

PAUL AND BARNABAS IN CYPRUS

New Testament Lesson #135

Paul and Barnabas (BAR-na-bus) received a special call from God to go and preach the gospel throughout Asia. They sailed by ship from Seleucia (se-LU-shi-a) (a Syrian harbor town) to the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea. They landed at Salamis (SAL-a-mis), and preached the Word of God in the Jewish synagogues throughout the island until they came to Paphos (PA-fos), the chief city of Cyprus.

At Paphos they met “a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus,” also called Elymas (EL-i-mas). He was an aid to Sergius Paulus (SUR-ji-us-PAWL-us), the Roman proconsul (governor). Sergius Paulus was interested in what Paul and Barnabas had to say and asked them to tell him more about the Word of God. But Bar-Jesus tried to stop the proconsul from listening to them, trying to turn him away from the faith.

Paul knew that Bar-Jesus was wicked. He looked at him and said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery.” God gave Paul the power to perform a miracle. Paul told Bar-Jesus that the hand of the Lord was against him and that he would be blind for a while. Darkness fell upon the false prophet, and he had to ask for someone to lead him by the hand.

When Sergius Paulus saw what had happened, he was astonished. This amazing miracle convinced him that the things that Paul had been speaking about the gospel were true.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- In Paul’s time, Asia was a country where Turkey now exists.
- “Bar-Jesus” means “son of salvation,” but “Elymas” means “magician.”
- In verse 9, we are told that Saul was also called Paul. “Saul” means “asked for,” but “Paul” means “little.” It is thought that he preferred “Paul” because he was Christ’s servant, not wanting to assume a special status. Paul refers to himself in 1 Corinthians 15:9 as “the least of the apostles,” not worthy to be called one because he had persecuted the church.

- Before this point in Acts, it was always “Barnabas and Saul,” but from here on, it is some variation of “Paul and his companions.” The fact that he is mentioned first indicates his prominence in the work.
- Bar-Jesus didn’t want the proconsul to believe because he feared he would lose his position as someone important. His heritage as a Jew also left him in opposition to the gospel of Christ.
- Blindness was an appropriate punishment for Bar-Jesus, who was “in the dark” concerning God’s truth. Paul himself had experienced blindness on the road to Damascus, and it changed his life (Acts 9:1-19).

Paul and Barnabas in Cyprus

- I. Paul and Barnabas met a false prophet.
 - A. His name was Bar-Jesus, an aide to the Roman proconsul.
 - B. He was wicked and didn’t want the proconsul to hear about Jesus.
- II. Paul confronted Bar-Jesus.
 - A. He said Bar-Jesus was related to the devil.
 - B. God gave Paul the power to make Bar-Jesus blind for a while.
 - C. Sergius Paulus was amazed and realized Paul preached the truth.

ANSWER KEY:

Bar-Jesus, Sergius Paulus, hear, Word, God, stop, listening, power, perform, miracle

Bar-Jesus, hand, against, blind, darkness, ask, help, amazed, believed, gospel

At Paphos, Paul and Barnabas met two men.
One was a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet. He was wicked.

His name was _____ - _____. The
 ✓ + ○ ▲ | * □ *
 other was an aide to the Roman governor. His name was

 * | ○ ✎ * □ * ▽ + □ * □ *
 He wanted to _____ the _____
 † | + ○ ☆ ▽ ○ ♣
 of _____.

_____ him from _____. Then
 * + ▽ ▽ * * * + | ✦ * ✦ ✎
 something happened. God gave Paul the _____ to
 ▽ | ○ ✦ ▽ ○ ● ● * ○ + ✈ * |
 _____ a _____.

Use the code to find the answer.

+	= A	†	= H	▽	= O	✕	= V
✓	= B	*	= I	◐	= P	☆	= W
✈	= C	▲	= J	♥	= Q	×	= X
♣	= D	☆	= K	○	= R	■	= Y
	= E	*	= L	*	= S	⇒	= Z
✦	= F	●	= M	+	= T		
✎	= G	◆	= N	□	= U		

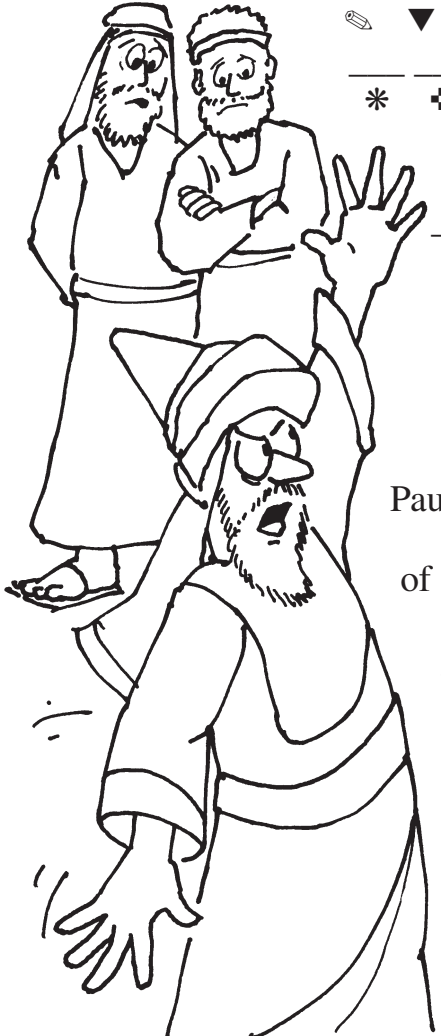
Add or subtract letters to fill the blanks.
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Paul told _____ - _____ that the _____
 G-5 C-2 N+4 A+9 F-1 R+1 S+2 Z-7 J-2 D-3 L+2 C+1
 of the Lord was _____ him, and he would be
 F-5 F+1 B-1 G+2 H+6 Q+2 R+2

