**Lesson 14 Acts 12:25- 13:1-43 First Missionary Journey Part 1**

In our last lesson we read about King Herod Agrippa’s persecution of the Church. King Herod had James, the brother of John killed and had Peter arrested in hope of having him tried. An Angel of the Lord rescues Peter yet again. In spite of the interference of King Herod the Church continues to grow. Also, in that lesson, King Herod dies a gruesome death by worms! When Herod allowed himself to be called a god by his subjects, he was struck ill with worms consuming his body and he died.

1. **When this week did you feel closest to God? Was there a particular verse of lesson in Chapter 13 that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **What titles or roles does Luke assign to Barnabas, Symeon, Lucius, Manaen and Saul? See Acts 13:1-3.**

**Acts 13:1-31**Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2**While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3**Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off. **4**So they, sent forth by the holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. **5**When they arrived in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues.

1. **What were these men doing when the Holy Spirit spoke to them? What do you suppose the Spirit called them to do? See Acts 13:1-5.**
2. **Check footnotes for information pertaining to Acts 13:4. Share this information with members of your group.**

1. **Saul, Barnabas and John Mark meet a magician named Bar-Jesus. How is this magician different from Simon the Magician? Compare Acts 13:6-8 to Acts 8:9-13 and 8:18.**

**Acts 13:6-8 6**When they had traveled through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a magician named Bar-Jesus who was a Jewish false prophet. **7**He was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who had summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. **8**But Elymas the magician (for that is what his name means) opposed them in an attempt to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

**Acts 8:9-13 9**A man named Simon used to practice magic in the city and astounded the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great. **10**All of them, from the least to the greatest, paid attention to him, saying, “This man is the ‘Power of God’ that is called ‘Great.’” **11**They paid attention to him because he had astounded them by his magic for a long time, **12**but once they began to believe Philip as he preached the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, men and women alike were baptized. **13**Even Simon himself believed and, after being baptized, became devoted to Philip; and when he saw the signs and mighty deeds that were occurring, he was astounded.

**Acts 8:1818**[When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money **19**and said, “Give me this power too, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the holy Spirit.”

1. **Compare how Saul deals with Bar-Jesus, with Peter’s dealings with Simon the Sorcerer. See Acts 13:9-12 to Acts 8:20-24. *What affect did the words of Saul and Peter ultimately have?***

**Acts 13:9-12 9**But Saul, also known as Paul,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31692e)] filled with the holy Spirit, looked intently at him **10**and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all that is right, full of every sort of deceit and fraud. Will you not stop twisting the straight paths of [the] Lord? **11**Even now the hand of the Lord is upon you. You will be blind, and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately a dark mist fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. **12When the proconsul saw what had happened, he came to believe, for he was astonished by the teaching about the Lord.**

**Acts 8:20-2420**But Peter said to him, “May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money. **21**You have no share or lot in this matter, for your heart is not upright before God. **22**Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven. **23**For I see that you are filled with bitter gall and are in the bonds of iniquity.” **24Simon said in reply, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”**

1. **Who is Saul’s (Paul) *audience* in his speech in Acts 13:16-42?**
2. **Saul quotes Isaiah 49 in his address. What does this say about Jesus the Christ? What does it say about what will be expected of Israel *and* the disciples of Jesus the Christ? See Isaiah 49:1-6 and Acts 13:46-47.**

**Acts 13:46-4746**Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. **47**For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

**Isaiah 49:1-6** Before birth the Lord called me, from my mother’s womb he gave me my name.
**2**He made my mouth like a sharp-edged sword concealed me, shielded by his hand.
He made me a sharpened arrow, in his quiver he hid me. **3**He said to me, You are my servant,
    in you, Israel, I show my glory. **4**Though I thought I had toiled in vain, for nothing and for naught spent my strength, Yet my right is with the Lord, my recompense is with my God. **5**For now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, That Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength! **6It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel, I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.**

1. **How do we know that the words of Saul were received favorably by many of those that heard him speak? See Acts 13:42-44.**

**Acts 13:42-4442**As they were leaving, they invited them to speak on these subjects the following sabbath. **43**After the congregation had dispersed, many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God. **44**On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

1. **Why did some Jews refuse to believe the words of Saul? See 13: 45.**

**Acts 13: 45** **45**When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said.

1. **How and why did Saul and Barnabas react to the abusive crowds? See Acts 13:47-52 and Luke 9:5.**

**Acts 13:47-5247**For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

**48**The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, **49**and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. **50**The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. **51**So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.[[m](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31734m)] **52**The disciples were filled with joy and the holy Spirit.

**Luke 9:55**And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-29626c)] in testimony against them.”