ASK.

August 2, 2026

LESSON 2 - The Prayer Meeting that Changed the World

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings
Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.
Venue: Public place *(school, café, park, etc.) or* ***Via Online****,*
Testimonies: ***"What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"***
Ask someone to do the opening prayer.

WELCOME (10 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.
Ice-breaker: What is the best advice you have ever been given?

WORD(30-45 MINS)

Main Text: Acts 13:1-3 (NKJV)

Intro: When studying a successful person's or group's path to success, we seek to identify the specific events, circumstances, or defining moments that launched them on the journey to greatness. We also seek to learn from their experiences.

As we study the great prayers of the Bible, we ask a similar question: What role did prayer play, and what kinds of prayers were offered to God that resulted in extraordinary lives and supernatural ministry on earth?

Many Bible scholars regard the apostle Paul as the greatest missionary and one of the most influential figures in the New Testament. A defining moment in his missionary ministry occurred during a prayer meeting in the church at Antioch. That prayer gathering became the launching point of Paul's first missionary journey and the beginning of his global missionary ministry. This highlights the importance of prayer in the mission of the church.

1) They sought God's direction through prayer

The world "minister" translated into Greek is the word, **"leitourgeō".** It means: *to serve, to perform a service, to carry out a sacred duty, or to minister in a priestly way.*

The early church of Antioch were worshiping and serving God while also seeking His direction. They were not merely singing songs, offering praise, or giving thanks as a religious ritual or empty lip service. Rather, they were fully surrendering themselves to God as their Lord, devoted to obeying Him and ready to follow whatever He commanded them to do.

The early church did not pray vague prayers; they prayed with specific requests, and God responded with specific answers **(Read Acts 13:2).** They also prayed for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost **(Acts 2)**. They prayed for boldness after they were threatened and persecuted, and God answered by filling them with the Holy Spirit, enabling them to speak the word of God with boldness **(Acts 4:23–31)**.

If we truly desire to receive clear direction from God (a specific calling, task, or assignment), we must first minister to Him by surrendering our lives fully in worship and seeking His will. As we humble ourselves before Him and listen for His guidance, He is faithful to reveal His direction and purpose for our lives. **(Read Proverbs 3:5)**

Q: Is there anything specific in your life that you need God's direction on?

2) They sought God with fasting

The word translated "fasting" comes from the Greek word, **nēsteuō.** It means: To abstain from food; to go without eating for a spiritual purpose; to voluntarily deny oneself food in order to seek God.

Fasting is an act of humility, dependence and consecration **(Read Ezra 8:21)**. As we humble ourselves through prayer and fasting, we receive God's grace and have access to His heart.

Fasting also helps us become sensitive to the Holy Spirit. When we deny ourselves of natural cravings and worldly distractions, we become more sensitive to God's voice. Then, we are better able to focus on God and submit to His will.

Fasting is not trying to get God to do what we want. It is positioning ourselves to hear what God wants and surrendering ourselves to obey it.

Q: What comes to mind when you hear the word "surrender"?

What is one specific area of your life that feels the hardest to surrender to God right now?

***3*) After receiving God's direction, they prayed and fasted again**

Before Barnabas and Saul (Paul) were sent into their missionary assignment, they and their companions prayed and fasted again. They did not rush into action after hearing God's direction. They sought God before receiving the assignment, and they sought God again before carrying out the assignment.

Their pattern was:
Worship → Seek God → Receive Direction → Pray and Fast → Commission → Go

The church at Antioch teaches us that surrender is not a one time thing, but a daily thing. A quote by Ptr. Craig Groeschel says, **"Successful people do consistently what others do occasionally".**

Q: How would you describe your prayer life?

Conclusion:

The purpose of prayer is not just to get something from God, it is to be with Him relationally.

It is time to take prayer seriously, praying to seek God's direction, with the intent to fully follow the Lord and obey Him.

The devil's favorite kind of Christian is the one who is busy but prayerless, gifted but undisciplined, and is informed but unchanged.
Time to take action, time to pray like the early church

Q: Describe your experience with prayer (Have not done it before, answered prayer, waiting)

WORK(15 MINS)

Application
1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer