

WORD

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 13:2,3**

Acts 13 marks the first missionary journey of Paul. As the congregation worshiped God and fasted, they heard the Holy Spirit's specific instructions for Barnabas and Saul to go to the nations. They responded in faith and obedience. In the same way, the church continues to send missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission. Though not everyone can go, everyone can—and should—participate in this call. In this lesson, we will look at how we can bring the gospel to every nation.

1 Pray.

¹⁸. . . To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel . . . **EPHESIANS 6:18,19**

As the missionaries obeyed the call and went to new places, they needed the church to keep praying for them. We should hold the ropes for our missionaries by praying for their protection, provision, and boldness to preach the gospel. Which missionaries or nations do you pray for? How do you pray for them?

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2 Give.

¹⁴ . . . And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? . . .

ROMANS 10:14,15

Missionaries respond to God's call in faith that as they go, God will provide for their every need. We can send more missionaries by supporting their work. What is the promise if we are generous to God and His purposes (Philippians 4:19)?

3 Go.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **MATTHEW 28:19,20**

Though some will go to other nations, all Christians are called to obey Jesus' call to go—even if that's in the campus, in the office, at home, or wherever we are. What was Paul's ambition in life (Romans 15:20)? How can we follow his example?

APPLICATION

- How will you respond to Jesus' command to go and make disciples? What will you do about it this week?
- How can you support missionaries who have dedicated their lives to reaching every nation with the gospel? What's one specific thing you can do?
- How can you know more about what God is doing in the nations and how can you become more involved?

PRAYER

- Thank God that He loves the world and made a way to save us. Thank Him for His salvation, mercy, and grace.
- Ask God to help you know how you should respond to the Great Commission. Ask Him to help you pray, give, and go.
- Pray for our missionaries and the churches they are working in around the world.



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