



## Week 11 Acts 12:25-13:52 On to Antioch

### 12:25-13:3 The Sending

1) What role does the church in Antioch take in the ministry of Paul and Barnabas?

2) What similarities and differences do we find in our modern day process of calling / sending people into ministry?

3) Is it legitimate to have humanly organized ordination processes (for pastors, elders & deacons) in the church today?

### 13:4-12 Saul-Paul encounters a false prophet

Contrary to common belief, Saul's name is not *changed* to Paul – he's just called both. It's possible that Luke chooses v. 9 to shift his practice from "Saul" to "Paul" because of the shift from a primarily Jewish context to a primarily Gentile one, since Paul was his Roman name.

4) Does Paul inflict temporary blindness on Bar-Jesus, or does he report in advance what God is going to do? What biblical parallels can you think of (even within the book of Acts)? What difference does it make for us if Paul is the one initiating this event?

5) In what ways does this scene advance the overall plot of the book of Acts? In other words, what's happening here in the big picture regarding the spread of the gospel?

### 13:13-43 Paul's sermon to the synagogue

If you have a Bible with maps in the back, there will likely be one highlighting Paul's missionary journeys. Take a look at this map to see the distances being traveled by Paul at this time. Refer to the timeline (at [aldrichchurch.org](http://aldrichchurch.org)) for a sense of how far we are from the Pentecost event.

6) How does Paul create space in his sermon for Jews and for those from other ethnic/religious backgrounds? How can we do this in our own worship and in our daily life rhythms?

7) Paul highlights King David in the early part of his sermon (vv. 21-22), and then comes back to him through quoting scripture (vv. 34-37). How does Paul connect King David to Jesus, and what is his point in doing so?

### 13:44-52 Paul & Barnabas invited back for round 2

8) What does Paul describe as his missionary methodology? (See also Romans 1:16). Why does Paul adopt this approach?

9) In this passage we are told "the word of the Lord spread through the whole region," even though acceptance of the gospel is paired with significant rejection. The disciples in Pisidian Antioch "were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit" even as Paul & Barnabas were being expelled. How did these believers understand "success" or "joy" in these circumstances? What is the relationship between outcomes and joy for you & for the church today?