



Growth Group discussion questions for Acts 12:24-13:3
Week of Oct 28 – Oct 31, 2018

1. Scripture memory: Memorize, meditate on, and be ready to recite Ephesians 2:1-7 (adding v. 7).
2. Read through Acts 12:24-13:3 several times. The apostle Paul embarked on three missionary journeys in the course of his ministry. Our passage marks the start of his first journey which lasted approximately 1½ years.
3. Read Acts 1:1-8. What mission did Jesus give to his disciples? What is a “witness” in this context? How does this command apply to you and how do you envision being a part of this mission?
4. Read Acts 11:19-30 for background on the church in Antioch. How did this church begin? What were the circumstances? (See Acts 8:1, 11:19-20. Connect to Acts 1:8)? The disciples witnessed, but what was the source of the fruitfulness of their ministry and the source of fruitfulness of *any* ministry today (v.21, 23)? Explain.
5. We read in Acts 12:24 that “the word of God increased and multiplied.” What do you think this means? (See Acts 6:7, 1 Thess. 1:8, and Col. 1:3-6) Do you think this is the case today? How can you (and the church) be more engaged in this?
6. Acts 13:1-3 gives a brief description of the launching of Paul’s first missionary journey from the church in Antioch. The church at Antioch was the “sending church.” In what ways do you think it is wiser to raise up and send missionaries through the ministry of the local church rather than send independent Christians who are unconnected or only loosely connected to a local church?

7. In Acts 13:2-3 we see the Holy Spirit leading the disciples to set apart certain men for an expanded outreach ministry. How can you and our church learn from their example in these verses and increase in our missionary zeal and activity? (See Matt. 9:36-38, 28:18-20; Col. 4:2-3, 2 Thess. 3:1, Is. 6:8, 2 Tim. 1:6)

8. Consider this quote by pastor/ author John Piper: “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t.” How does this thought change your perspective on the goal of missions (Psa. 67:3-5, 97:1)? the glory of missions (Hab. 2:14)?

9. Do you know the names of the missionaries Cornerstone supports? An important way God moves and works is through the prayers of his people. How can you be more intentional about praying for our missions and for our missionaries in particular?

10. Overseas missions can be lonely work. What ideas can you consider to encourage the missionaries you know? Have you ever considered sending a letter or email to a missionary or connecting with them on social media?

11. Are you open to and seek out opportunities to befriend, serve, and share with those unreached by the gospel? How can you make that a more strategic focus of your life?

12. PRAY IN THE GROUP: Pray for Cornerstone Community Church’s current missionaries: Brendan and Katie Maynard (Chosen People Ministries- Cleveland -future New Zealand); Jim and Kay Panaggio (ReachGlobal Ministries - Lima, Peru); Upai and Amber Jasa (Wycliffe Bible Translators in Thailand); Kathy Bavec (Child Evangelism Fellowship - Greater Cleveland); Laura Anderson (ELIC).