

# ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

NEHEMIAH 4:1-3,

6-9,14-18

*Persist*

**CONNECTION POINT:** We should do God's work even when criticized.

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** Not everything we do will be universally popular or accepted. Even good actions can be questioned and opposed by others. If the tasks we are pursuing are done in service to God, opposition is likely to be directed against the One we seek to serve and honor. Thankfully, the fruitfulness of our service is not dependent on the reactions of others but on Christ, the one who calls and empowers us. Therefore, we can persist in doing what He has called us to do.

### PRESCHOOL



#### ACTS 14

**LIVE IT OUT:** Review the Bible story about Paul and Barnabas. Explain that they helped do work for God. Involve your child in an opportunity to help at church. Preschoolers can be involved in God's work, too.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to many towns. Sometimes they traveled on boats. Sometimes they walked. Everywhere Paul and Barnabas went, they taught people about Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogues and told about Jesus. Many people listened to them and believed in Jesus. Some people did not like what Paul and Barnabas were teaching. But they did not stop telling about Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas went back to some of the towns where they had been. They prayed for the people and told them to continue to follow Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas sailed back to Antioch. Everyone came to hear Paul and Barnabas tell about their trip. They told about all the people who believed that Jesus was God's Son.

Paul and Barnabas were glad to tell people about Jesus.

### KIDS



#### ACTS 14

**LIVE IT OUT:** God wants people to be involved in His work. Read together the Weekly Bible Verse, 1 Corinthians 3:9. Talk with your child about gospel-focused work your church or community does. Assist your child in joining in that work.

Paul and Barnabus were coworkers for God. They were the first missionaries. They told people about Jesus as they traveled from town to town throughout Asia Minor and Syria.

Many people believed, but some didn't. Even when men caused trouble for them, Paul and Barnabus still kept preaching and doing wonderful works. Paul even healed a man who had never walked before. When Paul told him to stand upright on his feet, the man jumped up and walked!

Some people thought Paul and Barnabus were gods, but Paul told them about the living God.

Many people believed in Jesus and became disciples. Paul and Barnabus started new churches. Paul and Barnabus finished the work God trusted them to do.

After their journey, they told everything God had done.

### STUDENTS

**THE POINT:** Doing God's work brings out critics and opposition.

- Why is it so hurtful when people criticize us?
- Why is it easy to criticize others when the crowd is doing it?
- What negative responses do we sometimes hear today to following God's instruction?
- What's your natural response to criticism?
- How are believers supposed to respond to ridicule?
- How is today's church like the walls of Jerusalem?
- How can we maintain our focus on God's work in the face of opposition?

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out in the Personal Study Guide.

*Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:*

- **CHRIST:** Sit down with your student and create a list of ways he or she can worship better and grow closer to Jesus. Also consider ways that he or she is already doing a good job in their relationship with Christ.
- **COMMUNITY:** Ask your student if any of his or her friends are facing opposition alone. Reach out and encourage these students in their battles. Let them know they do not face these battles alone.
- **CULTURE:** Show love to people this week that may be skeptical of the church and do not understand our way of life.