

Paul's First Journey: The Gospel Spreads and the Church Grows

The Apostle Paul's first missionary journey is recorded in Acts 13 and 14 and tells the story of how the gospel spread beyond Jewish communities to Gentiles. It's a story of the Holy Spirit and the perseverance of the early church in the face of determined persecution. We are encouraged when we recognize parallels between Paul's experiences and our modern efforts to partner with the Holy Spirit to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you explain the role and work of a missionary?
- What helps you know when God is calling you to something?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Paul's First Journey: The Gospel Spreads and the Church Grows](#)

READ [Acts 13-14](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Studying the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey in the opening verses of Acts 13, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee affirm the importance of community in confirming giftedness and calling. Who is part of your spiritual community? Who do you trust to discern the work of the Holy Spirit and speak truthfully with you about how God is calling you to serve in his kingdom?
- The book of Acts shows us how the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). At the end of segment 2, Darrell says, "The gospel is still going forth throughout the world today." Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work enabling us to fulfill the Great Commission today?
- Scott and Darrell observe that people responded to Paul's gospel message in one of two ways: acceptance or opposition. Do you think people respond in the same way today?
- What did you learn from Paul and Barnabas' experience in Lystra (Acts 14:8-20) about responding faithfully even when things don't go how we hope?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 28:18-20](#), [Romans 4-5](#), [Acts 2-3](#), [John 5:1-15](#), [John 15:18-21](#)

CONCLUSION

Spend time recalling stories of what God has done in your life and community. Focus on the Holy Spirit and share how you witnessed the Spirit at work spreading the gospel message. Close your time in song or prayer, praising God and celebrating these pieces of God's grand story.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/pauls-first-journey-the-gospel-spreads-and-the-church-grows>

Printed on March 30, 2025