_____ for a while. _____
 D-2 B+10 G+2 T-6 G-3 W-19 D-3 S-1 M-2 L+2 A+4 R+1 J+9
 came upon him. He had to _____ for _____.
 B-1 R+1 J+1 G+1 D+1 M-1 R-2

Sergius Paulus was _____. He
 B-1 N-1 C-2 W+3 F-1 L-8

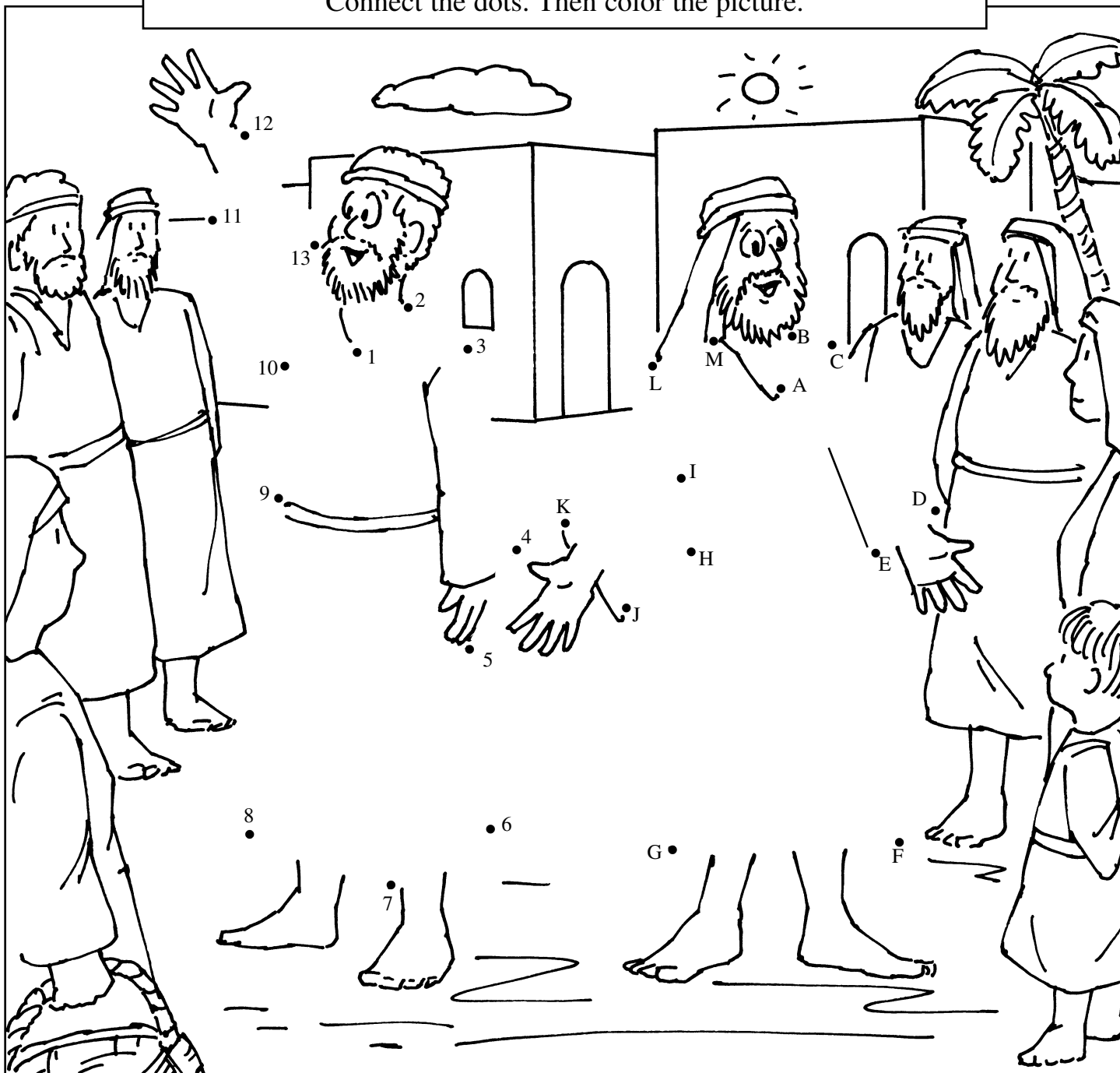
_____ Paul's words about the
 V-20 D+1 O-3 K-2 K-6 W-1 C+2 B+2
 _____!
 H-1 M+2 K+8 R-2 F-1 T-8



Name _____

Paul and Barnabas preached in Cyprus.

Connect the dots. Then color the picture.



Name _____