



**KIDS FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for August 21st- August 27th**

**Acts In 30 Week 13: Paul and Barnabas On Their Travels**

**Family Activity: Debate Team**

To show how Paul and Barnabas had to do quite a bit of public speaking/debating while on their journeys, we're going to play a debate game. Take a second to write down some silly debate questions, the silly(er) the better!

I.e. "why red Starburst's are the best flavor," or "why Universal Studios is better than Disney," or "why pineapple on pizza is a great pizza topping." Once that's done, select someone who is going to present a 30 second "case" FOR that topic. Next, select someone who is arguing AGAINST that topic. It's important to remember that whether the person debating agrees with what side they are arguing is irrelevant in this game. Once both sides have had a turn. The rest of the group will vote for who they agree with. This game gives some firsthand experience for what it would be like being Paul or Barnabas and having to speak publicly about their beliefs.

**FOCUS: Acts 13:1-3**

**God Set Apart Barnabas and Paul**

**REFLECT** — This scripture says that as church leaders in Antioch were "worshiping and praying" they heard the Lord tell them to set apart Saul and Barnabas for a special mission He was going to send them on. Worshiping, as we know, puts us in a posture to receive from God clearly because we're doing the very thing God created us to do. Fasting is the act of removing the most basic necessity we need to survive — *food*, so that we can focus on God entirely and remember that He is all we need. The church leaders putting these things together made them extra sensitive to God's voice.

**Q1 - What's your favorite way to worship? Have you ever fasted before, if so, what was it? If the church leaders were NOT worshiping and fasting, do you think they could have missed these instructions from God? Explain.**

**FOCUS: Acts 13:3-12**

**Elymas The Sorcerer**

**REFLECT** — On their travels to share the good news of Jesus, Paul and Barnabas ran into all types of people — And a lot of the time they weren't friends! One man named, Elymas, was a sorcerer who took the words of the Torah and tried to twist them to fit what he wanted to do and say. It would have worked too, but Paul being full of the Holy Spirit stood up for what He knew was right and and God backed him up by making Elymas go blind.

**Q2 - How does it feel when you hear someone openly telling a lie? As Christians, how should we act when we see or hear someone telling a lie about Jesus/Bible? How can you tell when it's a good time to stand up for what you believe or lay low and hold your tongue?**

**FOCUS: Acts 13:13-43**

**Paul Teaches About Jesus**

**REFLECT** — Paul is invited to speak at a local synagogue in front of a whole room of people. When given the opportunity to speak, Paul stays closely to scripture and first-hand accounts of Jesus. Paul was not a gifted speaker (1st Cor 2:1) but he shows us that we don't have to be good public speakers for the Lord to still speak through us in a powerful way. Paul simply connected scriptures together and told the honest truth about why and what he believed about Jesus.

**Q3 - When telling someone about Jesus, what do you tend to focus on (personal experience, scripture, etc?) What does it mean for the average believer that we don't have to be gifted public speakers to spread the gospel? Does that make you feel more confident in sharing your faith, why, or why not?**

**FOCUS: Acts 13:44-52**

**Unfriendly "Friends"**

**REFLECT** — Paul and Barnabas had a routine problem that seemed to follow them everywhere they went — Jealousy. But not just any jealousy, it was jealousy that was from other people who claimed to believe in God! People who believed in God's torah and claimed they followed His Commandments, yet they were the ones who brought the most amount of trouble Paul's way.

**Q4 - Have you ever gotten into a disagreement with a friend? How did that feel? How should we behave when we get into conflict with other Christians and can't seem to find common ground?**



