

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, *we want YOU to be the one to introduce* this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



4.9



GOD LEADS HIS CHURCH

The Early Church Acts 11

Through a vision, God showed Peter and the early church that they needed to change the way they were living.

JUST FOR FUN

Gather your family together at bedtime. Take turns speaking words of encouragement to one another. You might say, "Emma, I loved the way you helped your brother today," or "Jack, I love your happy attitude." Then, read Acts 11:19-30. God used Barnabas and Paul to encourage the early church. There were many new Christians who needed someone to teach them and support them. Explain to your children that it's our job as Christ followers to do the same thing. Discuss some ways your family might be able to encourage other families by sharing God's truth with them.

Did You Know?

- There were several "identity markers" that the Israelites had to show they were God's people. These included circumcision, dietary laws, Sabbath keeping, and various other purity practices.
- As time passed, the Israelites began to look at these distinctions with a sense of privilege and exclusivity.
- God used Peter's vision as a major turning point in the early church, teaching them that Jesus came for the sake of all people.

Remember Verse

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13

Your child is old enough to help with simple chores. Your encouragement as he finishes these tasks will begin to teach responsibility and help him know that he has something important to contribute to his family.

Teachable Moments

- What were some of the ways Paul and Barnabas encouraged others?
- Who do you know that needs to hear about Jesus?
- What can your actions teach others about Jesus?

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may God lead you today and every day as you listen for Him to guide you. May you follow Him always.