

October 11, 2026

Title: Missions

Scripture: Acts 13:46-47

Speaker: Ian Bonthron



It's incredible that our little church in a rural chicken farm field can be used to support and help people around the world.

How is that possible?

Acts 13:46 ESV

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.

Perspectives on Christianity

- Christianity is not inclusive.
- Christianity is the most inclusive religion in the whole world because its offer is for _____ and _____ who would believe.

Acts 13:47 ESV

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.'"

Isaiah 49:6 ESV

He says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

The gospel is for the _____ of the earth — and we get to carry the _____.

10/11/26 Group Questions

Missions – Acts 13:46-47

Getting to Know You Questions:

1. What's the weirdest "local custom" you've ever accidentally broken while traveling (or while visiting another family's house)?
2. What's the most ridiculous thing you've ever packed "just in case" for a trip?

Into the Bible Questions:

1. From the sermon, Acts 13, or the missionary support, what stood out to you? What surprised you? What made you think?
2. How does Paul and Barnabas' response to the agitators in verse 46 show both boldness and obedience?
3. What does the quotation from Isaiah 49:6 reveal about God's long-term plan for the Messiah?
4. How does the phrase "a light for the Gentiles" change the scope of the mission at this moment?
5. The sermon noted that some people call Christianity "narrow" while others call it "just a Western religion." How does Acts 13:46-47 push back on both of those claims?
6. Paul and Barnabas turned toward people the original audience didn't expect the message to reach. Where do we still see similar "unexpected" people groups today?
7. How does the jealousy of the Jewish leaders in Antioch compare with attitudes we sometimes see (or feel) about who "should" hear the gospel?
8. What tension do you feel between the exclusivity of Jesus being the only way and the wide-open invitation of the gospel?

Application Questions:

1. Where has God already placed you (job, school, neighborhood, family) to be a "light" this week?
2. Is there a person or group in your life who feels "far away" culturally or spiritually? What is one practical step you could take toward them?

3. What fears or excuses tend to keep you from sharing the good news with someone different from you?
4. How can you grow in boldness like Paul and Barnabas when the message is resisted?
5. What is one way you can intentionally learn about or pray for people from Muslim backgrounds?
6. How might serving in local opportunities (homecoming, Serve Day, teacher lunch, etc.) train us for greater global partnership?
7. What personal step of obedience is the Holy Spirit prompting you toward after hearing this message?
8. How can we as a group keep the “ends of the earth” in front of us so it doesn’t stay only a sermon idea?
9. If you are still searching for the freedom and forgiveness described in the sermon, what is holding you back from trusting Jesus today?