



## Lesson 6:

### Paul's First Missionary Journey

**Acts 13-14.** Acts 13 begins a new phase in the story of *Acts*. Peter moves off of center stage and the Apostle Paul takes his place as a main character. It is important to note that the disciples of Jesus now have Syrian Antioch rather than Jerusalem as their base of operation.

1. As you read **13:1-3**, imagine yourself as a member of the church at Antioch. How would you describe to others what happened in church on the day that Luke is writing about in these verses?
2. **Acts: 13:4-12.** If you were the missionary who made this trip to Cyprus, which aspects of the trip would encourage you? What thoughts do you have about the way Paul handled the opposition he found there?
3. **Acts 13:13 – 41.** How is Paul's first recorded sermon similar to those we have read previously by Peter and Stephen? What significance do you find in that similarity?
4. **(Major Key to Understanding) Acts 13:38 - 41.** Paul carefully articulates and highlights a truth that is the core of our gospel. What is your understanding of what it means to "be justified" and why is this such a divisive teaching—then and now? (See Romans 3:24-28, Romans 5:1, Romans 10:9-10)
5. **Acts 13:42-52.** The Pisidian Antioch ministry ended in conflict and persecution, how did Paul and Barnabas respond to the rejection?

6. Please restate **verse 48** in your own words.

7. **Read Acts 14:1-7.** Luke states that Paul “*spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.*” Spend some time thinking about how people have come “to believe” in the Book of Acts and look back at the words of Acts 13:48, what else is going on around and through preaching that enables belief?

**Note:** Lystra was a remote Roman frontier outpost. Most of the people here were uneducated and might be described as half-barbarous. There was little Jewish influence in this outpost and no synagogue. There was an ancient legend that Zeus and Hermes had once visited Lystra disguised as humans seeking shelter and the citizens had not been hospitable. As the story goes, the angry gods destroyed the Lycaonians.

8. **Read Acts 14:8-19.** With the above note in mind, how do you see Paul tailoring his message to these people who had no Jewish tradition? What do you think Paul meant when he encouraged the people to “*turn from these worthless things to the living God?*” (verse 15)

9. **Read Acts 14: 19 – 23.** What do you learn about Paul and about discipling from these verses?

10. **Read Acts 14: 19-28.** If you had been on this first missionary journey with Paul, what story from the trip would you have been anxious to include in the mission report to the church back in Antioch?