

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

(5) Mission Everywhere

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Acts 13:1-4; 14:21-28 and Titus 2

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How are you called to participate in the worldwide mission of the church?
- How do the two spheres - or directions - of mission relate to one another? (Referring to the *going* and *proclaiming* on one hand and the *living godly lives* at home and in our communities on the other).

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

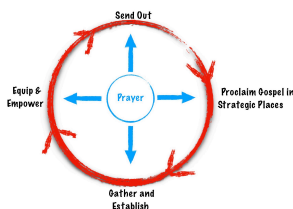
Titus 2-3

Colossians 4:2-6

1 Peter 3:8-17

Mission Everywhere

The worldwide mission. Acts 13-14. As you study Acts, it becomes evident that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, Luke gives us patterns that are meant to teach us how to carry out Jesus' ongoing mission. Paul's journeys are especially helpful for considering how to expand the mission of Jesus into new areas. Acts 13-14 describes what we have come to call Paul's first missionary journey. It begins in Antioch, where Paul and Barnabas had been ministering. It is initiated in prayer, as church leaders gather together, hear from the Lord, and commend Paul and Barnabas to their work. From the church in that city, these apostles are sent out to bring the gospel to the Gentiles of other lands. They travel to a number of places, preaching the gospel in strategic centers, gathering believers together (called churches), and appointing leaders (elders) over them. We can see Paul's inspired strategy in the following illustration:



The local mission. Titus 2 (and 3). As we send some out to extend the reaches of the gospel to new areas, we are also called to participate in Christ's mission in our local context. According to Titus, we do this largely by living distinctly Christian lives that testify to the truth of our message. We are on mission in the way we walk in our various household relationships, in how we work, and in the good deeds that we do, such as caring for the needy. These things ensure that “no one will malign the word of God” (2:5), that “those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us” (2:8), and that “in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive” (2:10). In other words, our attractive, loving relationships, our good deeds, our holy living, etc bear witness to the truth of the gospel. Without this, our proclamation can lack credibility and power.

All of us are called to participate in the great mission of Jesus - in the nations and in the neighborhood. We are to proclaim the gospel and live the gospel. Both are crucial in being witnesses. We prayerfully send missionaries to proclaim the gospel and make disciples by planting churches. We live lives of honor and witness in our own spheres.