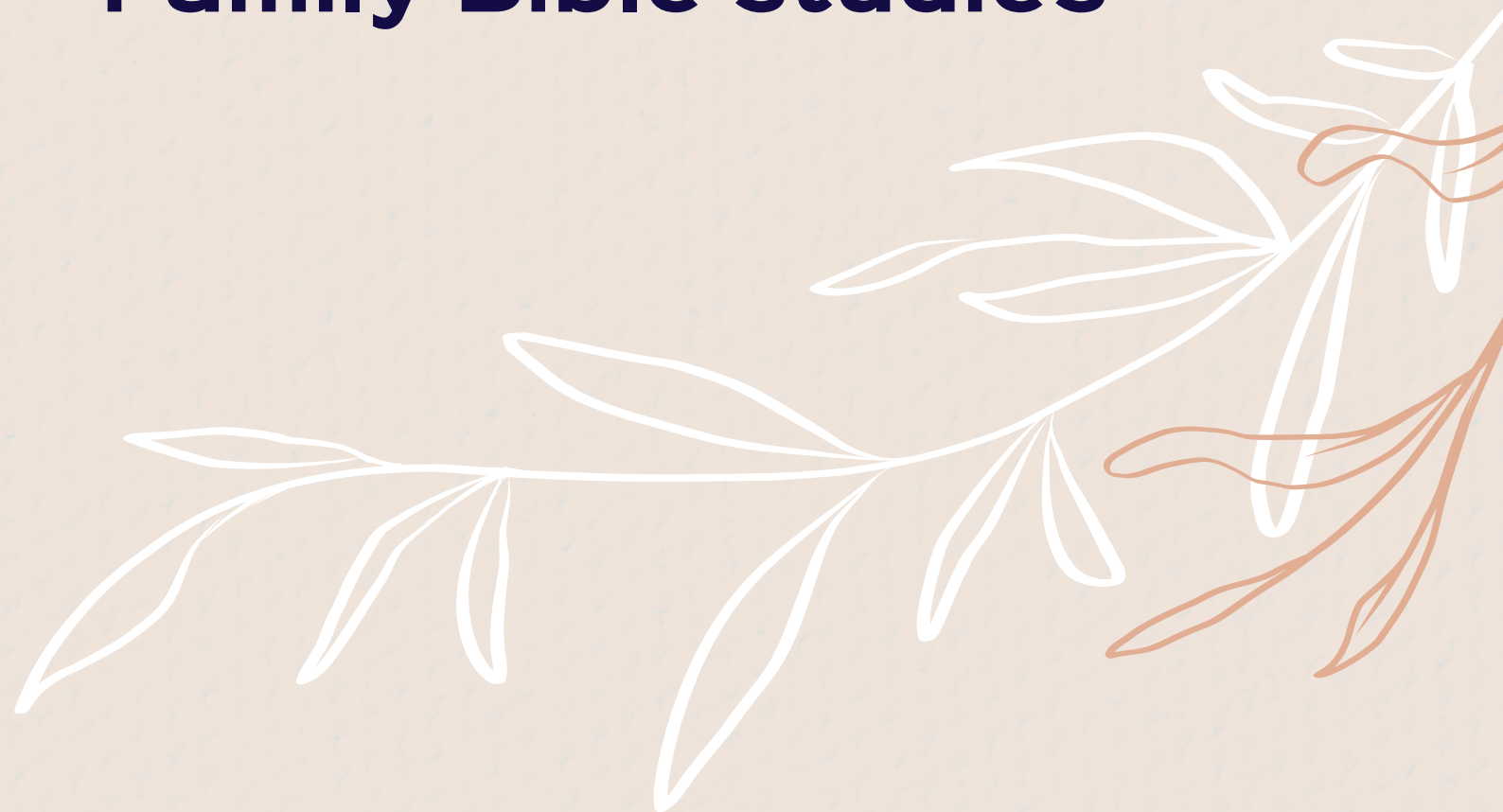




CMS *Sunday*

Family Bible studies



Name




Each study has been designed to help point your family to see God's consistent goodness and plan, and its ultimate fulfilment in Christ. **For younger aged children**, a simple story summary of each passage has been included which you may prefer to use. And as the surpassing greatness of Jesus grips you, we encourage your family to write it on your hearts and **commit Galatians 1:4 to memory!**



“[Jesus] gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”

GALATIANS 1:4

The shape of each study

-  • A passage from Acts to help us see God at work as the message of Jesus is first taken to the area known as Galatia (story summaries for younger-aged children)
 - Four questions to help us explore the passage
 - Some verses from Galatians to encourage us
-  Prayers for someone in our CMS family
-  The memory verse challenge



God sends out – Acts 13:1-12

Story summary

In the church in the city of Antioch, there were lots of prophets and teachers. Two of these teachers were named Barnabas and Saul. One day when they were worshipping God, God's Spirit told this church to send Barnabas and Saul out to do God's work. They set out on a boat and stopped at a place called Salamis. They told many Jewish people about God, with a man called John who was helping them.

