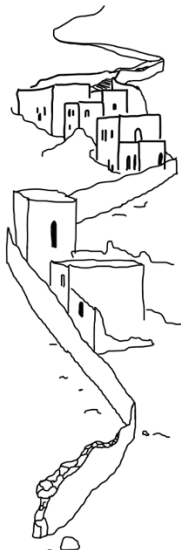




1. After coming ashore at Perga, Paul and Barnabas made a beeline to Pisidian Antioch. The path was difficult and dangerous. What are some internal struggles you think they had to overcome in their determination to share the gospel?
2. Describe a time in your life that the Holy Spirit put it on your heart to share the gospel with someone. What internal struggles did you experience? What were the results?
3. What was John the Baptist's message, and what did he witness to? A forerunner goes before to announce the coming of another; how was John the Baptist a forerunner? Why do you think God sent a forerunner before Jesus? (Matthew 3:2; John 1:29-34).
4. What persons or events played a role in God opening your eyes to recognize the time of your visitation, which led to your salvation? Who or what served as a forerunner? How might the Holy Spirit want to use you in a similar way in the lives of others?
5. Have five people read verses 23, 26, 27, 30, and 38, one person per verse in succession. Now, summarize Paul's message in our passage.
6. Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important to the message of salvation, that Paul spent 8 verses talking about it? (30-37) How is Christ's resurrection unique? (34)
7. How would you describe the initial response of the people to Paul's message? How long did that last? (42-45)
8. What kind of opposition and rejection did Paul and Barnabas then face? (verses 45, 50) How did they handle it? (46-47, 51) What encouraging things did they focus on instead? (48-49, 52)
9. Describe a time when you shared the message of the Gospel, or tried to, and you met rejection. How can the response of Paul and Barnabas here help you in the future?



Don't Miss It! Recognize His Visit!
Leader Notes for Acts 13:14-52



Barnabas and Saul, **directed by the Holy Spirit**, embarked on what is now known as Paul's first missionary journey. With Barnabas leading, they preached the gospel throughout the island of Cyprus, until they arrived in Paphos. There Saul, AKA Paul, took charge, rebuked the opposition of Elymus the magician, and led the proconsul of Cyprus, Sergius Paulus, to become a believer. Remember the Lord said, "He [Paul] is a chosen instrument of Mine, **to bear My name before the Gentiles.**" (9:15)

From Paphos, Paul and Barnabas made a beeline for Pisidian Antioch. We have no record of them preaching until "they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue." (14:14) The natural result of salvation is to proclaim the good news to one's family and friends. Perhaps Sergius Paulus funded this portion of the missionary journey. An inscription in stone of Sergius Paulus found in Pisidian Antioch has led scholars to believe that he had family roots there.

In the synagogue, Paul reviewed God's dealings with Israel, reciting instances of God's salvation from their troubles (verses 16-22). These examples point to the ultimate and only Savior, Jesus. God sent Paul to Pisidian Antioch to proclaim the gospel. This was their visit from God, through Paul. **Paul's mission was to introduce them to Jesus as Savior.** (23)

God sent **John the Baptist as a forerunner** to announce the coming of Jesus. John warned people to repent in preparation for the visit (24-25). It was a day of visitation that God didn't want them to miss. **John gave witness to testify that Jesus is the Son of God.** (Read John 1:29-34). It was a message of salvation from God to all that fear Him. (26)

Those who lived in Jerusalem and their **rulers failed to recognize the time of their visitation**, and in doing so, fulfilled the Scripture by having **Jesus put to death**. But **God raised Him from the dead** and provided **eye-witnesses** to confirm the truth of the resurrection. Eye-witnesses are the strongest evidence possible. **Jesus' resurrection from the dead is unique** from others mentioned in the Bible, in that **His body did not**, and never will, **undergo decay** (34-37). All others that have been raised from the dead died a second time, and their bodies decayed. In light of this resurrection, through Jesus, **forgiveness of sins was proclaimed**, along with freedom from the penalty of the Law of God and freedom from the power of sin (38).

A warning followed to those who do not take heed. (39-40)

As a result of the message, many believed and wanted to hear more. They were encouraged to continue in the grace of God. **They recognized the time of their visitation!** Others were filled with jealousy when the whole city came out to hear the message on the following Sabbath. They responded by contradicting Paul and blaspheming. They rejected the message and the offer of eternal life (44-46).

It is under these circumstances that God gave Paul direction and focus in continuing this first missionary journey. Paul and his party **turned to the Gentiles** (46-47).

Understandably, the Gentiles began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord. **They recognized the time of their visitation, believed God, and received eternal life.** As a result, the word spread far and wide through the whole region (49).

Those that did not recognize the time of their visitation rejected the message and stirred up others to run Paul and company out of town. **Paul was not discouraged** but shook the dust off his feet and went to Iconium (51), following Jesus' command to His disciples in Luke 9:5.

The new disciples in Pisidian Antioch were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.