[**Here’s a map**](https://www.conformingtojesus.com/images/webpages/pauls_journeys_map1.jpg) **to help you see where Paul is traveling. These chapters describe his “first journey,” so follow the navy blue arrows that start at Antioch (in Syria) and move west to Cyprus.**

**Chapter 13**

### Barnabas and Paul are Commissioned and Begin Their First Journey (13:1-12)

|  |
| --- |
| Summary |
| * The Holy Spirit directs the prophets and teachers in Antioch to set apart Barnabas and Saul/Paul for certain work. Barnabas and Saul/Paul set off for Cyprus, where they preach in the Jewish synagogues (with some help from John).
* Barnabas and Saul are summoned to meet with a proconsul who wants to hear the word of God. A “magician, a Jewish false prophet” named Bar-Jesus/Elymas tries to intervene, and Saul asks him why he would not “stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord.” Saul tells Elymas that the Lord is going strike him blind, and Elymas is blinded, “groping for someone to lead him by the hand.”
* The proconsul is astonished at the teaching and believes.
 |

* **Paul and Barnabas in Antioch in Pisidia (13:13-48)**

|  |
| --- |
| Summary |
| (Luke uses “Paul” instead of “Saul” from this point on.)* John leaves Paul and Barnabas, who end up in Antioch in Pisidia (not to be confused with the Antioch in Syria). They attend the synagogue on the sabbath and are invited to speak.
* Paul runs through the history of the people of Israel, connecting Jesus to the line of David. He explains that the message of God’s salvation (Jesus) was sent to the Jews, the descendants of Abraham, but they did not recognize him and killed him. God raised Jesus from the dead, and “through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you” and “everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”
* The people ask Paul and Barnabas to return the next week, so they do, with “almost the whole city” showing up. The Jews are “filled with jealousy” and try to counter the apostles.
* Paul and Barnabas say that it was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to the Jews, but since they are rejecting it, they are turning now to the gentiles.
* The gentiles are glad and “as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.” And the Word spreads.
* But the Jews incite the Jewish elites, who drive Paul and Barnabas out of the region. They head to Iconium.
 |

**Chapter 14**

### Paul and Barnabas Preach in Iconium and then in Lystra and Derbe (14:1-20)

|  |
| --- |
| Summary |
| * The same thing happens in Iconium: Paul and Barnabas speak in the synagogue, and the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles stir up the people. Paul and Barnabas discover a plot to stone them and flee to Lystra and Derbe (in Lycaonia), where they continue to preach.
* In Lystra, Paul heals a man crippled from birth, who watched Paul intently while he preached. Paul saw that he had “faith to be healed.”
* The crowds begin to believe Paul and Barnabas are gods (Zeus = Barnabas; Hermes = Paul). The priests from the temple of Zeus even want to give sacrifices.
* Barnabas and Paul tear their clothes and beseech the crowd to stop. They explain that they are just mortals bringing the good news. They beg the crowd to turn from “these worthless things to the living God,” who made all things. They say God has allowed nations to follow their own ways but has provided a “**witness in doing good**: giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.”
* Jews come from Antioch and Iconium to discredit the apostles. They stone Paul and leave him for dead outside the city. But the disciples surround him and he survives. He leaves the next day for Derbe with Barnabas.
 |

### Paul and Barnabas Continue Their Travels and Complete Their Journey (14:21-28)

|  |
| --- |
| Summary |
| * Paul and Barnabas proclaim the good news in Derbe and then travel to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia.
* In Antioch in Pisidia, they encourage the disciples in their faith saying, “It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.”
* They appoint elders in each church.
* Paul and Barnabas continue their travels and then sail back to Antioch in Syria.
* They share with the church “all that God had done with them” and how God had “opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.”
* Paul and Barnabas stay with the disciples in Antioch “for some time.”
 |

**Chapter 15**

* **The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-35)**

|  |
| --- |
| Summary |
| * A group of individuals came from Judea, claiming people could not be saved without circumcision. This created “no small dissension and debate” between the group and Paul and Barnabas. At the end, they decided to confer with the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.
* At the Jerusalem Council (around 50 A.D.), some (former?) Pharisees insist on circumcision. Peter reminds them about his vision (with the animals on the sheet), and how God had given the Holy Spirit to the gentiles. He maintains that requiring circumcision (and following of Jewish law) will place “on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear.” He claims both “we” and “they” will be saved through the grace of Jesus.
* Paul and Barnabas share what God had done through them among the Gentiles.
* James proposes a compromise: Gentiles do not have to follow the Jewish law, except to abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from fornication. Everyone agrees.
* The apostles and elders send a letter with Judas and Silas to the gentile churches in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia clarifying the matter. In Antioch, the letter is met with rejoicing, and after encouraging and strengthening the believers, Judas and Silas continue their journey.
* Paul and Barnabas remain in Antioch, proclaiming the word of the Lord.
 |

* **Paul and Barnabas Argue and Separate (15:36-41)**

|  |
| --- |
| Summary |
| * Paul suggests to Barnabas that they visit the churches they’ve started. However, Barnabas wants to take John Mark, who had left their mission in Ch. 13. Paul considers John Mark a deserter, and refuses. They end up parting company. Barnabas takes John Mark and heads to Cyprus while Paul takes on Silas and heads for Syria and Cilicia.
 |