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**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, and not merely by talking about it. 1 John 3:18, CEV*

**August's B.i.G. Theme**

We Can Help Others

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## Lesson 13 ★ The Offering for Jerusalem

### Today's Bible Story

Acts 11:19-30

### Objectives

- ★ Children will connect with the biblical story of the church in Antioch sharing an offering for people in Jerusalem.
- ★ Children will discover that one way we can help others is by sharing food and money.

In some ways, we owe our faith to those who have gone before us. They have preserved the Word, both written and oral, and handed down to us all we know about Jesus Christ. Some of those early Christians lived in a city called Antioch. It was there, according to Scripture, that the followers of Jesus were first called "Christians," a name that has persevered through the centuries.

The biblical description of the church in Antioch could easily be your church or mine. It is a community of faithful followers who spread the Word of God and the good news of Jesus Christ. They grow both in faith and in number. Noting the powerful activity of the Holy Spirit, Christians sent a man named Barnabas to shepherd the new flock. Barnabas, according to Scripture, was a man of faith, filled with the Holy Spirit. Does this description fit anyone in your church? Who comes to mind when you think of a Spirit-filled servant of God? This was Barnabas.

Barnabas recognized the need for more leadership in Antioch. He needed Saul, so he went to Tarsus and asked Saul to come to Antioch and help nurture the church there.

Saul responded, and the church continued to thrive under the joint leadership of Barnabas and Saul.

Several prophets came to Antioch and shared their belief that a famine would come over the entire Roman world. Saul and Barnabas listened and responded. The church in Antioch responded to the coming need by sharing food and money with those around Judea who needed it. They helped stave off the suffering of their fellow believers. They helped put hands to the gospel message as they reached out to help.

Children love to help. They will volunteer for special jobs in the classroom and, when told of a special need, will often give their own possessions in order to help someone else. Today's story gives them an example of that kind of helping action. As you teach today's Bible story, help the children think about what they can do about hunger. The church in Antioch did not have big governmental programs on which to depend. Instead, they relied on whatever each person could bring and the need was met.

Today is the last week in our summer quarter. The children will be completing their last entry for their prayer journal. Encourage them to include a special cover for their journal and to find a place to keep this book to help them remember that they, like those who lived long ago, are beloved disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

First Missionaries	✓	
Which Way to Tarsus?	✓	
Church-to-Church String Banner		✓
The B.I.G. Picture	✓	

## . . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

The Church in Antioch	✓
Growth Circles	
Potluck	

## . . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Clothespin Relay	
Binding Prayer Journals	
Helping-Hands Wreath	✓
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: The B.i.G. Picture

*This week The B.I.G. Picture gives your children clear images of some of the things that can happen when they give an offering to the church. The DVD segment uses spinning coins to lead the children through pictures of people receiving assistance, such as food and clothing for someone who is hungry and in need, playground equipment for children in a low-income neighborhood, or a home for a struggling family.*



## 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.

### First Missionaries



**Supplies:** Bibles, Leader—page 165, pencils

#### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “First Missionaries” (Leader—page 165) for each child.

**Do** ★ Give each child a copy of “First Missionaries” (Leader—page 165).

- ★ **Say:** The Bible has a story of the first missionaries. See if you can find Acts 11:19-30 in the Bible. The words in this puzzle are related to this story. See if you can unscramble the words. Use the numbered letters to complete the phrase at the bottom of the page.
- ★ Allow the children time to complete the puzzle.

**Live B.i.G.** Christians can take care of one another.

### Which Way to Tarsus?



**Supplies:** Leader—page 166, crayons

#### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Which Way to Tarsus?” (Leader—page 166) for each child.

**Do** ★ Give each child a copy of “Which Way to Tarsus?” (Leader—page 166).

- ★ **Say:** Barnabas needed Saul’s help in leading the church in Antioch. So Barnabas went from Antioch to Tarsus to find Saul and bring him to the church in Antioch. See if you can help Barnabas find his way to Tarsus on this puzzle.
- ★ Allow the children to choose their favorite color crayon to complete the puzzle.

