

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 12

TOPIC: Antioch – A Sending Church

BIBLE PASSAGES: Acts 11:15-30, 13:1-4, 14:26-28, 15:1-4, 22-36, 18:22,23

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Antioch was the first non-Jewish church. It was formed just after Peter had visited Cornelius and first preached the gospel to the Gentiles. Greek-speaking Jews fleeing the persecution in Jerusalem started it. (Acts 11:18-21) It was then checked out by Barnabas, - who then went and recruited Saul (Paul) from Tarsus. Together they taught and established the new church and Acts records that "the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch". It was a church full of prophets such as Agabus and Silas that fasted and prayed and ministered in the Spirit. During one of these times the Holy Spirit indicated that they should send out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. (Acts 13:1-4) They did this and sent them out. After their journey they reported back to the Antioch church (Acts 14:26-28). Later Antioch was recognized as the main Gentile church when a dispute arose over the need to observe the Jewish Law. The resulting decision was relayed first to Antioch and then to the rest of the Gentiles. (Acts 15:2-36) Paul often returned to Antioch after his missionary journeys. (Acts 18:22)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 11:15-30 – What is happening here?

Theologically (Acts 11:15-18)?

With the Gospel (Acts 11:19-21) ?

With the church leaders (Acts 11:22-26) ?

With prophecy & good works (Acts 11:27-30) ?

2. Read Acts 13:1-4 – What were the spiritual circumstances behind the sending of Barnabas and Saul?

3. Why is it highly probable that Spirit-filled churches will also be sending Churches?

4. What is the laying on of hands? Why is it an important part of sending out a missionary? (Luke 4:40, Acts 6:6, 8:16-18, 13:3, 19:6,28:8 1 Timothy 4:14, Hebrews 6:1-3)

5. Acts 13:3 – "**Separate..to the work..to which I have called them**" How are missionaries "separated" from others? What is their work? How are they "called"? What might this involve?

6. Read Acts 14:26-28 – Did the church at Antioch ignore the returned missionaries? Should missionaries report back to their sending churches?

7. Did Saul and Barnabas engage in extended ministry with their home church after their return?

8. List ten or more practical things that a sending church can do for its missionaries.

9. Read Acts 15:1-4 – What doctrinal error caused dissension at Antioch? Who did they send to Jerusalem to settle this matter? What did they do along the way?

10. Read Acts 15:22-30 – What was the outcome of this dispute?

11. Read Acts 15:35-51 – What caused a separation between Paul and Barnabas? How are relationships very important on the mission field? Who do you think was the more argumentative?

12. Read Acts 18:22,23 –Antioch is where Paul pauses between missionary journeys and gets re-charged. How should a sending church also be a place of spiritual refreshment?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Turkey**