

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



---

### WHO'S 'GOT YOUR BACK'?

---

 Acts 9:19b-31; Acts 11:19-30 Paul and Barnabas

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- A PowerPoint slide with pictures of: Mufasa, Simba, Remy, Chef Gusteau, Yoda, Luke Skywalker, the Genie of the Lamp, Aladdin, Professor Dumbledore, and Harry Potter. Spread the images out, to separate the pairs.
- Images of children doing typical childhood activities like: learning maths, playing an instrument, playing in a sports team, cooking, reading, tidying a bedroom, playing a games console, gardening, praying, fundraising, falling over, bike riding ... – see Action It section

One of the first people God brought into Paul's life after his conversion was Barnabas. Barnabas built a relationship between Paul and himself and also between Paul and the Church family. He reached out to Paul and nurtured his gifts from God in ministry. We all need someone with more wisdom, knowledge and experience in walking with God to support our own walk with him.

## Start It

Share the PowerPoint slide with all images. Ask if they can find all the pairs. Give the children time to share.

**Ask:** Why did you pair them like that? What relationships do these pictures show?

● **Say:** In each of these relationships, someone who is more experienced and knowledgeable supports and nurtures someone younger.

**Ask:** Can you think of some ways they help? Give the children time to share.

● **Say:** They help, not by giving all the answers, but by talking, supporting and guiding them.

## Sing It

The words of this upbeat song say, 'I know you'll always be with me every day, your Spirit in me showing me the way'.

'God, you're good to me' by Vineyard Kids (3 mins 49 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzZiwHjkgOU>

## Tell It

● **Say:** This month we are going to look at some of the relationships a follower of Jesus called Paul had. First, here is how Paul came to follow Jesus.

● **Say:** After the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with God's power, the disciples were very busy. They told everyone they met the good news about Jesus, and they healed people who

were sick. But not everyone was happy about this. People who did not believe Jesus was the son of God were very angry at the disciples. They wanted to stop it all, even if it meant killing people who believed in Jesus.

- 🗨️ **Say:** One man who particularly hated those who followed Jesus was Saul. Saul went from house to house, threatening people who believed in Jesus, and putting them in prison where they would probably be killed.
- 🗨️ **Say:** One day Saul was travelling to Damascus to find more Christians to arrest, when from out of Heaven Saul saw the brightest light he had ever seen. It was so bright it made him fall on his knees. Then he heard a voice say, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' It was the voice of Jesus.
- 🗨️ **Say:** Saul's encounter with God caused him to become blind, and it was three days before he could see again. Saul was healed by a follower of Jesus and afterwards he believed. He realised that Jesus was the son of God and that he had been wrong to imprison and persecute other followers. He began telling all those he met the truth about Jesus. And soon after, Saul began using the Roman version of his name – Paul.

## Video

Alternatively watch a very quick summary, *God's Story Quick Version: Paul* by Crossroads Kids' Club (28 secs); or find a longer version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-VO5iU6e3Q>

- 🗨️ **Say:** I wonder how the followers of Jesus felt when Saul said he had chosen to change his ways and follow Jesus. One of the first people God brought into Paul's life after his conversion was Barnabas. This is what happened.

## Bible reading

Screen share: Acts 9:19b-31 Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

**'Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.'**

**'After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.'**

**'When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.'**

**'Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.'**

## Video

Watch how the story continues with Barnabas and Paul in *Children's Bible story – The Antioch church helped* (Acts 11:19-30) by Bible Story Notebook (2mins 11 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBbOdcx7knE>

## Discuss

- ➔ I wonder how Saul felt when he became a Christian.
- ➔ I wonder why Barnabas believed Saul had changed.
- ➔ I wonder what it is like to be encouraged by the Holy Spirit.
- ➔ I wonder how Barnabas helped Saul.

→ I wonder how God used Barnabas and Saul.

→ I wonder who helps and nurtures you.

→ I wonder what God has planned for you.

🗨 **Say:** Barnabas built a relationship between Paul and himself and also between Paul and the Church family. Barnabas reached out to Paul and nurtured his gifts from God in ministry. We all need someone with more wisdom, knowledge and experience in walking with God to support our own walk with him.

## Action It

### Pictionary

Ask the children to draw an image of someone helping them do something. Have children share the drawing and everyone else guess what is happening.

Share lots of images of activities children do or experience. Ask the children to call out who helps them with these things. Children may say different people, so use this opportunity to discuss why.

🗨 **Say:** Barnabas helped Saul in his faith journey, to get to know God deeper and use his gifts for God.

**Ask:** Who are the people who help you in your relationship with God? How do they help you? How could they help you more?

## Pray It

Using the whiteboard, encourage the children to write the names of the people they want to thank God for, who help and encourage them. Pray God will continue to bring positive people into our lives to support and enable us to grow.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.