



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TEACHING OUTLINE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Stand by You Barnabas and Saul Acts 9:26-30

WEEK 3

Key Question: **When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?** It's always good to know that your friends have your back. Many preteens have experienced a time when someone defended them or spoke up on their behalf. Or maybe they've seen someone else stand up for a friend in that way. We pray that as kids remember how others have supported and encouraged them, they'll be inspired to stand up for people too.

In week three, we head to **Acts 9:26-30**. Saul had a bad reputation with the followers of Jesus. So when Saul decided to follow Jesus, the other believers had a difficult time trusting that he had really changed. Barnabas went out on a limb and defended Saul. Because of Barnabas, the followers of Jesus chose to help Saul and trust that Jesus had really changed him.

Bottom Line: **Friends stand up for one another.** Of course, we don't want kids to put themselves in dangerous situations, but there's an aspect of friendship when we might feel like we need to defend others. It's important that we find a way to stand up for people who are being treated badly. We want kids to understand how they can encourage others and let them know they're not alone.

TEACHING GUIDE:

KEYSCRIPTURE: Acts 9:26-30

This message should be 15-18 min. More time for small group is key. Remember the lead small model.

"As we get ready to head to groups today, think about this question.

LANDING

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"When have you seen someone stand up for someone else? What was the situation? How did it make a difference? How might that situation help you when you see someone who needs help? If you're not quite sure how you'd answer those questions, don't worry. You'll have a chance to talk all about it with your small group. But before we head out, let's pray and ask God to give us the courage to be more like Barnabas with the Saul's in our lives! Let's pray!"

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends stand up for one another.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV



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10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Stand by You
Barnabas and Saul
Acts 9:26-30

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends stand up for one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey everyone! Hope you're all doing well this fine Sunday morning! It's a great morning to make some harmony together as we discover more about friendship. But as I look at you all, I have to be honest . . . some of you all look a little sleepy. You know, I think we need to do something to WAKE us all up. Seriously. EVERYBODY UP right now! Let's play 'Get Up to Get Down!'"

SLIDE: "GET UP TO GET DOWN"

"Alright let's play a classic song that has some directional instructions in it. Some of you might know it because your parents have played it around the house. I promise you. It still slaps, AND the lyrics tell you what to do—either get UP or to get DOWN. Don't miss it. Otherwise . . . you'll be out!"

AUDIO: "GET DOWN" - AUDIO ADRENALINE (START AT THE FIRST CHORUS.)

Give instructional comments throughout the song. You can make it an elimination game if that fits your group. The last one to follow the direction is out. Or just make it a fun all-play.

(After the song game) "Well, I would say we are completely ready to stand together and worship, wouldn't you say? Let's get UP!"



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yeah! I love it when we come together to sing, dance, and give our praise to Jesus. I want ALL of my life to be for Him. I want to worship Him with every beat of my heart. Sing this with me.

AUDIO: "EVERY BEAT" / TRACK 3 FROM EVERY BEAT

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "EVERY BEAT" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"We have the best Friend ever in Jesus. Jesus once told His disciples: 'No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends.' (John 15:13) Of course, that's exactly what Jesus did for us when He gave His life on the cross. Let's sing and celebrate Jesus and His amazing love!

AUDIO: "FRIEND LIKE YOU" / TRACK 5 FROM THIS LOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "FRIEND LIKE YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"The way we live our lives is a way we can worship God. When we love others, we're showing our love to God. We can be good friends who are willing to love others no matter what. Come on and sing this from your heart.

AUDIO: "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" / TRACK 7 FROM MAKE A MOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "What's going on everyone? Okay, I know your legs are already sore from that first UP/DOWN song, but I need everybody up again. Don't worry . . . this won't be nearly as intense!

"I'll give a simple stand up/sit down instruction. Just follow it EVERY TIME . . . got it?"

"Sit down if you like DC better than Marvel.

"Stand up if you would rather play sports outside than video games inside.

"Stand up if you have lived in the same place since you were born.

"Sit down if you have moved during the last two years.

"Stand up if you like group projects at school.

"Sit down if you would choose cookies over ice cream.

"Sit down if you went in some body of water this past summer.

"Stand up if winter is your favorite season.

