

# CALLED CHRISTIAN

The Church  
in Antioch Grows  
Acts 9:26–31;  
11:19–30  
AD 39

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit works through God's Word.

### BIBLE VERSE

Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.  
John 13:34

### LEARNER GOAL

I know Jesus loves me and helps me to love others.

### LAW & GOSPEL

I disgrace the name of Christ when I fail to live as one of His followers. **Through His grace, God forgives my sin and makes me His child, giving me His name.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Following his conversion, Saul (also called Paul) is introduced by Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. The Church had spread to Antioch, so the leaders in Jerusalem send Barnabas there. He exhorts the people to remain faithful, and he brings Saul from Tarsus to help him minister among the people in Antioch for a whole year. The name *Christian* is first used for the believers in Antioch. The Church in Antioch sends relief to the believers in Judea.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion found in the online digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Review the Third Article in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017).

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Food items, play money, grocery bags, toy cash register or shopping cart
- ☐ Play dough, rolling pin, plastic knives, hand- & foot-shaped cookie cutters
- ☐ Glass or bowl, cake pan & towel
- ☐ Flavored whipped cream cheese or frosting, graham crackers or vanilla wafers, skewers & cut-up fruit
- ☐ Construction paper, hole punch & yarn

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- ☐ Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



#### LEADER NOTE

Greet each child and show the children where to put their offerings. Direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



#### LEADER NOTE

Sing one or more of the suggested songs.



#### BONUS ACTIVITY

Set out “Sequence Pictures” to introduce the concept of how our faith grows through Baptism and God’s Word.



#### LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible. Tell the children all the stories in God’s Word are true.

# LAUNCH

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

**DRAMATIC PLAY** Set out food items to play store (e.g., boxes of pudding mix and cereal, cans of vegetables and soup. Add paper bags, play money, a toy cash register or grocery cart, and the like. Talk about how we exchange money for food. Say, **What happens if you don’t have money for food? Today we’ll hear about how Christians take care of one another.**

**PLAY DOUGH** Set out play dough, rolling pins, and hand- and feet-shaped cookie cutters, or have the children press their hands into the play dough and use plastic knives to cut around the edges of the prints. Say, **God gives us our hands [feet, eyes, ears, etc.]. How can you use your hands [feet, eyes, ears] to show love by helping your [mom/dad/friends]?**

## JESUS TIME

**SING** “Good Morning, Dear Jesus” (digital resource center) or “Jesus Wants Me for a Helper” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 33)

**SAY** I’m glad to see all my helpers here today. I wonder . . . what are some ways you help? Today we’ll talk more about ways Jesus helps us show love.

**PRAY** Thank You, Jesus,\* for Your love, for paying for our sins on the cross and for taking care of us always. Help us show love for others too. In Your name.\* Amen.\*

# LEARN

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Set a glass or bowl of water in a cake pan and have a towel to wipe up any spills. As the children watch, pour more water into the glass or bowl until it overflows. Say, **This glass/ bowl is overflowing. There is more water than we need to fill it. The Bible tells us that God is like that when He blesses us with good things. He often gives us more than we need. I wonder, what do you think God wants us to do with all the extra blessings? Let the children tell. Today we’ll hear how God wants us to share our blessings with others so we all have enough.**

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide.

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **Our Bible words for today are words Jesus says: “Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34). How did Jesus show He loved us? Accept answers. What are ways we can love one another? Accept answers.**

Sing to the tune of “Are You Sleeping”; have the children echo you on second line:  
**Just as I, just as I,  
 Have loved you, have loved you, . . .  
 Lo-ve one another, lo-ve one another.  
 I’ll help you. I’ll help you.**

*Option:* Ahead of time, take pictures on your device of the children in your class doing things to show love (e.g., sharing play dough, cleaning up, singing). Talk about how Jesus helps us be helpers and show love for others. Sing the Bible words again.

# LIVE

## DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

**SIDE 1** Have the children color the money bags and circle the hidden hearts. Briefly review the story. Ask, **What are the people doing? Who helped them show love?**

**SIDE 2** Before you do the activity on this page, do this action rhyme. Draw a happy face on five fingers. Hold up fingers, having one disappear each time. Say, **Five little children standing by the door. One left to carry in the groceries, and then there were four. Four little children playing by a tree. One left to help dad wash the car, and then there were three. Three little children with nothing much to do. One said, “I’ll help mom set the table,” and then there were two. Two little children were having lots of fun. One went to pick up toys, and then there was one. One little child had to run, run, run to help her brother who had fallen, so now there were none! Five little children learned something so true: Helping others can be a lot of fun, for me and for you!**

Today we learned how Jesus’ friends showed love for others. Jesus wants us to show love for others too. He gives us love in our hearts to help. Color the path on this page to find ways we can do this. Put a heart sticker on each way someone is showing love.

## ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to “Active Learning” on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

### □ MOVE

Let the children pantomime helping actions, then sing an action song to reinforce the lesson truths.

### □ SNACK

Let the children use their hands to help make and serve the snack. Be aware of allergies and provide options for those with allergies.

