



TROUT STREAM

**TAG Packet for
Middle School Students**



Parents,

Welcome to Trout Movie Studios! While we are not able to connect with you through in-person retreats, camps, and events at this time, we are delighted to bring Trout to you and your home in this digital content pack. TAG is an abbreviation that we use at Trout that means - "Time Alone with God." This is a daily devotional pack that your Middle School camper can do on their own each day.

Trout Movie Studios examines the life of Paul & Barnabus in the book of Acts. Our "Director" has scripted their drama as the next summer's blockbuster movie. While your camper examines key passages through the book of Acts, they will be asked to think of the challenges that they face in their lives and how that compares to the calling of Paul and Barnabas.

Each day is labeled by day rather than specific dates or days of the week. This enables your camper maximum flexibility depending on when they download this packet. The devotionals are designed to be used in sequence, but they are free to take a break and skip days. However, they should pick up where they left off. We encourage you to keep your child accountable by asking what they are learning about Jesus through the lives of Paul & Barnabus in the book of Acts.

We are privileged to be able to partner with you in this way during this uncertain time. While we are prevented from gathering in groups, our God is still sovereign. He is still faithful, and we are so thankful for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

We welcome your feedback, and if you find this content pack helpful please share on your social media outlets.

Trout Lake Camps

Program Team

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Rough
Draft!

THE VOYAGE OF THE UNLIKELY BROTHERS

BEHIND THE SCENES

DIRECTOR'S NOTES - TIME ALONE WITH GOD

NAME : _____

WELCOME TO TIMBER RIDGE STUDIOS

Everybody loves movies. Whether it's the action-packed summer blockbuster or the boy meets girl romantic comedy, we love movies. We relate to the characters and their stories. Movies inspire us. They make us laugh or cry; they leave us on the edge of our seat; or transport us to another world. We invite you to join the Trout Lake Camps team and go Behind the Scenes of The Voyage of the Unlikely Brothers- The Story of Paul and Barnabus.

Every movie follows a script. ^{- Like this one!} A script simply provides direction for how a movie is made. Think of it as a 'roadmap' that gives the behind the scenes crew direction for how a story will unfold. This script is your roadmap for the week to help you navigate the story of Paul and Barnabus as it unfolds.

Each Day, you will be taking time (TAG Time) to look over this script to prepare yourself for your day. But you're not ready just yet! In order to play your part in making this movie a reality, you need to know some terms we use in the movie business.

MUST KNOW MOVIE BUSINESS TERMS

Setting the Scene: Providing helpful background information to inform the audience about the characters, their location, and the physical setting of the story. Each day we will set the scene.

My favorite! →
Plot: A sequence of events that the characters walk through.

Notes & Questions from the Director: Each day the Director has provided his own notes and questions that he needs your input on! Don't forget!

Post-Production: On a movie set, everyone is held accountable! Don't forget to answer the Director's questions and memorize your lines (memory verses)! In order for the movie to be a success, every crewmember needs to do their job.

Now you're ready to jump in and help behind the scenes to make the story of Paul and Barnabus a reality!

- Director, Timber Ridge Studios

That's me! ~

ACT ONE:

MONDAY - God Directs

“The voyage only happens because you are free from the old life and are living the new.”

- Anonymous

SETTING THE SCENE:

Paul and Barnabus. A story of friendship, adventure, and mystery. The voyage of the unlikely brothers began a long time ago...

In order to understand the story, we must look at the characters. Let's start with Saul. Saul is Paul (he gets his name changed later on). Saul was a man who was persecuting the church and not following God in any way. Christians were scared of him and were afraid to share their faith because of his reputation of finding Christians and putting them into prison. Paul was greatly feared. One day he was on the road to Damascus and God spoke to him.

The same guy who wrote over 50% of the NT!

PLOT

How cool!

Let's meet Paul. Read Acts 7:54-60 and Acts 8:1-3

Director's Notes - We first hear about Saul (Paul) when a man named Stephan was speaking boldly about Jesus. The Jews did not like what Stephan had to say so they had him stoned to death. Saul looked and approved and they laid their coats at his feet.

PLOT

Go ahead and read Acts 9:1-19 for yourself.

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

In what ways did God direct this sequence of events?

Director's Notes - Ananias was directed by God to go to Saul. Ananias was probably scared because he knew of Saul and what he had done to Christians. If God can take someone as bad as Saul and direct him to be a great leader, then you have to believe God can

PLOT

Now read Acts 9:20-25

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you were in Ananias' shoes, would it be easy or difficult to follow God's direction to go and heal Saul? Why or why not?

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

How is God directing your life right now? What are some things that you have seen Foreshadowed?

