



May 9, 2013

Looking Forward to the Future: On a Mission

Home Time is a weekly devotional that follow's Dr. Brooks' weekend message. If you'd like to listen to the message, please to go www.tallowood.org.

How to use Home Time: Home Time can be used as a daily devotional throughout the week. Read a section a day while memorizing scripture daily.

Memorize: John 20:21

Read: Acts 13:1-5

This past weekend Dr. Brooks preached on the 4th 20/20 Vision Committee group: Missions. He spoke about how each of should see ourselves as being on a mission from God to take the gospel to everyone we meet. If we look at the church in Antioch, they were not only sending people to share the gospel other places but those that stayed behind made it a point to share the gospel with their city as well. Remember, the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 12:26). Being a missional church means believing that all of us have been called to share the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit wherever God may send us. It means being willing to go ourselves as well as being willing to send others whom God has called. The church at Antioch was probably sad to see Paul and Barnabas go but that didn't stop them from sending them with prayer, thanksgiving, and continued support throughout the course of their ministry. So really the question we have to ask ourselves this week is "are we missional?" The Bible is clear that God is and he has given us the awesome opportunity to join him in that. It may not always be comfortable or easy but there is no greater purpose we can have in life than sharing God's love and salvation with the people he places in our lives while helping others to do the same. Will you join us in doing that this week?

For Families with Preschoolers:

This week Dr. Brooks preached about being on mission. In Acts we hear about Paul & Barnabas being sent out to tell others about Jesus. Here are a few talking points to guide conversation with your preschooler:

- Do you know what a missionary is? Who in the Bible was a missionary? What did they do that made them a missionary?
- Do you know any missionaries that live in other countries? (mom & dad, it might be good to mention a missionary from Tallowood)
- What can we do to tell others about Jesus, just like Paul & Barnabas? We too can be “on mission.” Talk to your child about how sometimes missionaries go to other countries to tell people about Jesus, and sometimes we stay right here in Houston to tell people about Jesus. Everyone we come in contact with needs Jesus.
- For more about Tallowood's missions programs click [here](#).

This week as a family pray together for someone that you all know who isn't a Christian. Maybe it's someone in your family, maybe it's your hair dresser or the person who mows your lawn. Talk to your child about how God wants everyone to know Him and we should tell them about Jesus! Encourage your child to think of a friend that doesn't go to church and then invite that child to come with you to church some time.

For Families with Children (Grades 1-5):

Read Acts 13:1-5

Begin by asking your family to define “church.” Lead them to discover that the church is a group of Christians who meet together to worship God, pray, study the Bible, serve, give, love and encourage other Christians, and tell others about Jesus . Fill in the blanks: Tallowood Baptist Church is a group of Christians who meet together in the buildings at 555 Tallowood to _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

Ask, “What did God tell the church at Antioch to do?” (Send Saul and Barnabas as missionaries to Cyprus.) Why did God want Barnabas and Saul to go to Cyprus? (Acts 13: 4- 5) What command from God was the church at Antioch obeying when they sent Barnabas and Saul? (Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8.)

How does God speak to the Christians at Tallowood? What are some ways the Christians at Tallowood obey God's command to go and tell? Brainstorm with your family. Take a look at www.tallowood.org to find ways Tallowood is a church similar to the church at Antioch. Show your family Tallowood's website and explore it together. How will your family serve this week?

For Families with Students:

Read Acts 13:1-5

When you think of a missionary what comes to mind? Growing up, I always tended to think of missionaries as being people that took the gospel to foreign countries and places that other people just didn't really want to go. After all, whenever you see them coming back on Sunday mornings or hear about them in Sunday School, that's usually the context. I wonder what kind of difference it would have made if I'd also heard about people being missionaries to the inner city, or to their neighbors, or even to the people in band or on the basketball team. The fact is that God calls all of us to be missionaries in one way or another. In Antioch, he called Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries to other cities in the Roman Empire, but he was still calling the people they left behind to be missionaries to their city as well. So where is God calling you to take his message of love and salvation in your life? Is there someone in your classes that needs to hear the gospel? Is there someone on the football or volleyball team that needs to know God's love? Are you in band or orchestra with someone who needs Christ? Pray and ask God to help you see the people in your life as he sees them and to love them like he loves them. And finally, trust that God will show you how to share your faith with them. Being a missionary to your school can seem like a daunting responsibility but we're not called to do it alone. God promised that he would be with us and no one wants the people you know to know God more than He does.