

AWAKE THE CALL TO A RENEWED LIFE

Lesson 6: Return to Tasks Acts 13:1-3, 44-52

Icebreaker Question: *Where do you like to go to recharge your personal batteries?*

- **Ministering to the Lord (v.2)** This phrase literally means "serving the Lord." In the Old Testament, it referred to priest and Levites carrying out their duties in the temple. Our English word "Liturgy" is derived from this Greek term.
- **Laid hands (v.3)** This was a symbolic and ceremonial act of recognizing a divine call, separating for a designated task, and invoking divine blessings.
- **Gentiles (v.46)** This term referred to people who were not Jewish by birth. Synonyms of this term include (nations and pagans).

Acts 13:1-3

1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Discussion Question #1

- What can we do to intentionally seek God's guidance?

Acts 13:44-47

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. **45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. **46** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'

Discussion Question #2

- What do these verses teach about the process of sharing the gospel?

Acts 13:48-52

48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. **49** And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. **50** But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. **51** But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Question #3-4

- How have you experienced resistance in your attempts to make disciples?
- What steps can we take to strive for revival in our church and community?

Live It Out

- **Pray for the lost every day.** Pray specifically for someone who needs the message of Christ. Pray for the gospel to advance in your community and around the world.
- **Share the gospel.** Spreading the gospel isn't just for pastors and preachers. Actively seek out opportunities to share the good news of Christ.
- **Lead your group on mission.** Make plans as a group to proclaim the gospel in a tangible, practical way within your community. Start with prayer and move out from there.