

# The Sunday School Lesson

BY JOHN R. BRANTHOBY  
SALEM MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**Be A Committed Encourager**  
(Acts 4:32, 36-37; 9:26-27;  
11:22-30)

**Outline**

- I. Encouraging Gift (Acts 4:32, 36-37)
- II. Encouraging Introduction (Acts 9:26-27)
- III. Encouraging Ministry (Acts 11:22-24)
- IV. Encouraging Enlistment (Acts 11:25-26)
- V. Encouraging Mission (Acts 11:27-30)

**I. Encouraging Gift (Acts 4:32, 36-37)**

The book of Acts record the ascension of Christ, the coming down of the Holy Spirit, and going out of the church. In the early church the scripture tells us that the church was of one accord. There was no bickering, backbiting, etc. going on in the church. Everyone shared all their worldly possessions so that no one lacked anything.

We find one many among the early church named Jesus who played an important role in the growth of the church. The apostles changed his

name to Barnabas which meant "Son of Consolation" or "Encourager." Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus who had sold his land and brought the money to the apostles. The Levites received no land when Joshua was allotting land to the tribes. The Levites were charged with taking care of the spiritual welfare of Israel. Barnabas by giving all he had to the apostles to meet the needs of the church showed that he was living up to the calling of a Levite. His actions were quite a contrast from those of Ananias and Sapphira.

**II. Encouraging Introduction**

Saul after his conversion went to Jerusalem to join himself to the disciples. He found that when he got there that they were not eager to see him. After all he had a reputation of killing the saints. They remembered that he had sanctioned the stoning of Stephen. The disciples could not find it in their hearts to believe that Saul had had a life changing experience with Christ. Perhaps they thought that maybe this was a front to trap some more Christians.

Barnabas had been an eye witness to work that Saul had been doing and his spirit discerned that Saul was genuine. He told the disciples of Saul's conversion at Damascus, and how he had preached with boldness to the people. Barnabas could have said nothing and hindered the cause of Christ, but he wanted to be a help to Paul and to the disciples. Barnabas had put his life on the line to defend Saul. If what he told the disciples was not true then he stood to lose his life. Sometimes in the midst of fear, we must stand for someone who may be in question.

**III. Encouraging Ministry (Acts 11:22-24)**

News came to Jerusalem that great things were happening in the work of the Lord at Antioch. Gentiles were being saved and the Jews found that hard to believe. So they sent Barnabas to investigate the news that they were hearing.

When Barnabas arrived at Antioch he found the grace of God abounding. Barnabas was a spiritual man and he gathered some of the believers together and began to preach to them a message of encouragement. He told them to continue in their belief and stand firm in the faith. Because of Barnabas' encouraging message, many people were saved. He allowed God to use him and God empowered him with power to be an encourager and a soul winner.

**IV. Encouraging Enlistment (Acts 11:25-26)**

After Barnabas' stand with Saul at Jerusalem Saul left and went to Tarsus. It had been about ten years since Barnabas had seen Saul, whose name had been now changed to Paul. Barnabas remembered Paul and went to Tarsus to find him and persuade him to come to Antioch.

Not much is said about Barnabas as Paul and he traveled and ministered together. It was always Paul who seemed to be turning the world upside down. Wherever Paul went there was either a riot or a revival.

Paul came back to Antioch and for a year they worked hand in hand, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. They also taught those who had a hunger to learn more about God. Even though it seemed that Paul was in the limelight, that did not bother Barnabas. It would do us all well to follow Barnabas' example and exercise our gift whatever it is for the edifying of the church.

**V. Encouraging Mission (Acts 11:27-30)**

Prophets, foretellers and fortune tellers came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Among those was Agabus who foretold of a great famine that would come to the world under the reign of Claudius Caesar. The believers' hearts were in unity because they began to determine the need for the believers at Jerusalem. They realized that Claudius and the Jewish religious leaders at Jerusalem would greatly oppress the Jewish believers

in time of famine. They called for a collection and everyone gave as they were able. From the wealthiest to the poorest, according to what they had. Then they chose Barnabas and Paul to deliver the offering to the saints. They were willing to go even with the danger of losing their lives. No doubt this brought about a better relationship between the Christian Jews and Gentiles.

God's people need to stay focused on the issue at hand that is pleasing

God and spreading the gospel to a lost and dying world. God wants to save lost souls for Christ's sake.

God bless you all until next week. Pray for us and Bro. William Barnes.

Say you read it in Carolina Indian Voice. To subscribe call 521-2826

## The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Chavers, President  
Native American Scholarship Fund  
Albuquerque, NM



When we were children we used to play at being Indians. We made bows and arrows, animal traps and fish traps and rode horses the way we imagined the old Indian people used to do.

The things we did most was make bows and arrows. I must have made ten of them between the ages of eight and 14. Only one or two of them could have done much harm to an animal.

We went hunting with the bows and arrows, but rarely got close enough to anything to kill it. We fully intended to kill rabbits, birds, and squirrels, but we made too much noise to sneak up on them.

What we mostly did was shoot at stationary targets with the arrows. The targets were the sides of barns, some hay bales, or trees.

We made the arrows out of reeds, which were plentiful. The reeds were usually cut on a slant to be the arrowhead. Seldom did we make an actual arrowhead for the arrows.

