

# acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 8 • August 25

Acts 13-14

“Set Apart For Me Barnabas & Saul”

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ([Acts 13:1-3](#))

From that point, Luke begins charting for us what is often described as Paul’s first missionary journey. On the island of Cyprus, a Roman official named Sergius Paulus wanted to hear the word of God, and a Jewish false prophet opposed Paul, but he was no match for “the hand of the Lord” ([13:6-12](#)).

In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul and his companions went into the synagogue on a Sabbath day and Paul was given the opportunity to share with the crowd. “You who fear God, listen...” ([13:16-41](#)):

- The God of this people Israel chose our fathers
- He made the people great in Egypt
- With uplifted arm he led them out of Egypt
- He put up with them for 40 years in the wilderness
- He gave them the land of Canaan
- All this took about 450 years
- He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet
- When the people asked for a king, he gave them Saul
- He raised up David, a man after his own heart
- From David’s offspring, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised
- To us has been sent the message of this salvation and we bring you the good news that God has fulfilled what he promised

While many were eager to hear more ([13:42-44](#)), some were “filled with jealousy” ([13:45](#)), stirring up persecution, driving Paul and Barnabas out of town, following them to “poison” the minds of those who were willing to listen ([14:2](#)), and even stoning Paul in Lystra ([14:19](#)). But Paul wouldn’t stop preaching about the kingdom of God. When they came back to Antioch where their journey had started, they joyfully declared all that God had done and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles ([14:27](#)).



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- **Acts 13:1** mentions “Herod the tetrarch,” a son of Herod the Great (**Matt 2:1**). “Herod the tetrarch” was Herod Antipas, who is mentioned frequently in the Gospels. He is the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded (**Matt 14:1-12**) and hoped to see some sign done by Jesus but ended up treating him with contempt and mocking him (**Luke 23:6-11**). **Acts 13:1** tells us that Manaean, a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, was part of the church at Antioch. What does this tell us about the power of the gospel?
- We begin noticing a pattern in **Acts 13:14** that will repeat over and over again throughout Paul’s missionary journeys—if there is a Jewish synagogue, that is where he will always start. Why?
- As you look over his message in **13:16-41**, how would you summarize it? What was the big idea?
- Why do you think certain Jews would be “filled with jealousy” in **13:45**?
- Notice how Paul responds in **13:46-47**. In your own words, what was Paul saying?
- Let’s read about the miracle Paul performed at Lystra in **14:8-18**. Why do you think the people acted the way that they did? And why would Barnabas and Paul tear their garments in response?
- It’s hard for most of us to imagine going through what Paul went through. Why do you think he just kept going, even after scary events like the one recorded in **14:19**?
- Notice Luke’s summary in **14:21-23** of the journey back to Antioch where this mission started. What stands out to you?