

As the primary spiritual nurturer of your home, this resource is designed to inspire, equip, and support you as you share God's Word with your child.

**God Statement: God Leads His Church**

**Memory Verse:** Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4

**God Leads His Church | Church in Antioch**

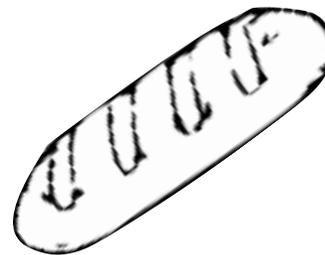
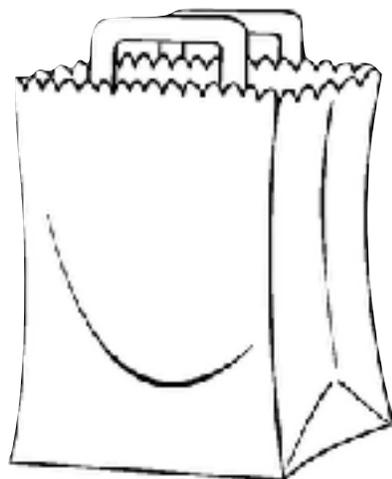
Acts 11:19-30

The people in the early church were so excited about how God loved them that they wanted to tell everyone they could. The good news began spreading to many cities. One of the first cities to hear about God's love was Antioch. God began to grow His church there in amazing ways. The church in Jerusalem heard about this and sent the disciple Barnabas to Antioch to see how God was working. Barnabas was so glad to see God's work that he brought Paul, another disciple, to stay in Antioch too. One day, some prophets came to the church in Antioch and told everyone that there was going to be a big famine in another part of the country called Judea. The Christians in Antioch were so filled with God's love that they decided to help the people in Judea by sending money so they could buy food. God's love showed them how to respond to a big need! God Leads His Church!



Paul

Color the bag, apple, & loaf of bread. Draw some other things you could give to someone in need.



Barnabas

Repetition is an important part of your child's development and growth. Enjoy re-reading the story and declaring God Leads His Church throughout the day. Use the extra activities to connect with God's Word this week.

**PRAY**

- Open a Bible to Acts 11:19-30.
- Read Acts 11:20b-21. What happened when the Christians began to tell others about Jesus?
- Read Acts 11:25-26 How long did Barnabas and Paul stay in Antioch?
- Read Acts 11:29-31. What did the believers do when they heard about the famine?
- What part do you think you can play in The Big God Story?

**EXPERIENCE**

Have you always thought of the church as just a building you go to? You're right—that building *is* called a church. But when we call a group of *people* the church, it means they're people gathered together who love and believe in Jesus. Guess what? *We're* the church! God Leads His Church to love others by showing us how to meet needs of others.

Ways to help others ...

- Make some cookies or cupcakes and deliver to a neighbor.
- Make a card for someone who is needing encouragement.
- Start collecting toys to give to children in need this Christmas.
- Deliver groceries to an elderly person in your neighborhood.

**BLESS**

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in *HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource* @ [HomeFrontMag.com](http://HomeFrontMag.com).

*Child's name*, may you know that your Heavenly Father loves you. May know God leads you and that you are part of His church and part of His Big Story. May His love fill you to love others.

# We Bee-lieve...The Holy Spirit Transforms

In today's part of The Big God Story, Paul became a man changed by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. He used to work against Jesus' disciples with everything in his power, but after he knew God's love for him, Paul began to share with everyone about Jesus. This shows how the Holy Spirit can transform (change) us. (Acts 9)

- I wonder ... How would you feel if you saw a bright light from heaven?
- Close your eyes and cover them with your hands. What do you think it would be like to lose your sight?
- I wonder ... How did Paul feel when his sight was restored?
- I wonder ... How do you think the Holy Spirit can transform you?



## God Statement :: God Leads His Church

**Memory Verse ::** *Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

*Psalm 25:4-5*

## **JULY | Week 2**

### **Church in Antioch Acts 11:19-30**

The people in the early church were so excited about how God leads. The good news began spreading to many cities. One of the first cities to hear about God's love was Antioch. God began to grow His church there in amazing ways. The church in Jerusalem heard about this and sent the disciple Barnabas to Antioch to see how God was working. Barnabas was so glad to see God's work that he brought Paul, another disciple, to stay in Antioch too. One day, some prophets came to the church in Antioch and told everyone that there was going to be a big famine in another part of the country called Judea. The Christians in Antioch were so filled with God's love that they decided to help the people in Judea by sending money so they could buy food. God leads His church!

### **Discover**

- Antioch enjoyed a prosperous economy due to its strategic location at the crossroads of trade routes south to Palestine and Egypt, east to Persia, and west to the Asia Minor Peninsula.
- Antioch was ranked the third-greatest city in the Roman Empire, with a population of more than 500,000.
- When the Jerusalem church heard of the growing number of believers in Antioch, they sent Barnabas—a godly and faith-filled man—to visit.
- It's in Antioch that believers were first named Christians (*christianous* or "little Christs").

### **Experience**

Invite your children to pretend that each room in your home is a different city the disciples traveled to or from. Begin reading **Acts 11:19–30** standing in one room; each time you read that the people "came" or "went" to a new city, walk to a different room. Once you've finished reading, ask your kids why they think the people acted so generously. Explain that just as the people following Jesus then were so filled with God's love that they wanted to give, God has also filled each of us with His love to be used to build His kingdom today.

### **Follow**

After reading through **Acts 11:19-30**, discuss these questions together:

- Why do you think the people scattered?
- What are some ways God led His church in this story?
- How does God lead His church today?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to have conversations about how God Leads His Church in your everyday life.

### **Bless:**

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in [HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource @ HomeFrontMag.com](#).

### **A blessing to pray over your child:**

(Child's Name), **may you know that your Heavenly Father loves you. May you know that God Leads His Church! May you know that God leads you and is with you. May He show you His guidance when you need it and may God continue to bless you and keep you!**

# God Leads His Church!

SHOW ME YOUR WAYS,  
LORD, TEACH ME YOUR  
PATHS. GUIDE ME IN  
YOUR TRUTH AND TEACH  
ME, FOR YOU ARE GOD  
MY SAVIOR, AND MY  
HOPE IS IN YOU ALL  
DAY LONG.

Psalm 25:4-5

I am a part of God's  
church!

Write your name here