"Stand up if you have ever gotten in an argument with a friend.

"Stand up if you ever worked out an argument with a friend.

"Stand up if a friend has ever stood up for you or you have ever stood up for a friend.

"Stand up if you're still sitting down."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "While you're all standing, think about something for a second. What does it even mean to STAND UP for a friend? Would anyone like to share what they think that means?"

As time allows take a few responses from the kids.

Those are great thoughts! You can ALL sit down now. So, many of you said that you've had a friend stand up for you, or you've even had the chance to stand up for a friend. There are all sorts of reasons we might have to stand up for a friend, but this can be tricky, can't it? There's some risk involved. We may not know if we can really trust that the person we're choosing to stand up for is trustworthy. We may wonder if people will treat US differently if we stand up for someone else. These are real things to think about when it comes to the whole idea of standing up for others. "So, what do we do? What does it look like for us to take a chance and stand up for people we know and care about?"



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Or even people we may not know so well, what do we do about them? These are great questions for us to think about today. Thankfully, when we have big questions, we have a place we can look for big answers: the Bible. Remember, the Bible is full of wisdom written down by real people who had real experiences with God. And God inspired them to write about them so we can learn from them all these years later. Let's head there now and see what wisdom we can discover about standing up for others!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "I have the PERFECT story in mind. We find it in the book of Acts in the New Testament of the Bible. In the book of Acts, we can read all about how the first followers of Jesus took His message to the whole world. God's message of love started with Jesus' closest disciples but soon spread to all sorts of people including the person we're talking about today. But rather than just tell you the story . . . I thought I could do one better. Would you all give a warm welcome to . . . the apostle Paul, also known as Saul!"

Host enters dressed as the apostle Paul.

HOST: "Oh, yes, please call me Saul! It's great to be with you all."

COMMUNICATOR: "Although this man needs little introduction, let me still help you all out if you aren't quite sure who this is. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the good news about Jesus began to spread. Many people were putting their faith in Jesus . . . but not EVERYone was super-excited that this was happening."

"Enter Saul."

Points to the apostle Paul.

SAUL: "Please, call me Paul."

COMMUNICATOR: "Well, PAUL was a devoted Jewish man who believed he was doing God's work by putting a stop to the message of Jesus and His followers. But while he was on his way to . . . where was it, Paul?"

SAUL: "Damascus."

COMMUNICATOR: "Right, Damascus to have even more Jesus followers arrested, Paul was met by none other than Jesus Himself who spoke to Paul and turned his entire life around!"

"Paul went from being against Jesus and His followers to being one of the most devoted followers of Jesus you could imagine!"

SAUL: "Oh, please . . . that's too much. And please . . . call me Saul."

COMMUNICATOR: "Got it. Well, thanks for being here today, SAUL. Let's have a seat."

Communicator and Saul sit down interview style.

"So, I'm curious. What changed your mind on that Damascus road? And so quickly?"

HOST: "That's a good question. You see, our people . . . God's people . . . we've had a bit of a track record of chasing



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after false gods and listening to false prophets. Sadly, it's one of the main reasons we were eventually exiled—removed—from the land of promise. So, when I first heard about Jesus, I didn't believe it. I thought, 'Here we go again! It's just another false prophet the people are falling for!' I believed the best thing I could do—what GOD wanted me to do—was put a stop to it. To silence the message."

COMMUNICATOR: "So, in a sense, you thought you were doing God's work?"

HOST: "Very much so! But on that road to Damascus, where I was headed to put a stop to the message of Jesus that had spread there, well . . . let's just say that Jesus showed up and showed me WHO had it all wrong. That day everything changed. I believed. And I knew that I had to go and tell EVERYONE about Jesus!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Wow! Actually, that's what I want to talk to you about. So, I have here (*holding up Bible*) the account that your good friend Luke wrote about some of your travels. I was hoping that maybe you could give us a little insight, Paul?"

HOST: "I would love to . . . but please, call me Saul."

COMMUNICATOR: "Oh yes, sorry. Saul. Alright, let's pick up right after the Damascus story. So, Jesus got a hold of your life on the road, but somehow in the midst of everything, you lost your ability to see. So, the men who had traveled with you led you into Damascus where you met another follower of Jesus named Ananias. God used him to help restore your sight. Then you went into the synagogues—the Jewish places of worship—and started to tell EVERYONE that Jesus is the very Son of God . . . the promised Messiah!"