Along the way, they met a man called Elymas who was pretending to be a prophet and a magician. He worked for a man named Sergius Paulus, who had asked Barnabas and Saul to tell him about God. Barnabas and Saul went to tell Sergius about God, but Elymas tried to stop them. Saul, whose name was also Paul, knew that he was trying to do this.

He accused Elymas of being a liar who was trying to trick them, and that, as punishment for this, God would make him blind. Immediately, Elymas became blind! When Sergius Paulus, the man that Elymas worked for, saw all of this, he believed in God, because he was amazed by what God had done to Elymas.

Study

- How do Paul and Barnabas show their love for Jesus?
- What do Paul and Barnabas do because they want others to know Jesus?
- What responses to the messages about Jesus are:
 - a. positive?
 - b. negative?

- How would these words have encouraged the church in Galatia?
Read these verses:

Galatians 1:3-5

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Pray for missionaries in South East Asia, Central Asia & Eurasia

- Pray for L & C with E & E, who are learning language and culture while they prepare for their future ministry among unreached people groups.
- Pray for J & S with E, A & H, who study and work in agriculture and health care while seeking to build relationships.
- Pray for R in a new location learning another language and culture to connect with and build relationships.

Take the challenge

Remember Galatians 1:4

God speaks through Paul – Acts 13:13-41

Story summary

Paul and his friends sailed to a place called Pisidian Antioch, where they entered the building where the Jews went to worship. After some of their leaders read from the Old Testament, they asked Paul and his friends if they would like to speak to the people.

Paul told them the story of God setting his people free from slavery in Egypt and how he brought them into the promised land. He reminded them of the judges and kings that God gave his people, and that Jesus was born from the same family as King David.

Paul reminded them that John the Baptist, who came before Jesus, told people to repent and be baptised. But John always knew that Jesus was much greater than him. Sadly, when Jesus came, many people did not recognise him for who he really was; our Saviour. Instead, they killed him! But this was all part of God's big plan, to save people through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Paul reminded these people of the promises that God had made to his people in the Old Testament. He encouraged them to see that God had kept these promises by sending his son to earth to die and to rise again so that our sins can be forgiven, and we can be friends with God again.

Study

- How do Paul and Barnabas show their love for Jesus?
- What do Paul and Barnabas do because they want others to know Jesus?
- What responses to the messages about Jesus are:
 - a. positive?
 - b. negative?
- How would these words have encouraged the church in Galatia?
Read these verses:

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Prayer

Pray for missionaries in Japan

- Pray for Adam & Helene Ramsay with Leopold, Elizabeth & Albert as they partner with a local church to grow disciples of Jesus, in particular kids ministry.
- Pray for Dene & Rachel Hughes with Elliott & Simeon. Dene works with university students and Rachel serves in their local church and community.
- Pray for Elle Bryce as she learns the language and culture in preparation for student ministry.

Take the challenge

Remember Galatians 1:4

God's word divides – Acts 13:42-52

Story summary

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the place where the Jews worshipped, people invited them to come back the next week to tell them more about God. Many of these people followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and encouraged them to keep following God.

The next week, almost the whole city came to hear Paul talk about God. When the Jewish people saw this, they were very jealous of Paul, and the attention that he was getting. They began to argue with Paul and to bully him.

But Paul and Barnabas told them that they had to speak about God to the Jews first. But since they rejected it, they were now telling people who were not Jews about God instead. God had commanded them to shine a light to all people so that God could save people all across the world. When the people in the crowds heard this, they were very happy and praised God. Many people in the crowds believed in God.

But the Jewish leaders continued to bully Paul and Barnabas, before forcing them to leave their city. Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet as a warning to these leaders, that God would punish them for what they had done. Then they went to Iconium. But the people in this city who had become Christians were filled with joy and with God's Holy Spirit.

