

Children's Lesson (Elementary)

God Sends His People



Instructions

This sample children's ministry lesson guide is designed to help you engage kids in learning about God's work among the nations, using the story of Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey. Feel free to adapt it to fit your needs. The goal is to foster excitement about missions and help kids grasp the biblical call to proclaim the gospel.

The Big Picture

By the end of the lesson, children should understand:

- God loves people all over the world.
- Many people do not know about Jesus.
- God uses his people to tell others about Jesus.

Scripture Focus

Acts 13:2–3 (summary)

The church prayed, and God sent Paul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus.

(You may read the verses directly from the Bible or explain them in simple words.)



Simple Lesson Flow



1. Start With a Question (2 Minutes)

Ask the children:

- “Who told you about Jesus?”
- “Was it someone in your family? Someone at church?”

Briefly affirm that God uses people to share the good news.

Listen to Find Out:

Say something like:

“Today in our Bible story, two men travel far from home to tell people about Jesus. Listen to find out the names of these two men.”



2. Tell the Bible Study (5 minutes)

Tell the story in your own words, slowly and simply:

“There was a church in a place called Antioch. The people in that church loved God. They prayed together and listened to God’s Word.

While they were praying, God told the church to send two men, Paul and Barnabas, to tell others about Jesus. The church did not rush. They prayed again. Then they sent Paul and Barnabas to go.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to different places. They told people about Jesus—who he is and how he saves sinners. Some people believed. Some people heard about Jesus for the first time.

When Paul and Barnabas came back, they told the church what God had done. The church thanked God.”

Key sentence to repeat with the kids:

God uses his people to tell others about Jesus.



3. Simple Teaching Point & Check for Understanding (4 minutes)

Say something like:

*“God loves the whole world.
Many people still do not know about Jesus.
God sends his people—ordinary people—to tell others the
good news.”*

*“Sometimes God sends people far away.
Sometimes God uses us right where we live.”*

Then ask a few simple questions:

- *“Who were the two men who traveled far from home to tell people about Jesus?”*
- *“What did Paul and Barnabas tell the people they met?”*
- *“Are there people today who do not know about Jesus yet?”*
- *“Do you know someone who does not know about Jesus?”*

Allow short answers. Do not correct too much—listen for understanding.





4. Prayer Time (8–10 minutes)

This is the center of the lesson.

Explain prayer simply:

Prayer is how we talk to God. Today, we are going to pray for people to know Jesus.

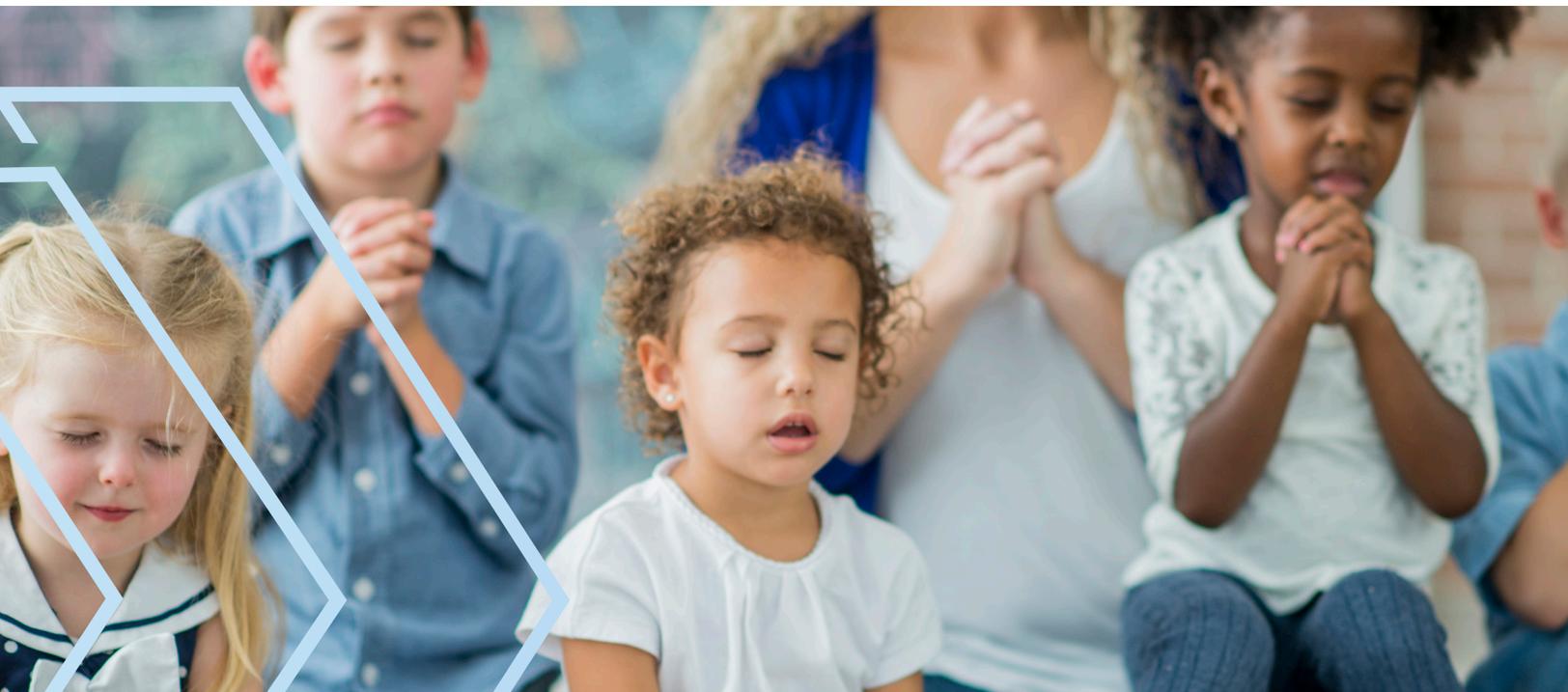
Lead prayer in short, guided steps:

- Thank God that he loves the world.
- Pray for people who do not know Jesus yet.
- Pray that God would help our church love, pray for, and support those who tell others about Jesus.
- Pray that God would help us tell others about Jesus in our own lives.

You may invite children to repeat short prayers after you, such as:

- *“God, thank you for loving the world.”*
- *“God, help people know Jesus.”*
- *“God, help us obey you.”*

Keep the prayer calm and unhurried.





5. One Simple Response - Prayer Drawing (Optional, 5 minutes)

Give each child a piece of paper.

Ask them to draw:

- A person they know who does not know Jesus, or
- A group of people hearing about Jesus.

As they draw, remind them quietly that God hears our prayers.

Close by praying silently or aloud for what they have drawn.

(If time is short, skip this step.)

Closing Sentence to Repeat Together

Say and have the children repeat:

*“God loves the world.
People need Jesus.
God uses his people.”*

Optional Extra Ideas (Use as Time and Energy Allow)

- Pray together for missionaries your church supports by name, asking God to give them faithfulness, courage, and strength as they tell others about Jesus.
- Encourage children to keep praying after Send Sunday by reminding them to pray at home with a simple prayer like, “God, help people know Jesus.”
- Let children know they may bring a missions offering next week if the church chooses to receive one, emphasizing that giving is voluntary and that God cares about the heart, not the amount.
- Provide a simple coloring or reflection page related to prayer, the church sending, or people hearing about Jesus, and remind children they can pray quietly while they work.
- Use a map or globe to help children point to a country and pray for the people who live there, asking God to help them know Jesus.
- Close by sending children out with a short reminder they can repeat during the week: God loves the world, people need Jesus, and God uses his people.

