

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

### 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 Acts 9:26–31; 11:19–30; and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

**MORE TIME** Read Acts 11:1–18 with study notes in *TLSB* for more context on the work of the Spirit during this time.

**IN DEPTH** Review the Third Article and its meaning in Luther's Small Catechism.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Plain paper for drawing
- ☐ Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- ☐ Map of the world, male action figures

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Device with downloaded music
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



#### LEADER NOTE

As students arrive, ask them to draw a picture of themselves with their best friend or friends. You will use this in the introduction to the lesson.



#### GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 4.



#### DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.

## LAUNCH

**PRAY** Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your Word and the freedom to study it together. Guide our time today that we might learn more about You and Your love for us. Amen.

**SING** “For God So Loved the World”  
“I Was Baptized”  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**SAY** Tell me about your best friend or friends. (Let students share the pictures they’ve been drawing of their friends. Make sure no one feels left out.) **What makes someone a good friend? God blesses us with friends, especially friends who encourage us and stand up for us. In our Bible narrative today, we’re going to learn about two men who were friends and how God used them to tell people about Jesus and help the Early Church grow.**

## LEARN

### READ “CALLED CHRISTIAN”

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

### DO SOMETHING

**FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS** In order to get a sense of who’s who and what’s going on in this narrative, identify one student to be Saul/Paul and one to be Barnabas. Have the rest of your students be the various groups: disciples, Hellenists, the Church at Antioch, and the Church at Jerusalem. Help students act out the events by moving to different places in your classroom to represent the places like Damascus, Jerusalem, Tarsus, and Antioch in the narrative. To clarify more, put the names of the places on pieces of paper attached to sticks for children to hold.

**FOR OLDER LEARNERS** This narrative includes a number of geographical locations. To review, identify all the cities and geographical places mentioned (Damascus, Jerusalem, Caesarea, Tarsus, Antioch, Judea, Galilee, and Samaria) in the student narrative or in Scripture. Find them on a map and use them to retell the narrative. If you have some male action figures, have one be Saul/Paul and the other be Barnabas to reenact the narrative as you move from place to place on the map. Older students could even make a map on a piece of craft paper on the floor to use as a base for storytelling.

### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- This is a great time to talk about the difference between your local church or congregation and the Church. The Church, the Bride of Christ, is not limited to geography but consists of all Christians everywhere of all time.
- The reason these churches grew wasn’t just because Paul and Barnabas were great pastors. It was because God’s Word was being preached. The Holy Spirit worked through the preaching and teaching of God’s Word.
- This is the first time that people who believe in Jesus were called “Christians”—Greek for “follower of Christ.” This is a big deal.

# LIVE

## EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about this Bible account, found on the second page of Lesson 4.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **What does it mean to be part of a church?** (This could be a long discussion or a very short discussion, depending on the age and understanding of your group.) **How do we help one another? How do we help other churches far away from us?** (You could talk about how churches support mission churches in your district or how you support missionaries in faraway places.)
- ▶ **Saul and Barnabas were good friends, such good friends that Barnabas stood up for Saul when others wanted to hurt him. How do you stand up for your friends? How did the Holy Spirit help Barnabas? Why did God give Barnabas to Saul? Why does God give us good friends?**
- ▶ **Barnabas's name means "son of encouragement." How can you be an encouragement to others?**

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Being part of the Body of Christ comes with the responsibility to love and care for one another.
- Barnabas showed his love for Paul, and the Church at Antioch showed love to their brothers and sisters in Christ in Jerusalem by taking up a collection to support them during the famine.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to imagine they are Barnabas writing a postcard to his friend Paul while Paul is in Tarsus, telling him that he wants him to come to Antioch. Have students include some encouragement from Barnabas to Paul and some explanation about why Paul needs to come to Antioch.

# LEAVE

**SAY** The Holy Spirit works through God's Word. He worked through Paul and Barnabas and all those early Christians. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word today too.

**SING** The Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
"The Lord's Prayer"  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**PRAY** Dear Jesus, we are part of Your Church with Christians everywhere and for all time. Help us to share Your love with everyone we know. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page for the "Your Church History" activity to extend the learning and connect this lesson with your own congregation.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ is the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word to create faith.

## DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

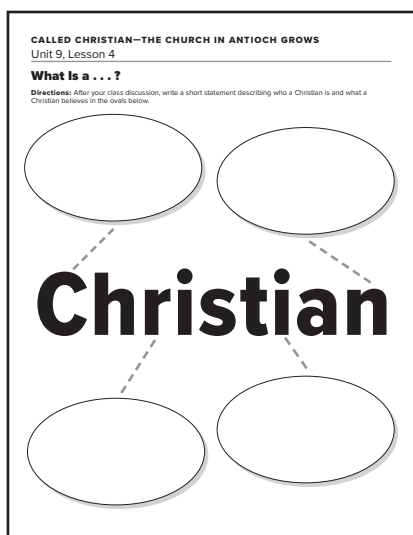
Lead a discussion to help the students formulate short statements that describe who a Christian is and what a Christian believes. This page is not meant to be done independently. Have copies of the Apostles' Creed handy for the students to use as they think of ideas. Suggested responses include the following: a follower of Jesus; one who believes that God created us and takes care of us; one who believes that Jesus died and rose to save us from our sins; one who trusts that Jesus is the only way to heaven; one who believes Jesus has redeemed and rescued us from sin; one who has been called by the Holy Spirit to believe in the triune God; one who loves his neighbor and helps those in need; one who loves and honors the triune God above all else.

Write student responses on the board or where students can easily see them and copy them.

**CALLING CHRISTIAN—THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH GROWS**  
Unit 9, Lesson 4

**What is a . . . ?**

Directions: After your class discussion, write a short statement describing who a Christian is and what a Christian believes in the oval below.





### 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

### GOOD NEWS MEGAPHONE

5–10 minutes

When we have good news, we want to tell it to everyone as loudly as we can! Using any color construction paper, roll it and tape the edges to make a megaphone. Before you roll the paper, have students decorate and color their paper with phrases like “Good News” and “Jesus Loves You!” Help students practice using their megaphones to tell about Jesus.

### YOUR CHURCH HISTORY

Times may vary

Together with your students, do some research into your own church history. Find out how and when your congregation started. Interview members who have lived some of that history. Has your church helped start other churches? Make a church history poster to display in a public space, showing how the Holy Spirit has worked.

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Times may vary

Together with your class or before class, do some research into Lutheran World Relief. Find out how they are supporting places that are going through famines or other natural disasters. Identify places on the map where LWR is helping. Identify ways that you and your congregation can help.