

TEACHER NOTES:

- a. Here Paul writes Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon (AD 60-61).
 - b. He writes Philippians (AD 62), and II Timothy (AD 67).
- An acronym to remember the progressions of Paul’s missionary journeys: [P-A-C-E-R](#)

[P-Paul](#) [A-Antioch, Pisidia](#) [C-Corinth](#)
[E-Ephesus](#) [R-Rome](#)

In conclusion, we see the results of a church comprised of yielded Christians who were unreservedly obedient to God’s command. Their willingness cast off any restrictions that could have ended with very different results. “So [mightily grew](#) the word of God and [prevailed](#)” Acts 19:20.

Definitions:

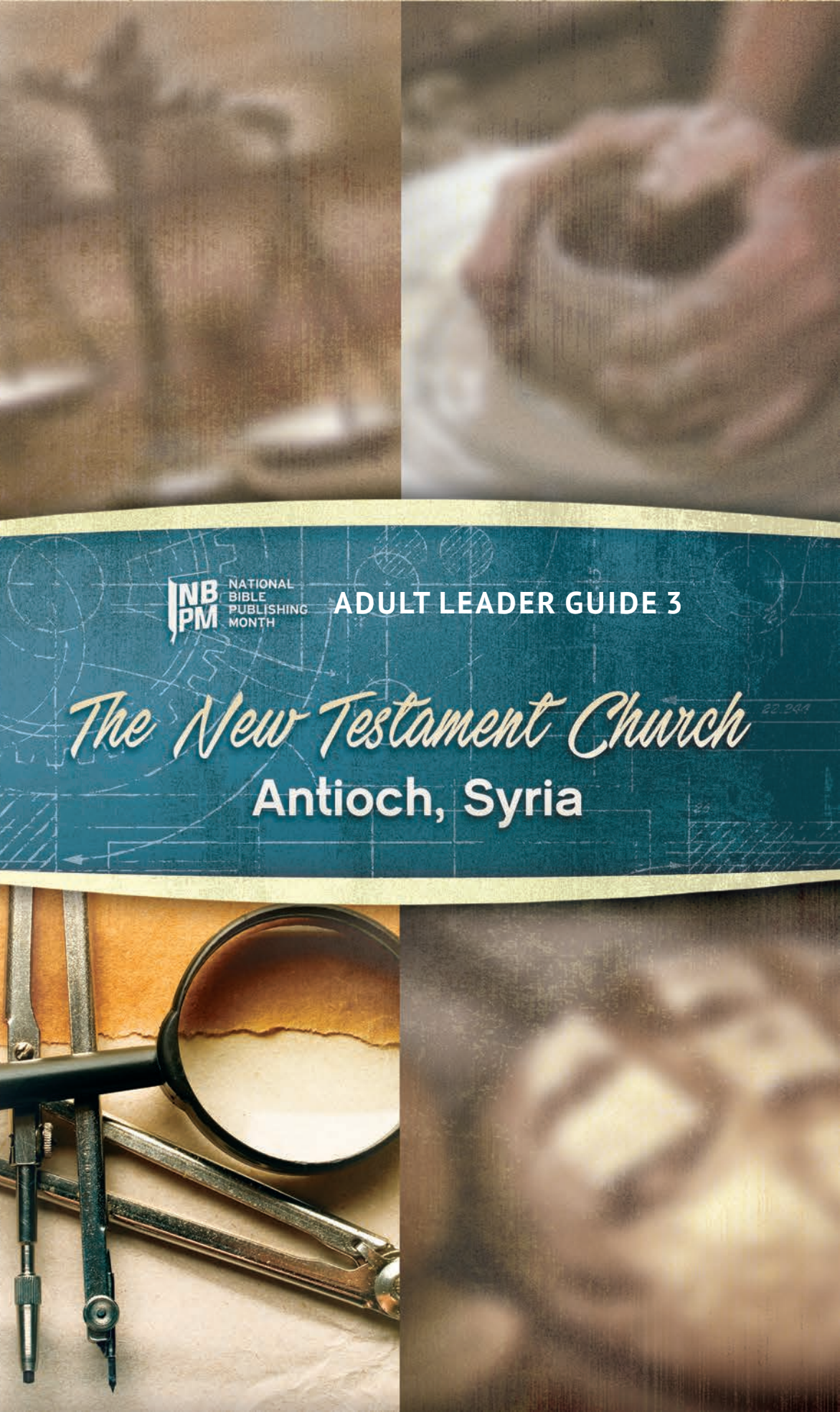
Evangelize - to preach the gospel to

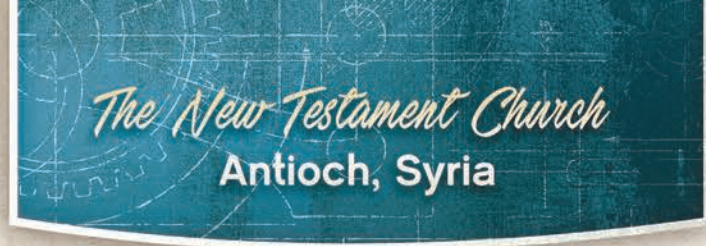
Commission - an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner or perform prescribed acts

Hierarchy - a ruling body of clergy in authority



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio





INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this lesson is to get a glimpse at the God-inspired and preserved record in the Scriptures of a church completely yielded to Him. The church at Jerusalem clearly started out correctly. They experienced a certain level of God’s blessing that paralleled their level of obedience. They partially obeyed and as a result they received a partial taste of God’s power in their church and had an effective range of influence in Jerusalem and in Judea. They had to be scattered and Philip and Peter singled out by God and sent by to Gentiles to spread into parts of Samaria.

