



STUDY GUIDE

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[set up]

Think back to a time when your mom, dad, friend, teacher, or coach sent you on a mission. What was the mission? How did it make you feel to be sent?

Think back to a time when you could have been sent on a mission and the send-er chose to send someone else. Why do you think you were by-passed? How did it make you feel?

[digging deeper]

Read Acts 13:1-3. Ask, “What stood out to you in the passage? What do you identify as some key factors or principles in church multiplication?”

Read Acts 13:8-12. Could you see yourself challenging anyone in a similar way? When is it right to strongly confront people who oppose the faith? (Note Acts 13:9.)

Read aloud the very first missionary message in Acts 13:16-41. What stands out to you about the structure and the logic in this message?

Notice that the resurrection of Jesus is proclaimed by Paul in Acts 13:22, 34, 35, and 37. Then note the “therefore” in Acts 13:38-39 – that our forgiveness and justification flow out of the resurrection of Jesus. How would you explain to a skeptic (a non-believer) the fact that if there is no resurrection, there is no forgiveness?

What are the feelings and emotions that are created by this first missionary message in the various groups of people mentioned in Acts 13:42-51? How do you explain such a variety of responses? What principles can we learn from these responses regarding our own witnessing efforts?

In this weekend’s message, Pastor Rick paraphrased Acts 13:47: “I have made you a light for NE Ohio, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” How might your LifeGroup participate more in CVC’s global mission efforts?

Read Acts 14:8-20. Often, missionaries experience both celebration and persecution. How might Paul and Barnabus’ experience change/inform how we pray for our missionaries? How might it help shape our expectations as “everyday” missionaries?

Read Acts 14:23. Don't miss the fact that where the Antioch church had sent Paul and Barnabas, they planted churches. Missional churches plant new churches. It's been said, "Churches who win more people grow the Kingdom through addition, but churches who plant more churches grow the Kingdom through multiplication." How do you feel about the goal of CVC to be a church that not only "adds" souls but also "multiplies" churches?

[living it out]

How might the example of the church in Antioch (See Acts 13:1-3 and Acts 14:26-28) help CVC become more and more of a multiplying church?

Where and how do you think God might want to send you to serve Him? What is God saying to you and what will you do about it? Spend some time praying for each other about these things.

Religion says, "try harder, do more" to become send-able. The gospel says that we work out what He's worked in (Philippians 2:12-13) to become send-able. How are these two approaches to spiritual growth and change radically different?

Read the following out loud as a group: *"I admit that on my own merits, I am not send-able. But I have been made send-able by Christ. Because of His life, death, and resurrection, I am forgiven. I have been changed. I have died with Christ. In Him, I live. He is working in me. He is making me a concerned, unselfish, proven, generous risk-taker. Jesus makes me, the unsend-able, send-able. So, here am I, Lord, send me!"* How might reading this on a regular basis help you see yourself as a missionary cleverly disguised...?

Wrap up your time praying about CVC Missions efforts through our LifeHouses emphasis, through NE Ohio church planting, and in Appalachia, Ghana, El Salvador, Mexico, Vietnam, Ukraine, and Indonesia.