Life Group Discussion Questions

Message: A Spirit-empowered life
Date: October 25

UP – Knowing Jesus Intimately

1. Acts 13:2 notes that the leaders in Antioch were *"worshipping the Lord and fasting"* when the Holy Spirit spoke. Why do you think those three (worship, prayer, fasting) work so well in opening ourselves to hearing from God?

2. The Holy Spirit explicitly said, *"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them"*(Acts 13:2). How do you think the early church thought about that? Do you think they were excited to send Barnabas and Saul…or do you think they were hesitant? And why?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Proverbs 3:5–6** and **Romans 12:1–2**. How does surrendering our plans allow the Spirit to direct our path?

3. We've defined a disciple as *"a follower of Jesus who hears from God and does what He says."* What does it look like in everyday life to "walk by the Spirit" as Galatians 5:16 and 25 put it?

4. In Acts 13:3, before sending Barnabas and Saul out, the church fasted, prayed, and placed their hands on them. Why was it important that the church did this together?

IN – Being Known Authentically

5. The church in Antioch had a diverse group of leaders praying together (Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul) – simply based on their names we know they were from different parts of the world. How do you think the *diversity of this group* helped in the discerning process of what God was doing?

6. The Holy Spirit spoke to the leaders while they were seeking God as a team, not just as isolated individuals. Has there been a time when fellow believers helped you confirm what the Holy Spirit was calling you to do?

7. Sending out Barnabas and Saul meant the church in Antioch was giving up two of its best teachers. What does this look like within a Life Group when God calls people to move, change roles, or step into a new ministry calling?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Philippians 2:3–4** and **1 Corinthians 12:25–26**.

OUT – Making Jesus Known Practically

8. Acts 13 marks the launching pad for Paul's 1st Missionary Journey into the broader Gentile world. How does living a Spirit-empowered life push us beyond our comfort zone to share the gospel with people outside our normal social circles?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Acts 1:8**. How does the Holy Spirit equip us to be witnesses locally and beyond?

9. Barnabas and Saul were sent out by their local church to make Jesus known practically. Who in your daily life (a coworker, neighbor, or family member) do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to reach out to or pray for this week?

10. Based on this teaching and the discussion, what is one concrete step of obedience you can take at work, school, or home this week?