

200301 Acts 13 A church that counts the cost of mission is...

Icebreaker: Go round the room and get each person to share 3 words that they think would describe an amazing church i.e. Prayerful, Powerful, Biblical etc.

Read Acts 12:25-13:12. Luke shifts the focus from Peter and Jerusalem to Paul and mission to the world. The church in Antioch is the sending base for Paul's missionary journeys. What was it like?

1. Rich in diversity.

- The church had prophets and teachers (and we know of other gifts in Paul and Barnabas). What spiritual gifts do you think you have? How do you use them in serving and building the church? NB. You might want to read Romans 12:4-13, 1Cor. 12:1-11
- Rich in cultural diversity. Where do you see this at Jubilee? What do you enjoy about it? Where could we work harder at being more culturally diverse?
- Rich in social diversity. Where do you see this at Jubilee? What do you enjoy/fear about it? Where could we work harder at being more socially diverse?

2. **A church that fasts.** What is fasting and why do we do it? What do you think about the idea of fasting? What were the wrong and right motives Ben spoke about when it comes to fasting?

3. **Hungry to hear from God.** How do we hear from God? Ben spoke about the idea of Say, Weigh and Obey. What did he mean by this? (see below for help)

- SAY: Create time and space for the Holy Spirit to speak
- WEIGH: Discerning if what has been heard is from God
- OBEY: Be quick to do what God has spoken

4. **Obedient even when it's painful.** What is the last thing you remember being obedient to God in that was painful? Ben said that being a church on mission will cost us time, resources, people, energy and finances. Rank from most to least what you find it easiest to give of those things and which you find hardest. Why?

5. **Expectant of opposition and wise in dealing with it.** What was the last 'opposition' you recall coming up against when it comes to being a Christian? Do you find yourself someone who would want to fight back or run away and hide? What can we learn from the way in which Paul deals with Elymas?