



August's B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God wants us to help others.

August's Bible Verse

Children, you show love for others by truly helping them. 1 John 3:18, CEV

August's B.i.G. Theme

We Can Help Others

Lesson 13 ★ The Offering for Jerusalem

Today's Bible Story

Acts 11:19-30

Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about the church in Antioch sending an offering for people in Jerusalem.
- ★ Children will discover that we can help others by giving food and money.

It was a time of danger for the church. Stephen, one of Jesus' followers, had been stoned to death for his beliefs (Acts 6-7), and a fiery young man—Saul—was actively persecuting people who believed in Christ (Acts 8:1-3). Many believers were fearful, and they left Jerusalem, scattering to other cities seeking safety. But the believers who scattered were not silent about their faith. They spread the good news about Jesus as they went from place to place.

At first the message of Jesus was preached only to Jews. But as the persecuted Christians found refuge in places like Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, they began to spread the message of Jesus to the Gentiles too. The residents of Antioch were especially receptive to this good news, and a significant foothold for the gospel developed in the city. We do not

know the names of these first missionaries to the Gentiles, but we do know that "the hand of the Lord was with them" (Acts 11:21) and that a large number of people put their faith in the Lord.

When the church leaders in Jerusalem heard what was happening in Antioch, they sent Barnabas to check things out. Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement," was a Levite from Cyprus. His reputation as an encouraging person, his familiarity with the region, and his deep faith in God made him a natural for the job. He also had been one of the people who stood by Paul after Paul's conversion. He believed that Paul's conversion was genuine, when others were unsure (Acts 9:26-27). When Barnabas saw how hungry the people in Antioch were to learn about Christ, he quickly found Paul and appealed to him for help. The two men spent the next year working together in Antioch, teaching the people about Jesus. The church in Antioch grew strong. In fact, it was in Antioch that believers were first called Christians.

The Christians in Antioch took their faith seriously and genuinely wanted to live in Christ's ways. When they heard that a famine was anticipated in Judea, they immediately pooled their money—with every person giving as he or she was able—and entrusted Barnabas and Paul to deliver their offering to the church in Jerusalem.

Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
Offering Center	
Decorate an Offering Pail	
Noisy Offerings	✓

. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Transition Time	✓
Hear the Bible Story	✓
Bible-Times Snack	
Picture Time	
DVD Fun	✓

. . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Can You Remember?	
Write to Bongo	✓
Praise Time	
Closing Worship	✓



TimeSaver
Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



EcoFriendly
Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

DVD Summary: Picture Time

Do you ever wonder if your children understand why they are encouraged to bring money for an offering? This week's Picture Time shows some of the things our money can do to help others. Our money can help people in our own community as well as people who live in other parts of the world. It can provide food for someone living on the street or pay for digging a new well for a Mongolian village. Our money can be used to build homes or churches, to buy medicine or Bibles, and so much more. Sharing our money is one way we show love to others by truly helping them.

LIVE BIG

The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God wants us to help others.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Welcome!

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child a church **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is about one of the first churches, the church in Antioch. They did not meet in a building that looked like our church—they probably met in a home. This church in Antioch was the first place where people who worshiped Jesus were called Christians.
 - ★ **Say:** We use the word *church* to refer to the building where Christians meet. But we also use the word *church* to refer to the people who love and follow Jesus, no matter where they meet.
 - ★ **Ask:** Do you remember our Bible verse? It says: “Children, you show love for others by truly helping them” (1 John 3:18, CEV).
 - ★ **Say:** We will find out what the church in Antioch did to help others.
 - ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

Live B.i.G. The people who love Jesus are called to help others.

Offering Center

Supplies: offering plates, offering baskets, different kinds of banks, change

- Do** ★ Let the children examine different offering containers and banks.
- ★ Have some change for the children to put in the containers.
 - ★ **Ask:** What are these used for? (*to collect offerings*)
 - ★ **Say:** I wonder where our offering money goes after we give it to our church. I wonder if we use the money to help others.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to help others.

Decorate an Offering Pail

Supplies: table covering, plastic sand bucket, glue, foam shapes or tissue paper scraps, shallow containers, glue brushes

If you have a large group of children, divide the children into groups and have them decorate more than one pail.



Invite them in . . .

Prepare

- ★ Cover the table with a protective covering.
- ★ If you are using tissue paper, pour glue into shallow containers.

Do

- ★ Have the children work together to decorate a classroom pail.
- ★ Let the children glue foam shapes or tissue paper scraps on the pail.
- ★ If you use tissue paper, show the children how to use brushes to brush glue over the top of the tissue paper. This will seal the tissue paper to the pail and make it shiny.
- ★ **Say:** The church people in Antioch worked together to help others. One way they helped was by sharing food and money. When we put our money in the offering plate in church, we are providing the church with a way to help people in need. We can use our offering pail to collect our church offerings.
- ★ Place the offering pail in your storytelling area.