**Live B.i.G.** God provides a way for people to help one another. We have enough to share with those in need.

### Church-to-Church String Banner



**Supplies:** brown grocery bags, construction paper, yarn or heavy string, crayons, markers, gingerbread man and/or woman cookie cutters (enough for each child would be helpful), scissors, glue, tape, pencils, optional: bulletin board

Invite them in . . .

## Prepare

- ★ Cut open the brown grocery bags so they will lie flat.
- ★ Cut the grocery bags into sections about the size of your cookie cutters.

- Do** ★ **Say:** As Christians, we are connected to the people in our church. We say that we are a church family because of our relationship with one another. But did you know that we are also connected with Christians in other places as well? Let's make a project that shows how we are connected.
- ★ Give each child a section of brown grocery bag and a gingerbread person cookie cutter.
  - ★ Have each child trace around the gingerbread person cookie cutter on the grocery bag, adding a rectangle on top of the person's head to use to hang.
  - ★ Have each child cut out the tracing and draw a face and hair on the person.
  - ★ Encourage each child to design clothing to put on his or her gingerbread person using construction paper.
  - ★ Fold the top rectangle over to the back of the head. Hang the person cutout over the string, then tape the rectangle down to the back of the person to hold it in place. Have each child add his or her person to the string.
  - ★ Tack the string of people up on a bulletin board or tape to the wall in front of the worship center.
  - ★ **Say:** Do you see how these people are connected by the string? Each one of them is different, but they have the string in common. Likewise, all Christians have their faith in Jesus Christ in common. Jesus becomes the "string" that holds us all together.

**Live B.i.G.** Christians everywhere share our faith in Jesus. We are all connected in Christ.

## The B.i.G. Picture



**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television, envelopes, colored pencils or crayons

## Prepare

- ★ Preview The B.I.G. Picture **(DVD)**.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Today we will learn about the first Christian missions. Churches ever since have followed these first ones' example and shared food, clothes, medical supplies, money, and more to help those in need. Let's look at some images that will help us understand where the church's offerings go and who they help.
- ★ Watch The B.I.G. Picture with the children **(DVD)**.
  - ★ Give each child an envelope.
  - ★ Have the children draw a picture on the envelope of one of the images from The B.I.G. Picture.
  - ★ **Say:** Take this envelope home and, this week, put some money in the envelope that you will bring to put in the offering at church next week. The offering you bring will help many people.

**Live B.i.G.** Our offerings help many people who need it. Together, we can do great things.



## 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.

### The Church in Antioch



**Supplies:** Bibles, Leader—page 164, globe or world map

#### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “The Church in Antioch” (**Leader—page 164**) for each child.
- ★ Ask the pastor or church secretary to which countries some of your church’s mission money is sent.

#### Do

- ★ Show the children how to find Acts 11:19-30 in their Bibles.
- ★ Give each child a copy of “The Church in Antioch” (**Leader—page 164**).
- ★ **Say:** The church in the city of Antioch was a growing church. As people heard about the good news of Jesus Christ, they became Christians too. Let’s hear the story of those early Christians.
- ★ Read “The Church in Antioch” (**Leader—page 164**).
- ★ **Ask:** How did people come to know about Jesus in Antioch? (*The disciples told people.*) Let’s look at this globe (*or map*) and see if we can find out where Antioch was located. (*Look for the modern city of Antakya, Turkey.*) See how far the good news has spread since Barnabas and Saul traveled between Tarsus and Antioch?
- ★ Show the children where Jerusalem is located.
- ★ **Ask:** Jerusalem was far away from Antioch, yet the Christians in Antioch shared what they had with people far away.
- ★ Show the children where your city is located. Then show them where some of your church’s mission money is sent.
- ★ **Say:** Just like the church in Antioch, we send some of our offerings to faraway places to help people who need it.

**Live B.i.G.** We can share our faith with others.

### Growth Circles



**Supplies:** Bibles, basket-type paper coffee filters, washable markers, spray bottle filled with water

#### Do

- ★ Show the children how to find Acts 11:19-30 in their Bibles.
- ★ Read Acts 11:19-21.
- ★ **Say:** Because the disciples shared their faith with others, the church grew.
- ★ Read Acts 11:22-23.
- ★ **Say:** God sent Barnabas to help the growing church. He organized the church and continued to preach, and the church continued to grow.

