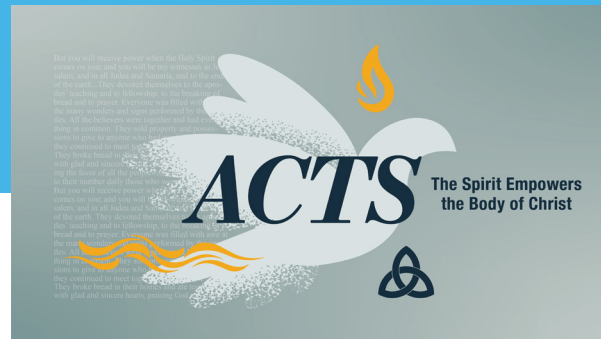


# Discussion Questions

October 27, 2024

## Acts 13:1-12 Empowered to Go



### 1. Read Acts 13:1-4

How did the early church seek God's direction in this passage? What implications does that have for us today?

Acts 13:2 says that the leaders were ministering to God as they were praying, worshiping and fasting. Discuss the difference between ministering to God and being ministered to by God.

What is the significance of such a diverse leadership team in the first church?

What is the role of fasting for today?

### 2. The sermon mentioned that Manaen grew up in Herod's household, yet became a leader in the church.

What does this story teach us about breaking destructive family patterns?

Have you or someone you know experienced breaking free from harmful family patterns? How did Jesus play a role in that process?

### 3. Read Acts 13:5-12

Why is Bar-Jesus so against Sergius hearing the Gospel?

Discuss what "Bar-Jesus" looks like today. Share an example if you have experienced someone or something to be an obstacle to the gospel in your life.

### 4. What does it look like for us be called as missionaries today to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the Earth?

Is this just for those with a special calling or something we are all called to as followers of Jesus?

**Acts 12:25–13:3 (NLT)**

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission to Jerusalem, they returned, taking John Mark with them. Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

**1 John 4:1 (NIV)**

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**Acts 13:2-3 (NLT)**

One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

**Fasting in the New Testament**

Jesus speaks multiple times about fasting as a regular pattern for Christians

Jesus says a combination of prayer & fasting can at times lead to greater Spiritual Power in prayer.

The church frequently prayed & fasted for God's direction & blessing

**Acts 13:3 (NLT)**

So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

**Acts 13:4 (NLT)**

So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit.

Benji & Erica Jenkins - PNG

H Family - Southeast Asia

John & Vicky Wright- Uganda/Sudan

David & Elena - Middle East

**Acts 13:4-5**

So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus. There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. John Mark went with them as their assistant.



**Acts 13:6-8 (NLT)**

Afterward they traveled from town to town across the entire island until finally they reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer, a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. He had attached himself to the governor, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. The governor invited Barnabas and Saul to visit him, for he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas, the sorcerer (as his name means in Greek), interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing.

**Acts 13:9-11 (NLT)**

Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. Then he said, "You son of the devil, full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord? Watch now, for the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind. You will not see the sunlight for some time." Instantly mist and darkness came over the man's eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to take his hand and lead him.

**Acts 13:12 (NLT)**

When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

**The Generosity of the church in Antioch.**

They love those they used to hate.

They send out their very best

They financially gave freely & selflessly

**Applications from today's passage:**

Are we ministering to God or only wanting Him to minister to us?

In what ways are we called to be "a Manaen" and break family cycles?

Are there any "Bar-Jesus'" in my life I need to be aware of?

Am I living out my calling as a missionary? Whether it be here, near or far?

Can I release my children to go to the mission field?