BEHIND THE SCENES - ASTRONOMY

When you look up at the night sky, the constellations called "Ursa Major" (great bear) and "Leo" (the lion) do not really look anything like bears or lions. We would not be able to identify them as anything but a random group of stars

unless we learned they were called these names from historical star maps. So why is it that people in all times and all places have fairly similar names for these constellations? The best answer is that the original star map came from one place and was then dispersed throughout the world. An astronomer named E. Walter Maunder (1851-1928) provided convincing evidence that someone viewing them at the 40th parallel north latitude invented the constellations. In his analysis, the original star map could not have been produced in Egypt, Babylon, or India, but must

have originated farther north. Interestingly the 40th parallel runs just north of Mount Ararat the place Noah's Ark landed. Maunder further calculated



that the original star map had to have been produced in about 2500 B.C. about the time the flood ended. This means that Noah, Shem, or one of their descendants most likely designed the original star map.



POST PRODUCTION

Memorize Your Lines

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

- Proverbs 3:16

Bonus Line

"Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

- Psalms 119:133

ACT TWO:

TUESDAY - Lights, Camera, Action

En·cour·age - verb; Give support, confidence, or hope to someone

True faith manifests itself through our actions.
- Francis Chan

SETTING THE SCENE:

Barnabas was a man of action. He encouraged others and was a role model to many young Christians. His faith allowed one of the most unlikely people of society to be invited in; the result of that being one of the most influential people in the Bible, Paul. Barnabas was an important person in the early church. He was one of the early leaders that disciplined many young men. Barnabas had heard all of the bad stuff about Saul (Paul), but he also knew of his conversion at the Damascus road. He knew that God had changed him for good but some of his friends did not have the same faith.

PLOT

Read for yourself Acts 9:26-30.

← Haters gonna hate?

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

If Barnabas had not acted on faith, one of the most important writers of the New Testament would have been ignored. He took a risk and trusted God. Why is it hard to face fears? What actions can you take to overcome some?

PLOT

Read on at Acts 11:19-27

Director's Notes - This friendship of Saul (Paul) and Barnabas was a special one. They traveled together, ate together, played together. They were brothers in Christ and were men of action in growing the kingdom. They each had their different strengths and God knew they would make a great team. This was the start

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Barnabus and Saul (Paul) were all about action and going places for God. How can you be like Barnabus and encourage others in your community? Church? School?

PLOT

Read Acts 13:1-3

Daily reminder
alert

Director's Notes - The golden rule is to treat others how you want to be treated. Let's expand on that and treat people how Christ would treat people. That's what Barnabus did with his actions and we should strive to follow his example.

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

God brought this team of unlikely brothers together because they were about action. Barnabus was the encourager empowering Saul (Paul) to preach and teach. Who were other encouragers in the Bible?

BEHIND THE SCENES - LIGHTNING

You may think that lightning only brings fear and sometimes destruction. What good is lightning? Plants need nitrogen to grow green and healthy, and our atmosphere is 78% nitrogen. Yet plants cannot take the nitrogen they need for growth directly from the air. Instead our master designer has provided an alternative means of getting that nitrogen into the plants-through lightning. Lightning actually converts the nitrogen in the air to nitrous oxide, which falls to the ground and enters the soil where it can be used by plants. It is estimated that electrical storms produce one hundred million tons of usable nitrogen for the



Director's Notes - This week there will be an award for an individual who displays great encouragement. It's called the Barnabas Award. Think about what you can do to encourage others in life, games, and friendship. Even if you don't win, try to always be that positive influence in someone's life. You never



Earth's plants each year. You could call lightning a super fertilizer! So the next time there is an electrical storm, know that God is just turning the lawns green.

POST PRODUCTION

Memorize Your Lines

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

- James 2:17

Bonus Lines

"But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

- 1 John 3:17-1

ACT THREE

WEDNESDAY - His Story

“There's a Grand Designer behind everything. Your life is not a result of random chance, fate, or luck. There is a master plan. History is His story. God is pulling the strings.”

- Rick Warren

SETTING THE SCENE:

One of the most asked question in cinema and life is “Who am I?” Most movie plots can be boiled down to ask this question. God wants you to look at His story and ask yourself, “Whose am I?” Do you see the difference? When we believe in Jesus we are putting aside our old life and living a new one. It is a new voyage full of adventure and mystery. “Whose am I” makes us look at how God views us and not how we view ourselves. Knowing that you are a loved, child of God is so important. You will face difficult situations and if you know who watches over you, and who is right there beside you, it will bring you to overcome any challenge. Paul and Barnabus had to find themselves in God’s story. They were shipwrecked, beaten with rods, thrown in prison multiple times, and it seemed like everywhere they went most people wanted to kill them. But look at what Paul says after going through the hardest times in life. “But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. For Paul, Jesus was his source of strength. He knew that Jesus had suffered too (killed on a cross) and that by belonging to Jesus, he would have the strength to endure his difficulties. Now we continue our story and find out where Paul and Barnabus are headed.

