

## OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

What missionary, or missionary story, has been most inspiring to you?

(If you don't know any missionaries, then what send-off or farewell has been most memorable in your life?)

## DIG

**Read Acts 13:1-3** to see how the Antioch church became the first missionary-sending church in Christian history.

*"Now in the church in Antioch there were prophets and teachers..."*

What can you tell about the background of the leaders in the Antioch church?

What specifically do you think Barnabas and Saul were called to do?

How were they sent away?

If you were sent away as a missionary, how would you like the church to send you off?

**Read Acts 13:4-5** and notice how the first missionaries went first to Cyprus, which was the hometown of Barnabas (according to Acts 4:36).

*"The two of them, sent on their way..."*

How do you explain that the Holy Spirit sent the missionaries on their way?

If Cyprus was Barnabas' home town, how would you feel about being sent as a missionary to your home town?

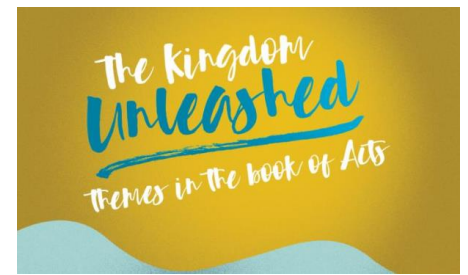
Non-Jews were already accepted into the Christian community at this time, so why do you think the missionaries first went to the Jewish synagogues?

What did they teach as they started their mission?

## APPLY

If you were a missionary and had a chance to tell how Jesus has made a difference in your life, what would you tell? (If time permits, allow every person in the group to answer this question. If not, select two or three people in the group to answer.)

-GLR



## Leaders

### Sermon Series

This discussion guide is based on a sermon series entitled "The Kingdom Unleashed: Themes in the Book of Acts." The series is designed to motivate people to embrace the Kingdom of God in their lives, making disciples of others.

### Big Idea

This lesson reviews how the early church sent missionaries and calls us to join the missionary work of God today.

### Prayer

Pray for God to give you courage to tell your spiritual story whenever there is an opportunity.

### Group Discussion Reminder

The blessings of being in a group are multiplied when your group is outwardly focused. Find someone outside your group who can come visit one of your meetings.