



Shorter Study

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together Acts 13:1-3.**

- We are introduced to a surprising collection of church leaders in the Antioch church: “Simeon called Niger” (probably referring to being of African descent), Lucius from Cyrene (modern-day Libya), Manaen (a life-long friend of the tyrant-king Herod the tetrarch), Saul (who had recently been converted to Christianity after persecuting the church) and Barnabas (a zealous Jewish convert to Christianity – see Acts 4:36). What does this group indicate about those God adopts into his family?
- Commentators believe that the multi-cultural nature of the Antioch church contributed to its missionary zeal. Why would this be the case?
- How central was prayer in the calling process of Paul and Barnabas?
- How much do you and your eldership pray for the work of overseas or cross-cultural missions?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 16 – Overseeing Missions”.**

Session Overview:

1. Ensure faithful gospel preaching.
2. Pray regularly for those outside the Kingdom.
3. Remember the “others”.
4. Encourage and support local outreach ministries.
5. Encourage and support overseas missions.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can hearing the gospel regularly at church motivate us to share its liberating message?
2. If you were to rate your current church culture on a spectrum between “insider-focussed” or “outsider-focussed”, where would you place your church? Why have you given your church this rating?
3. How equipped do you feel as elders to give feedback on overseas mission at church? How can you better communicate the work of the various agencies and missionaries that your church supports?

■ **Close in prayer.**



Longer Study

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together Acts 13:1-3.**

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Session Overview:

1. Ensure faithful gospel preaching.
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Theological Questions:

1. How can hearing the gospel regularly at church motivate us to share its liberating message?
2. If you were to rate your current church culture on a spectrum between “insider-focussed” or “outsider-focussed”, where would you place your church? Why have you given your church this rating?
3. How does an outsider-focus integrate with the many “one another” passages in Scripture (eg. John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:11)? Are the two emphases mutually exclusive?