PLOT

Nothing can stop God from getting people to be in His story. Read Acts 13:4-12

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

How is this story similar to any other story in the Bible? If so which one? (Hint: Mondays TAG)

PLOT

God's story is woven into all of the stories in the bible. Now read Acts 13:13-41

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

What have been some cool things God has done in your life to get you where you are today? Can you see God faithfully directing your story?

Director's Notes - The whole city was gathered to hear this message from Paul and Barnabus. Did you know every movie has a story? It's true. Sure we might watch movies because we think they are funny, entertaining, have cool special effects, or actors

PLOT

Read through Acts 13:49-52

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

What was the "word of the Lord" that spread through Paul & Barnabus' message? (Hint: verse 47)

Director's Notes - Being apart of God's story is an adventure. You will have people that don't like you and let you down but their opinion is not important. What is important is you becoming apart of God's story. Will you let him direct

BEHIND THE SCENES - ANATOMY

Have you considered how precious you are to God? According to the Bible, you are "the apple of his eye." To the writers of the Old Testament, the pupil of the eye resembled the shape of an apple. This precious pupil allows sight. It must be protected. So the eye is placed deep within the skull with the bones in the forehead and cheeks to encase it. Meanwhile, the eyebrows and eyelashes catch dust, debris, and sweat. To protect from blindness, eyelids close while sleeping. If anything gets near the cornea of the eye, blinking happens automatically. This blinking reflex is also the last reflex to exist prior to death. To be the apple of God's eye is to experience His supreme protection. God protects us reflexively, even unto death. The best example is the death



of his Son on the cross. He died for you! That is how precious you are to God; you are the apple of His eye.

POST PRODUCTION

Memorize Your Lines

"Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Ephesians 5:19-20

Bonus Lines

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

- Hebrews 12:2



ACT FOUR:

THURSDAY - Company Move

“Regardless of what you want to do or who you are, fear will always see you as wholly unqualified for anything you ever dream or attempt.”

—Jon Acuff

SETTING THE SCENE:

Company move is another term in the movie business that means you are shooting a scene away from where you are currently filming. That means you have to move everybody to that new location which is called a company move. Paul and Barnabus had to move many times for many different reasons. Sometimes it was to avoid being caught and killed. Through their hard times God brought the gospel many places. Sometimes the obstacles in our life are there for a reason, and we must trust God where He leads and directs. That is the underlying message in the “Voyage of the Unlikely Brothers.” Paul faced hard times, when we go on a journey not everything goes perfectly. When we experience difficult situations at home, in school, with our friends, God doesn’t always remove all the obstacles. It isn’t because he doesn’t love us, or care about us. Sometimes it’s because he wants us to learn to rely on him.

PLOT

Read Acts 14:1-7

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Paul was a great speaker. Barnabus was a great encourager. Their gifts were different and God used them both. What are some gifts God has given you? How can you use those gifts where God has placed you?

Everyone is gifted in something! If you can't think of something right away, ask a friend.

Director's Notes –There are going to be some tough times in life that we'll have to deal with. It is in those moments where we are most changed. God knows you so well that he directs those moments in our life to bring us closer to him. There are so many examples in the Bible to look at for getting inspiration to continue on in the midst of the storm.

PLOT

Read Acts 14:19-22

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Can you think of any Bible characters that were courageous? Can you think of any Bible story that had people leave their home? (Hint: Big Boat, Egypt) It doesn't have to be miles away either look at Esther or Daniel.



BEHIND THE SCENES - BOTANY

Grass is a seemingly unimportant plant that is often ignored and taken for granted. Yet, let's examine it. Notice that the stem is round and mostly hollow except at the joint or node. This stem lays in the sheath that is open part of the way down. The unique aspect of all grasses is their ability to grow from the back of the sheath. Even when most of the grass plant gets eaten or mowed, the grass is able to grow back. This differs greatly from other plants because they grow from the tips of their stems. Grasses are unique in that they continue to grow even if chewed off or mowed. In fact, over one third of the land surface of the world is covered by some variety of grass. Grasses provide food for animals and, thus, man. They don't have to be replanted or sown; they just continue to grow. This seemingly unimportant plant is an enormous blessing to our world. Through it we can see God's

- Just like you!

provision for our care. As you're walking around camp today, notice the grass and remember that God perfectly designed it with a purpose.