The Pattern/Antioch: The church at Antioch was quite different. What God did through them clearly changed the world. The good folks of Antioch obeyed God without regard to any prejudices or personal agendas. They were about introducing Him to as many people as would listen, regardless of color, ethnicity, or prominence in the community. They sent missionary teams out of their own congregation to evangelize the world where they themselves could not get to. They actively tried to impact eternity everywhere they could at the same time.

The Impact: These Christians experienced God in such a personal way that it altered their lifestyles. This was the first place where people were identified as being “*little Christs*” or *Christians* (Acts 11:26). They essentially became the missions model carried out today in our independent Baptist churches. This lesson will look in detail at those traits as well as point out the impact that a “*messenger with the message*” can have in his efforts to evangelize the area where God has called him.

The Evidence: This was a phenomenal church. The membership there had such zeal for the Lord and a genuine love for Him that it resulted in the evidence of their love for others. They served without the restrictions that stifled the church at Jerusalem. These saints had such a powerful testimony, that the term *Christian* became what the world described them as (Acts 11:26).

Antioch is the place where Barnabas brought Saul back to after his conversion. It is said of Paul and Silas, having been sent out by the church at Antioch, that they turned the world upside down for Christ (Acts 17:6). This church established the pattern that we follow for sending missionaries. They chose men who were faithfully serving already. They followed the Holy Spirit’s direction in choosing the men. They prayed and fasted before

doing something this important. They sent them under the authority of their *local* church, not the church at Jerusalem. They sent them out in pairs. The missionaries returned with a report of what God had accomplished on the journey. God began to prove mightily what He could do through people totally yielded to His will and His direction in their lives.

The Challenge: Paul, as the lead missionary, took three missionary trips and another trip to Rome as he was being taken from jurisdiction to jurisdiction for trial. The religious crowd was trying to shut him up so that people would continue to follow them. He preached in front of royalty, and prestigious people along this journey, just as God had told him he would (Acts 9:15). *What could God use your church to accomplish? What could God use you to accomplish for His honor and glory?* God is looking for individuals who will totally surrender and yield all restrictions, aspirations, personal goals, and desires to simply follow Him (Romans 12:1).

The New Testament Church-Antioch, Syria

- I. Their Pattern of [Evangelization](#) (Acts 13).
 - A. They had faithful men who were actively serving the Lord in the church (Acts 13:2).
 - B. They were sensitive to the Holy Ghost’s direction for their service (Acts 13:2).
 - C. They did not take the sending out of missionaries lightly. They fasted and prayed first (Acts 13:3).
 - D. They [commissioned](#) them through THEIR local church, not a hierarchy from Jerusalem (Acts 13:3).
 - E. They sent them out as a team (Acts 13:3).
- II. The first “sent out” missionaries and their *first* missionary journey (Acts 13:1-14:28)
 - A. Date of trip: AD 47-49
 - B. Missionaries sent: Paul, Barnabas, John Mark
 - C. Main travel area: Cyprus, Turkey
 - D. Distance traveled: 1400 miles
 - E. Cities/Places
 1. Approximately 13
 2. Primary city was Antioch, Pisidia (Acts 13:14).
 - a. Turkey today
 - b. Paul writes Galatians from here (AD 49).
 - F. They planted churches in key areas (Acts 14:23).
 - G. They established accountability and training for these churches (Acts 14:21-22).
 - H. They reported back to the sending church (Acts 14:26-27).

- III. The first “sent out” missionaries and their *second* missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)
 - A. Missionaries sent
 1. Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus following a disagreement with Paul (Acts 15:39).
 2. Paul, Silas
 - B. Date of Paul’s trip: AD 49-51
 - C. Main travel area: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem
 - D. Distance traveled: 2800 miles
 - E. Cities/Places
 1. Approx. 17
 2. Main city was Corinth
 - a. Paul writes I and II Thessalonians (AD 51), Romans (AD 57), Titus (AD 63)
 - b. Aquila and Priscilla join the team from here (Acts 18:2)
 3. Timothy joins the team from Derbe and Lystra (Acts 16:1)
 - F. They maintained accountability and training in the churches (Acts 15:36; 16:4-5; 18:23).

- IV. The first “sent out” missionaries and their *third* missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:16)
 - A. Missionaries sent: Paul, Timothy, Luke, others
 - B. Dates of the trip: AD 52-57
 - C. Main travel area: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Israel
 - D. Distance traveled: 2700 miles
 - E. Cities/Places
 1. Approx. 20
 2. Main city was Ephesus; Paul writes I Corinthians from here (AD 56).
 3. Macedonia: Paul writes II Corinthians (AD 56) and I Timothy (AD 62/63).
 4. Caesarea: Paul’s death prophesied by Agabus here (Acts 21:11).

- V. Their missionary is arrested (Acts 21:32-33) and begins the lengthy trip ending in Rome for trial. Paul faithfully preaches at each opportunity along the way (Acts 21:17-28:31)
 - A. Travelers: Paul, Luke, Roman guards, other believers
 - B. Dates of the trip: AD 57-62
 - C. Main travel area: Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Crete, Malta, Sicily, Italy
 - D. Distance traveled: 2250 miles
 - E. Cities/Places
 1. Approximately 13
 2. Main city was Rome