

Barnabas Shares

Spring • Lesson 6

Who?

Jesus' friends, Barnabas

What?

Jesus' friends shared with others, and Barnabas sold a field and shared the money (Acts 4:32-37)

When & Where?

In the days when the believers were first meeting together, in Jerusalem

Why?

To help children understand that because God helps them have what they need, they can share with others



Teacher Challenge

Read Acts 4:32-37.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

Learning to share starts at a young age, and we continue to learn the lesson throughout our lives. The new believers in the Early Church shared because of their abandon to God and their fervent desire to follow Jesus' teaching. They pooled what they had. Then when someone among them was in need, they shared freely so that everyone was taken care of.

Goals For each child

- 1 Tell what Jesus' friends and Barnabas did to share with others**
- 2 Name ways to follow Jesus' example and share with others**
- 3 Share with others in class**

- When was a time someone shared with you?
- What keeps you from sharing more? What can you do about it?

Sharing and meeting the needs of others can sometimes be in the form of material goods, sometimes in the form of caring words expressed in a phone call or note, sometimes in the form of time freely given simply to listen to someone talk or grieve. And sometimes it is easier to share with strangers than to share with those closest to you. But remember God's generosity toward you. Ask Him to be generous through you.

Bible Verse

"Share with God's people who are in need."

Romans 12:13

1 Play to Learn

20 to 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

Blocks Center

Build a town and fields and use toy people to act out the Bible story
Materials: Bible, construction paper, scissors, blocks, toy people

Dramatic Play Center

Pretend to buy and sell toys at a garage sale and talk about what Jesus' friends did to share with others
Materials: Bible, a variety of toys, adhesive dots

Art Center

Share with others while playing with play dough
Materials: Bible, play dough, pasta in a variety of shapes, play-dough tools

Game Center

Play a tossing game and talk about ways to share with each other
Materials: Bible, knee socks, dried beans, ruler, rubber bands, large sheet of butcher paper, markers

2 Listen to Learn

10 to 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

Come Together

Materials: None

Bible Verse

Materials: Bible, rhythm instruments

Prayer

Materials: Everyday Life Poster 3 from *Visual Resources*

Song

Materials: *Preschool Music #1* CD and player

Puppet Time

Materials: Buddy puppet

Bible Story

Materials: Bible, Figures 28-32 from *Visual Resources*, clothing item, flannel board

3 Talk to Learn

15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows

TalkTime Activity Page

Materials: Bible, Lesson 6 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers

Bible Verse Game

Materials: Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, small classroom object



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play “Come On In!” (track 1) as children arrive and “Are You Ready?” (track 15) during cleanup time

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, construction paper, scissors, blocks, toy people.

Prepare

Cut different colors of construction paper into circles.



Do

Children use blocks to build a town and outline fields and farms around the town. Children use construction-paper circles to represent fruit and vegetables growing in the fields. Children move toy people to act out ways people in the Bible story shared with each other.

Teaching Tip

Help children get started in today's activity by taking part in it yourself. Ask questions and give brief suggestions to help children think of what to do.

Dramatic Play Center

Collect

Bible, a variety of toys, adhesive dots.

Do

Children attach adhesive dots to toys and arrange toys for a garage sale. Children pretend to buy and sell toys. Encourage children to take turns and share as they play.

Teaching Tip

Acting out everyday experiences helps children re-create what they know best—their world of family and friends. The focus of today's lesson—obeying God's Word by sharing with others—can easily be woven into almost any situation children act out.



Talk About

- **Our Bible story today is about the ways Jesus' friends shared with each other. One man sold his field and gave the money to Jesus' friends so that they could share the money with others.**
- **What do you think Jesus' friends shared if someone was cold? If someone was hungry?**
- **Refer to your open Bible. The Bible says, "Share with God's people who are in need." Since God helps us have what we need, we can help each other by sharing.**
- **Melissa, what are some things people have shared with you? Matthew, what do you share with your sister?**

Kindergarten Challenge

Children arrange colored circles in patterns, imitating patterns you create or making their own patterns.

Kindergarten Challenge

Children use play money to pretend to buy toys and to act out sharing with others.