Director's Notes – Movies have lots of themes in them. A theme is a universal idea that everyone can relate to (i.e. love, friendship, fear, courage, etc.) God has a common theme going in the Bible as well. He often tells us to go places we have never been, meet new people, and share His love. Paul and Barnabus show us that letting go of our plans and submitting to God's plan is the most important decision we can make. There are lots of

POST PRODUCTION

Memorize Your Lines

"The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

- Psalm 103:15-16

Bonus Lines

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

- Acts 13:2-3

ACT FIVE:

FRIDAY - Quiet on Set

Sol·i·tude - *noun*; The state or situation of being alone

"Worship is focus." - Beth Moore

SETTING THE SCENE:

Quiet on set is another movie term that is used by the director to alert the entire production crew that filming is taking place. Could you imagine what would happen if the production team didn't pay attention when the director called "Quiet on set?" The movie would be full of actors not in frame, bad lighting, the pizza guy walking in the background and noises of people walking around- not a very good movie. As we end our journey through Acts, we find Paul and Barnabus in Jerusalem meeting with some of the believers and elders. They came because there was a dispute about how the Gentiles (non-Jews) were to be saved. Some believed they had to do certain things in order to be saved (be circumcised), but Paul and Barnabus knew it was only by the grace of God that someone could be saved. The assembly was quiet after Paul was done preaching. Having a time of solitude was the furnace of their transformation. This is where the other hidden message in the voyage of the unlikely brothers comes to light. God wants everyone to have a relationship with Him because He loves us more than anyone else could.

PLOT

Go ahead and Read Acts 15:1-21

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

What are some things that distract you from having a great relationship with God?

PLOT

Read Acts 15:22-35

QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is so important to put your relationship with God first. That was all Paul cared about. When is the best time in your schedule back home to meet with God? What things can you do to grow closer with Him?

No CELL PHONES!!!
How did people
live!

← AMEN!

Director's Notes – God separated Paul and Barnabus through an argument, but because they split up they were able to reach more churches for Christ. Despite their arguments, God was still able to use a crummy situation for His Glory!

PLOT

Read about it in Acts 15:36-41

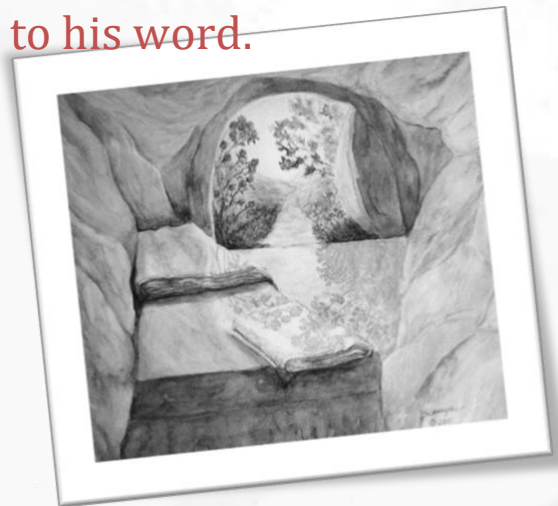
QUESTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

What were Paul and Barnabus arguing about? Who do you think was in the wrong?

Director's Notes – The assembly was silent when listening to Paul and Barnabus. They were being transformed from their former thinking and ways. God was moving in the early church and He is moving in your life too. All you have to do is tune out the distractions of everyday life and listen to his word.

BEHIND THE SCENES – THE BIBLE

Every detail of Scripture is recorded for a purpose. All too often we read through many of the stories and historical accounts in the Bible without understanding the significance of the tiny details. This is especially true when we do not understand the cultural customs of the day. One of those customs was how a guest at a banquet handled his napkin during a meal. Banquets and meals in Middle Eastern culture were an entire evening affair. While eating, guests could come and go from their places, so servants cleaning up the banquet would not want to clear a place if the guest was going to return. Thus a commonly followed custom was to fold the napkin if you planned to return. This signaled to the servants you would be returning. If you did not intend to return, you would leave the napkin crumpled, so the servants knew they could clear your place. After Jesus' resurrection, His disciples went into the tomb where they found the flattened burial cloths,



which had been wrapped around his body. But the cloth "napkin" that had been wrapped around Jesus' head was not found lying in a crumpled, flattened pile. It had been neatly folded and laid aside, clearly signaling the widely known custom of the day, i.e., Christ was letting us all know His intention to return! This is just one example of how a small detail in scripture (folding of a napkin) contains truth! Keep reading your Bible!

POST PRODUCTION

Memorize Your Lines

"Pay attention, Job, and listen to me; be silent, and I will speak."

- Job 33:31

Bonus Lines

"Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."

- Acts 15:3