

Acts

vol. 4

the church
on mission

Acts 13:1-12

Acts 13 is a turning point for the church. Up to this point the activities in the book of Acts have been focused on Jerusalem and Samaria. The church is now being sent out to other regions and with it the Gospel is spreading. The rest of the book of Acts is largely marked by the spread of the Gospel and the missionary activity of Paul and others. This portion of Acts will teach us what it looks like to live missional lives even during difficulty and division.

GETTING STARTED

Start your group time by opening up with a discussion.

Mission accomplished: At the end of any great mission or effort you can look back and determine if the goals were accomplished or missed. Think of the football team that defeats the other team by that last field goal, or the medical advancement that saves thousands of lives... mission accomplished. Imagine yourselves at the end of your life on this earth. As you reflect on all that you experienced and did **what is it that you hope to look back on and say to yourself “mission accomplished”?**

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read Acts 13:1-12 & Acts 1:8

- What characterizes the church in Acts 13:1-3?
- What is the word “work” referring to in verse 2? What would the other’s role be that were not called to this specific work?

- Where did their missionary journey take them to?
- What opposition did Barnabas and Paul meet?
- How did they overcome that opposition?

GETTING PRACTICAL

- 1) Acts 1:8 tells us of the instructions that the early church was given. Acts 13:1-12 tells us about the specific calling that Paul and Barnabas had. What general instructions does the church have today?
- 2) Have you ever received specific instructions from God?
- 3) The early church members were ready to hear from God. How can we be ready to hear from Him?
- 4) What are some barriers to hearing from God?
- 5) The early church was ready to respond to God's instructions. What might prevent us from having a willingness to go? How can you be more receptive to God's leading in your life?