Live B.i.G. One way we help others is by bringing our offering money to church.

Noisy Offerings

Supplies: containers with separate lids (such as lunch-size potato chip cans, margarine tubs, yogurt containers, or small boxes) or recycled offering envelopes or regular envelopes; tape; crayons or markers; pennies; optional: construction paper, colored tape, leftover stickers

Prepare

- ★ If desired, wrap each container in construction paper. Keep the lids separate.

Plan to use the noisy offering containers during the Bible story.



Do

- ★ Give each child a container.
- ★ Let the children decorate the containers by coloring with markers or crayons.
- ★ You could also tear colored tape into short pieces and let the children place the colored tape on their containers.
- ★ You could also provide any leftover stickers from previous lessons and let the children decorate the containers with the stickers.
- ★ If you are using envelopes, let the children decorate the envelopes with crayons or markers and stickers.
- ★ Give each child two pennies.
- ★ Help the children put the pennies in their offering containers and secure the lids.
- ★ If you are using envelopes, seal the envelopes with tape.
- ★ Show the children how to shake their offering containers to make noise.
- ★ **Say:** What noisy offerings! Our Bible story is about church people in Antioch. They worked together to help others by sharing their offerings. They sent money to people who did not have enough money to buy food.

Live B.i.G. One way we help others is by bringing our offering money to church.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God
wants us to help others.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Transition Time

- Do**
- ★ Have the children stand in a circle in your storytelling area.
 - ★ **Say:** Let's sing a happy song and clap our hands.
 - ★ Sing the song "Oh, You Show Love for Others" to the tune of "The More We Get Together."
 - ★ Have the children clap their hands as you sing.

Oh, You Show Love for Others

Oh, you show love for others,
for others, for others.

Oh, you show love for others
by truly helping them.

By helping, by helping,
by helping, by helping.

Oh, you show love for others
by truly helping them.

- ★ Sing the song again and have the children stomp their feet.
- ★ Have the children sit down.

Live B.i.G. We believe that God wants us to help others.

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible, Leader—page 136, noisy offering containers made earlier (page 131)

- Do**
- ★ Hold your Bible open to Acts 11.
 - ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is from the Book of Acts. I want you to help me tell the story. First I want you to shake your noisy offerings.
 - ★ Give the children their noisy offering containers.
 - ★ **Say:** Very good. Now when I point to you, I want you to shake your offerings and sing this song with me.
 - ★ Sing the following song with the children. The tune is "Hot Cross Buns."

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

- ★ Tell the Bible story “Christians Help” (**Leader—page 136**) to the children. Have the children sing along and shake their noisy offerings whenever the song appears.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to help others.

Bible-Times Snack

Supplies: pita bread, knife, white grape juice, cups, napkins, optional: butter, sugar, cinnamon

Prepare

- ★ Cut pita bread into quarters.

Check for allergies before serving this snack.



- Do**
- ★ Have the children wash their hands.
 - ★ **Say:** The Christians in Antioch sent a money offering to help others buy food. They probably used the money to buy flour so they could make bread. Our snack today is similar to the bread they ate in Bible times.
 - ★ Give each child a piece of the pita bread.
 - ★ If desired, let the children add butter, sugar, and cinnamon to the bread pieces.
 - ★ Serve grape juice with the bread. White grape juice will not stain like purple juice.
 - ★ Say a thank-you prayer.

Live B.i.G. The Christians in Antioch sent money to help others buy food. We show God’s love by helping one another.

Picture Time

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television, offering plates used earlier (page 130), offering pail made earlier (page 130)

- Do**
- ★ Show the children offering plates and the pail made earlier.
 - ★ **Say:** Every Sunday we pass an offering plate in church. We also collect an offering in our classroom too. Do you ever wonder where the money goes? Let’s find out!
 - ★ Watch Picture Time (**DVD**).
 - ★ **Ask:** What are some of the ways that our offering money helps others?
 - ★ **Say:** Our offerings help people all over the world. Our offerings provide food, clothing, medicine, clean water, shelter, Bibles, and much, much more.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to help others.

DVD Fun

Supplies: DVDs from this year

- Do**
- ★ Play a few of the **DVD** segments that your children really enjoyed.
 - ★ Talk with them about the lesson and ask them why this was one of their favorites.

Live B.i.G. We can learn new ways to share God’s love with others.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God wants us to help others.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Can You Remember?

Supplies: Leader—pages 137 and 138, scissors, envelopes, crayons or markers

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy and cut apart two sets of the picture cards (**Leader—pages 137 and 138**) for each child.

