

REACHING THE LOST (PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY)

Acts 13:1–12

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Acts 13:2–3

MEMORY VERSE

While 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." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. **Acts 13:2–3**

For many teenagers, missionaries are people they have little exposure to, and mission trips are short-term volunteer opportunities. And if your children are fortunate enough to have a deeper connection to missions through your church, they still may not understand how they can be actively involved in the ongoing mission process.

Acts 13 tells the story of the first organized mission trip that originated out of the church in Antioch. Don't miss the point that although only a few made the trip, the entire church had an impact on their journey. They all fasted and prayed for Paul and Barnabas before they left and most likely provided finances to enable the missionaries to complete their travels. Everyone in the

church was committed to living out the final words of Jesus in Acts 1:8 when they were challenged to reach the ends of the earth.

There are opportunities for your children to be involved in missions on a variety of levels. First, encourage them to pray specifically for those who are called to serve among unreached people. As a family, connect your teenager to another missionary family so they can develop a personal relationship with someone living in a different culture. Second, as a family examine how you give to mission causes. And finally, as a parent, are you willing to release your teen to be used on a short-term trip or even for a lifetime?

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Have a family photo album that displays a recent or past vacation. A family member asks: **What did you enjoy most about our trip? If you could plan a trip anywhere in the world and money was not a factor, where would you go and why?**

Next, the family discusses: **How would you feel if God asked you to go on a trip that involved sharing the gospel to a group of unreached people?**

Explore . . .

A family member reads Acts 13:1–12. Next, the family discusses: **How did the entire church get involved in sending out the missionaries? Compare a Bible map of Paul's first missionary journey and the same area on a current map. Do you know anything about those countries today?**

Transform . . .

As a family, seek how you can become involved in missions in the following ways. Ask: **How can our family pray for missions? How can we raise money as a family to give for mission work? Would our family be open to going on a short-term mission trip in lieu of a family vacation in the next few years?**

Pray together that your family would find ways to actively participate as players in Christ's Great Commission.