

UNIT 3: LOVE • SESSION 11:

"The Church Grows"

ACTS 9:26-31



SHARING LOVE: This week's story takes place when the early Christians were forming communities and a man named Paul wanted to be part of that. Paul (also known as Saul) was, at first, an enemy of the new emerging Christians and worked hard to put them in prison. He was not a nice person. Then things changed. He met the Lord on the road to Damascus and he was forced to think about the bad things he was doing and this experience made him change his ways and he then devoted his life to serve God. His friend, Barnabas, brought him to the disciples and told them they could trust Paul, that he had changed. With the acceptance and encouragement of others, Paul began to preach about God's love and traveled all over the region to spread the story of Jesus. Because of people like Paul, the church grew quickly.



of Jesus. Barnabas knew that Paul loved Jesus, so he brought Paul to the disciples. Barnabas told the believers Paul's story. Barnabas told the believers that Paul could be trusted. After this, Paul was able to work with the disciples to tell others about Jesus. Because Paul, the disciples, and all of the followers of Jesus told everyone about Jesus' life and love, the church grew!

This story contains several acts of love. Paul showed love to God by serving God and preaching. Barnabas showed love by speaking up for Paul. The community of believers showed love to Paul by accepting him and acting to protect him. He was shown love by being given a second chance. Love can be shown in all different ways. Challenge yourself to show love in different situations. What would that look like? How are you called to love?

Love each other like the members of your family.

Romans 12:10a



Dear God,
Thank you so much for giving second chances. Help me to show love to others by giving them second chances. Thank you for growing the church through love. Help me remember that I can show love in lots of different ways. Amen

WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- Who showed love in the Bible story today?
- How does love change us?
- What does it mean to grow with love?
- How does encouragement help us in our lives?
- **It's Graduation Sunday! Help me remember that you are with me as I grow and will always offer me second chances. As I move up to the next grade in school help me remember to show love and give others second chances. What would that look like at school?**
- **What does it mean to give someone a second chance? Have you ever been given a second chance? How did that make you feel? Who can you give a second chance to?**
- **We have started "Community Raisers" at St. Luke's. These are events that help us raise money to share with St. Luke's ministries. Can you help us fill up our Community Raiser "Kids Share" coin jar?**

The Church Grows

Find the Church Words

Find all the words in the puzzle. Some words go across, some go down, and some go diagonally.

G	Z	K	L	F	B	G	T	D	E	C	F	H	L	K
F	C	U	L	X	W	B	Y	Z	B	Y	H	W	Q	E
U	A	D	Z	O	L	M	I	G	A	N	M	M	N	S
S	T	A	V	P	O	G	N	A	R	J	E	W	S	T
R	A	M	O	C	R	D	R	G	N	E	F	D	F	S
H	R	A	U	L	D	I	P	I	A	D	E	M	P	B
L	S	S	S	Y	M	S	C	Q	B	U	C	K	V	W
D	U	C	G	Z	B	C	E	M	A	D	E	M	A	H
T	S	U	O	I	F	I	D	I	S	U	I	D	F	A
B	U	S	D	S	I	P	N	P	R	P	W	K	I	C
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	V	E	A	W	D	H
W	S	O	R	I	H	E	B	G	S	Z	T	U	D	U
K	K	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	L	R
T	C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	A	E	U	P	S	C
G	P	L	Q	O	P	J	P	K	X	H	U	E	K	H



Saul
Paul
Jerusalem
Damascus
Disciples



Barnabas
Caesarea
Tarsus
Greek
Jews



Lord
God
Church
Holy Spirit