- ★ Give each child a coffee filter. Have the children press the filter flat so that it looks like a circle.
- ★ Allow the children to choose their favorite color of washable marker.
- ★ **Say:** Let's draw a symbol of our faith on this circle. Ideas of symbols include a cross, fish, butterfly, lamb, shell, or dove.
- ★ Spray the filters with water. The colors will run and bleed as the images appear to grow.
- ★ **Say:** Just like these colors spread out, the love of God spread as the Christians shared their faith with one another. In fact, they shared more than words; they shared food and other gifts, as they brought offerings for others in need.

**Live B.i.G.** The good news of Jesus Christ has spread throughout the world as we share our faith with others.

## Potluck



**Supplies:** Bibles, DVD, Leader—page 167, recipe ingredients and mix-ins (**Leader—page 167**), DVD player, television, minimuffin tins (each child will need to use six “cups”), small bowls, spoons, paper towels, juice, napkins, index cards, oven, table, measuring cups & spoons, nonstick spray

### Prepare

- ★ Prepare Bisquick® Muffin Batter before class (**Leader—page 167**). Photocopy the page so each child can take one recipe card home.
- ★ Gain access to an oven during your class time. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
- ★ Arrange the mix-ins on a table, with each as a station for the children to choose.
- ★ Preview The B.I.G. Sound (**DVD**).

### Do

- ★ Have the children wash their hands.
- ★ Gather the children in the activity area and show them how to find Acts 11 in their Bibles.
- ★ Read Acts 11:27-30.
- ★ Give each child a bowl with ½ cup muffin batter and a regular teaspoon for mixing.
- ★ **Say:** The church in Antioch shared their food with hungry church people in Jerusalem. Today, churches continue to share food with people far away. They also share food with one another in the form of a potluck. A potluck happens when everyone brings a food to the church. These foods are arranged on a table and everyone shares what they brought with others.
- ★ Invite the children to choose a mix-in for their muffin batter.
- ★ The children should follow the instructions on page 167 for the mix-in they choose.
- ★ Away from the children, spray muffin tins with nonstick baking spray.
- ★ Fill minimuffin cups with the batter (about six per child), asking each child to remember which cups hold her or his muffins.
- ★ Bake the muffins for 15 minutes.
- ★ As they bake, watch The B.I.G. Sound (**DVD**) and encourage the children to sing along with the kids.
- ★ After the muffins bake, allow them to cool a bit. Arrange them on a table and allow the children to sample each other's muffins.

**Live B.i.G.** God gave us good food to enjoy and share 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.

### Clothespin Relay



**Supplies:** 36 spring-type clothespins, index cards, heavy string or clothesline, thin markers, scissors, tacks

#### Prepare

- ★ Cut two, eight-foot lengths of clothesline and hang the clotheslines in your room.
- ★ Write the memory verse ("*Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.*" 1 John 3:18, CEV) on index cards, with one word per card, the reference being on its own card. Make two sets of cards.
- ★ Mix the order of the cards in each set.

#### Do

- ★ Say the memory verse together several times.
- ★ Divide the children into two groups, with children of all ages in each.
- ★ Give each group a set of cards and assign them one clothesline.
- ★ Have the groups race to see which group can pin the memory verse in order on the clothesline the fastest.

**Live B.i.G.** God's Word is a part of our lives. We can learn how to live better by learning from the Bible.

### Binding Prayer Journals



**Supplies:** folders with center brads, rubber cement, paper punch

#### Prepare

- ★ Use a paper punch to make holes, coordinating with the folder brads, in all completed journal pages for each child.

#### Do

- ★ Give each child her or his completed journal pages.
- ★ Allow them several minutes to look through the pages and remember some of their lessons.
- ★ Have them arrange their pages in the order they wish them to be in their completed journal.
- ★ Have the children insert pages into the folder and tighten the brads.
- ★ Give the children their journal cover completed last week. If a child did not make a cover last week, he or she can either design a cover today or create one at home.

- ★ Spread rubber cement over the entire back surface of the cover art.
- ★ Carefully lay the art onto the front of the folder and press. If some of the rubber cement oozes from the edges, it can easily be rubbed off with a tissue.
- ★ **Ask:** What is the most important thing you learned in Sunday school this summer?

