

# CITY LG – September 16-18, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** I'll Stand by You (Barnabas and Saul) • Acts 9:26-30

**Today's Bottom Line:** Friends stand up for one another.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*  
Proverbs 17:17 (NirV)

## WORSHIP

We are Royals

Hands Toward Heaven

**Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups**

**SLIDE: Theme**

Hello, my friends! Everybody find a friend next to you and give them a high five or a fist bump. *(Pause.)* Now do that with another friend. *(Pause.)* All month long here in the CITY we're talking about friendship.

**SLIDE: Virtue**

**Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.**

**SLIDE: Theme**

It's so good to have friends! Friendship is really a gift from God. We can count on our friends to be there for us through thick and thin. And we want to be the kind of friend who THEY can count on, too. We can do that with God's help!

Let's talk in our groups about friendship. I'm going to give you some time to discuss this question as a group....

**When has a friend of yours done something to help you?** *(walk around and listen to kids' answer is their groups. Bring them back together in a few minutes when most groups are done).*

Well, today we are going to look in the Bible *(hold up Bible)* and find another great story of friendship.

We can find this story in the book of Acts, which tells all about what happened in the early days of the church. This was after Jesus died on the cross, came back to life, then went to heaven. God sent the Holy Spirit to the believers, and the new church began to grow quickly. Let's check out the Story Lab...

**VIDEO: Bible Story**

I love that story! Barnabas stood up for Saul when nobody else would. You can understand why the believers in Jerusalem found it hard to believe that Saul had changed. But Barnabas made sure they knew about everything Saul had been through, and how Saul was now sharing the good news about Jesus just like them.

Of course, God went on to use Saul and the other believers in a big way. The church continued to grow, and they helped more and more people learn about and follow Jesus!

This is a really important part of friendship. Let's watch Greg for our bottom line...

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**Friends stand up for one another.**

I know I would want my friends to stand up for me if I felt alone, or if I felt like other people didn't understand me. If we can stand up for each other, that's a great way that we can treat others the way we want to be treated.

Can you think of some ways you can stand up for your friends? Maybe the next time you see your friend doing something great, speak up and let them know you noticed! Or maybe you notice that your friend is feeling left out. You could speak up and tell your other friends to be sure to include them.

I bet you can think of some other great ideas of how we can stand up for our friends. We will talk about that more in a minute when we start small group time. Let's pray.

"Dear God, it's amazing to see how You brought Paul and Barnabas together to be friends who could look out for each other. Help us notice when You're bringing new friends into our lives, too. Please give us the courage to stand up for others and be the kind of friends they can count on. Thank You for giving us friends who can be there for us and stand up for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**SLIDE: Theme**

#### **OFFERING:**

Until the end of 2023, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. They are experiencing a lack of food there because of an on-going drought. As you can see in these pictures, this is an area called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

**SLIDES: Kenya 1-4**

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community who have very little resources! If you have any offering you can bring it up now. This is one way we can use our actions to show we care.