



Bible study for the week starting December 4, 2022

SHARE

1. What's the best magic show you've seen? Most of magic is showmanship. Have you ever been around magic that made you feel more uneasy than that?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

2. Read **Acts 13:1-12**. Paul and Barnabus set out on what we call Paul's "first missionary journey." How do they decide where to go? Where and how do they start?
3. Paul and Barnabus preached their way across Cyprus. What do you take away from the interaction that happens when they get to the west side of the island?
4. Read **Isaiah 11:1-10**. This beautiful passage highlights the Messiah (Jesus) as a Righteous Branch of Jesse's lineage. We also hear about the work of the Spirit of the Lord and see at the end of it that the message is for the nations. How is this a strong Advent theme, as well as how does it fit with what is happening in Acts 13?
5. Read **Matthew 3:1-12**. John fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3-5, about making crooked roads straight and level. What's the connection to Paul's accusation in Acts 13? In what ways do we sometimes make the straight path to God crooked?

PRAY

6. Pray that God would bring you closer to Him and to His people during this season of busyness and distraction, and that He would remove obstacles that would keep you from Him.



Straight Paths & Broken Roads

Acts 13:1-12

December 4, 2022 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

Luke shifts the narrative to [PAUL](#).

Bar-Jesus: less [COPPERFIELD](#) and more [VOLDEMORT](#).

“Stop making [CROOKED](#) the [STRAIGHT](#) paths of the Lord.”

“Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths [STRAIGHT](#).” -Matt. 3:3

A [FAMILY CIRCUS](#) route.

A little [TWISTING](#) of the truth of God can take you – over time – drastically off course.

God bless the [BROKEN](#) road.

God’s goal is through that series of [DISAPPOINTMENTS](#) and [FAILURES](#), you will become [RECEPTIVE](#) to a message that is so incredibly different than anything else the world offers.

For next week, read Acts 13:13-52