

01 THE MISSION CONTINUES

KEY TEXT: ACTS 13:1-12

CENTRAL truth

When someone shows devotion and singular focus to a particular task, we often say that he or she is a “person on a mission.” As we follow Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey, we will see the two men participate in God’s mission. Through this lesson, we’ll learn that **God calls us to partner with Him in His mission to the world.**

key question

What do Paul and Elymas each represent? Why is this important?

Paul is “filled with the Holy Spirit” (v. 9), in contrast to Elymas, whom Paul calls a “son of the devil” (v. 10). The two men represent opposing kingdoms: Paul, the kingdom of God; and Elymas, the kingdom of the devil. Luke weaves the theme of spiritual warfare throughout Acts. In doing so, he makes it abundantly clear which kingdom wins: the kingdom of the one true God.

keep in mind

- As we’ll see in this teaching, the good news and its messengers experience resistance from evil spiritual forces. For many of us, spiritual warfare is a topic shrouded in confusion. Use the **Theology note** in this session to remind students that Jesus’s is victorious and the kingdom of darkness awaits judgment.
- Because of Sergius’s cultural, social, and political background, Barnabas and Paul could have dismissed him as someone who was unlikely to follow Jesus. But they didn’t! Students likely have people in their lives who they think are unlikely to respond to the good news. Perhaps there is even a student within the group that you think falls into this category. But we must continue praying for and serving those who we think are unlikely to put their faith in Jesus. No one is beyond the reach of His power and grace. You and I are evidence of this!

application

How can we pray for and serve the people in our lives who we think are unlikely to follow Jesus?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should be reminded that no one is beyond the saving power and grace of Jesus. The good news will continue to go forth despite resistance.

FOR THE LEADER: As you teach and listen, create an environment where students can be honest about the obstacles they face in their own spiritual journey or the discouragement they feel as they think about friends and family who don’t have a relationship with Jesus. Encourage them with the truth that no one is beyond God’s reach.

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