HOST: "That's right. The irony is I originally planned to go into those synagogues to STOP the message of Jesus, but there I was shouting it as loud as I could! Some of the people there got mad that I was teaching about Jesus. So, I had to leave Damascus and head back to Jerusalem."

COMMUNICATOR: "Oh, wow. That's rough. I'm so sorry you had to go through that. Let's pick up on what happened once you got back to Jerusalem. Here's what Luke wrote:

Open the Bible to Acts 9:26 (NirV) and read.

"When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the believers. But they were all afraid of him. They didn't believe he was really one of Jesus' followers."

"Tell us more about that."

HOST: "Right, well, you can imagine that I didn't leave the best impression on the people when I left Jerusalem. I had been terrible to them. I literally tried to destroy the church there. But I was coming back a changed man. But, of course, they didn't know that! They took one look at me and GONE! Nobody believed my story. Nobody believed that I had changed. Nobody believed that a guy who was so against Jesus could now be a follower of Jesus."

COMMUNICATOR: "Right. But then Luke wrote this.

Open the Bible to Acts 9:27 (NirV) and read.

"But Barnabas took him to the apostles. He told them about Saul's journey. He said that Saul had seen the Lord."



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He told how the Lord had spoken to Saul. Barnabas also said that Saul had preached without fear in Jesus' name in Damascus."

HOST: "Ah. Good old Barney. If it wasn't for him, I don't know where I would be. He stood up for me when nobody else would. Barney brought me to Peter, James, John, and the others and explained it all. The Damascus road. How he knew that I had spoken about Jesus wherever I went. Barney took a chance on me. He stood up for me. And because of him . . . well, the others ended up accepting me too."

COMMUNICATOR: "That's quite a story. It's amazing what one friend can do for another. And I noticed that because of what Barnabas did, the others began to stand up for you, too."

Open the Bible to Acts 9:28-30 (NirV) and read.

"So Saul stayed with the believers. He moved about freely in Jerusalem. He spoke boldly in the Lord's name. He talked and argued with the Greek Jews. But they tried to kill him. The other believers heard about this. They took Saul down to Caesarea. From there they sent him off to Tarsus."

"Now the OTHER apostles were standing up for you in the midst of the persecution and challenges you were facing!"

HOST: "Exactly. And it all started with Barney."

COMMUNICATOR: "Well, I can't tell you how thankful we are to have had this time with you. Thank you so much for sharing your story with us! Give Saul a hand!"

HOST AS SAUL: "It has been my pleasure . . . and please, call me Paul."

Host exits.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Saul, Paul—that can get confusing. Either way, from his story we can see how truly amazing it is when a friend stands up for another friend. In Acts, Luke didn't tell us what Barnabas saw in Saul. We don't know why he stood up for Saul. But at some point, he decided to trust God and put himself out there for the sake of another, and it made all the difference. Saul would go on to travel much of the known world sharing the message of Jesus and starting churches everywhere. But that started with simply being accepted as an apostle and leader in the early church."

"Now, we might not be a part of something that feels SO huge . . . but are there times that standing up for someone still matters for us? Maybe you see a friend who is getting picked on or made fun of at school by other kids. That matters. So how can you stand up for your friend and get the help they need?"

"Maybe your friend was accused of doing something they didn't do and nobody will believe them. But you know the truth about them. That matters, too! How can you stand up for your friend and get the help they need?"

"Or maybe your friend is starting to get into some things that might not be good for them. You know you need to step in and help. That definitely matters. How can you stand up for your friend and get the help they need?"

"There are a lot of ways that we can stand up for others! A lot of the time, standing up for someone means talking to



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trusting adults and getting their help in order to make sure your friends are okay.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“When have you seen someone stand up for someone else? What was the situation? How did it make a difference? How might that situation help you when you see someone who needs help? If you’re not quite sure how you’d answer those questions, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to talk all about it with your small group. But before we head out, let’s pray and ask God to give us the courage to be more like Barnabas with the Saul’s in our lives! Let’s pray!”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP