

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (ACTS 13: 44-52)

DATE MARCH 22, 2020

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." ⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

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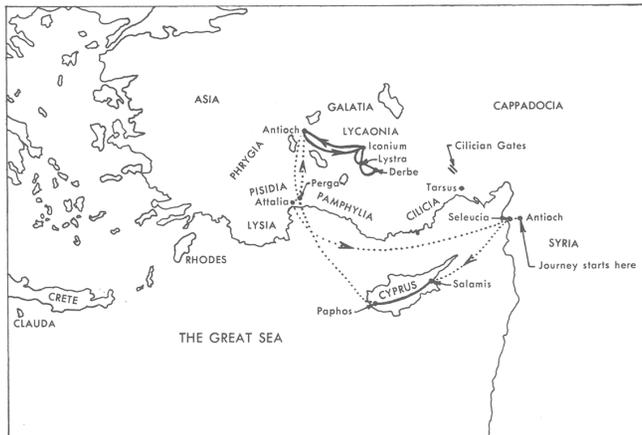
SERMON

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (ACTS 13: 44-52)

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1. In the text above circle every occurrence of the phrase, “the word of the Lord.”
2. Summarize the main idea of this week’s message.
3. Familiarize yourself with the map of the first missionary journey. Find the two locations named Antioch and highlight both. Within which one does this account take place? How do you know?



4. Why do you think “the Jews...were filled with jealousy,” as **Acts 13:45** records? See also **Acts 5:17**.
5. Have you ever found yourself in a position where, because of the gospel, you were “reviled” and your message “contradicted”? What was your response?

6. These recent days have obviously been tumultuous ones. Being honest with yourself are you currently or have you struggled with being controlled by fear? According to this week’s message, what is the answer to controlling fear?
7. Does the phrase “to the ends of the earth” in **Acts 13:47** bring another passage to mind that we have read before in the book of Acts?
8. How does **Acts 13:46–47** throw light on Paul’s special ministry? Read also **Acts 9:15** and compare similar occasions of Paul’s ministry at Corinth (18:6), Ephesus (19:9), and Rome (28:28). How does **Romans 1:16**, later written by Paul, represent the apostle’s position? Did Paul intend *never* to preach to a group of Jews again?
9. How does God use opposition to advance his Kingdom in **Acts 13:44-52**? How have you seen this principle of advance despite opposition to be true in your own life? Is God specifically challenging you with anything in your life today?
10. As you close your study this week, jot down two lists that you can share with others:
 - Write down a list of ways you can exercise your spiritual gifts despite being in the middle of this crisis.
 - Whether for salvation and/or care in this crisis write down a list of people to specifically pray for.

Commit to pray for one another, and for opportunities for the gospel to grow outside your home and group.

Remember to check back frequently to hopeoakville.ca for all of our coronavirus response updates.