

## Reflecting on Acts 13

### Study and Discussion Questions | August 14, 2022

**Introduction:** In Acts 13-15, we find three case studies of principles we recently discussed in our series on Church Membership: commission, commitment, and confession. In chapter 13, Paul and Barnabas are sent on their first missionary journey. Based on their experiences, Luke provides us with several lessons for missions:

1. Remember missions work is teamwork (vss. 1-3)
2. Witness faithfully and wait on the Lord (vss. 4-7)
3. Expect opposition from without and within (vss. 8-14)
4. Proclaim the Word (vss. 15-52)

1. **Read Acts 13:1-3.** In this brief section of Scripture, we learn a lot about the local church of Antioch. Read through these verses, then answer the following questions about the church in Antioch.

- What positions of leadership does Luke identify within the church? How do these men function according to Acts 13:1-2?

*Question continues on the next page*

- What does Luke tell us about the congregation in Antioch? How was this community of believers diverse and yet unified?

- What is one evidence of this church's commitment to the spread of the gospel?

2. Using the church of Antioch as an example (Acts 13:1-3), identify at least three characteristics of a healthy, Spirit-filled church.

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3. **Read Acts 13:4-12.** As the gospel goes “through the whole island” of Cyprus, Luke highlights the story of Sergius Paulus, who eventually believes in Jesus for salvation. Clearly, Paul and Barnabas had to overcome opposition in this witnessing opportunity, and they likely faced much rejection as well. Based on their testimony, how might we define effective evangelism in our day? Should our emphasis be on results or faithfulness?

4. **Read Acts 13:38-39.** What makes forgiveness so “freeing”? Why is this important to remember as we share the gospel with others?

5. **Read Acts 13:47-48.** What are some practical ways for us to “rejoice and glorify the word of the Lord” that is for all people?