

## Series: Centrifugal Faith

### Scripture and Background Information for October November 01-07.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Jesus promised his disciples that they would be his witnesses, starting in Jerusalem and going until the end of the world (1:8). From Acts 13 on, Luke is focusing on how Christ used Paul for His ministry. Although the account of how the gospel spread around the world is still Luke's concern, he now shows how the gospel spread through the Apostle Paul.

#### **Background for Acts 13:**

The Holy Spirit sent out Barnabas and Paul to reach the Gentiles with the gospel. The Church followed the call of God and sent two of their best ministers on their way (Acts 4:36; 11:25-26). They went on their way and proclaimed the word of God. On their way, Barnabas and Paul encountered different people. One of those people was Sergius Paulus, a governor of that area, who wanted to hear the word of God. Luke tells us that Barnabas and Paul faced opposition by a false prophet. Driven by his false spirituality, he tried to keep the governor from hearing the gospel. As we will see in future texts, Paul often faced opposition by religious people, rather than people with no religion.

Paul did not yield to oppositions, but he went on with his mission. He was sent to proclaim the gospel, and that is what he was going to do. He rebuked the magician, resulting in the conversion of the governor.

Some tools to engage with the text:

1. How did the church in Antioch choose new directions in their mission compared to earlier mission efforts? Why is the church called "the missional church" of ancient times? (Compare to Acts 8:4 and 11:19.)
2. Do oppositions in ministering the gospel to other people mean the assurance of failure?
3. Why do you think Paul reacted so harshly against the Jewish magician? What exactly was Paul attacking when responding so strong (the person, or empty religious activities which kept people from the gospel)? Is there something in us that prevents people from hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ?

*Notice: Jesus gave his disciples the task to go out and witness for him (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15; Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8). God is a God of "sending" and "witness." As the disciples were sent, so are you! We can learn from the disciples that opposition is not a reason to abandon the mission.*

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

November 8-14	Acts 15
November 15-21	Acts 16