



Acts 13:1–4 (NIV)

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with 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 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

Paul's and Barnabas' first journey:
 Departed from Antioch
 (where we hear of the first Christians)
 Stopped at Island of Cyprus, Perga, Antioch
 in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe

The Movement of the Holy Spirit in Mission

- From the very moment Paul and Barnabas are sent, God's Spirit is with them and sustaining them in their leadership.
- The Holy Spirit evokes in us an _____ response.
- The Holy Spirit calls us to meet people, to hear their stories, to learn their way of life. God will speak into the midst of that invitation.
- When we keep the Holy Spirit on our minds and in our hearts, we focus more on being in mission _____ people as opposed to _____ them.

Paul's and Barnabas' Foundations for Christian Mission

- By partaking in God's mission, we are given a _____, not a _____.
- Mission is rooted in our integration of the familiar within the context of the unfamiliar.
- Mission involves _____ what is socially or culturally expected of us.

- Paul preaches our salvation story beginning the exodus, but with an added plot twist:

“Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath... We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus... Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses...” Acts 13:26–27, 32–33a, 38–39 (NIV)

Living It Out: Stepping Out of the Boat

“Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.” —Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

- _____ the gospel is just as important as preaching or teaching it.
- How can we live as witnesses to this good news when the people we serve often feel that they are someone else’s mission?

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. Acts 14:21–23 (NIV)

- Discipling other disciples rests on _____.
- Paul’s and Barnabas’ first missionary journey is a testimony that God’s mission is not about manipulation. It’s about invitation.

Think About It

What's keeping you from stepping out of the boat?
 What about God's mission do you find most challenging to follow?
 What does it look like to be in mission with someone who is not like you?
 Who are your holy conversation partners on the journey of faith?
 Who can always point you back to God when you get ahead of yourself?