



MISSIONS: TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THOSE WHO NEED IT!

Open it

1. What is your family's nationality? Do you do anything as a family to honor that nationality and its traditions? Do you have any traditions in your family that come directly from your nationality?

See it

Take a few minutes to watch this video from The Bible Project and review what we learned in Acts 1–12 last year.

<https://youtu.be/CGbNw855ksw>

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 13:1–12

- 2. What church is mentioned in this passage?**
- 3. What did that church send Paul and Barnabas to do?**
- 4. Where did Paul and Barnabas travel to and what did they do right when they got there?**
- 5. Who opposed them?**
- 6. How did they respond to this opposition and what happened as a result?**

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: SEEKING GOD

Read Acts 13:1–2

The leaders of the church in Antioch were committed to seeking God through worship and fasting. It was through their seeking God that God called Saul (Paul) and Barnabas to something else He wanted them to do! They knew that seeking God was the most important thing they could have done. There's always lots to do — homework, friends, Netflix, sports, clubs, even church!

Sometimes we will sit around and wait for God to call us to something different or spectacular before we really start to seek after Him. But the truth is, you may miss out on God calling you to something if you aren't already seeking after Him in your life now.

We always seem to have time to catch up with friends, check our Snapchats, scroll through Instagram, and catch a quick round of Fortnite with our friends. But do we make time to “catch up with” God? Don't wait for something to come up before you start seeking God. Start today! You never know what you're missing until you do!

7. What things can we miss out on as Christians if we do not seek God?

8. The devil will do whatever he can to prevent us from seeking after God. What are some different strategies that he uses to keep you from seeking God?

9. How do we seek God?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- That God would grow your desire to seek Him daily
- That God would help you overcome the many things that can prevent you from seeking Him

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: CALLING

Read Acts 13:2–3

God had a specific plan and purpose for Paul and Barnabas that moved them away from the church in Antioch to take the gospel message to Cyprus and then to the rest of the Gentile world. That's a huge calling!

God has a specific plan and purpose for you, too! Paul teaches us that God has prepared beforehand good works for each of us to do so that we might walk in them!¹ Not everyone is called to go serve as a missionary in a foreign country, but everyone is called to serve God wherever He has put you in life. This is why it is so important for us to seek God all the time!

Paul and Barnabas weren't "better Christians" than the other leaders in Antioch just because God called them somewhere else. God just had a different plan for them! Don't diminish what God has called you to just because it is different from what He has called someone else to.

10. How do you know what God has called you to? How do you know if that calling changes?

11. When has God called you to do something that might have been outside your comfort zone? How did you respond? What did you see God do through it?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here is something you could pray for today:

- God, what are you calling me to today?

¹Ephesians 2:10

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: MISSIONS

Read Acts 13:4–5

John Piper once said, “Missions exists because worship doesn’t.” What he means is that the goal of missions is that people would worship God! The church in Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries with the purpose of taking the gospel message to the ends of the earth. This is to continue what Jesus said would happen in Acts 1:8, “*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*”

While you may not be called to go to a different country as a missionary, you do get to participate in missions work in your communities and schools every week. You have been sent to continue to discover disciples of Jesus Christ right where God has put you to bring glory to His name!

12. Why is it important for churches to send out missionaries? Why is it important that those churches who have sent missionaries keep a close relationship with them?

13. How can you be involved in missions work in your local community?

How about in global missions?

14. What can you do to support missionaries in different countries?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Missionaries all around the world to be bold for Jesus
- For God to protect His missionaries and keep them safe
- That God would help you have boldness to be a missionary in your school

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: FALSE TEACHERS

Read Acts 13:6–8

False teachers come in all shapes and sizes. They will teach all sorts of things that are untrue. Some will clearly not agree with what God teaches us in the Bible. Some will sound very similar but are still wrong. Just like Mr. Bar-Jesus, our false prophet in this passage, all false teachers are opposed to the gospel and people hearing the truth about Jesus Christ.

The reality is that we are surrounded by false teachers on a daily basis. We can find them everywhere — the music we listen to, our friends, stuff on the radio, Instagram accounts we follow, books we read, and so much more. The important thing for you is that you know what the truth is because you are reading your Bible! The best way to know what's fake is to know what's real. Know the truth and stand firm on it!

15. What are some false teachers in your life? How would you identify them?

16. How should we respond when we run into false teachers?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- God, help me identify false teachers in my life.
- God, I pray that people all around the world will hear the truth about Jesus Christ.

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: RESPONDING TO GOSPEL OPPOSITION

Read Acts 13:9–12

The Bible speaks very seriously about false teachers. It calls them wolves in sheep's clothing and savage wolves. It tells us to test them and if they preach something false to let them be cursed!

Obviously, this passage isn't teaching us to start telling people that they are going to go blind. But here is what we can learn from it: be bold! When people are in opposition to the gospel message, we can choose to either cower back in fear or to stand firm and bold for the truth. Take a stand for Jesus!

17. What was a situation where you witnessed someone opposing the gospel message? How did you respond?

18. How would you respond if you overheard someone at school talking about how Jesus is a total fake and it's just some made-up religion to make people feel better?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- God, help me have wisdom to respond to people who are against You!
- Pray that God would change the hearts of those who oppose Him.
- God, help me be a witness to people who don't believe in You. Give me boldness to take a stand for Jesus!