another's shoes means to see things from another perspective.

Try on other person's shoes. Too big? Too small? Talk about what it means to try to walk in someone else's shoes. Give examples of what this can mean. Why is it important to try to remember to "walk" in someone else's shoes.

Older Elementary Activity

In Your Shoes

Supplies: at least two people (one child and one adult or more) have everyone take their shoes off

Say: **We do not always understand why someone acts a certain way. But when we put ourselves in someone else's shoes, we might be able to see who they truly are. To put ourselves in another's shoes means to see things from another perspective.**

Try on other person's shoes. Too big? Too small? Talk about what it means to try to walk in someone else's shoes. Give examples of what this can mean. Why is it important to try to remember to "walk" in someone else's shoes.

Acts 9

X S F M N G Q O S G U S S O E G Q
 G E H L Z Z U U N X U E Q R I D J
 E U T M O Y T I M C D K D C Z X E
 S G H W F R Y D S N D K F O P M G
 P O G A X A D A I D N R P B E R Z
 E G N Y R Q M L B P J S U S R A T
 E A L P C A B L M G S K H V S P A
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 T W O E W B R L U A S H I P G N H
 Q K G M L P R B X R M G B C G A U
 J M A A W P U Z A L I G H T O K P
 G D D W A J M E L A S U R E J A U

Jesus	sight	vision	praying
tarsus	Ananias	blind	Damascus
eyes	speechless	lord	persecute
light	Jerusalem	way	Synagogues
Disciples	Saul		