



the upside down series
week twelve: the work of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is the one who _____ for God's work.
2. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives _____ over God's _____.
3. The Holy Spirit is the one who _____ to God's people.
4. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives _____ for God's _____.

We are moving along in our study of Acts! I hope and pray it has been a blessing to you.

Today we begin almost exclusively the account of the outreach to the Gentiles. We will focus mainly on Paul the remainder of our time together and what a great time it's going to be!



day one: set apart

The Holy Spirit has been at work in the life of Paul. The last time we spent reading about him was in Acts 9 right after his conversion. Paul's been busy walking with the Lord, and we're about to pick up on how God is about to use him.

Imagine being the first missionaries. How scary would that be? How exciting. How unknown. With that in mind, read Acts 13:1-5.

exploring the text

- 1.** Can you list the names of the main teachers listed at the beginning of Acts 13?

- 2.** Where was the church that sent off the first missionaries?

3. What were the prophets and teachers doing when the Holy Spirit spoke?

4. What does it mean to be “set apart”?

verse

Psalm 4:3

But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself, the Lord hears when I call to Him.

5. What part of God’s work was Paul’s and Barnabas’ responsibility, and what part was the Holy Spirit’s?

6. Who went with Paul and Barnabas?

7. What was the main thing that Paul and Barnabas did after they were sent out?



day two: full of the Holy Spirit

Begin today's time with the Lord with prayer.

Now read Acts 13:6-12.

exploring the text

1. What do we learn about Bar-Jesus according to today's reading?
2. What did Sergius, the proconsul, want when he called Paul and Barnabas to him?
3. Who opposed this meeting?
4. How did Paul respond to Elymas? How would you describe his approach?

5. Why do you think Paul was so harsh?

6. What happened to the proconsul? Would the same thing have happened if Elymas wasn't stopped?

interesting fact

The name Paul was the nearest Latin equivalent of the Jewish name Saul. It means little. The new name may have been suggested by Paul's littleness of stature. However there may have been spiritual reasons for the change. Paul refers to himself as less than the least of all saints - the least of the apostles.

personal application

7. Have you ever faced strong opposition to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

8. How have you handled such opposition? Were you nicer than Paul was to Elymas? What kinds of results did you get?



day three: evangelism 101

Paul and Barnabas are on their first missionary journey. We are catching them today in Acts 13:13-26.

exploring the text

1. Something happens in vs.13. What is it? Take a moment and explore why this happened. You may want to use google or a Bible concordance.

interesting fact

The true and chief article of Christian doctrine is this: We must all be justified alone by faith in Jesus Christ, without any contribution from the law or help from our works. Luther in "Preface to the Acts of the Apostles"

2. To whom does Paul address his sermon? There are 2 classes of people listed in vs.16.
3. How is God's grace emphasized in Paul's presentation?

4. Examine Paul's presentation of the gospel. How far back does he go?

Again, begin your time with Prayer.

Read Acts 13:26-43.

exploring the text

1. The cross is at the center of the message of salvation. How much time does Paul spend on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

interesting fact

We are called to be missionaries - at home or abroad. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you all that hinders you from fully responding to that call and to keep you faithful to it.

2. In vs. 32, Paul mentions the words good news. What is the good news for the Jewish listeners?

3. Vs. 38 is great. Write it down.

4. Now write down exactly what Jesus Christ frees you from.



day five: the tide turns

What a time Paul and Barnabas are having. Today we will see the tide turn for them as so often does even as we are walking obediently with the Lord.

Read Acts 13:44-52.

exploring the text

1. What was the main attraction drawing the crowd in vs.44?
2. Why did the Jews get upset in vs.45?
3. What did the Jews forfeit in their rejection of Christ?

4. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to those who contradicted them in vs. 46?

5. What did the Gentiles have to say to Paul's assertion?

6. In vs. 48 there is an interesting phrase towards the second half of the verse. Write it down. Did the fact that only some were appointed to believe stop Paul from preaching the good news to all the listeners?

7. Who stirred up the persecution against Paul and Barnabas?

quote

Conflict will often occur when the true gospel is preached today. The gospel does not gather everyone together, nor is it a generally tolerable opinion that nonbelievers can take or leave. Instead it splits people, dividing the penitent from the hardhearted, the saved from the unsaved, the righteous from the reprobate, those who love its truth from those who reject it.

John MacArthur

