Power to cross cultures. Acts 13 - 14

God’s love is for everyone Acts 13 onwards

* The Holy Spirit calls – Individuals and churches
* The Holy Spirit leads – set apart for me, sent by the Holy Spirit
* The Holy Spirit equips – 13:9 Paul filled with the Holy Spirit (Matt 10:19)

God’s love is shared relationally

* Barnabas is from Cyprus! Acts 4:36
* Synagogue based ministry on the south coast
* The pro consul – Sergius Paulus sees, listens and believes. His family base is Pisidian Antioch

God’s love is shared sacrificially

* Paul gets sick! Galatians 4:13
* A hearing is given but jealousy and abuse follow 13:44
* We now turn to the gentiles
* Paul and Barnabas ran out of town!
* They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city 14:19
* Acts 14:22 ‘We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.’

God’s love is shared from city to city

* Cyprus to Turkey
* Coastal town to inland areas

God’s love is shared miraculously

* Elymas – temporarily blind
* Signs and wonders in Iconium
* A paralysed man is healed in Derbe

God’s work is reported Acts 14:27

Digging Deeper

1. What experience have you had of living in a different culture or working with someone from a different culture?
2. Barnabas and Paul share the gospel in the synagogues first. Why do you think they did that and what was the response?
3. Why does the gospel generate such a mixed response in Acts 13 14 and do we see the same thing happening today?
4. In what ways do you see God at work in this first mission journey of Barnabas and Paul? Does it make you want to go and be involved?
5. Why does this account start by referring to Barnabas and Saul but end with Paul and Barnabas? What role did Barnabas have in Saul/Paul’s life?
6. How frequently do we pray for God to send out workers into the harvest field? Matthew 9:38
7. How can we grow in our understanding and support of the people and organisations we give to as a church?