

Home Group study week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## Set apart by the Holy Spirit

### Read:

#### Acts 13 vv1-5

The church in Antioch was very much the model for the New Testament church: and becoming New Testament churches is the aim of churches like ours, linked into New Frontiers.

We read here that the church had 'prophets' and 'teachers': both prophecy and teaching are gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are then given a list of the 'prophets and teachers', whom we can presume were the elders of the church. They are a very diverse bunch. Barnabas had been sent about 300 miles north to Antioch, then in the Province of Syria (modern-day Turkey), from Jerusalem; Simeon had a Jewish name but is referred to as Niger, so could have been of African origin; Lucius of Cyrene has a Latin name and Cyrene is in Libya; Manean we are told was connected with Herod Antipas, the Roman-appointed governor of Judea and Saul of course was of devout Jewish Pharisee origin, though from Tarsus, along the coast from Antioch.

God seems to love a diverse church. We too now have a diverse eldership and we are a diverse people. Discuss how diversity means that every individual has a unique and important part to play in the church.

Malcolm suggested that as we partner with the Holy Spirit 'each local church has a peculiar vision according to the mix of people'. (*'Peculiar' doesn't mean 'odd' in this context! It means 'particular', 'distinctive', 'special' and 'remarkable'.*) Do you agree that the mix of people in the church affects the vision? What might this mean for Jubilee Church Shepperton?

What activities has the Antioch church been engaged in when the Holy Spirit speaks to them? How might we hear the Spirit speaking more clearly at Jubilee Church? What was the reaction to this word from the Spirit at Antioch? And in v5, what was the result of their obedience to the Holy Spirit?

Malcolm was very clear that we work together as a church in partnership with the Holy Spirit. He said the Holy Spirit made a difference to lives, and gives us a sense of fellowship, working together, not as individuals. 'Apostles planted churches, not individuals', he said. Do you agree? How can we work together as a 'fellowship' and what role does the Holy Spirit play in that? Have a look at 1 Peter 4 v10; what advice does that verse give us?

What are some of the gifts that we have received? Malcolm listed 20 (*see list below*); see how many you can remember between you.

<i>Apostles</i>	<i>Tongues &amp; interpretation</i>	<i>Evangelist</i>
<i>Prophets</i>	<i>of tongues</i>	<i>Faith</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Serving</i>
<i>Miracles</i>	<i>Mercy</i>	<i>Giving</i>
<i>Healing</i>	<i>Discerning spirits</i>	<i>Wisdom</i>
<i>Helps</i>	<i>Encouragement</i>	<i>Hospitality</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>Pastoral</i>	<i>Word of knowledge</i>

Please spend a substantial part of the meeting praying. This is our week of prayer so it would be good to concentrate on the main topic for the day on which you're meeting: please also pray for our new elders and for Alpha, which starts on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

Please encourage people in your group to get along to other sessions too.

**Prayer topics are:**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Praise, worship, prayer for our week of prayer, Jubilee this week
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Alpha, outreach, Jubilee gateways
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Persecuted church, environment, education, NHS and social care
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jubilee young people, young people in our nation
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nation, Queen, Government, UK Church