[Narrator]You probably remember Paul and the stories we've told about how he carried out the missions that God gave him. Well, although Paul is in our story today, it isn't as much about him but is about one of his partners who also had a mission from God. His name is Barnabas. He and Paul worked together in a city called Antioch where one of the earliest Churches was started. In the new Church there were many people who were not Jews, but who wanted to learn about God. They are called Gentiles. A gentile is anyone who is not a Jew. Let's let Paul and Barnabas tell you the rest of their story.

 In our story are Barnabas and Paul, Peter and James, and Jacob who is also an early follower of Jesus.

Our story starts with Paul and Barnabas who are walking together from Antioch to Jerusalem.

[Scene] Paul and Barnabas are walking together.

[Paul] I'm still so angry that I could chew tent pegs. The nerve of those people.

[Barnabas] Paul, we've gone over this many times.

[Paul] But they just charged in and started confusing our new friends who are trying so hard to be followers of Jesus. They are confusing our new friends by telling them that they have to follow all of the rules of being Jews like us, but they aren't Jews, they are gentiles and I know that they don't have to follow all of those rules to follow Jesus. They have started to learn about following God and it isn't easy. I'm so proud of them for starting to change the ways that they live. I'm sure that Jesus is proud of them too.

[Barnabas] Paul, arguing wasn't going to help. You know that I agree with you, but we were starting to look foolish. That's why I suggested that we go to Jerusalem and meet with the disciples to see what they say. I think that when they learn about all of the great things that are happening in Antioch that they will support us.

[Narrator] So Paul and Barnabas kept walking and as they did they met with people in Churches along the way. Everyone was very excited to hear how God was working in Antioch. They thought that Paul and Barnabas were busy carrying out God's mission. Finally, they came to Jerusalem and met with Peter, James, and some of the others who were leaders in the Church there.

[Paul] Barnabas, why don't you do the talking this time.

[Scene] Paul and Barnabas meet with Peter, James and Jacob

[Barnabas] Brothers. We've come to tell you about all of the great work that is being done in God's name in Antioch. Many Gentiles are being filled with the holy spirit and people are learning about God's love and about Jesus.

[Peter] That's great.

[Barnabas] But, We have run into a problem and Paul and I would appreciate your advice.

[James] What is the problem Barnabas?

[Barnabas] Well, we're trying to teach the gentiles about Jesus, and there are some folk who are telling them that they have to become Jews before they can follow Jesus.

[Jacob] Well, they are right. If everyone doesn't follow the laws they can't get to know God. We've been following the teachings of Moses for over a thousand years. When we follow them things go well, when we don't it gets hard. We need to teach this to the gentiles.

[Peter] I used to think that also, but I've told you about how that changed. Remember when I told you about my dream about what people could and couldn't eat? I'm sure that the dream was telling me that the rules for us Jews didn't have to be followed by the gentiles in order for them to follow Jesus .

[James] Peter and Jacob, Maybe we should sit down together and talk about this.

[Narrator] Well they did talk and when they were through they agreed with Paul and Barnabas that people who weren't Jews didn't need to become Jews in order to follow Jesus. Barnabas had completed his mission from God. He got people to talk with each other and to understand each other. Barnabas had a mission and because he did it so well we can all follow Jesus in our different ways.