"The Mission Isn't Finished"

- Joseph Castillo -

*Remember: The goal of small group is 100% participation. Everyone talks.



OPEN IT

- **The Best Thing Someone Shared.** What is something good in your life that you were excited to tell someone else about?
- **Out of Your Comfort Zone.** What's something you've done that was worth the inconvenience, risk, or sacrifice it required?

READ IT:

- **Acts 11:19–26** — The church grows as people share the good news, and the disciples are first called Christians at Antioch.
- **Acts 11:27–30** — The church responds to the needs of other believers with practical generosity.
- **Acts 13:1–3** — The church at Antioch worships, fasts, prays, and sends Barnabas and Saul for the work God has called them to do.
- **Acts 13:44–49** — The message about Jesus reaches beyond its initial audience to the Gentiles.
- **Acts 14:21–28** — Paul and Barnabas strengthen disciples, appoint leaders, return to Antioch, and report what God has done.

EXPLORE IT:

- **Comfortable or Called?** Why do you think churches—and individual Christians—can become more focused on the people already attending than on people who haven't encountered Jesus? What makes that shift happen so easily?
- **A Church Worth Joining.** Read Acts 11:19–26. What do you notice about the way the church at Antioch grew? What might make a church community attractive to someone who is exploring faith or looking for a place to belong?

- **The Courage to Send.** Read Acts 13:1–3. The church at Antioch sent two of its leaders to do work elsewhere. Why might sending people out be difficult for a church? What does this passage suggest about the relationship between worship, prayer, and mission?
- **Celebrating What God Is Doing Elsewhere.** Read Acts 14:26–28. When Paul and Barnabas returned, they reported what God had done through them. Why is it important to celebrate what God is doing beyond our own congregation? How can stories of changed lives strengthen a church's faith and mission?
- **More Than Attending.** What is the difference between being someone who attends church and being someone who actively participates in its mission? What might that difference look like in an ordinary week?
- **Who Is Already in Your Life?** Think about the people God has placed around you—friends, coworkers, neighbors, relatives, or acquaintances. Who might be far from God or unsure about Jesus? What would intentionally loving that person look like without treating them as a project?
- **What Does Love Cost?** Read Acts 11:27–30. The church responded to other people's needs with practical generosity. What kinds of resources might Christians need to share so that others can experience the love of Jesus? Which is hardest for you to give: time, money, attention, comfort, or something else?
- **A Mission for Everyone.** The church sent Paul and Barnabas, but not everyone was called to travel as a missionary. What are some different ways people can participate in the mission of Jesus? How can a church help people discover their part?
- **When the Mission Gets Hard.** Read Acts 14:21–23. Paul and Barnabas continued strengthening disciples despite hardship. Why is it important to prepare people for the difficulties of following Jesus rather than promising that faith will make life easy? What helps you keep going when doing the right thing is costly?
- **What Might God Be Asking?** If our church truly believes there are still people who need Jesus, what might be the cost to you personally? What might you need to change in your priorities, schedules, spending, or willingness to serve? What's one change God might be inviting you to consider personally?

DO IT:

- **Pray for One Person.** Identify one person in your life who may be far from Jesus. Pray for them regularly this week, asking God to help you love them well and recognize opportunities for meaningful conversation.

- **Make the First Move.** Invite someone into a genuine conversation, share a meal, offer practical help, or make time to reconnect with someone you might otherwise overlook. Focus on building a real relationship, not forcing a spiritual conversation.
- **Celebrate the Mission.** Ask someone involved in serving, outreach, missions, or Story Church to share a story of what God is doing. Let that story grow your gratitude and help you see the mission beyond your own experience.
- **Give Something Away.** Choose one tangible way to sacrifice for someone else this week—your time, money, convenience, skills, or attention. Let your generosity help another person experience the love of Jesus.
- **Take Your Next Step.** Choose one way to participate more actively in the mission of the church: serve, invite someone, support a ministry, encourage a new believer, share your story, or help someone take a step toward Jesus. Make a specific plan rather than leaving it as a good intention.

PRAY IT:

God, thank You for the people who shared the good news of Jesus with us and for the ways You continue to work through Your church. Keep us from becoming so comfortable with the people already here that we forget the people who have not yet encountered Your love. Give us open eyes to see those around us, generous hearts willing to sacrifice, and courage to take the next step You put before us. Help Brazos Pointe—and each of us—to participate faithfully in Your mission so that more people can discover, develop, and deploy faith in Jesus. Amen.