The one time we did, it was dangerous. Two of my friends, who will be nameless to protect their sanity, found a way to make deadly arrowheads. Their father had a tool which would cut the heads off nails. We then inserted the nails into the reeds head first, with the sharp tip sticking out. By cutting the reed at the right place, the head of the nail could be made to stop at a joint, so the nail would not retract into the body of the arrow.

After we had wrapped some string around the head of the arrowhead, we only then had to put some feathers through the arrow at the other end for guidance, and we were in business. We must have made five or ten of these arrows apiece one Sunday afternoon, one of the brothers and I.

We then paired off with two other boys, who had air rifles. They were the cowboys, and we were the Indians. When we would sneak up on them with the arrows with nails for arrowheads, they would lay down their weapons and surrender.

We were bigger boys then, and the bows we had made from oak would have made a deep impression on a two by four. They would have gone

through a one-inch board, which we had already demonstrated.

In that game of cowboys and Indians, the Indians always won. Usually the boys with the air rifles won, because we thought they would actually shoot us.

My brother Mike and I did actually find a cache of arrowheads one time, made out of stone. We had a grove of trees where people used to butcher cattle, and in that grove of trees we had to dig holes for the slaughter. In digging one day, up came some arrows.

That is the only time I know that old arrowheads were ever found in our country. But people had obviously been using that site for something, I suspect camping, for several hundred years, or a few thousand.

I became adept at making traps for animals in time. We used to make what we called "rabbit boxes" every year. They are tricky to make, and all you need is one possum to go into one and a rabbit will never go near it again. So it is a frustrating business.

Basically a rabbit box is a rectangular box made out of one by tens, with a door that will fall and trap the rabbit when he enters to get the apple, onion, or carrot that you use for bait. As he nibbles on the bait, he pushes a notched stick toward the rear of the box, which lets the door on the front end fall and trap him inside.

All you have to do the next morning is to pick up the box, open the door, reach inside and pull dinner out by the heels.

Bird traps were the easiest things to make. All you need is a large board, a stick, some string, and some bird feed of some kind. You put the stick under one end of the board, put some feed under it, and tie the string to the top of the stick.

When the birds are under the board, you just pull out the stick, and the board falls on them and kills them. This is best done in the winter.

Later in my teen age years, I learned how to make fish traps, which are much more productive than anything else I learned from the old Indian ways. On my best day, I caught 32 fish in my trap. I spent most of the morning cleaning fish that day.

Fish traps are made with a conical opening at one end. The opening is always placed downstream. Since fish normally swim upstream, when they hit the trap, the cone will force them into the opening, which they will go through instead of turning around and going back out. Fish are not geniuses.

You set them at night, and check them first thing the next morning. The only drawback is that some days instead of fish what you get is dead turtles. Once the fish are trapped inside, the old turtle comes along, thinking he has a feast. He does, while he is still alive.

His problem is that he has to come up for air every few minutes. Once he is inside the trap, however, he is trapped and doomed.

The inside of the cone is made up of wire which is pointed almost to a close. Once the fish is in this opening, he cannot back up, if he backs up, he hits one of the wire bars, and

it forces him to keep going forward, into the trap.

Quite large fish can fit into a trap. I once caught four bass one night, each one about two pounds.

Nowadays, fish traps are illegal in many places. We did not know that in the old days. We were just looking for a meal.

Most of us did not have horses. Most of us had mules. And the reason we rode Indian style, without saddles, is that no one had a saddle anyway. We were too poor to afford saddles.

I was one of the lucky kids, I thought. When I was 11, my Dad bought me a horse, whom we called Dan. He was a Belgian draft horse, but to me he was Silver. I loved to ride him.

But he was wild. For six summers I had him, I had to break him every spring. We did not have a large pasture to put him in so he could run around and use up his energy over the winter. So when March hit, he was rearing to go—literally.

The only thing I could do at first was to ride him and let him run it off. If I tried to hook him up to a wagon, a plow, a disk, or a drag, he would practically run away with it. He was a high-energy horse.

He did not really want me on his back, however. And he had a strange habit of turning into every driveway he came to. One time I rode him a mile away from home, to let him stretch out, and then turned him around. He went flat out for home.

I was sailing along fat, dumb, and happy until we got to a neighbor's driveway. He turned to the right, and I went half way to the right. I went sailing off him into a pile of lumber, and tore my left ear half off. Luckily I was young and it grew back. But dang you anyway, Dan.



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Intertribal Dancing 1-5 pm, 7-11 pm

Feast for dancers and singers 5:30-6:30

Host Drum: Red Wolf Invited Drums: Stoney Creek and Southern Sun

Master of Ceremonies: Leonard Fiddler (Lakota from the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota)

Head Man Dancer: Jonathan Locklear (Lumbee-Cheraw) Head Lady Dancer: Consuela Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi)

Head Boy Dancer: Mario Hernandez (Aztec) Head Girl Dancer: Melissa Wilkins (Lumbee)

Arena Director: Steve Red Horse Indian Arts and Crafts Traders by prior approval only.

No contests, just plenty of good singing & dancing. Traditional give-away for singers and dancers.

Information: On Weekdays - Joe Liles or Dana Long at 919-286-3366. Nights and Weekends - Joe at 919-286-9401 or Dana at 919-732-8776.

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