**Live B.i.G.** God helps us remember who we are.

## Helping-Hands Wreath



**Supplies:** construction paper, crayons, scissors, tape, wide ribbon

- Do** ★ **Say:** The church in Antioch grew and grew. As they grew, they extended helping hands to others in need. One symbol of welcome is a wreath. We will make a wreath of our hands so others will be welcomed by our helping hands.
- ★ Allow the children to select several colors of construction paper.
  - ★ Have the children trace their hands onto the construction paper. They may trace more than one hand image, if they wish.
  - ★ Have them cut out their hand tracings.
  - ★ Fashion the tracings into a circle pattern to resemble a wreath and affix the hands to a door or wall with tape.
  - ★ **Say:** The Christians in our story today were connected to one another by their faith in Jesus. We will connect all of our hand tracings by weaving this ribbon through them as a symbol of the faith that connects us.
  - ★ Cut a length of ribbon and weave the ribbon in and out of the hand tracings.

**Live B.i.G.** As we reach out to help one another, we are connected to each other through the love of Jesus Christ.

## Closing Worship



**Supplies:** construction paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, scissors, glue, small stickers

- Do** ★ Invite the children to each choose one piece of construction paper.
- ★ **Say:** Today is the last page of our summer prayer journal. Today we learned about how Christians in Antioch helped others who were suffering from famine. We discovered that, like us, they worshiped and learned how to be more like Christ. They gave offerings that were used in mission. Think about people in faraway places who might need our help. On today's journal page, you might write a prayer asking God to help you learn about people in need, or you may want to draw a picture of someone who needs help from the church. You may also write or draw about a time when you chose to follow God.
  - ★ Provide the students with the supplies listed above and allow them to interpret today's lesson.
  - ★ Bind this page with any others the children have made in their prayer journals and send the prayer journals home with the children.

**Live B.i.G.** God is always with us.

# The Church in Antioch

(Based on Acts 11:19-30.)

Some disciples went to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks, telling them the good news about Jesus. A great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch so he could help them. When he arrived, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people came to believe in Jesus because of him.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to bring Saul to Antioch, and Saul came. So for a whole year, Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught many people. Now the disciples had a new name. They were called "Christians."

During this time, some prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of the prophets stood up and predicted that a severe famine would come and many people would be hungry. The Christians at the church in Antioch knew they wanted to help. So each person, according to his or her ability, decided to provide help for their Christian friends living in Judea.

They collected an offering and sent their gift to the churches in Judea through Barnabas and Saul.

# First Missionaries

1. Unscramble each of the clue words below on the left and write the correct word on the corresponding lines to the right.
2. Copy each letter on a numbered line to its matching numbered cell at the bottom of the page to discover what we can do that the first missionaries also did.



\_\_\_\_\_

12      4                      10



\_\_\_\_\_

8



\_\_\_\_\_

6



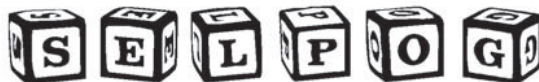
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11      3                      2



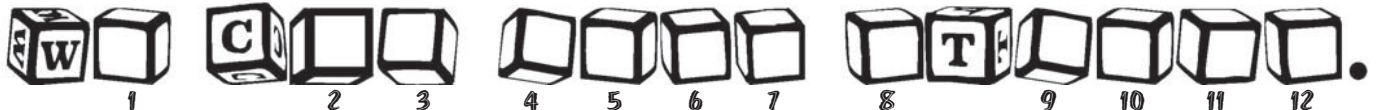
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9      1                      7

