

Acts 13-14 Discussion Guide

General Discussion Questions:

- What statement or illustration from the message stuck out to you and why?
- What attributes of God were on display in the passage?
- What encouraged you?
- What point of action/application did you walk away with?

Topics for Discussion:

- The Early Church
- Persecution
- Barnabas, Paul, John-Mark
- The Gospel
- False Gospels/Teaching
- 1st Missionary Journey

Ice Breaker:

Have you ever been on a short-term mission trip? If so, where? What happened? What were the highlights?

Discussion Questions¹:

? - Discuss the importance of The Spirit, the senders, and the goers. What happens if one of these elements is missing?

? – What is the “laying hands on” of hands about?

? - What happened when Paul and Barnabas encountered Bar-Jesus?

? - At Pisidian Antioch, Paul preached a message that is recorded in 13:16–41. What did Paul say in his closing words about the issue of justification? How did this square with the typical Jewish understanding of salvation?

(verses to consider: Romans 3:28; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 2:16; 3:11; Philippians 3:9; Colossians 2:13–14)

? - What about the apostle’s message so infuriated the Jews? What was the result of their fierce anger?

? - In what ways do you see people today getting angry because of the gospel? What lies behind these reactions?

? - Why did Paul and Barnabas make the effort to revisit the cities in which they had previously ministered? What implications are here for modern-day Christians and churches? What ingredients make for quality evangelistic “follow-up”?

? – What character qualities do you most appreciate in Paul and Barnabas? To what degree are those same traits evident in your life? How could you be more like that?

? - The ministry pictured in chapters 13 and 14 is all-encompassing. Paul and Barnabas did not simply preach sermons—they poured out their lives so that others might know Christ and grow in Him. What lessons are here for you? How involved in personal ministry are you? What is stopping you from coming alongside other people and helping them grow spiritually?

? - Paul and Barnabas never seemed surprised or halted when they encountered opposition. What was the secret to their boldness and perseverance? How could they maintain joy on the Early Church Rollercoaster?

Passages for further study:

Numbers 34	Romans 3:20, 22
1 Samuel 13:14	2 Corinthians 8:23
Habakkuk 1:5	Galatians 3:16
Matthew 10:5–6	Ephesians 1:4
John 8:31	Ephesians 2:20
Acts 1:22	Colossians 3:12
Acts 11:30	Colossians 4:10
Romans 1:18–20	2 Thessalonians 2:13
	1 John 2:19

¹ John MacArthur, *Acts: The Spread of the Gospel*, MacArthur Bible Studies (Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 2000), 72.