

Vision '22



Leader Guide

Vision: Disciples Making Disciples *October 3, 2021*

Main Passage: Acts 13:1-4

Theological Theme

Discipleship centers on followers of Christ making other followers of Christ in response to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). It's the expansion of Jesus's kingdom, one growing disciple at a time.

Introduction

- ? What did you want to be when you grew up, and why?
- ? What things are we called to other than careers?

If our church wants to become a transformative community, we can't just wait for people to come to us. We must go to the people. This involves faith, risk, and dependence on the Holy Spirit. In Acts 13:1-4, we discover how God sends us on mission with Him. The church at Antioch had witnessed effectively to people in their metropolitan area, but the church had a much greater vision that went beyond the local community and into the entire world.

1. Set Apart for the Mission (Acts 13:1-4)

The Spirit clearly designated whom He wanted the church to send out as missionaries. He said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." It is God who selects and calls those He chooses to cross geographic and cultural boundaries with the good news of the gospel. The church at Antioch recognized that the Lord had called these two men for His special work. Recognizing and answering the Lord's call began with the individual believer. The church, however, played an important role in commissioning the missionaries the Lord had called.

2. Living the Mission (Acts 14:21-22)

The slogan, “Don’t just go to church; be the church,” provides a fitting reminder that when we live each day as followers of Jesus—going where God sends us and living for Him—we’re being His church, representing Him and sharing His message. This was how Paul and Barnabas lived. As they traveled, the men actively shared the message of Christ, and people believed the gospel. Not only did people experience salvation, but Paul and Barnabas also ensured the new converts were growing as disciples (v. 22).

3. Equipping Others for the Mission (Acts 14:23-28)

The work of the local churches involved more than what Paul and Barnabas were capable of doing, so leaders (“elders,” v. 23) needed to be in place in every church to ensure that the gospel continued to spread and disciples continued to grow in their faith. Just as Paul and Barnabas had been sent by God on mission, so too would God appoint others to carry on that work as these new communities of faith ministered in their cities. With leadership in place, the church would continue to multiply and reach more people.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?

- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?

- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?

- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)

- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?