### □ CREATE

Make handprint coupon books. *Option:* Cut paper strips. Add stickers, decorate, and make into a paper chain. Tear off one link each day and do what it shows.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do the children understand that Jesus loves them? Ask, **Whom does Jesus love?** Do they understand that Jesus helps those who believe in Him to do loving, kind things for others? Ask, **What are some loving things you can do to share Jesus’ love with others?**

# LEAVE

**SING** “What Can I Do for You?” (digital resource center) or “We Love” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 54)

**SAY** Jesus loves you and you and me! How did Jesus show He loves us? Let the children answer. **The best thing Jesus did was to die on the cross to forgive all the bad things we do and then come alive again. Jesus makes us part of His family through His Word and Baptism. When we do loving things for others, we are sharing Jesus’ love.**

**PRAY** Dear Jesus, You are so wonderful! Thank You for coming to earth to pay for our sins so we can be forgiven and be Your children. Help us share Your love by doing loving things for others. Amen.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus creates and sustains faith in His people through His Word, making them part of His family and helping them to show His love to others.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Passing the Peace” to teach about sharing God’s peace.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Hands to Help” to engage the children in works of love.



### LEADER NOTE

Use hands to do this rhyme before the prayer.

**Here is the church.**

(Interlock fingers.)

**Here is the steeple.**

(Point index fingers up.)

**Open the door.**

(Open thumbs.)

**And see all the people!**

(Turn hands over and wiggle interlocked fingers.)

**Loving and caring**

(Wiggle fingers.)

**We care for each other.**

(Continue wiggling.)

**Happily showing**

(Clap hands.)

**God loves you and me!**

(Point.)

# ACTIVE LEARNING

## □ MOVE

Say, **God wants you to hear His Word and He wants to forgive you. He wants you to live as His children and show love for others by sharing and helping and being kind and friendly. Best of all, He promises to work in you to help you show love. Let's think of ways to do this.** Have the children pantomime helping scenarios (e.g., sweeping, picking up toys, setting the table, playing with the baby, giving a friend a hug) for other children to guess. Sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot": **I can be a helper and do my tasks.**

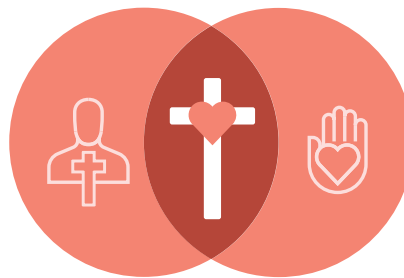
**I'll answer Yes whenever God asks.** (*Thumbs up*)  
Refrain with children: **God gives us His strength in ev'ry hour.** (*Draw cross.*) **Trust in God's amazing power!** (*Make a muscle arm.*)

## □ SNACK

Help the children use their hands to spread flavored whipped cream cheese or frosting onto graham crackers or vanilla wafers. Have cut-up fruit to put on skewers. Children can also use their hands to pass out the snack and napkins. Thank them for being helpers.

## □ CREATE

Make helping hands coupons. Trace around each child's hand onto construction paper. Cut it out and use it as a template to make five more prints. Stack the six handprints, punch a hole, and tie with yarn. Children can decorate their handprints. Have them put a heart with Jesus' face on the first one and stickers of ways to show love during the week on the other handprints. Ask, **How did the people in our Bible story show love? How are these children (on the stickers) showing Jesus' love?**



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me His own name in my Baptism.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can rejoice in my name as Christian and use my gifts to grow the Christian Church.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can consider why understanding the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word matters so much for the Church.

### YOUTH

I can describe how the Holy Spirit works through the Word to spread the Gospel.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that the Holy Spirit works through God's Word.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus loves me and helps me to love others.

## ★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

### SEQUENCE PICTURES

10 minutes

Set out pictures of a seed, a small tree, and a full-grown tree with fruit as well as a baby, a child, and an adult. Say, **God planned for the tree to grow big and give us fruit. Today you'll hear how He planned for people to grow big and show their love for Him by being kind to others. When did the tree start to grow?** (When the seed was planted) **When did our love for Jesus start to grow?** (When we were baptized or hear His Word) **God uses His Word to make our love for Him grow bigger.**

### PASSING THE PEACE

15 minutes

Talk about how angels said "Peace on earth" when Jesus was born and how Jesus greeted His friends with "Peace be with you" on Easter evening. Jesus wanted His friends to not be afraid but to know He would be with them and care for them. Talk about how we use our hands in worship to share God's love and peace with others. Demonstrate. This is a happy time that helps us remember that Jesus loves and cares for all of us too. Sharing God's peace means we also care for and pray for and help those in our church family.

### HANDS TO HELP

15 minutes

Collect food and gently used clothing or toys for those in need. Draw around the children's hands and cut prints out. Decorate a large box with the hands. Write "Helping Hands for Others" on it. Have the children make greeting cards to enclose with the donations. Help them write messages on the cards such as "Jesus loves you" or "God cares for you." Give them purchased stickers and other decorations to personalize the cards. Give the box to your pastor or social ministry board for distribution.