

Scripture Reading: Acts 13:1-3 & Acts 14:26-28
Sermon Title: Burning Bushes: The Voice

God's voice coming to us:

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.

Acts 13:1-3

From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷ On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸ And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Acts 14:26-28

The voice of God came to them through healthy & diverse community.

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.

So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when **Paul** had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called **us** to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:8-10

Practice:

Immerse yourself & invest in healthy & diverse relationships.

The voice of God came to them through attentiveness to God—in worship, fasting, & prayer.

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.

Practice:

Develop & commit to a rhythm of being with Jesus through silence, stillness, & worship.

The voice of God came to them through the Word of God.

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."

All Scripture is **breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Jesus is what God looks & sounds like.

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

Practice:

Develop & commit to a rhythm of being with Jesus through studying the bible.

The voice of God came to them through active engagement in the work of God.

But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ **For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,**

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 13:45-47

Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, **who bore witness to the word of his grace**, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 14:1-3

Practice:

Develop & commit to a rhythm of demonstrating the gospel through service.

Our voice to the world:

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and **the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus**, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

Exercise:

Write a thematic paragraph for your life generally.

Format:

Compelling idea/truth, burden, preferred future, specific action, and specific actions.

Example using The Brook:

Compelling Idea/Truth:

Across the ages, God has been telling a unified story of power, love, and redemption centered on the life of Jesus Christ. This story, the gospel, is the good news that changes everything. This story, the gospel, addresses life as it is while providing a picture and solution for life as it could be. This story, the gospel, creates some specific burdens in our hearts.

Burden:

We are burdened for people worshipping Jesus with their everything. We are burdened for God's people growing into their identity and fulfilling their calling. We are burdened for all people experiencing something better than separation for all eternity or just surviving in the now. We are burdened for Miami being a place where different types of people can experience the goodness of God in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

Preferred Future:

We want to see Jesus glorified, a flourishing people, & a better Miami.

Specific action:

God is calling us to grow a people from all people passionate for God.

Specific actions:

Growing people by helping them be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and change the world.

Thematic paragraph:

Across the ages, God has been telling a unified story of power, love, and redemption centered on the life of Jesus Christ. This story, the gospel, is the good news that changes everything. This story, the gospel, addresses life as it is while providing a picture and solution for life as it could be. This story, the gospel, creates some specific burdens in our hearts. Some of our burdens entail people worshipping Jesus with their everything, God's people growing into their identity and fulfilling their calling, all people experiencing something better than separation for all eternity or just surviving in the now, and Miami being a place where different types of people can experience the goodness of God in ordinary and extraordinary ways. Because of these realities, we want to see Jesus glorified, a flourishing people, & a better Miami. As a result, God is calling us to grow a people from all people passionate for God. Faithfulness to that call entails helping people be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and change the world.

Write a thematic paragraph for your life in this season.

Format:

In this current season, because of (Specific Reasons-Opportunities & Obstacles), I believe God is calling me to (Specific Action). That entails me doing (Specific Actions).

Example using The Brook:

Specific Reasons (Opportunities & Obstacles):

There's a hunger among people for more in and from their lives. This hunger shows up as a desire for a deeper connection to Jesus, friendship with others, and making a meaningful difference in and with their lives. There is an opportunity for The Brook to speak to and help people satisfy their hunger well. The complexity of life in our city significantly affects the availability and management of our time, talents, and treasure.

Specific Action:

Greater simplicity and intentionality with spiritual formation and city engagement.

Specific Actions:

Providing opportunities for simple one time and ongoing ways for The Brook to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and change the world.

Thematic Paragraph

In this current season, there's a hunger among people for more in and from their lives. This hunger shows up as a desire for a deeper connection to Jesus, friendship with others, and making a meaningful difference in and with their lives. This hunger creates an opportunity for The Brook to speak to and help people satisfy their hunger well. The complexity of life in our city significantly affects the availability and management of our time, talents, and treasure. We believe in this current season, God is calling The Brook towards greater simplicity and intentionality with spiritual formation and city engagement. That entails providing opportunities for simple one-time and ongoing ways for The Brook to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and change the world.