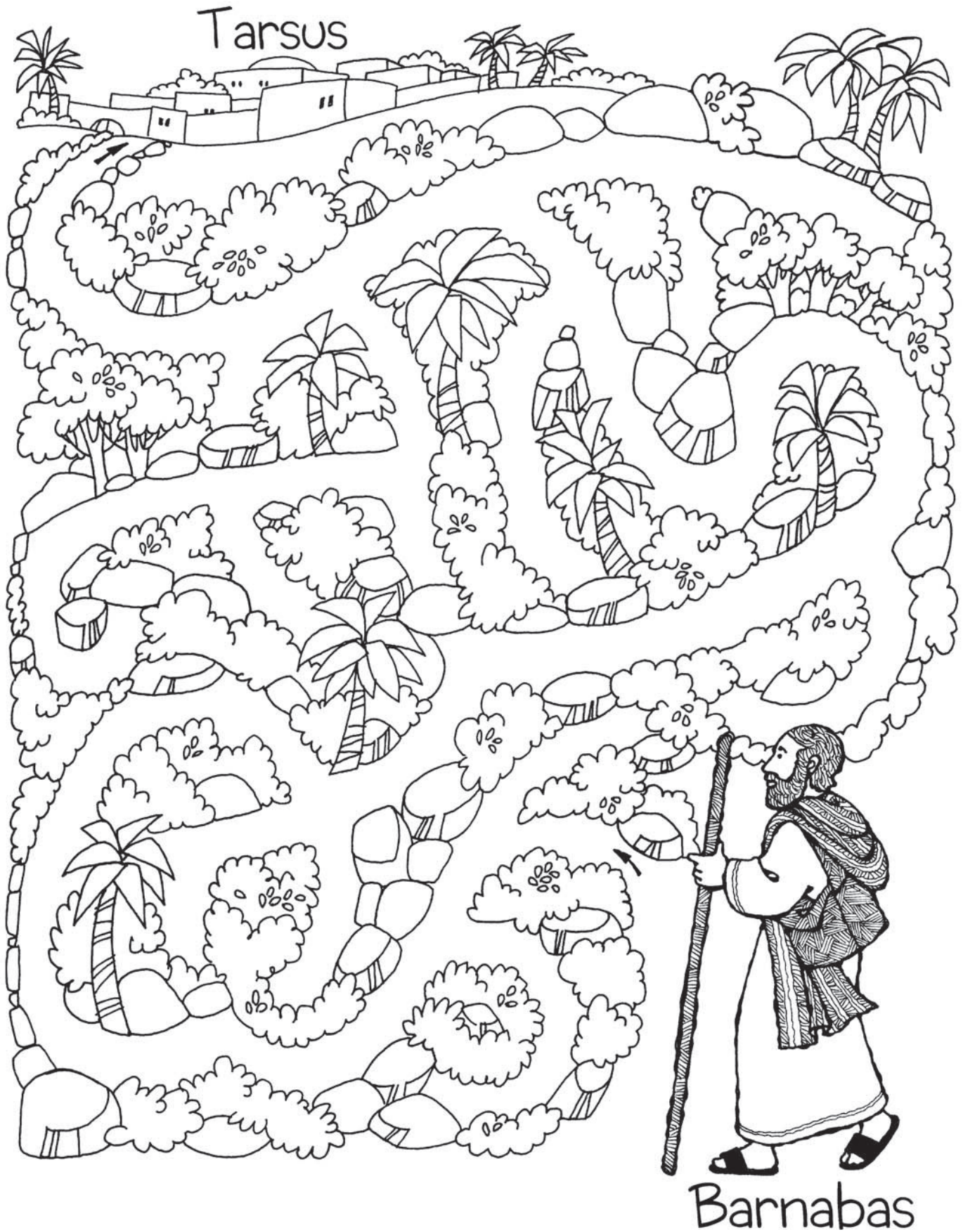


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5



# Which Way to Tarsus?



# Muffin Batter Recipe

## Bisquick® Muffin Batter

This recipe makes enough batter for four students.  
It can be multiplied to suit the needs of your class.

### Muffin Batter

Mix together the following ingredients:

- 2 cups Bisquick®
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup water OR milk

Add the muffin mix-in of your choice  
(see at right).

Pour mix into minimuffin tins.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

### Muffin Mix-Ins

Add 1 tablespoon of mix-ins for each batter  
recipe made.

1. 1 T. raisins and 1 T. cinnamon
2. 1 T. pancake syrup
3. 1 T. pineapple and 1 T. coconut
4. 1 T. chocolate chips and 1 T. vanilla
5. 1 T. applesauce and 1 tsp. Grape-Nuts® cereal
6. 1 T. dried cherries and 1 tsp. mashed banana
7. 1 T. butterscotch chips and 1 T. chopped  
mandarin oranges
8. 1 T. of just about anything you like!

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