

STORY 12: GO

Jesus' last words on earth to his followers were to go and spread his message to all nations.

Though the early Christians were beaten up and ridiculed for their faith, they kept on spreading out and sharing the good news about Jesus.

Some men went to a city called Antioch and began to preach and teach about Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and huge numbers of people believed in Jesus for the first time.

Soon, the church in Jerusalem heard about what was happening in Antioch and they sent a guy named Barnabas. When he arrived and saw what was happening, he was full of joy and he encouraged them to remain true to the Lord with all of their hearts.

Then Barnabas traveled to Tarsus to find a brother named Saul. Saul, who was later called Paul, returned to Antioch with Barnabas and there they began to meet with the church and teach them more about Jesus.

Later, while they were worshiping the Lord and going without eating, the Holy Spirit told them, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul to do the work for which I have chosen them."

After the believers spent some more time praying and going without food, they placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul to show that they had been selected to do this work. Then they sent them on their way to go and share the good news of Jesus with the world.

STORY 12: GO

- **review:** re-tell the story

- **dialogue:** discuss the story
 - What do you like or not like about this story?

 - What can we learn from the believers in Antioch?

 - What leads them to send Barnabas and Saul to other places? Is there no longer work to be done in Antioch?

 - What can we learn about God from this story?

- **application:** live the story
 - One of God's first commands to man was to scatter and fill the earth. Jesus' last words were to "go and make disciples of all nations." And yet, so many places in the world have no Christian presence at all. What keeps us from going?

 - What is one action you can take to apply this story to your life?

- **notes:**