



Advancing The Gospel Together

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To see how gathering AND sending have always been a part of God's church model and to examine where each and every one of us fits into that model, today.

ICE BREAKER



Have the group share some of their favorite stories and places from times they've had to travel for work.

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Acts 12:25 - 13:3

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 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." 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: The Church is not just a gathering place but a sending place.

Key Question: What does our gathering and sending look like?

1. A church that fasts and prays. (v. 2)
2. A church that is led by the Holy Spirit. (v. 2)
3. A church that sends the called. (v. 3)

DISCUSSION



- Acts 13 displays a significant shift in church history. Some, when referring to first century Christianity, have called the church in Jerusalem the “mother” church and the church in Antioch the “mission” church. What do you think about the significance of this shift and why do you think it was so important?
- In verse 2a, we see the church worshipping, fasting, and praying. As you think about those practices/disciplines in your life where do they appear? Personally? Corporately? Not at all? Discuss.
- In verse 2b, the Holy Spirit instructs the life and mission of these believers in Antioch. Does the Holy Spirit still have an active role in the church today? What is the active role of the Holy Spirit in your life? How often are you in scripture asking for the Spirit to speak? Is your life too busy or too loud to hear from the Holy Spirit?
- In light of this passage, thinking about the unique gifts, passions, and skills God has created you with, what do you think God has called you to do for the Kingdom of God? Are you faithfully pursuing that?
- The Bible is full of scripture passages about the necessity of gathering, as well as sending as the church. To advance the gospel well, these two actions need to be balanced and integrated. What do gathering and sending look like in your life, family, church, etc.? Are these well calibrated, or do you find yourself leaning more towards one?" Why or why not?

LIFE APPLICATION



In our ice breaker today, we shared stories about traveling for work. Having discussed how the mission (work) of God includes gathering and sending as indispensable functions of the church, challenge your group to begin to think, fast, and pray about where God might be sending them to perform the work of the Gospel.

jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


