

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 10, 2007

Passage: Acts 13:1-52

Memory Passage: Acts 13:38-39

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 13:1-3.** Read Acts 1:8. What were the three major stages that Jesus laid out for the spread of the gospel?
- (b) What area does the gospel reach in Acts 1-7 (Acts 8:1)? What had to happen to get the church to go out and share the gospel beyond their own people (Acts 8:1-4)?
- (c) Where was the gospel preached in Acts 8-12 (Acts 8:5; 9:31-43; 11:19-20)? Would it be accurate to say that the gospel is being spread to these areas “almost *accidentally*?” Explain.
- (d) Beginning in Acts 13, we have the *intentional* spread of the gospel through the rest of the world. How does Acts end (28:30-31)?
- (e) What does this tell us about the spread of the gospel? Some have said that the “Acts of the Apostles are continuing to this very day.” What do they mean by that? Do you think it is an accurate statement?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 13:1-3. Review the outline for the Book of Acts. Talk about sharing the gospel. Why are we reluctant to share the gospel? Give some reasons for this. How do your cultural barriers make it even harder to share the gospel? Pray that God will give you a desire to share the gospel with people of all nationalities, races, and social standing.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 13:1.** How many pastoral leaders are in the church at Antioch? What is the NT pattern for church leadership (Acts 14:23; 20:17; Titus 1:5; James 5:14)?
- (b) Where are these leaders from? What kinds of differences might they have had? What does this passage show us about the nature of the leadership team at the church of Antioch? Why is this helpful for becoming a “missionary church?”
- (c) What *spiritual gifts* did they have (Eph. 4:11 and 1 Cor. 12:28-29)? What was the purpose of these gifts (Eph. 4:11-16)?
- (d) Were prophets in the NT the same as the OT (Deuteronomy 18:19-22; 1 Thess. 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 14:29-38)? What are the differences? What did Paul teach about prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1, 5, 31, 39)? How would you define NT prophecy?
- (e) How is teaching different from prophecy (1 Timothy 5:17; 4:16; James 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:15)? Define the gift of teaching.
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 13:1 and Ephesians 4:11-16. Talk about the ministry of teaching in the church. Why is it so important? What is required for good teaching? How does this differ from prophecy? Pray for those who teach in your church.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 13:2.** What do these leaders model for the whole church (Romans 15:7; Ephesians 4:1-6; Acts 4:32)? Why is this also essential for being a “missionary church?”
- (b) What are these prophets and teachers described as doing? What does it mean to “minister unto the Lord” (Deuteronomy 10:8; 1 Samuel 2:8)? What were they doing? How is this also essential for a missionary church?
- (c) What is fasting? What is almost always connected with fasting (Matthew 17:21; Acts 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Nehemiah 1:4; 2 Samuel 12:23; etc.)? Is fasting to be done in general or for a specific reason? Why were these leaders fasting and praying?
- (d) What are some cautions that we should have anytime we fast (Matthew 6:6-8)?
- (e) What did the Holy Spirit tell them to do? What work did He have for them? Where had God already made this clear (Acts 9:15-16; Acts 22:11; 26:15-18)? Were they praying for clarification as to how to fulfill God’s Word to Saul?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 13:2 and Matthew 28:18-20. What is the “Great Commission?” Who is it for? What are some essentials for being a missionary church that we see in the church at Antioch? Ask God to give you and your church a heart for missions.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 13:3-13.** What was the response of Barnabas and Saul to the call of the Spirit to leave their church? What was the response of the people? What is the significance of the laying on of hands (certainly they were already ordained as elders)?
- (b) Look at a map of Cyprus and read Acts 13:4-13. What seems to be their missionary strategy? Were they the first to bring the gospel to this island (Acts 11:19)? What was Paul’s missions strategy (Romans 15:15-24)?
- (c) What conflict arises in Paphos (the capital city)? How did Paul deal with this?
- (d) What convinced (amazed, astonished) the proconsul and led him to belief (Acts 13:12; Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)?
- (e) What happened to John Mark? How did this affect Paul’s attitude toward him later (Acts 15:38)? How did this change later in his life (2 Timothy 4:11)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 13:3-13 and 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 2:1-2. Discuss the power of God’s Word in evangelism. What did Barnabas and Saul focus on doing on their missionary journey across Cyprus? What should be our priority in evangelism? Pray that you will have the boldness to speak to someone this week about the good news of salvation through Jesus.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 13:14-52.** What was the pattern that Paul and Barnabas followed in the cities they visited (Acts 13:5; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; 19:8)? Why would they follow this pattern (Romans 1:16; Acts 13:46-47)?
- (b) What was the missionary message Paul preached? Make a list of each time God is mentioned; what is God doing (Acts 13:17; 13:21; 13:22; 13:23; 13:30; 13:33; 13:37)?
- (c) What is the message preached through Jesus Christ (Acts 13:38-39)? What was God's desire for the Jews (Acts 13:47)?
- (d) How did the Gentiles respond to this message (Acts 13:48-49)? How did many of the Jews respond (Acts 13:50)?
- (e) What was the reaction of the disciples to this rejection (Acts 13:51-52)? Read Isaiah 6:6-13. How is this similar to what the disciples experienced?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 13:14-52. How would you summarize the gospel message? Why is God mentioned so often in Paul's presentation? What is the promise in the gospel message? What sins are included? Give thanks today for the complete forgiveness provided for everyone who believes!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 13. Review the outline of the Book of Acts. Where did Jesus say they should be his witnesses? What do you think it means to be a "missionary church?" Why was Antioch especially suited to become the first missionary church? What was the message that Paul preached? Pray for your church tomorrow that the message of the gospel might be clear to all who hear.

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The Mission of the Church

"...everyone who believes is justified from all things..."