

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 32 – Barnabas and Saul Sent Off - [Acts 13:1-3](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Barnabas and Saul Sent Out

13 There were several prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas; Simeon, who was called Niger; Lucius from Cyrene; Manaen, who had been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch; and Saul.

² One day while they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set Barnabas and Saul aside for me, to do the work which I have called them to do.”

³ So after further fasting and prayer, they placed their hands on them *in blessing*, and then sent them on their way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 32 – Barnabas and Saul Sent Off - [Acts 13:1-3](#)

419. Who made up the leadership of the church at Antioch? ([13:1](#))
420. What was the background of the church leaders at Antioch? ([13:1](#))
421. Despite their various backgrounds, how did the leaders of the church at Antioch function? ([13:2](#))
422. While they were worshiping and fasting, what did the Holy Spirit say to the men? ([13:2](#))
423. Why did the Holy Spirit tell the leaders to "set apart" Barnabas and Saul? ([13:2](#))
424. What were Barnabas and Saul called to do? ([13:2](#))
425. What preceded the departure of the missionaries? ([13:3](#))
426. Why did the church leaders lay hands on Barnabas and Saul? ([13:3](#))
427. Where did the missionaries go? ([13:3](#))

Lesson 33 - On Cyprus - [Acts 13:4-12](#)

On Cyprus

^{4, 5}Actually, it was the Holy Spirit who sent them out. John Mark also went with them as their assistant. They first went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to the island of Cyprus. When they arrived in Salamis, they preached God's message in the synagogues of the Jews.

⁶After traveling through the island they came to Paphos, where they came across a Jewish man named Bar-Jesus. He was a false prophet practicing witchcraft.*

*Acts 13:6 – “Practicing witchcraft,” i.e. sorcery or wizardry.

⁷He was with Sergius Paulus, the governor, who was an intelligent man. The governor had sent for Barnabas and Saul, wanting to hear what they were teaching about God.

⁸But Elymas (as he was called), which means ‘the magician’, continually opposed them, doing his best to keep the governor from accepting the faith.

⁹So Saul, who is also called Paul, full of the Holy Spirit, looked him straight in the eye and said,

¹⁰“You son of the devil! All you do is deceive and fake, and oppose everything that's right. Will you never stop trying to twist the Lord's truths into lies?”

¹¹“Now listen to me! The Lord's hand is upon you in judgment, and you will be blind! For a period of time you won't even be able to see the sun.” Immediately he was enveloped in a mist, and then total darkness. Groping about, he began looking for someone to lead him by the hand.

¹²When the governor saw this happen, he then believed. He was amazed at the powerful teaching of the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 33 - On Cyprus - [Acts 13:4-12](#)

428. Who directed Barnabas and Saul on their journey? ([13:4](#))

429. Where did Barnabas and Saul go? ([13:4-5](#))

430. What did the missionaries do in Salamis? ([13:5](#))

431. Who helped Barnabas and Saul? ([13:5](#))

432. Whom did Barnabas and Saul meet at Paphos? ([13:6-7](#))
433. Why did the proconsul send for Barnabas and Saul? ([13:7](#))
434. What did Bar-Jesus (Elymas) do? ([13:8](#))
435. How did Saul (also called Paul) respond to Elymas? ([13:9-11](#))
436. Why did Elymas oppose the Word of God? ([13:10](#))
437. What was the judgment against the sorcerer? ([13:11](#))
438. When Sergius Paulus saw the miracle, what did he do? ([13:12](#))

Lesson 34 - In Pisidian Antioch - [Acts 13:13-52](#)

In Antioch in Pisidia

¹³When Paul and his party left Paphos, they sailed to Perga in the province of Pamphylia. At this point, John Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem.

¹⁴Paul and Barnabas merely passed through Perga, and went on to Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath day, they went into the synagogue and sat down.

¹⁵After the usual reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent someone over to tell them, “Men and brothers, if you have any words of encouragement or inspiration for the people, we would like to hear from you.”

¹⁶So Paul stood up, and raising his hand *for silence* he said, “People of Israel, and all the rest of you here who are devoted to God,* listen!

Acts 13:16 – “Devoted to God,” i.e. fear God or worship God.

¹⁷“The God of Israel chose our ancestors, and made them into a great nation while they lived as strangers in Egypt. He also revealed His great power when He brought them out of it.

¹⁸“Then for a period of about 40 years, He put up with their faithless conduct in the desert.

¹⁹“After destroying seven nations in Canaan, He distributed the land to Israel by drawing lots.

²⁰“All of this took about 450 years. After that He gave them judges, until the time of Samuel the prophet.

21“Then the people demanded a king. So God gave them Saul, a son of Kish, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. He reigned for forty years.

22“When God removed him, He put David on the throne as their king. Concerning him God said, ‘I have finally found a man after my own heart, who will do everything I tell him.* He is David, the son of Jesse.’

Acts 13:22 – “Who will do everything I tell him.” See 1 Sam. 13:14.

23“Through the family tree of this man, God has raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—just as He promised.

24“Before Jesus came, John had preached to all the people of Israel that they should turn from their sin and serve and obey God,* and that they should testify that they had done so by being baptized.

Acts 13:24 – “That they should turn from their sin and serve and obey God,” i.e. repent.

25“As John was finishing his ministry he repeatedly said, ‘Who do you people think I am? I am not the Messiah.* But look, He will come after me! And I am not worthy to even untie the sandals on His feet.’

Acts 13:25 – “I am not the Messiah,” i.e. the Christ.

26“My fellow Israelites, descendants of Abraham, and all the rest of you who are devoted to God, listen to me! The Great News about how we can now be saved is for all of you!

