

Key Scripture

“Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, [a] 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.” – Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)

“7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.” – Galatians 2:7-10 (ESV)

“7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What’s the most physically demanding challenge you’ve ever had?
- Has someone ever had to put their needs on hold to serve you?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- In Acts 13:1-3 and Galatians 2:7-10, listen to Paul describe the calling he received from God to be a missionary. What sticks out?
- Read 1 Cor. 9:16-23. To what lengths is Paul willing to go? What is fueling his sense of urgency and willingness to self-sacrifice?
- Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-31 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What were some of the trials that Paul endured? Why is he telling us these things? What is the point he is trying to make?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- At some point a Christian must move from childhood to young adulthood. What characterizes that transition?
- Does Paul’s willingness to sacrifice his own rights and needs for the sake of others gel with American principles?
- We are often afraid of offending people, being mocked, or being treated differently when we speak about Jesus to non-believers. The apostles were beaten, arrested, stoned, and crucified. What is the difference between us and them?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- Participation in the ministry of the church is the mark of a spiritual adult. How would you gauge your current participation level? IF you feel that you need to increase it, what’s the next step?
- Take a spiritual gifts assessment.
- When’s the last time you invited someone to your LIFEGroup or to worship? Is your answer in alignment with the urgency to share the Gospel that is communicated in scripture?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- God thank you for your love that can change lives! Help us to endure hardships knowing that all things work out for good for those who love You, God. Be our strength and when we fail remind us of your grace so we can try again. In Jesus Name we pray Amen.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
2. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
4. Pray for one another.