

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

MAY 24, 2020

In this week's lesson we are going to learn how the Christians got their name. First we are going to identify what we can do that the leaders in our Bible story did. First unscramble each word and write it on the letters on the lines. Then write each letter that is on a numbered line in the boxes at the bottom of this exercise.

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Helping others was important to the first Christians. Today's Bible story is about the first people who followed Jesus. They had a special sign to tell other followers who they were. They would draw a simple fish in the dirt or sand.



Today our story talks about the believers encouraging one another. Turn in your Bible to Acts 11. In this chapter of Acts the believers are continuing the work of spreading the gospel, encouraging one another, and sharing with others who don't have enough. Let's read about the new nickname that was given to them. Read Acts 11:19-26.

Did you hear what the believers were called? It was meant to be an insult, but the name stuck. Today, we still call ourselves "Christians!"

Read Acts 11:27-30.

Why did the Christians decide to send help-to the people in Judea? Who did they send to help them?

Here is another version of the story. Each time you read the word "BREAK" strike a pose that might demonstrate that scene. You can encourage your brothers or sisters to help you.

In the city of Jerusalem it could be dangerous to be a follower of Jesus. Followers of Jesus sometimes had to hide in order to stay safe. They sometimes had to meet in secret. BREAK

The followers of Jesus even had a secret sign they used. They would draw a picture of a fish in the sand. The fish sign let other followers of Jesus know that they were a people who loved Jesus too. BREAK

Because it was dangerous, some of the followers of Jesus moved to a different city. The city was called Antioch. When the followers of Jesus got to the new city, they started telling other people about Jesus. Many people became followers of Jesus in the city of Antioch. BREAK

Two followers of Jesus, named Paul and Barnabas, heard that many people were becoming followers of Jesus in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch to see what was happening. They were happy to find so many people who were followers of Jesus. BREAD

Paul and Barnabas wanted to help the people of Antioch. They stayed in Antioch and taught people what they knew about Jesus. The followers of Jesus in Antioch were given a new name. They were the first people to be called "Christians." BREAK

When the Christians in Antioch heard that there was a famine in Jerusalem, they collected money so that the Christians still living in Jerusalem would be able to buy food. Paul and Barnabas took the offering to Jerusalem. BREAK
The Christian church continued to grow and grow. All who follow Jesus are now called "Christians."

What stood out when you heard the story this way? Who are you the most like? Paul or Barnabas or the people in Antioch or the people in Jerusalem?

"Christians" was a nickname given to the believers by people around them. It was not a name that they picked for themselves. You probably have been given some nicknames too. Some might be meaningful to you and you may like them. Other nicknames you may not like so much or even find offensive. You may like one person calling you a nickname but not like it when someone else calls you that nickname.

Write down all the nicknames you have been called. Circle the names that you like and put an X on the ones that you don't like. Underline the ones that you sometimes like.

Nicknames usually are given to us, but we can come up with our own nicknames. Think about a nickname you might like. This is your chance to choose!

Now we are going to think about some name changes. Names are pretty important in the Bible. They often have a special meaning. Sometimes that meaning is noted at the bottom of the page. Look up Genesis 21:3. Do you see the note that says that the name Isaac means "he laughs?" Sometimes people in the Bible have more than one name. Every so often, a major character's name changes. This usually indicates that a major change has happened in that person's life. I am going to give you some Bible verses to look up. List the person's name, then the new name and what was the significance of the new name.

GENESIS 17:1-5 and 15-16

Name: _____

New Name: _____

Reason for name change: _____

Name: _____

New Name: _____

Reason for name change: _____

GENESIS 32:22-28

Name: _____

New Name: _____

Reason for name change: _____

MATTHEW 16:13-18

Name: _____

New Name: _____

Reason for name change: _____

Let's close our lesson with prayer. Thank God for giving us the best name of all: your beloved child. Help us to remember to show others about your love. Keep us safe in these times as we begin to return to activities we have not done for some time. Guide us to show others about your love for us and for everyone. In Jesus name. Amen.