

Series: Centrifugal Faith

Scripture and Background Information for October November 08-14.

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 and forward, Paul becomes the dominant focus of the account. Luke shows how God used Paul to fulfill his plan of reaching all nations with His saving message.

Background for Acts 15:36-41:

After Paul and Barnabas were sent out to reach the Gentiles, a new movement started. Many Gentiles became believers. The conversion of the Gentiles wasn't without controversy. Jewish believers believed that Gentiles had to be made Jewish believers to be "really" saved. After Paul and Barnabas went to the council in Jerusalem, the church heard their testimony about the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit. The church acknowledged that from the beginning, God planned to reach the Jews as well as Gentiles (15:13-20). Without uploading new laws on the Gentile believers, the church sent a letter of encouragement and ethical advice. Encouraged by the church's decision and by the church's enthusiasm in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas wanted to continue their mission of encouragement and church evangelism. A disagreement led them to split so that each of them went their way.

Some tools to engage with the text:

1. Although disagreeing with each other, do you think Paul and Barnabas could still respect each other? What speaks for/against that?
2. With all that we already learned from Barnabas, what was his motivation to take Mark with him? (Acts 4:36)
3. The disagreement did not end Paul's and Barnabas's efforts for their mission. What do we learn from that?

Notice: Paul and Barnabas disagreed about Mark, Barnabas's cousin. The incident in Acts 13:13 probably motivated Paul not to want to take Mark on further mission trips. Nevertheless, their disagreement did not last forever. Paul later wrote that Mark became a valuable colleague to him (Col 4:10; Phil 4:24; 2 Tim 4:11).

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

November 15-21	Acts 16
November 22-28	Acts 17