

THIS IS YOUR CHURCH

Shared Labor, Shared Mission

WEEK 4

WARM-UP

- When doing a project, do you usually volunteer to do a task or do you wait for others to give you one? Why?
- When was the last time you finished a task only because someone volunteered to help you? Explain what happened.
- Tell us about a personal goal that you have accomplished. What happened?

WORD

¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While 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." ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. **ACTS 13:1-3**

God gives people giftings and strengths that will help them accomplish His plans and purposes. The church in Antioch was composed of people of different ethnicities who served different functions. Then, the Holy Spirit instructed them to *set apart* Barnabas and Saul for a specific mission. The same still applies today. God brings people of different backgrounds and strengths together in order to serve Him and fulfill His mission. Here are two truths about God's mission and the Church.

1 | God has called us to share in His mission.

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." **ACTS 13:2**

While worshiping God and fasting, the Holy Spirit spoke to the church in Antioch and made His will clear. He called the church to take part in His mission of redeeming the world by setting apart Barnabas and Saul for the specific task of going to the nations. God already has a mission set. He is not preparing a new mission for His Church; He is inviting the Church to join in His mission. Why do you think God wants His Church to participate in His mission?

2

God has called us to share in the labor to accomplish His mission.

*¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. . . . ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. **ACTS 13:1, 3-5***

God has called His Church to participate in His mission. As members of His Church, each person has been called, gifted, and equipped by God to play a particular part in that mission. Some are prophets; others are teachers. Some are called to go; others are called to assist. No calling is better or higher than the other. Each of us has a part to play. The Church is always better when people are doing the mission together. Together, we are appointed by God to accomplish His mission for the Church. What does 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 say about the Church as God's body? How do you think God has prepared you to be part of this?

APPLICATION

- Do you have a clear understanding of God's mission for the Church? What do you think is your part in this?
- What are the giftings and strengths God has given you? Ask God for opportunities to use these to serve Him and His people.
- Who are the people God has given you to co-labor with in His kingdom? How do you complement one another to accomplish His purpose together?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the work He has prepared in advance for you to do. Ask Him for the grace and courage to step out in faith as you do your part in accomplishing His mission.
- Ask God to show you any area in your life that may be hindering you from hearing and obeying Him. Pray that you would be unhindered in fulfilling God's mission.
- Pray for open doors to tell others about Jesus in your sphere of influence. Ask God to give you a platform to preach the gospel.