

NEXT STEPS in PROCLAIMING GOD'S MESSAGE ABOUT JESUS

Acts 13

What do you remember about the first half of the book of Acts? It may be helpful to read and/or summarise what's occurred in Phase 1 (Acts 1–6) and Phase 2 (Acts 7–12) as we now resume for Phase 3 (Acts 13–28).

Antioch in Syria (Acts 12:25–13:3)

What does Luke tell us about the selection and guidance of the new missionaries? What does Luke *not* tell us?

Luke makes a habit of explaining events and speeches in detail the first time we meet them. He then assumes the same kinds of actions and presentations on later occasions. We see two scenes once the missionary apostles set out. (If you're reading ahead in Acts to get a taste for the whole book, how often do you discover similar events and speeches?)

Cyprus (13:4–12)

What does Luke tell us about Bar-Jesus?

Why do you think God responds through Paul with the words and power that he does? (Does it help to know that 'Bar-Jesus' means 'child/son of Jesus'? Compare verses 6 and 10.)

Antioch in Pisidia (13:13–52)

Have you recognised that there are *two* towns named Antioch in this chapter? If it helps, find a map and look for 'Syrian Antioch' and 'Pisidian Antioch'. (The modern locations are called Antakya and Yalvaç, both now in Türkiye.)

Read through Paul's synagogue sermon (13:16–41). Which parts of the Old Testament story does Paul highlight? Which parts of Jesus's story does Paul include? Do any emphases surprise you? Which parts of the gospel message would you expect Paul to include that he *hasn't*?

Read through what happens next (13:42–52). What sounds familiar and what sounds surprising? Do you expect that sharing God's message about Jesus will always have an effective impact? Why, or why not?

What language and imagery do you use to tell people about God and Jesus? What new words and illustrations might be useful in your context?

What storytelling skills and languages has God already given to you that you can thank him for? What languages and illustrations might you pray for? Start praying this week.

Repeating questions for Acts 13–28:

Whom might we share God's message about Jesus with?

What language or illustrations will we emphasise on each occasion?

How are we prepared for the mixed responses the message receives?