

ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

November 19, 2023

Acts 13

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

- **How do you generally handle opposition: fight, freeze, or flee? Explain.**
- **If you had the chance, is there a MISSION trip that you would desire to take some day?**

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

After taking a week off, we're back in the book of Acts. This week we will be in Acts 13 and in this chapter, we're reminded that Christians are saved to be sent. Let that sink in for a moment...and I'm going to repeat this - Christians are saved to be sent. There is no clearer example of this truth in the book of Acts than Saul/ Paul. This week, we're going to look at how the church gathered around brothers - laid hands on them - and then sent them off. The church was "open-handed" with what God gave them and sent off their best and brightest. This sending represents Saul/ Paul's first missionary journey to the Gentiles. In this journey, he will make his way to Asia Minor.

Question 1: If someone were to ask you to describe the mission of God, what would you tell them? Given your definition of God's mission, how have you engaged in it?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 13:1-3**

BUILD

Engage the Scripture

Question 1: Who "calls" Saul & Barnabas out?

- **Why do you think Luke includes this detail?**

Question 2: By reading the first two verses, it seems that Luke is showing that Saul and Barnabas are two of the strongest leaders and disciple makers in the church. Yet, they are the ones that the Holy Spirit set apart to be sent out.

- **What do you think this says about the health of the church at Antioch?**
- **How do you think the disciple at the church at Antioch felt seeing them go?**
- **What would be the results at FBC if the Holy Spirit called our strongest leaders and disciple makers?**

Question 3: At Antioch, I think we have a picture of a church that is being used for missions. This picture reveals a church that was well-taught, diverse, devout and seeking God's direction.

- **Do you think FBC "mirrors" [well-taught, diverse, devout and seeking God's direction] the church at Antioch? Explain.**
- **How do you think FBC can learn from the church at Antioch?**

BECOME

Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Acts 13:4-12**

Question 5: In **verses 4-12** we see that the Word is proclaimed **[5]**, heard **[7]** and taught **[12]**.

- **Why do you think that Paul & Barnabas immediately proclaimed the Word of God?** How does **Romans 1:16-17** help you to answer this question?
- While Paul and Barnabas are in Cyprus, the proconsul is **amazed more** at the teaching of Paul and Barnabas than the miracle he witnessed. **What does this tell us about the power of Scripture compared to events we experience/ witness?**
- **In your opinion, does the church tend to base their relationship with God on "experience" or on knowledge of Him through His Word?**

In **Acts 13:13-47**, we see that John Mark [author of the Gospel of Mark] has left Paul & Barnabas. We'll read more about that later in **Acts 15:36-41**. We also see Paul showed the Jews how Jesus fulfills the promise of **Genesis 12:3** of being a "blessing to the nations..." - i.e. the Gentiles.

Have someone in your group read **Acts 13:48-52**

Question 6: In **verse 48**, what is the reaction of the Gentiles upon hearing this message?

- **What is the result of them hearing this in verse 49?**

Question 7: What stands out to you about the Jews reaction in **verse 50**?

- **Does the church tend to react the same way? How?**

Question 8: What does Luke intend for us to learn in **verse 51**? What do these actions communicate?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

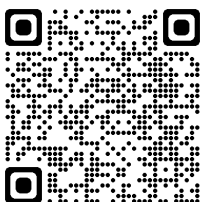
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: **Acts 13:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: **Acts 13:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

