**Bible Study Questions: READ Acts 13–14 (NASB)**

***Memory Verses:*** *"Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."* — Acts 13:38 (NASB)

These chapters detail **Paul’s first missionary journey** with Barnabas, the bold preaching of the gospel, opposition, miracles, and the strengthening of new believers.

**1. Sent and Empowered: The Beginning of the First Missionary Journey**

*(Acts 13:1–12) The Church in Antioch sends out Paul and Barnabas, who begin preaching the gospel and confronting spiritual opposition.*

1. **Who sent out Paul and Barnabas, and how was the decision made?** *(13:2–3)*
2. **Where did Paul and Barnabas first go to preach, and what was their strategy?** *(13:5)*
3. **How did Paul handle the opposition of Elymas the magician?** *(13:9-11)*
4. **What was the result of this encounter for the proconsul, Sergius Paulus?** *(13:12)*

**2. Bold Preaching and Opposition**

*(Acts 13:13–52) Paul preaches a powerful message in Pisidian Antioch, but faces both reception and rejection.*

1. **What Old Testament figures did Paul refer to in his sermon to show God’s faithfulness?** *(13:16-25)*
2. **What was the core message of Paul’s sermon in Acts 13:26–39?**
3. **How did the people initially respond to Paul’s message?** *(13:42-43)*
4. **Why did the Jews become jealous and oppose Paul’s message the next week?** *(13:45)*
5. **How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the rejection by the Jews?** *(13:46-51)*

**3. Gospel Expansion and Miracles Among the Gentiles**

*(Acts 14:1–20) The gospel spreads to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, accompanied by both signs and persecution.*

1. **What happened in Iconium as Paul and Barnabas preached?** *(14:1–7)*
2. **Describe the miracle in Lystra and how the crowd responded.** *(14:8-11)*
3. **How did Paul and Barnabas respond to being treated like gods?** *(14:14-15)*
4. **What soon followed the miracle in Lystra, and how did Paul respond?** *(14:19-20)*

**4. Strengthening the Church and Returning to Antioch**

*(Acts 14:21–28) Paul and Barnabas revisit the churches they planted, appoint leaders, and return to Antioch to report all God had done.*

1. **What did Paul and Barnabas do as they returned through the cities they had visited?** *(14:21-23)*
2. **What report did Paul and Barnabas give upon returning to Antioch?** *(14:27)*

**Reflect**

1. **Recognizing the Holy Spirit's Guidance:** *In Acts 13:2–3, the Holy Spirit instructs the church at Antioch to set apart Barnabas and Saul for specific work. How do you discern the Holy Spirit's direction in your life? Are there practices you can adopt to become more attuned to His leading?*
2. **Responding to Opposition in Ministry:** *Throughout their journey, Paul and Barnabas faced both acceptance and opposition (Acts 13:44–45; Acts 14:19–20). Reflect on a time when you encountered resistance while sharing your faith or serving. How did you handle it, and what did you learn from the experience?*
3. **The Role of Fasting and Prayer in Decision-Making:** *Before sending out Barnabas and Saul, the believers fasted and prayed (Acts 13:3). How do fasting and prayer influence your decision-making processes? Can you recall a situation where these practices provided clarity or confirmation?*
4. **Perseverance Amidst Hardship:** *In Acts 14:19–22, after being stoned and left for dead, Paul continues to preach and strengthen disciples. How do you maintain perseverance in your faith during challenging times? What scriptures or experiences encourage you to remain steadfast?*
5. **Embracing the Mission to All People:** *Paul and Barnabas actively reached out to both Jews and Gentiles, emphasizing the inclusivity of the Gospel (Acts 13:46–48). How can you ensure that your outreach and interactions reflect the universal nature of Christ's message? Are there barriers you need to overcome to engage with diverse groups?*