27“Neither the people in Jerusalem nor their rulers realized who Jesus was, nor did they understand the messages of the prophets (though they read them every Sabbath). But by condemning Him to death, they have fulfilled those very prophecies!*

Acts 13:27 – “They have fulfilled those very prophecies!” See Psa. 22:1-21; Isa. 52:14; 53:1-12; Dan. 9:24-26; Zech. 12:10; Lk. 24:25-27, 45-47.

28“Even though they couldn’t prove one single reason why He should be condemned, they still insisted that Pilate put Him to death.

29“After they had done everything to Him that the prophets said they would, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.

30“But God raised Him from among the dead and caused Him to live again!

31“For many days after this, He was seen by those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now His witnesses to the people that He did indeed rise from the dead.

32“And we are here to tell you the Great News! All of this concerns the many promises which God had made to our ancestors.*

Acts 13:32 – “the many promises which God had made to our ancestors.”* See Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; 22:18; 49:10; Dt. 18:15, 18-19; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9; etc.

33“God has now fulfilled those promises to us, their descendants, when He brought Jesus the promised Deliverer into the world. As it is written in the second Psalm:

‘You are My Son. Today I have become Your Father.’ (*Ps. 2:7*)

34“And because God raised Him from the dead, never to putrefy in the grave, He said this:

I will do for you what I faithfully promised David. (*Isa. 55:3*)

35“And for that reason David also said in another Psalm:

‘You will not allow the body of Your Holy One to putrefy in the grave.’ (*Psa. 16:10*)

36“But David’s body did putrefy when he died and was buried with his ancestors, after he had served his own generation in accordance with God’s will.

37“But when God raised Jesus from the dead, His body had experienced no decay.

38“So know this for sure, my dear friends, that we are now able to announce to you that through Jesus, your sins can be forgiven!

39“‘The Law of Moses couldn’t free you from all guilt and declare you pure in God’s eyes. But through Jesus, all who believe in Him are set free from the guilt of their sin.

40“So take warning, so that what has been stated by the prophets doesn’t happen to you, when they said:

41‘Look, you scoffers who refuse to believe and act upon what God has so plainly declared! Yes, look in amazement, and then die! Because I am doing something in your day—something you won’t believe at all, even though it is explained to you very clearly in detail.’ (*Hab. 1:5*)

42As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the Gentiles begged them to tell them more about the Great News the next Sabbath.

43Also following the meeting, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who encouraged them to continue to take hold of the mercies that God was offering.*

Acts 13:43 – “To continue to take hold of the mercies that God was offering,” i.e. *to continue in the grace of God*.

44The next Sabbath, almost everyone in town came to hear God’s message.

45But when the Jewish religious leaders saw the great crowds, they were filled with envy, and began to contradict what Paul was saying, and to attack him with abusive language.

46Paul and Barnabas then became bold and said, “It was necessary that God’s message should first of all be given to you, but since you so violently reject it, and evidently don’t consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we will now devote our time and energies to the Gentiles.

47“Because this is the Lord’s command to us:

‘I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles,* with the result that you will bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.’ (*Isa. 49:6*)

Acts 13:47 – “I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles.” - This refers to Christ, but it also refers to His messengers who seek to bring the light of His message to the whole world.

48When the Gentiles heard this, they were extremely glad, and spoke of how highly they regarded the message of the Lord. And all who were appointed to gain eternal life believed.

49So the message of the Lord continued to be brought into every part of that region.

50But the Jewish religious leaders stirred up the religious women of prominence and the leading men of the city, causing Paul and Barnabas to be persecuted and expelled from their area.

51Shaking off the dust from their feet *in protest*, they went on to Iconium.

52But the Lord’s followers *left in Antioch* were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 34 - In Pisidian Antioch - [Acts 13:13-52](#)

439. What happened at Perga? ([13:13-14](#))

440. Where did the missionaries go after leaving Perga? ([13:14](#))

441. What did the synagogue rulers say to Paul and Barnabas? ([13:14-15](#))

442. What were Paul and his companions invited to do in the synagogue? ([13:14-15](#))

443. In his initial response to the invitation to speak, what did Paul say? ([13:16](#))
444. In surveying the history of Israel, what key events did Paul mention? ([13:17-22](#))
445. How was the mention of David an easy transition to refer to Jesus (and his forerunner, John) in Paul's message? ([13:23-25](#))
446. To whom was the message of salvation sent? ([13:26](#))
447. How did Paul confirm the fact of Jesus' resurrection from the dead? ([13:33-37](#))
448. How is forgiveness of sins possible? ([13:38-39](#))
449. What did Paul say would happen to his hearers if they failed to recognize Jesus as Savior? ([13:40-41](#))
550. How did people respond to the message Paul preached? ([13:42-43](#))
551. What did the people do and say as Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue? ([13:42-43](#))
552. What happened on the Sabbath after Paul first spoke in Perga? ([13:44-45](#))
553. Why did Paul and Barnabas turn their attention to non-Jewish (Gentile) audiences? ([13:45-48](#))
554. How did Paul and Barnabas turn to the Gentiles? ([13:46-48](#))
555. How did the Gentiles respond to the Word of the Lord? ([13:48](#))
556. What happened to Paul and Barnabas while God was causing the church to grow and become strong? ([13:49-52](#))
557. What price did Paul and Barnabas pay for telling people about Christ? ([13:50](#))
558. What effect did the opposition have on Paul and Barnabas? ([13:51-52](#))
559. What gave Paul and Barnabas joy? ([13:52](#))