

The Way

Growth of the Church

Lesson 09: Paul's First Missionary Journey - Antioch to Perga

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He promised the apostles that when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would be His witnesses.

Acts 1:8 (ESV) “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

At first, those who were scattered to these distant places through the persecutions in Jerusalem only told the Gospel to their fellow Jews and those who had become proselytes to the Jews' religion.

Acts 11:19 (ESV) Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. **20** But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.



BIG Idea

Acts 1-12 focused on Peter's ministry, emphasizing the Jewish church in Jerusalem and Judea.

Acts 13 begins to focus on Paul's ministry and the spread of the Gentile church throughout the Roman world, which began at the church in Antioch.

Information (What You Need to Know)

Let's start with an approximate timeline...

- 30AD The Ascension (Acts 1)
- 31AD Stephen's Stoning (Acts 6-7)
- 34AD Saul's Conversion (Acts 9)
- 37AD Peter Preaches to the Gentiles (Acts 10-11)
- 42AD Barnabas Sent to Antioch (Acts 11:22)
- 48AD Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13)

The gospel didn't travel *overnight*, but *over time*.

How was the church strengthened and grown?

▪ **Prophets and teachers taught God's word to the church**

Acts 13:1 (ESV) 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.

✓ **Prophets** were preachers of God's word in the early church. They instructed, received new revelation from God, and wrote down these words for us.

“There aren't any prophets in the Church today because they aren't needed. The Holy Spirit spoke to the apostles and prophets everything Jesus wants His people to know until He returns.” – Firm Foundations

✓ **Teachers** repeat, explain, and re-emphasize what has *already been revealed* in the Scriptures

▪ **Missionaries are sent out of the church so God's Word can be preached in places where Jesus may not be known** (*locally and globally*)

Acts 13:2 (ESV) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3** Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

✓ Your work begins in the local church

- Live your daily life in faithful obedience
- Speak the Scriptures to others (Bible studies, The Journey)
- Financially and prayerfully support those being sent out (you have a part)
- Pray for more people to be sent out so more people can hear
- Consider whether God has given you the desire to be sent out (rely on the Holy Spirit and your church leadership for confirmation)

- **Missionaries replicate the work that is being done in their local church**

- ✓ Saul and Barnabas traveled to other places to teach God’s Word

Acts 13:4 (ESV) So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.



- ✓ They spoke to the Jews in the synagogues

Acts 13:5 (ESV) When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.

- The Jews knew of the Old Testament promises (Deliverer, Abrahamic and Davidic covenants)

- The Jews needed to be taught how Jesus fulfilled God’s promises
 - Reminded them of the OT prophecies regarding the promised Savior
 - Told them how Jesus fulfilled all these prophecies
 - Pointed out that Jesus, whom the Jews rejected, was raised from the dead and was now seated at the right hand of God in Heaven
 - Taught them about the resurrection, which proved that Jesus was the promised Deliverer who had been sent from God

- ✓ Saul and Barnabas were accompanied by John Mark (wrote the Gospel of Mark)

Acts 13:5 (ESV) ...And they had John to assist them.

- ✓ They continued their journey to minister in other locations

Acts 13:13 (ESV) Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

“Luke began to use a different name for Saul. Saul was his Jewish name. Luke began to use his Roman name which was Paul. Paul, too, began using his Roman name because more and more of his work was with the Gentiles.”



Application (What You Need To Do):

Something for Everybody...

- Everybody spends somewhere forever (so we should care)
- Everybody is a missionary right where God has placed them (home, neighborhood, school, workplace, circle of friends and family)
- Everybody should consider a calling beyond where they already are (examine your own heart, pray for your kids and others to be sent, be available to go short-term or long-term to support missionaries)