

Acts 13 “A Church On Mission”

Acts 13:1-12

November 9, 2025

Acts 13:1-12

1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 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.” 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. 6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Everything Jesus has done is on display when we are together.

The church worshipped.

Fasted.

“Fasting is calculated to bring a note of urgency and persistence into our praying, and to give force to our pleas in the court of heaven.”
- Arthur Wallis

Fasting increases the earnestness of our petitions.

The greatest competitors are some of God’s best gifts.

Philippians 3:18-19

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Prayer is a stance.

Acts 2:2-3

2 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.” 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Spirit guiding and church affirming.

Being sent, they went.

John 20:21

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

1 Thessalonians 1:5

“Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.”

God’s power.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

“They sing, pray, and hand each other the body and blood of Christ. They rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. They fight against evil, but also fly kites and bake bread. As part of their vocation they absorb good books and good music. They work, but also rest from work in order to make a space to which to long for God.” - Cornelius Plantinga Jr.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His word during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you ever experienced the people that you go to church with become like family? Explain why the gospel has the power to change relationships. When we gather on Sunday mornings, how is the gospel put on display through our being diverse and by being together?
- The Antioch church worshipped. Why is worship central to the Christian life?
- Have you ever fasted? If you have, what was significant about fasting?
- Discuss the good tension observed in Acts 13:3, in that the Holy Spirit directed and the church also affirmed. Why are both needed?
- The Antioch church sent two of their best leaders. How might that challenging our thoughts about sending out others?
- If you believed that you were currently on a mission trip, right now, what priorities would adjust? What disappointments might surface? What might be your next move?
- How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?