Art Center

Collect

Bible, play dough, pasta in a variety of shapes, play-dough tools (rolling pins, cookie cutters, etc.).

Do

Children play with play dough and use pasta to make impressions in the dough. As children play, look for situations in which children share with others. Thank children for obeying today's Bible verse.



Teaching Tip

For easy cleanup, before class place an old bedsheet under the table you will use for this activity. The sheet will catch anything that falls from the table.

Kindergarten Challenge

Children use play dough to form objects they could share with others. Invite children to show and tell about the objects they formed.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, knee socks, dried beans, ruler, rubber bands, large sheet of butcher paper, markers.

Prepare

Make two or more beanbag caterpillars by filling knee socks with dried beans and securing 3-inch (7.5-cm) sections with rubber bands. Tightly band the end of the sock and turn the cuff over the end section. On large sheet of butcher paper, draw several large flowers in different colors.



Do

Place prepared sheet of butcher paper on the floor. Children take turns tossing beanbag caterpillars onto flower shapes. When caterpillar lands on a flower, child tells a way he or she can share.

Talk About

- **The Bible says, "Share with God's people who are in need." When we share with others, we take turns. Sharing also means we are glad to give something we have to help another person. Let's practice sharing today!**
- **What is something we share in our classroom? What is something you share at home?**
- **As you see children taking turns, comment, I see that you are taking turns, Kim. Taking turns is a way to share. Thank you.**
- **God gives us what we need, so we can share with others. Let's ask God to help us share with others.** Lead children in a brief prayer.

Teaching Tip

Regular beanbags can be substituted for beanbag caterpillars.

Kindergarten Challenge

Add a different number to each flower on the butcher paper. As children toss the beanbag caterpillars, guide children to add up the numbers on which the beanbags land.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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Collect

Bible, Everyday Life Poster 3 and Figures 28-32 from *Visual Resources*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, Buddy puppet, rhythm instruments, clothing item, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Come Together

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. **Point to something in our room that is taller than you.** Volunteers respond. Repeat activity, asking children to find items that are either taller or shorter than they are. (Optional: Children stand by objects if possible.) **Now think of a person who is taller than you. How might you share with that person? Who is shorter than you? What could you share with that person?** Volunteers respond.

Bible Verse

Open Bible to Romans 12:13. **The Bible says, “Share with God’s people who are in need.”** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, letting children take turns playing rhythm instruments while verse is quoted. **Today we’re sharing by taking turns playing the rhythm instruments.**

Prayer

Show Everyday Life Poster 3. **Put your hand on your head if you can tell what these people are doing. What are they going to share?** Volunteers answer question. **We can share, too.** Ask volunteers to tell items they can share with others. Then lead children in a brief prayer, mentioning the items children suggested. **Dear God, please help us show Your love to each other by sharing (name items). In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Kindergarten Challenge

Invite children to name items they can share that begin with specific letters of the alphabet (B for ball, bat, bandages, balloons, etc.).

Song

I have been happy to see ways you have shared with each other today. Sharing with others is a way to obey God’s Word, the Bible. Play “Hear the Word” (track 9 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you. Repeat song, asking children to cup their hands behind their ears instead of singing the word “hear.”



Kindergarten Challenge

Invite children to nod or salute in place of singing the word “obey.”

Puppet Time

Use Buddy puppet to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

Bible Story

Use clothing item and Figures 28-32 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Tear out this Bible Tuck-In™ and place it in your Bible for class use.

Introduction

Show clothing item. **Would an old or young person wear this? What are some other things people need to have besides clothes?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear when Jesus' friends shared things that people need.** (Hold Bible open to Acts 4 as you tell the story.)

Loving Each Other

After Jesus went back to heaven, His friends told everyone the good news that Jesus is alive. Every day more people learned to love Jesus! And because the friends of Jesus loved Him, they loved each other.

Sharing Food and Clothes

One of the ways Jesus' friends showed their love was by sharing everything they had with each other. Nobody had to ask them to share. They WANTED to share. Some of Jesus' friends had lots of food and clothes. They shared what they had with Jesus' friends who had no food and clothes. People shared with each other so that everyone had enough.



