

## Paul and Barnabas Separate

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer in their Bibles to Acts 15:32-41.

**Who did Barnabas want to take, along with Paul, back to the cities where they had spread God's word?** (Acts 15:37. John Mark.)

**Why did Paul not want John Mark to go along?** (Acts 15:38. John Mark had deserted them and had not gone with them to work on a prior occasion.)

### Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**What was the result of Paul and Barnabas' strong disagreement?** (Acts 15:39-40. They parted ways. Barnabas took Mark with him to Cyprus and Paul chose Silas to go along to Syria and Cilicia.)

**Was this good or bad? Why?** (It may have been sad that they parted company, but God used it to spread his word to more places.)

### Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

The key verse for today from Ephesians 4:26-27 says, "Be angry without sinning. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the devil any opportunity to work."

**Does this verse say that anger is a sin?** (No.)

**How can anger sometimes cause us to sin?** (We may try and get even or hurt someone back for hurting us.)

**Anger that builds up becomes bitterness. When we become bitter toward someone else, we are allowing the devil an opportunity to work in our hearts.**

**What is God's remedy for anger and bitterness?** (Forgiveness.)

**Is it easy or hard to forgive someone you are angry with? How can we do this knowing God wants us to?** (Pray and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we just have to make the choice to forgive even if we don't feel like it.)

**What can happen when we turn our anger over to God?** (Just like with Paul and Barnabas, he can make something good come out of what may seem bad.)

**Remember \*God even works when we disagree. Think of some ways God can use any of the disagreements or anger you listed on your warm-up paper to help people grow closer to him. An example might be if someone was mean to you and you didn't get angry back. You might talk to them about how God didn't stay angry with you, so you couldn't stay angry with them.**

### Application Activity:

Supplies: paper from Small Group Warm-Up, scissors, pencils or pens, tape

Give kids pens or pencils, scissors and tape to make a mobius circle. Say: Please take your paper and write down ways that God might use a disagreement.

Now, put a half twist in your paper and tape it securely like this.



Show them how to do the half twist and tape the ends together.

With your scissors, start cutting 1/3 of the way from the edge. Cut until you come toward the starting point. Cut around the circle again and back to the starting point. When you are finished you will have two circles connected just like Gordy's paper.



How does this activity remind us that \*God even works when we disagree?

The scissors reminds us of what sin does. It divides people from one another, just like it divides God from us. God took his anger and placed it on Jesus who took the punishment for our sin when he died on the cross. But, Jesus didn't stay dead, he became alive again. Through his Holy Spirit, he lives in the heart of every believer who trusts Jesus as Savior. That's so we can be friends with God again.

Closing Prayer: Thank God that even though we do bad things to him, he provides forgiveness through Jesus' death. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help kids understand that because of God's great love and forgiveness to them, they can choose to forgive others. Pray for anyone struggling with bitterness or anger that they can't let go of.