

## **The Story: Chapter 29**

### **Paul's Mission**

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#### **DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:**

**1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**

**2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

#### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about this week's sermon?

#### **Getting Started**

This week we start in Acts 13, where we see Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul (Paul) worshipping and fasting. The Holy Spirit calls Saul and Barnabas to take the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth. To deliver the the Good News to the nations beyond Israel; the Gentiles.

As we watch their journey, we learn a great deal about what it looks like to live a life on a mission.

#### **Thought #1: Living life on mission requires help**

Read Acts 13:2-3

"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." So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

Paul and Barnabas were called but couldn't go on mission alone. It required help in several ways. We see evidence of this from the moment the Holy Spirit spoke to them.

Through worship, prayer, and fasting we recognize God's greatness and our complete reliance on Him showing up.

As you go on mission into your homes, workplaces, communities, neighborhoods, and relationships every day, what place does worship, prayer, and fasting hold for you? How do these three actions help you while you're on mission? Of these three

disciplines, do you find one or some are easier than others? Why do you think that is?

Paul and Barnabas also had help from their community. While they set out on their mission without Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen, they were still connected to them in the overall mission: to further the Kingdom and share the Good News of Jesus.

As you're on mission, how do you lean into your community? How do you rely on them to help carry your burden, cover you in prayer, or support you during trials? Are there circumstances in which you struggle to lean into your community for help? What are these and why do you think this is difficult?

#### **Thought #2: Living life on mission requires commitment**

We read passage after passage in the book of Acts where we can see that living a life on mission was more than just words for Paul. His words and actions aligned, even in the face of the consequences of life or death.

Read the following passages:

Acts 13:50-52

"But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region. So, they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 14:1-5

"At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So, Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and

Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them.”

Acts 14:8-10

“In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed, and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.”

Acts 14:19-20

“Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.”

Acts 16:22-24

“The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

While we may not face the same level of opposition or persecution that Paul did, as carriers of the Gospel we will meet difficulties, obstacles, and trials.

What opposition, obstacles, or trials have you faced because you were a bringer of the Good News? Have you faced difficulties because you have witnessed to those around you what Jesus has done for you? Has the possibility or probability of these difficulties kept you from sharing about Jesus? How can you stay committed to living life on mission even when hardships come?

### **Thought #3: Living life on mission requires encouragement**

Acts 15:36

“Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where

we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

We all need encouragement as we live life on mission. This can come in a variety of ways: an unexpected card in the mail, a phone call from a friend, a text or email with an encouraging word. When we listen to the prompting from the Lord and obey by reaching out, we could be that word of encouragement that is needed right then.

Have you experienced having someone reach out at just the right time, in your moment of need? What did their encouragement mean for you in that time or season? Have you had an opportunity to be this type of encouragement for someone else?

Is there someone right now that God is laying on your heart? Someone you need to reach out to, check in on? Someone who may be needing a word of encouragement to keep living their life on mission?

### **Thought #4: Living life on mission requires focus**

Acts 14:26-28

“From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 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. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”

It’s so easy to become distracted as we are living life on mission every day. To take our eyes off the main thing: leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus. As Gentiles, the gospel came to us because Paul was obedient to his call. God can use each of us in big ways that will have an impact for generations to come.

What is God calling you to focus on right now? Is staying focused on living life on mission difficult for you at times? If so, why do you think this is? Are there things in your life that serve as a distraction that He’s calling you to surrender? Is He talking with you about where He wants to use your skills, talents, and time for the kingdom? Consider inviting your group/class into accountability over this!

