

Parent Guide

Week of September 6



Memory Verse:

Love one another.
You must love one
another, just as I
have loved you.
John 13:34 (NIV)

Bible Time: Open your Bible and read Acts 11.

After Jesus went back up to heaven, His very special disciples—called the apostles—were very busy teaching the people of Jerusalem all about Jesus. Jerusalem was the city they all lived in.

Each time they taught about God’s love and His forgiveness, many people decided to trust in Jesus and follow God. When those people who decided to believe in Jesus moved out of Jerusalem, they told all the people they met about Jesus. **More and more** people believed in Him. The **power** of God, or the Holy Spirit, was with those who believed in Jesus. The **good news** about His love was reaching people in many different cities.

There was one city that was one of the very first to hear about God’s love. That city was Antioch. You see, there were so many people choosing to follow Jesus in Antioch that the followers in Jerusalem wanted to hear all about it. They wanted to know all about the things God was doing in the lives of those people far away. So, they sent a man named Barnabas to check it out. Both Paul and Barnabas stayed with the church in Antioch for a whole year **teaching God’s Word** to large crowds of people.

While Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch, prophets came to visit the church to tell them there was going to be a **famine** soon. A **famine** is a time when there isn’t enough food to go around. So the people from the church in Antioch all gave as much money as they could. They asked Paul and Barnabas to take what they had gathered to the church in Jerusalem to help **care for** the people there. The church in Antioch **loved God so much**, and He had given them so much, they wanted to **share God’s love** by giving to others. God’s love helped them to respond to the needs of the church in Jerusalem. God’s love is big. His love grew in people’s hearts until they were so full of His love that they had to do something about it. What are some ways God has changed your hearts so that you can help others?

Make: Homeless Care Bags are a great way to serve others. You can easily make a bunch, then store them in your car for whenever they’re needed. Start with a gallon-sized Ziploc bag, then tuck in toiletries, like deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, and washcloth. Add small food items, like a water bottle, soft granola bars, a pop-tab can of ravioli or another similar food that doesn’t require heating and can be opened without a can opener. If you’re able to, you could even tuck in a small gift card for a fast food restaurant, allowing them to go inside, warm up (or cool down, depending on the season) and have a meal on your dime. If you include non-perishables, you can keep a box of care bags in your car and hand them out whenever you see someone in need. In the winter, consider adding in a pair of warm gloves or socks.

Craft: Get outside! Go on a **nature walk** and **collect leaves**. When you get back, put the leaves under a piece of paper and rub a crayon on the paper over the leaves. This will create a beautiful impression of the leaves. Experiment with different kinds of leaves and objects you might find outside. Give your leaf rubbing picture to a neighbor or send to a friend or family member in need of some encouragement!



PRAY: Jesus,
thank you for
your amazing
love. Help us to
show that love
to others this
week. Amen.