

I AM MADE FOR COMMUNITY HUDDLE UP

Elementary



Nov
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I Am Made for Community Elementary Leader Guide

the place for kids to take
their first steps with Jesus.



WIN

In Acts, we see two unlikely men become friends through the common love of Jesus. Kids can follow Jesus and connect with others who trust and follow Him.

BIBLE- *Saul and Barnabas- Acts 9:26-31; 13:42-52*

TOOLS

Scan QR



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



Leader Devos

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. ** Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Chairs (1 per child), Paper (1 per child; optional), Masking or painter's tape (1 per group; optional), Huddle Up Social Game Video on Roku

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

What a team Saul and Barnabas made! Barnabas helped those who did not believe in Jesus, and Paul told of the amazing way he met Jesus. Together, the two men were able to tell all who would listen about Jesus. Because of Saul and Barnabas, the news of Jesus spread through the whole town.

God connects us, and He connected Saul and Barnabas too. Everyone, say, "God connects us!" (*God connects us!*) God knew Saul would need a helper, and He chose Barnabas to be Saul's helper. Barnabas did a great job encouraging and helping Saul (later called Paul) share the good news of Jesus. Jesus changed Paul's life, and he could not wait to share that good news with others.

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

(*Circle two*) Before Paul trusted Jesus, he sinned by doing what he thought was best instead of what God said was best, and sin breaks our relationship with God and others. We all sin, and we can't fix our brokenness on our own, which is why we need Jesus to rescue us.

(*Circle three*) God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sin, and He came back to life to show He is stronger than sin and death. When we ask Jesus to forgive us and choose to follow Him, we can be with God forever and be part of His family!

(*Circle one*) God made us to be close to Him and to others, and when we trust Jesus, we get to be part of that special community. One day Jesus will make everything new, but even now, like Saul and Barnabas, we can share Jesus and enjoy friendships with others who follow Him!

(*Circle four*) God made us to be close to Him and have friends who follow Jesus too. At church, God gives us friends like Saul and Barnabas so we can encourage each other and share His love!

° Talk to a leader if you want to know more about following Jesus!

Anytime you are feeling alone, remember that God made you for community. We are glad you are here, and we want you to know that God loves you! He loves you so much that He made a plan to connect *you* to *Him* and other people who follow Him! God knew that Saul would need a friend like Barnabas. Even though there is no greater friend than Jesus, God wants us to have other people in our lives that love Him too. Who in your life loves Jesus? Who is someone that needs to hear about Jesus? Think about those people as we pray and talk with God in 3-2-1.

God, thank You for the time we spent together huddling up and hearing about the way You love us, even when we make wrong choices. Thank You for the example of Saul and Barnabas and how they shared Your good news with everyone. Help us to follow the example of Saul and Barnabas. Help us to be a community who loves and follows You.
Amen.

Tell the Story

Kids will make chenille stem figures to retell the story.

Big Goal: Review the Bible story emphasizing how Paul and Barnabas worked together.

Leader Prep: Print copies of the “Tell the Story” printable for each kid and one copy of the “Saul and Barnabas Bible Story” document for yourself. Set out supplies.

1. Create a chenille stem person. Fold one chenille stem in half, creating a circle at the middle portion. This will create a head, body, and legs. Fold a second chenille stem in half, twisting the stem together, then wrapping it once around the body of the first chenille stem, creating arms.
2. Repeat three more times, creating four figures in total: Saul, Barnabas, and two other people.
3. Lead kids to tell the story, using the chenille stem figures and the backgrounds.

Supplies: “Tell the Story” printable (1 per child), Bible Story document (1 per group), Chenille stems (8 per child), Crayons or markers (several; optional), “Tell the Story Example” printable (1 per group; optional)

What To Do: Huddle up team, because I have news for you! You are now all storytellers! What are you? (*Storytellers!*) The *good* news is you are going to retell today’s story. The *fun* news is you will tell the story by using these chenille stems. How, you ask, can we do that? Well, I’m glad you asked! We will bend and twist the chenille stems to shape them into characters for the story!

First, fold one chenille stem in half, creating a loop at the halfway point. This will be your person’s head, body, and legs. (*Demonstrate and allow time.*)

Now, take another chenille stem and fold it in half, twisting it together. Wrap it around the “body” of the first chenille stem, creating arms. (*Demonstrate and allow time.*)

Great! Do that three more times so you can make Saul, Barnabas, and two other people. (*Allow time.*)

I am going to read our Bible story out loud. As I do, reenact the story using your chenille stem people and the background art from our Bible story. Take your people and background home, and tell the story in your own words. (*Read the Bible story out loud, and allow kids to reenact the story on their papers.*)

Keep It Going: Color the background papers.

Loud And Clear: Huddle up and high-five friends, and tell them, “Great job” retelling today’s Bible story. (*Great job!*) Just like Saul and Barnabas needed God and each other, we are made for community, and **God connects us** too! Say, “I am made for community!” (*I am made for community!*) Now say, “I can huddle up!” (*I can huddle up!*)

Let’s chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- What are different ways you can connect with people who are close to you? What about when people are far away? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)*
- Two-way radios can help people talk and stay connected, even when they are far away. How can this encourage us to be connected to other people? How can this encourage us to be connected to God? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that **God connects us** to Himself and to others that love Him. Let's open our Bibles to **Acts 13:47-49** and read it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* How did the people's lives change after Saul told them about Jesus? *(Answers may include that the people were happy that Saul told them about Jesus, they believed in and followed God's Word, they told others about Jesus, and so forth.)*
- God sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with God. We also get to enjoy an incredible relationship with others who follow Jesus. What are ways that people who follow Jesus can stay connected to God and to each other? *(Answers may include that we can go to church together, we can learn from the Bible together, we can learn about God from each other, we can pray together, we can be kind to others and tell them about Jesus, and so forth.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are made for community, and **God connects us** to others. What is something you learned today?

WRAP UP

Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's pray and talk to God. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, thank You that we could be together as a team today. Thank You for each person here. You created them, and You love them very much. Help all of us see Your love and know that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Help us remember that You want us to be connected with others who love You. As we go about our week, help us encourage others and point them to Jesus. Amen.

Saul and Barnabas worked together to share about Jesus, and the good news about Jesus spread through the whole town. The same good news Saul and Barnabas shared then is the same good news God wants us to hear today. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins so we can have a relationship with God and enjoy community with other Jesus followers forever.

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.