Study

- How do Paul and Barnabas show their love for Jesus?
- What do Paul and Barnabas do because they want others to know Jesus?
- What responses to the messages about Jesus are:
 - a. positive?
 - b. negative?
- How would these words have encouraged the church in Galatia?
Read these verses:

Galatians 3:13-14

¹³ *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."*

¹⁴ *He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

Prayer

Pray for missionaries in the Pacific

- Praise God for Keith & Marion Birchley as they minister to university students in Papua New Guinea.
- Pray for Bill & Linda Colyer with Amy & Gwen, who are preparing to go to Vanuatu to do student ministry.
- Pray for David Pettett, as a Lecturer at the Bishop Patterson Theological Centre in the Solomon Islands, where he trains Anglican clergy.

Take the challenge

Remember Galatians 1:4

God helps his people to persevere

– Acts 14:1-7

Story summary

At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went to the place where the Jews worshipped where they spoke about God and heaps of people believed in him. But there were some Jews who did not want to believe. They lied to a bunch of people who were not Jews about Paul and Barnabas being bad people.

But Paul and Barnabas spent a long time in this city, and they continued to speak confidently to people for God, who helped them to perform miracles. But the people of this city were divided into two groups. One group believed Paul and Barnabas, but the other group believed the lies that the Jews had been telling.

Paul and Barnabas found out that this second group wanted to hurt them, so they left the city and went to other cities where they continued to tell people about Jesus.

Study

- How do Paul and Barnabas show their love for Jesus?
- What do Paul and Barnabas do because they want others to know Jesus?
- What responses to the messages about Jesus are:
 - a. positive?
 - b. negative?

- How would these words have encouraged the church in Galatia?

Read these verses:

Galatians 3:26

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

Prayer

Pray for missionaries in Africa

- Pray for Andrew & Margie Newman in Uganda where they work at the Ndimbirwe Bible College.

Take the challenge

Remember Galatians 1:4

Not all people trust in the real God

– Acts 14:8-20

Story summary

In the city of Lystra, there sat a man who had never been able to walk. While Paul was telling the people of Lystra about Jesus, he saw this man who trusted that he could be healed by the power of God. So Paul said to the man, “Stand up on your feet!” The man jumped up and began to walk.

When the people saw this, they thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods and they tried to offer sacrifices to them. When they heard this, Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and told the people that they were only humans and that they had come to tell them about the real God who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything else.

They told these people about how God had shown his kindness to them by giving them rain and food.

After this, the Jews from the cities that Paul and Barnabas had already visited came and convinced the people of Lystra to stone Paul and drag him out of the city. They left him, thinking he was dead, but he wasn't, so he got up and walked back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for another city called Derbe.

Study

- How do Paul and Barnabas show their love for Jesus?
- What do Paul and Barnabas do because they want others to know Jesus?
- What responses to the messages about Jesus are:
 - a. positive?
 - b. negative?
- How would these words have encouraged the church in Galatia?
Read these verses:

Galatians 4:6-7

⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Prayer

Pray for missionaries in Europe

- Pray for Gillian Law in Italy, where she is works with university students to share the gospel.

Take the challenge

Remember Galatians 1:4

God helps people to follow him in hard situations – Acts 14:21-28

Story summary

Paul and Barnabas have been doing a lot of travelling, visiting lots of different cities and telling lots of people about Jesus. But how have those people been going since they visited them?

In today's story, we hear about Paul and Barnabas taking a trip back through these cities to help them keep following Jesus.

After preaching in the city of Derbe and many people becoming Christians, Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. They encouraged the people who had become Christians there to keep following Jesus. They told them that their life as Christians would not be easy, but that they would one day enter the kingdom of God.

They chose leaders in each of the churches and prayed that God would help them to lead their people well.

When they visited Antioch, they told the church there about all the things that God had done in these other cities and how he had helped many people who were not Jews to become Christians. They stayed here for a while.

Study

- How do Paul and Barnabas show their love for Jesus?
- What do Paul and Barnabas do because they want others to know Jesus?
- What responses to the messages about Jesus are:
 - a. positive?
 - b. negative?
- How would these words have encouraged the church in Galatia?
Read these verses:

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Prayer

Pray for missionaries in Nepal and the Middle East.

- Pray for Bruce & Libby Hayes. Bruce is a doctor and mentors and trains Christian leaders, Libby is the Principal at the Pokhara Study Centre. Pray that God will provide more teachers for this school.
- Pray for M who works in health care and disciples local women.

Take the challenge

Remember Galatians 1:4