



3RD - 5TH

32-3
Gentiles Became
Part Of The Church



CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids: **Where is the farthest you have traveled? How did you get to these places? Where would you like to travel?**



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?

Start by 9:20/10:45

On a dry erase board, write out different favorite categories such as Favorite Food, Favorite Game, Favorite Sport, Favorite Activity, Favorite School Subject, etc. Lead kids to discuss their favorites for each category and write them on the board. As kids share their favorites, point out any similarities. Consider sharing your own favorites as well.

Everyone has favorites when it comes to these categories. We might even have similarities in what we like most. Yet, when it comes to loving others and sharing the good news of the gospel, no person is favored above another. Everyone needs to hear the good news of Jesus. Today, we will learn how the church in Jerusalem learned that God had saved Gentiles, and they became part of the church.

START BY
9:30/10:55

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



LARGE GROUP

SMALL GROUP



BIBLE REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 11.

- Explain that Stephen's death caused believers to scatter to other cities. Many believers fled to Antioch and through their preaching of the good news about Jesus, many Gentiles believed. Believers were first called Christians at Antioch, and the church there later became the launching point for many missionary journeys.
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 11:15-17.

The power of the good news about Jesus is greater than any trouble, division in the church, and cultural differences. Nothing can hinder God's plan to offer salvation to all people. As Peter saw the power of the Holy Spirit in Cornelius and his household, he knew Jesus is for all. We can join God in His mission to tell all people the good news and pray they have hearts to receive Jesus as Savior.



DISCUSSION

- **How were the Gentiles saved?** Gentiles were saved just as the Jewish believers were: by faith in Jesus. The Bible records how they repented of sin, turned to Jesus, and were given the Holy Spirit. (Option: Read Acts 11:17-18,21.)
- **Should we allow differences to keep us from sharing the good news of Jesus with others? Why not?** Jews and Gentiles have many differences including food customs and religious beliefs, yet the good news is able to cross any barrier. Everyone needs to hear the good news because everyone is a sinner in need of forgiveness. No matter where someone lives or what they look like, Jesus loves them and wants them to trust in Him for salvation. (Option: Read Galatians 3:28.)
- **Barnabas encouraged the believers in Antioch to remain true to the Lord. Why was this important? How can we encourage others in their faith?** The early church faced much trouble and Christians might have thought turning away from Jesus would be easier. Barnabas taught them to remain faithful to Jesus because He is worth any hardship. Challenge kids to think of ways they can help believers trust in Jesus, even when hardships happen. (Option: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14.)



DESCRIBE YOUR CHURCH

Remind kids of the big picture answer: **The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.** Form kids into groups of three or four. Invite groups to discuss the days and times their church meets, different ways they worship together, and how the church serves each other and the community. Allow several minutes for groups to discuss. Then invite groups to share their insights with everyone.

While churches may differ on when they meet or their approach to care for their communities, we all meet together to worship and serve God. Every church is in a specific community that needs to hear the good news and see how the church, while made of different people, is united in Jesus.



Key Passage: *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*
1 Corinthians 12:12, 27



Big Picture Question: *What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.*



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.