

The Church on the Move: The Church on Mission

Acts 13:1-12 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 18 September 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is the best snack and why?

Worship: [Psalm 141](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [Acts 13:1-12](#) (*Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

When Heaven and earth are once again merged together, our worship will be better, our lives will be purer, our love for God and for others will have been perfected. The one thing we can do more fully now is to share in His mission. Now is the time for sharing and living out the Good News of God's Kingdom: of His love and forgiveness, of His welcome and renewing power. Now is our opportunity to live missionally so we become more Christlike and our world receives more of His grace, all for the glory of our Father.

Engaging mission together with Jesus through Gospel generosity // From its beginnings, the church at Antioch was marked by generosity. Barnabas, their church planter, had modeled this ([Acts 4:36-37](#)) – not only by freely sharing his resources with the community, but also by his willingness to be sent out to spread the Gospel elsewhere. This church lived into this radical generosity in kind, giving away their very best. How are we to live this way?

Our Father always gives His best in mission; this is His way. He gave His Beloved Son. Story after story, teaching after teaching, song after song speak of the indescribable grace and favor of God to us as wayward children. He never quits on us; His love never runs out. As Tim Keller wrote in *The Prodigal God*, He “*really is the prodigal one, the reckless, wanton, foolish one with His love!*” In Antioch, it was the worship, prayer and fasting that helped them center on this Gospel generosity. It empowered them with a sense of who and what should be offered up and sent out for Christ's mission. In this way, we are brought into the dance of love that is the life of the Trinity, as we realize that we are made and remade to live likewise.

Engaging mission together with Jesus through Gospel creativity // The early church was beautifully and powerfully creative, taking people from all backgrounds and molding them into united, worshiping, sharing, serving communities in ways that no one had ever seen before. This is why the church in Antioch was where people were first called Christians (“Christ people”) – because people couldn't come up with another way to define them; they were that diverse and set apart!

The church in Antioch had no template for church planting; it had never been a movement before this. Jesus had sent His followers out in groups of two to spread the Gospel, but here it becomes a mission strategy. More broadly, Jesus Himself doesn't go into much detail of how we should “do church”. [The end of Acts 2](#) offers some insight, but beyond these few, concise verses, we're given the latitude to use our creativity in how we worship and serve our Lord. And central to staying fresh with this creativity is to stay fresh with the Gospel through worship, fasting and prayer as Antioch did.

Engaging mission together with Jesus through Gospel humility // Every Christian's story – as well as every church's story – is one of God growing His humility in us. Our Creator humbled Himself to create and sustain and engage humanity. He humbles Himself when we run from Him and reject Him. He humbled Himself to become one of us, and to give Himself for us, dying for us on a cross. None of the hope, the life, or the mercy of Jesus gets to us

without this blend of generosity, creativity and humility among His people. There is no Good News for the world without these, which Jesus embodied for us. The mission of the Kingdom only moves forward through our embracing this humility together with Jesus. So whenever we find God humbling us, we shouldn't run from those spaces. Rather than resist or fight those moments, we need to embrace them and look to Jesus.

Discussion Questions *(You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)*

Engaging mission together with Jesus through Gospel generosity

- What does mission mean to us as a community of Christ followers?
- What did generosity look like in the early church at Antioch?
 - One challenge in service and mission is that they come at a cost. How have you experienced this cost in serving God's Kingdom?
 - Is God calling you to serve in a way that you are hesitant to do because of the cost?

Engaging mission together with Jesus through Gospel creativity

- Early Christians engaged in mission by observing the needs of the towns they traveled to and then acting. What do you observe around you that could be a need for you or your group to fill?
 - From the passage ([13:2-3](#)), what other important work was the early church doing, and what might this have to do with creative plans and strategies in serving the Lord?
- How do you feel our creative God might be calling you to live more missionally?

Engaging mission together with Jesus through Gospel humility

- After prayer and fasting, the Antioch church sent out Barnabas and Saul. How do you see this as a generous act, a creative act, and a humble act?
- Define humility and then discuss how the Gospel humbles us.
 - Which of the marks of the Antioch church (Gospel generosity, Gospel creativity, Gospel humility) touches you most deeply and why?
 - How might it motivate you towards personal mission?

Prayer

This week's Prayer Guide for personal or group use is [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer

CG Discussion Guides will be provided through November 20th, the last day of our sermon series on **Acts: The Church on the Move**. As we continue our 2022 Focus on Prayer, we suggest you and your CG read a book on prayer together for the end of the year. Here are our recommendations:

- [Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God](#)
Timothy Keller
- [Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?](#)
Philip Yancy
- [If God Already Knows, Why Pray?](#)
Douglas Kelly