

The Priority of mission

discussion guide

based on **Acts 13:1-5** (Linked to sermon of 25/6/17)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

Intro: Share what God has been doing in your week, sharing your good point, your bad point and your God point. (What's gone well, not so well, and where have you met God)

Read Acts 13:1-5

1. This passage starts with an introduction to a church team, which includes prophets and teachers. As a group chat about how you have found being in a team in church/your cell, what have been the benefits, and what have been the struggles.
2. Verse 2 tell us that this team were worshipping and fasting together, in the sermon Amy talked about the difference between worshipping on our feet and on our knees...we worship as we go about our day, as we do what God has asked us to do that day, and we worship on our knees when we take time and praise God. How often do you think about worship in these terms? What difference would it make to you if you saw all you did as worship?
3. They also talk about fasting, how many of your cell use fasting regularly? Ask them why they find it helpful, and when they use it. If no one in your group is a faster then maybe think about some other spiritual disciplines and chat about how your group uses them? (Look up Richard Foster and his list and understanding of spiritual disciplines)
4. The men hear the Holy Spirit say 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work of which I have called them'. How best do you hear the Holy Spirit? Look at Acts 9:1-15, the call of Saul, see how his journey has progressed already in just a few chapters. Think a bit about each of your calling from God, how do you know what God is calling you to? How do you prepare yourself for that calling?
5. Saul and Barnabas are called to go...how do you think the men left behind feel? How would you feel?
6. If mission is priority in the church, what does that make you think? Does that make you feel excited, hopeful, afraid, or annoyed (because there are other things to be doing). Chat about how you feel as a group. What do you see as mission opportunities in your life?

Up: Pray for each other that God would fill you afresh with his Holy Spirit, and you would be able to hear his call on your life.

In: Its summer, let's try and spend some time hanging out together in the next few weeks. Why not come as a group to the church BBQ on Sunday 2nd at Anderwood in the New Forest.

Out: Amy shared the story at the end of her sermon that Mother Teresa's feet were deformed from years of choosing the worst shoes for herself and the best for others. Mission might cause pain, how can we support each other in the pain of mission?