

Unfinished – Week 1

Characteristics of a Missional Life

Small Groups - Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

What was helpful or challenging for you in this weeks message and why?

Do you think of yourself as a missionary? Why or why not? What would you change about your life if you truly wanted to live missionally?

Group Questions:

1. Read **Acts 13:1-4**. What do you notice about the way God calls Barnabas and Saul to the work He has for them? Jesus already called the church to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the remotest parts of the earth back in Acts 1:8. Why do Barnabas and Saul need a personal call? What do you learn from these verses about how we find God's call? Has God ever called you to do something? How? Why is calling a critical factor in living missionally?
2. Read **Acts 13:5**. This verse describes the strategy Paul and Barnabas used as they preached the gospel in the different nations of the Roman Empire. In fact, Luke calls this Paul's "custom" in Acts 17:2. What do you notice about their strategy? Why did it work? Why is having a regular way of connecting with people and ministering to them important to living on mission? Do you any customs, strategy or habits, which you have found helpful in connecting with and sharing the gospel with people?
3. Read **Acts 13:6-13**. This is the first of many conflicts the apostles experience as they take the gospel to different nations. What causes this conflict? What do you notice about the way Paul responds? Why should Christians not fear conflict? What are some of the conflicts the gospel creates for Christians today?
4. What conflicts are necessary and what conflicts are unnecessary? How should we respond when the gospel creates conflict for us with the culture? How should we not respond? Note vs. 13: what conflicts did the mission create within the team of these early missionaries? Why?
5. Read **Acts 13:14-52**. This is a record of Paul's first sermon and is one of the longest sermons in Acts. How does Paul begin where his listeners are and introduce Christ? Notice that Paul explains the evidence for Jesus being God's promised Messiah and how that applies to his hearers (vs. 38-41). Why is it crucial that we communicate enough information to people for them to make an informed decision about Jesus?
6. What do you learn about sharing the gospel from this passage?

Pray as a Group