

Discussion Questions
June 7, 2026 | Acts 12:25-13:3
A Kingdom-Minded Church

UPWARDS – Growing in Our Relationship with God

1. As a Gospel-shaped church, the believers in Antioch responded to God's leading by sending Barnabas and Saul beyond their own community and city (Acts 13:1-3). Why does the Gospel naturally cross cultural, ethnic, and geographic boundaries? What does this teach us about God's heart for the nations?
2. The leadership of the church in Antioch included believers from diverse ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds, including Cyprus, North Africa, Tarsus, and even Herod's household (Acts 13:1). How does this reflect the unity and diversity of Christ's church? What does it teach us about the Holy Spirit's work in gifting and using people without regard to cultural or social status?
3. While the church was worshiping and fasting, the Holy Spirit revealed His direction for their mission (Acts 13:2). How do worship, prayer, and fasting help cultivate hearts that are sensitive to God's voice and purposes?

INWARDS – Growing in Fellowship with One Another

4. Before Barnabas and Saul were sent out, the church devoted itself to worship, fasting, prayer, and seeking the Spirit's guidance (Acts 13:2). Why do you think Luke emphasizes these practices at the beginning of the first missionary journey? What can the church learn from this pattern today?
5. The Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul" (Acts 13:2). Why is it important to recognize that Christian mission originates with God and belongs to Him, rather than being driven by human ambition or personal agendas?
6. The Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2). How can confidence in God's sovereign calling help us rest in His purposes instead of anxiously trying to define our own significance or mission?

OUTWARDS – Reaching Those Around Us

7. Before beginning their missionary journey, Barnabas and Saul delivered the church's relief gift to believers suffering from famine (Acts 12:25). How do acts of mercy and practical care reflect God's love for people?
8. The church "sent them off" (Acts 13:3), willingly releasing Barnabas and Saul for the work God had called them to. How does this reflect a kingdom-minded willingness to release people and resources for the sake of God's mission?
9. The church in Antioch looked beyond its own community as it sent out Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:3). How does this challenge us to reach people who are culturally or socially different from us with the Gospel?