

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

The Message: “Christ Alone”

Acts 15:1-35

• **Dramatic dialogue:**

Stand on a small stool as you tell the words the disciples spoke to the group. Speak loudly and confidently as the disciples may have done.

• **Change your posture:**

Sit as you narrate the action. Stand during the dialogue of the disciples.

Paul and Barnabas had been sharing the gospel with many people—including Gentiles. But some people in the church began to teach that the Gentiles could not be saved unless they followed some of the same rules the Jews followed.

Paul and Barnabas disagreed, and **the church leaders decided to meet in Jerusalem to talk about whether or not the Gentiles needed to obey the law of Moses. After a long discussion, Peter stood up and said to the group, “Brothers, God chose me to tell the good news to the Gentiles. They heard the good news, and they believed. God accepted them and gave them the Holy Spirit, just as He did for us.**

“Why are you trying to make salvation harder for them? We know that we cannot obey God’s laws perfectly. No, we believe that the Jews and Gentiles are saved in the same way—by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

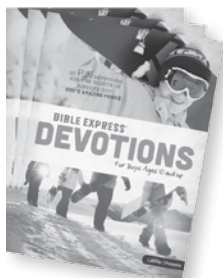
Everyone in the group was quiet as Paul and Barnabas told them about all the things God had done through them when they were with the Gentiles. Then another apostle, James, spoke up. He pointed out that the words of the prophets showed that God wanted to save both Jews and Gentiles.

“I think we should not cause trouble for the Gentiles who have trusted in Jesus. Instead, let’s write them a letter telling them the things they should not do.”

So the church leaders wrote the letter to the Gentile believers. The letter also explained some things they should not do now that they were believers.

The leaders chose Judas and Silas to go to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas to deliver the letter. The believers in Antioch were encouraged by the letter. Judas and Silas stayed with them for awhile, and then they went home. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch and taught believers and told other people the good news about Jesus.

Christ Connection: The church leaders met in Jerusalem to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? The early church agreed that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

What Will Save Me?

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the pictures where a child is making a right choice. Draw an *X* where a child is making a wrong choice.
Can doing any of these things save us from sin?



KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY:

THE MESSAGE: "CHRIST ALONE"

- Some people thought non-Jews could only be saved if they kept the same rules as Jews.
- The church leaders met together to talk about what was true.
- All people are saved the same way—by God's grace.
- The church encouraged Gentile believers.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Can a person be saved from sin by keeping the rules?
- Why is it good news that rules cannot save a person?
- Who is the only One that can save us? How did He do it?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- As you discipline preschoolers this week, remind them of their inability to obey perfectly. Point them to Jesus, who obeyed perfectly on their behalf.
- Write encouraging notes to your church leaders.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 30, Session 3

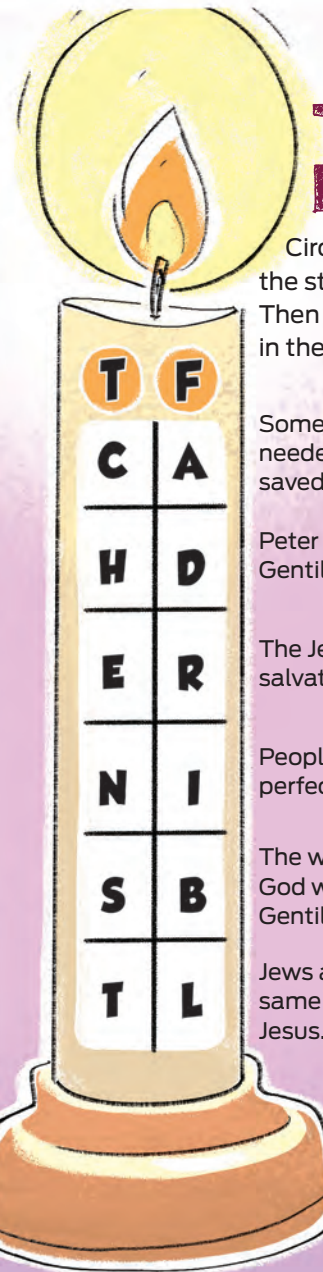


Picture Mix-Up

Arrange the picture pieces in the correct order to complete the Bible story main point.



The church in Jerusalem encouraged _____ believers.



The Message

Circle the letter to indicate if the statement is true or false. Then use the circled letters to fill in the message.

Some Jews believed Gentiles needed to follow Jewish rules to be saved.

Peter said that God accepted Gentiles who believed.

The Jews were trying to make salvation easier for Gentiles.

People can obey God's laws perfectly if they try hard.

The words of the prophets showed God wants to save both Jews and Gentiles.

Jews and Gentiles are saved in the same way—by the grace of the Lord Jesus.

The early church agreed that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, people are saved by _____ alone.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.