

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 19 October 2008

Danger : Church at work! – Called and sent Acts 13.1-12

1. How are church leaders, pastors, preachers and evangelists chosen today?

Read Acts 13:1-12

2. How were they chosen in the early church? (See also Mark 1:16-20, Acts 6:1-6 & 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

We have reached that point in Luke's account of the early church where Peter seems to fade into the background and Paul (Saul) moves to centre-stage. Paul and Barnabas spend a year in (Syria) Antioch (11:26) and then take a gift to the church in Jerusalem who are suffering because of the famine (11:27-30). Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch, taking with them John Mark (12:25). The great significance of the church being established in Antioch is that it soon became the first predominantly gentile (non-Jewish) church. From Antioch, Paul and Barnabas set off on their mission to Cyprus and Asia Minor and returned to Antioch (14:26-27) to report back and encourage the gathered church there with the news of what God had done through them.

3. 'A healthy church is a sending church'. Discuss.

4. Who did the Spirit instruct to set apart Paul and Barnabas?
5. What is the rôle of a Christian's home church in their going into the wider mission field, as opposed to them 'going it alone' as they perceive God directing them?
6. How does Elymas differ from the proconsul?
7. As a LIFE group, do you regularly support (prayerfully and perhaps in other ways) someone in the mission field beyond Glossop? If not, is there someone with whom you already have links who you could support? How might doing this encourage your group?