

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **May 17, 2020** sermon, "The Upper Hand." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 13:1-12) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE EMBARK UPON SHARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, REMEMBER THAT . . .

1. Obedience is essential. (1-3)
 - a. The timing of action for was "now" (v. 1).
 - i. The action included a diverse leadership team
 - ii. The action included an outward affirmation of an inward calling/preparation.
 - b. This team was worshiping and fasting together.
2. Opposition is inevitable. (4-8)
 - a. Initially, the word of God was proclaimed to Jews; now to everyone, systematically.
 - b. Paul and Barnabas have now set out upon the first missionary journey.
 - c. The opposer is identified.
 - i. This "son of Jesus" (6) opposes the proclamation of the word of God (8).
 - ii. He tries to turn the proconsul away from the faith.
3. Grace is triumphant. (9-12)
 - a. God opposes those who oppose his Word.
 - b. The missionary task will be accomplished . . .
 - i. The teaching of the Lord is astonishing.
 - ii. God's upper hand is graciously sovereign over every opponent.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God's people are called to worship and prayer. The Holy Spirit worked amidst a group of people who were faithfully worshiping the Lord together. How have you sensed the Lord's presence while gathering with his people for worship?
2. Based on #1, above: The people obeyed the directive of the Spirit to set apart and to send out faithful servants (Paul and Barnabas) on this first missionary journey. It seems like they had many more (v. 1) who were willing to go! In what way are you active in the mission: "multiply committed followers of Jesus"?
3. Based on #2, above: Participation in the mission will require risk, sacrifice and great effort, and we know for sure that people will oppose it. Where do you see opposition to gospel initiatives in the world today? What is the upside to opposition?
4. Based on #3, above: We have been instructed to expect opposition, that the Lord himself is with us and that the sovereign purposes of God cannot be resisted. He will accomplish everything he intends to accomplish through his people, and by his grace. Which of these promises/instructions bring you comfort today? (expectation, presence or ultimate victory)
5. Based on #3, above: Reflect on this: no matter how dark things appear, God always has the upper hand. Always.