Do

- ★ Give each child an envelope.
- ★ Let the children decorate the envelopes with crayons or markers.
- ★ Give each child two sets of the picture cards (**Leader—pages 137 and 138**).
- ★ Encourage the children to match the cards.
- ★ Look at each of the matching cards with the children.
- ★ Help the children remember the stories represented by the pictures.
- ★ **Say:** These pictures can help us remember our Bible stories.
- ★ Let the children place their picture cards in their envelopes to take home.

Live B.i.G. Bible stories help us know what God wants us to do. God wants us to help others.

Write to Bongo

Supplies: pen, paper, envelope

Prepare

- ★ Address the envelope to: Bongo, In Care of Live B.I.G.
UMPH
P.O. Box 801
Nashville, TN 37203

Do

- ★ **Say:** Let's write a letter to Bongo and tell him some of the things we have learned in Sunday school.
- ★ Invite the children to share with you some of the things that they remember doing and learning this year in Sunday school.
- ★ Make a list of all the things the children name.
- ★ Put the list in the envelope and mail it to Bongo.

Live B.i.G. We can remember things we learn in Sunday school. We have learned that God wants us to help others.

Praise Time

Supplies: Leader—page 6, DVD, DVD player, television, rubber gloves or work gloves

- Do**
- ★ Give each child a pair of work gloves or rubber gloves to wear.
 - ★ **Say:** Why would people wear gloves like these? That's right—to work! I can see that you have helping hands. That means we are ready to sing our Praise Time song!
 - ★ Play “I've Got Helping Hands” (**DVD**). Encourage the children to sing and clap with the song.

Live B.i.G. Our love for others is shown by our helpful actions.

Closing Worship

Supplies: Stickers, Kids' Book, Leader—page 136

Prepare

- ★ Detach a storybook (**Kids' Book**) for each child (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Detach and fill in an end of the year certificate (**Kids' Book**) for each child.
- ★ Photocopy “Christians Help” (**Leader—page 136**) for each child to take home.

- Do**
- ★ **Say:** Today we heard about how the church in Antioch gave their offerings to help others.
 - ★ Place an “Our Church Helps” worship badge (**Stickers**) on each child.
 - ★ **Say:** (*Child's name*), you can help our church help others.
 - ★ Give each child an end-of-the-year certificate (**Kids' Book**) along with a Bongo **Sticker** and a Live B.I.G. **Sticker** to attach to the certificate.
 - ★ Read the Bible verse on the certificate: “Believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).
 - ★ **Say:** I am glad you have participated in our Live B.I.G. Sunday school class this year. Remember to live your belief in God.
 - ★ **Pray:** Dear God, thank you for (*name the children*). Each of them is a part of your church. Help us show your love in the world and live our belief in you. Amen.
 - ★ Give each child a storybook (**Kids' Book**) and a copy of “Christians Help” (**Leader—page 136**) to take home.

Live B.i.G. We are all an important part of the church. We can all live BIG for God.

Christians Help

Once there was a man named Barnabas who loved Jesus and tried to do what Jesus taught him to do. Barnabas wanted to help others.

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

One day some people came to Barnabas and said, "We need your help. There are some people in the city of Antioch who want to learn about Jesus and need a good teacher like you. Will you go to Antioch and encourage the people to follow Jesus?" Barnabas wanted to help so he said, "Yes! I will go!"

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch he was excited to see how much the people of Antioch loved Jesus. Soon many more people in Antioch became followers of Jesus. Barnabas said, "I need help! I must find my friend Paul and invite him to help me here in Antioch."

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

Do you remember Paul? We have heard stories about Paul earlier this summer. Paul was the man who had to escape over a wall in a basket. He survived a shipwreck too. Barnabas went to look for his friend Paul. When he found him, he brought Paul with him to Antioch. Together they stayed in Antioch for a year, helping them learn about Jesus.

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

One day someone said, "Look how these people love and worship Jesus Christ. They should be called Christians!" The name "Christian" was a new name. No one had ever been called a Christian before. But it was a wonderful name, and followers of Jesus have been called Christians ever since.

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

One day a man called Agabus came to Antioch with some bad news. "A terrible famine is coming," he said. "The Christians in Jerusalem will soon run out of food."

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

The Christians in Antioch did not want anyone to go hungry. "We must help," they said. "Let's collect an offering and send it to Jerusalem. Everyone should give whatever he or she can." When the money was collected, Barnabas and Paul took the money to Jerusalem and gave it to the Christians who lived there. Now everyone could have enough to eat.

Christians help.
Christians help.
Helping others just like Jesus,
Christians help.

based on Acts 11:19-30

Picture Cards

