THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** February 4, 2018

**SUBJECT: GOD’S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: Paul, Called to Serve Together with Barnabas and Other Brothers and Sisters**

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 4:32-37; 9:26-30; 11:19-30; 12:25; 13:1-52; 14:1-28; 15:22; 16:19-25; 1 Cor. 4:17; Romans 16:21

**AIM:** Tosee that theLord calls us to serve Himtogether with others**.**

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES:** Philippians 2:2-3 (**2** Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing, **3** Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;); 1 Corinthians 3:9a (For we are God’s fellow workers;...); Ecclesiastes 4:12 (And while a man may prevail against the one, the two will withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 9211 (Can you say, How Do You Do); 19 (When We’re Kind to Others); 1612 (Companions); 1614 (Cooperation); 8308 (Do All Things Without Murmuring); 176 (God Uses Helper); 175 (God’s Helpers); 9109 (And They Shared Their Food); 3423 (I’d Rather Be With the People of God); 9524 (What Kind of Sharer); 9527 (No One Likes to Be Left Out); 9529 (Pursue Peace)

**SUGGESTED CRAFT:** Trace hands on construction paper and cut out handprints. Have children exchange handprints with one another. Glue handprints on 8.5 x 11 paper. Write tasks on the handprints (something they might do in children’s meeting or in the meeting hall to help, such as sharpening the pencils, handing out the napkins for snack). This represents working together.

**CONTENT:** In an earlier lesson, we learned about Saul, who was later known as the apostle Paul. After he was newly converted, Saul began to preach in Damascus, provingthat Jesus was theChrist. He went from opposing and persecuting the Christians, to becoming a follower of the Lord Jesus and speaking boldly about the Lord Jesus. In the Bible, we see Paul’s godly pattern and living including an important principle—that Paul did not serve alone. He served the Lord together with others. This lesson will highlight a few specific examples of Paul’s service with others.

**Serving together with Barnabas.** Barnabas was among the first people that accepted Paul after he converted. At that time, after Paul believed into the Lord Jesus, some of theJews began tooppose Paul and wanted to kill him.With the help of thedisciples, Saul fled toJerusalem. When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to thedisciples there. But the disciples were afraid of himand did not believethat hewas really a disciple. But Barnabas took hold of him and led him to theapostles. Barnabas toldthem how Saulhad seen the Lord on the road, and that the Lord had spoken to him, and that in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas began to work together in many things. For example, they helped take care of believers in new churches, such as the church in Antioch. Together theyserved the church inAntioch forabout one year.In addition, when the Jewish Christiansin Judea were inneed, the church inAntioch wanted to help them.They sent Barnabas and Saul there tobring money to them. So they were entrusted with handling money together.

Barnabas and Paul were also willing to accept instructions from other brothers. When the leading brothers in the church in Antioch were instructed by the Holy Spirit to set apart Barnabas and Saul for a special work to visit many Gentile lands and preach the gospel, Barnabas and Saul obeyed and they began their journey.

In thebeginning of their gospel ministry Barnabastook the lead andPaul followed.After a short while, the Bible shows us that Paul began totake the leadand Barnabas followed. There was nojealousy or competitionbetween them to bethe leader. They worked together, spoke together, prayed togetherand suffered persecution together. Barnabas supported Paul,and Paul depended on Barnabas.

**Serving with many other brothers and sisters.** In addition, Paul served with many others who are mentioned by name in the Bible,including Judas who was called Barsabbas, Silas, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke, Timothy, John Mark, Epaphroditus, Tychicus, Justus, Philemon, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manean, and many more. They were all from different backgrounds, some similar to Paul and some very different from Paul. Some were older and some were younger. Paul did not serve in a way that tried to bring glory and attention to himself. He did not consider himself superior to them. But rather, he called many of them his “fellow workers.” Through Paul’s labor and service with other brothers and sisters, many believed in the Lord Jesus and were cared for both practically and spiritually.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just one or two applications which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

* **Like Paul, we can learn to serve with others.** The Lordnot only calls us to serve Him asindividuals but also to serve Him together. Paul did not serve alone, but he served with many brothers and sisters, each with different backgrounds. In the church there are many different kinds of people. Some are older than we are, some may be younger, some have similar backgrounds, some are from a different background, and some may speak a different language. We need to love all the brothers and sisters and learn to serve together with them. For example: Our children’s meeting serving ones serve together each week with two or more serving ones. They coordinate who will help lead the singing time, what songs to sing, who will tell the story, bring snack, set up the room, prepare the craft, etc. The children can also learn to serve together by helping to clean up at the meeting hall and helping prepare a meal at home.
* **Being willing to serve according to need, not according to our preference.** When the brothers in Antioch decided through the fellowship that it would be good for Paul and Barnabas to visit Gentile lands and preach the gospel, they simply obeyed. They were open to the Lord and were therefore open to the brothers. The Lord gives us many opportunities today to be trained to be able to serve with others. Perhaps we would like to do a certain task, like set up the computer projector for the opening time or pass out snack, but we are asked to set up chairs instead or to pick up the trash from the ground. Would we complain or resist or would we be open? At home, we may be asked to do chores, even cleaning up a mess that a younger sibling left behind. Are we willing to serve as asked without complaining? We must learn not to be selfish, but to put the Lord’s need first and to listen and obey.
* **Being willing to care for someone new.** Barnabas had theheart totake care of a new one, Saul.Although others wereafraid of Saul, Barnabasreached out to him and and began to serve together with him. This helped Paul to become joined to the apostlesand the other believers. We, like Barnabas,should also have a heart to always reach out to new ones and visitors and make them feel welcome.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting Lessons–4/2/95; 02/4/01; 02/04/07; 02/03/13