

Lesson #77: Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch

[Acts 11:19-26](#)

**Youtube Link:** <https://youtu.be/DtmANI3mt7Y>

**Children’s Bible Story Video:** <https://youtu.be/kMhdS-TmAuE>

**Worship Theme:** Christians worship God together.

**Memory Verse:** “Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” (Psalm 95:6)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Head Shoulders Knees and Toes <https://youtu.be/nh0Ekk87w4s>
2. Making Melody in My Heart <https://youtu.be/1th9e8PKFxs>
3. Lord I Worship You <https://youtu.be/1C4guXZFdAw>

**Pray**

**Song:** Select songs from the list above.

**Icebreaker: “Head, Shoulder, Knee and Toes”**

**Material needed: Shoes**



1. Ask children to find a partner and stand facing each other. (This should make two rows of children.)
2. One of the child places one shoe in between them. (It doesn’t matter whose shoe it is.)
3. When the teacher says “head,” all children touch their head. Same with “shoulder” and “knee.”
4. But when the teacher says “toe,” the

children have to grab the shoe that’s in between them and their partner. The child who grabs the shoes first wins the game.

5. Once we have the first winners, all the winners will sing ក្បាលស្មាជង្គង់ចុងជើង
6. Gather all the winners and play again with only the winners until there is one winner. Everytime there is a group of winners, they will sing ក្បាលស្មាជង្គង់ចុងជើង .
7. After the game, explain to the children that Christians worship God together.

**Introduction:**

Our voice sounds louder and stronger when we sing together. We cannot be Christians by being alone. We need other Christians to encourage us to help us grow. Encouraging others also help us to grow. Today, we will learn that God is happy when Christians encourage each other by worshipping together.

**Bible Story:**

Our Bible story comes from the book of Acts today. In our story, many people who believed in Jesus were separated from each other. This happened because followers of Jesus were persecuted and killed in Jerusalem. Many disciples of Jesus left Jerusalem and moved to cities where there were many gentiles like Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. Gentiles are people who are not Jews.

Normally, Jews would not eat with or talk to gentiles, but Peter told them that God loves all people, even the gentiles. So the disciples of Jesus shared the Good News with everyone, both Jews and gentiles. They loved God and loved each other even when they were different. They worshiped God together and was filled with joy. In Antioch, the followers of Jesus were called “Christians” for the first time. “Christians” mean people of Christ.

When the news about Jesus being preached to the Jews and gentiles reached Jerusalem, the apostles sent Barnabas to Antioch. Barnabas was filled with joy to see the Jews and gentiles worshiping God together because he knew God loved all people. He encouraged them to remain true to God in their hearts. The name “Barnabas” means “encourager.”

When we worship together, we can be great encouragers like Barnabas. Many times we think of worship as a time when we sing songs to God, but worship means so much more than that. Worship is any time we talk to God, listen to God, or live the way God wants us to live. We need to encourage each other to worship God every day of our lives! It is hard to live as Christians when we are alone. But we become stronger when we are together, encouraging each other! God is happy when we worship him together and encourage each other!

### Questions to discuss:

1. Why did many followers of Jesus leave Jerusalem? (Christians were persecuted and killed in Jerusalem)
2. Who did the apostles send to Antioch to see how the Good News is being shared in Antioch? (Barnabas)
3. What was the followers of Christ called in Antioch? (Christians)
4. What is worship? (sing to God, talk to God, listen to God, live the way God wants us to live)
5. How can you encourage others to worship God? (Let the children answer)

### Game: “Make Your Own Musical Instrument”



1. Divide the children into groups of 4-5.
2. Ask the children to use anything they find in the class to make a musical instrument (two rocks hitting each other; a stick hitting a chair, etc.) and select a song to praise together.
3. To win the game, everyone has to sing and there has to be creative musical

instrument used to praise.

4. Give each team 5 min to make a musical instrument and learn to praise together.
5. Teacher will decide the best team, and everyone will sing with the winning team.
6. After the game, explain to the children that God is happy when Christians worship God together.

### Memory Verse:

“Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” (Psalm 95:6)

### Craft: “We Worship God Together”

Materials Needed: Color paper, scissors, glue, markers



1. Have each child trace their hand on a color paper and cut it out. Draw eyes and mouth on the cut out hand.
2. Then they can draw the stem and the leaves and cut them out. Glue the hand and the leaves on the stem. (If this is too hard for the children, the teacher can prepare the stems and leaves ahead of time.)
3. Teacher should collect all the hands and tape them on the wall. Teacher should also write and tape “We Worship God Together” at the top or bottom.



4. Remind the children that God is happy when we encourage each other and worship God together.

**Song:** Select songs from the list above

## Pray

**Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)**

Barnabas knew that faith doesn't grow when people are by themselves. We all need encouragement from other Christians. Strong Christian friendship will help your relationship with Jesus to grow strong! Who is like Barnabas in your life whom you turn to for encouragement? To whom are you like Barnabas by regularly encouraging them? Pray for them this week so that they will continue to grow in God.