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Why We're Committed To Missions

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. <sup>10</sup>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? <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga.

There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 13:1-13

# How The Good News Spreads

1. Everyone Needs To Play \_\_\_\_\_

2. Look For \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Right To Be \_\_\_\_\_

4. Speak Up When \_\_\_\_\_

5. Expect \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

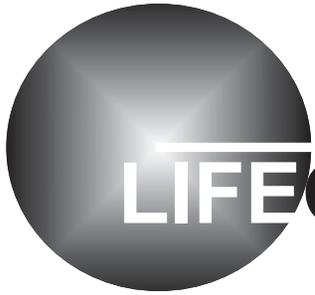
“In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”  
1 Peter 3:15

**Acknowledgements:** Sources used in the preparation of this message include material presented by Larry Osborne, Chris Brown, Steven J. Cole, Erwin McManus, John Piper, Skip Heitzig, Scott Nelson and others

## MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Invite Jesus to by my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- Memorize 1 Peter 3:15
- Ask God to show me those around me with whom I can share the Good News
- Sign up to receive the Advent daily email devotionals





## Discussion Questions - Week #10

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Why We're Committed To Missions," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word missionary?
- Which of the following most accurately describes your view on sharing your faith?
  - It makes me nervous or uncomfortable.
  - It feels like an imposition, so I avoid talking about it.
  - I'll answer questions if someone asks, but I don't bring it up.
  - I try to talk about it occasionally when I think it is appropriate.
  - I evangelize regularly and talk to strangers about God regularly.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Luke 10:1-11. What mission did Jesus give the seventy (two)?

Why do you think the command "Ask the Lord" (10:2) precedes the command "Go" (10:3)?

How can you put both commands into practice?

Why do you think Jesus commanded the disciples to take no provisions with them?

Jesus warned the disciples that He was sending them out like lambs among wolves. Do you feel that is true of us today? Why or why not?

How do you think we might identify a person of peace in our day?

How could they assist us in advancing the gospel?

2. Read Matthew 5:13-16. What difference does it make that Jesus says "You" are the salt of the earth rather than saying "Christians" or "believers" are the salt of the earth?

How are you "salt" and "light" in your community?

What are ways we might lose our saltiness or hide our light?

Who's someone in your life that is salty and bright?

What do they do that contributes to that perception?

Is there any practical step you feel called to take in light of this passage?

### For Practice

As this is the last Life Group meeting for the Fall quarter, take some time this week to think through what Spiritual practices have been particularly formative over the previous few months and which you would like to carry forward or initiate in the new year. This is also a great time to embrace the spiritual practice of celebration as you thank God for demonstrating himself faithful over the last several months or more.

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

According to the Joshua Project, it is estimated that of the 7.83 billion people alive today, 3.37 billion live in unreached groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for Christian missionaries to enter these regions and for the Good News of Jesus to spread, leading to Spirit-led indigenous Christ-followers, leaders, and church plants.