Sharing Money

Some of Jesus' friends had lots of money. Some owned farms and fields for growing food. And some owned houses. Some people even owned extra houses! It would have been easy for these people to keep their farms and fields and houses. But they didn't. They wanted to share

what they had with each other, so sometimes they sold what they had and gave the money to Jesus' friends. Then the money was given to whoever needed it.

One of these people helped other people so much that his friends gave him a nickname. The man's friends called him Barnabas. "Barnabas" means something like "Mr. Helper." He was always helping people and trying to cheer them up!

Barnabas owned a field. He could have kept it for himself, but he did not. Barnabas sold that piece of land. Barnabas could have spent the money on himself, but he didn't! Barnabas took the money to Jesus' friends. He said, "Here. Share this money with people who need it."

Jesus helped Barnabas to love others, so Barnabas didn't keep his field or keep his money for himself. He wanted to share what he had. Barnabas showed he loved Jesus by sharing with other people.

Conclusion

Since God helps us have what we need, we can share with each other, too. Jesus can help us show our love for Him by sharing what we have with others. The Bible says, "Share with God's people who are in need." (Optional: Review story by using pages 454-457 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

As you tell the Bible story, use props (coins, cans of food, a variety of clothing items, For Sale sign, etc.) to act out the story, inviting volunteers to help you. Include these actions: distribute coins, cans of food and variety of clothing items to children; and hold up For Sale sign.

TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 6 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Bible Verse Game

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, small classroom object (block, markers, etc.).

Do

The Bible says, "Share with God's people who are in need." Let's play a game that reminds us of things we can share with each other.

Children sit or stand in a circle. While you play music, children pass object around the circle. After a brief time, stop the music. Child holding the object tells something he or she can share. (Older children may also repeat the words of the Bible verse.) Repeat as time and interest allow.



Talk About

- **Who sold his field and gave his money to Jesus' friends? Why do you think Barnabas wanted to share with others?**
- **What else did Jesus' friends share with each other?**
- **The Bible says, "Share with God's people who are in need." What are some of the ways that we have shared with each other today in our classroom?**
- **Dylan, who is a friend you share toys with? What toys do you share?**
 - Briefly describe a way you share with others. **We help others when we share with them. Tell me who you share with.**

Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "Hear the Word" (track 9), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave Good-Bye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1* CD.

Puppet Script

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Dog Sharing

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

Buddy: Hi, Teacher! Guess where I've been!

Leader: I have no idea. Kids, where do you think Buddy has been?
(Pauses for children to tell guesses.)

Buddy: Those are good guesses. But I was with my friend Antonio. I was learning to share!

Leader: Wow! Really? I didn't know dogs were very good at sharing.

Buddy: Well, of COURSE dogs can share! Let's see. I share . . . well, I share my (Thinks hard.) . . . Okay, I shared my chew toy once with Scruffy. Actually, Scruffy took it from my yard and ran away. I was mad!

Leader: So maybe dogs aren't very good at sharing!

Buddy: No, no, dogs are good at sharing . . . let's see. Dogs share sniffing places!

Leader: But that's not quite like sharing your food.

Buddy: Oh, no WAY! I would NEVER share my food! I'd bite anyone who tried to take my food!

Leader: So like I was saying, dogs aren't very good at sharing!

Buddy: When you put it THAT way, I guess we're not. But . . . but . . . (Has an idea.) But my friend Antonio is VERY good at sharing!

Leader: What does Antonio do to share?

Buddy: He comes to my house. Then he puts me on the leash and takes me to the park!

Leader: So is Antonio a dog?

Buddy: No, Antonio is a PERSON! He brings a ball and throws it for me at the park. Then I bring it back, so he can throw it again.

Leader: So tell me, Buddy—how is that sharing?

Buddy: Simple! Antonio shares the ball with me so that I can have fun!

Leader: So you don't share, but Antonio shares with you?

Buddy: Yes! Isn't that great! (Pricks up his ears.) Oh, wait. I hear . . . it's ANTONIO! I gotta go now! Good-bye!

