

completely broke me. It felt like “the road to Damascus” kind of experience. It was as if God had shown a bright blinding light in my life and had spoken to me, giving me direction to be involved in missions in some way. I knew my “friends” were not going to be happy about this, but that was no longer important to me; I hadn’t known this sort of peace and happiness for a long time. That Sunday, I announced my decision to my church and it was amazing to see God make the changes I needed in my life. I immediately lost my old friends, but quickly gained the right kind of influences I needed for spiritual support. I got busy doing whatever I could to serve in various areas of the church that helped in my preparation for missions.

God has never failed me since and never will. I love missions. There are millions of people out there who are miserable and are searching for something or someone to change their lives for the better. God is the one to do that change and I am honored that He has chosen me to be a part of His mission!



Discussion Questions:

- *What are the characteristics of a true friend?*
- *In Lisa’s testimony, she made a decision for God and then she made that decision public. How do you think making a spiritual decision public before your church would help you?*
- *How could your church family help you in your decision?*
- *After Lisa changed her direction, she did everything she could to serve the Lord and prepare for the mission field. What are some practical things your church can help you with in preparation for service?*
- *In this testimony, Lisa struggled with peer pressure. What is peer pressure and is it any different in a Christian environment?*
- *What are some ways to deal with peer pressure and how did Lisa’s involvement in service help her overcome it?*

Definitions:

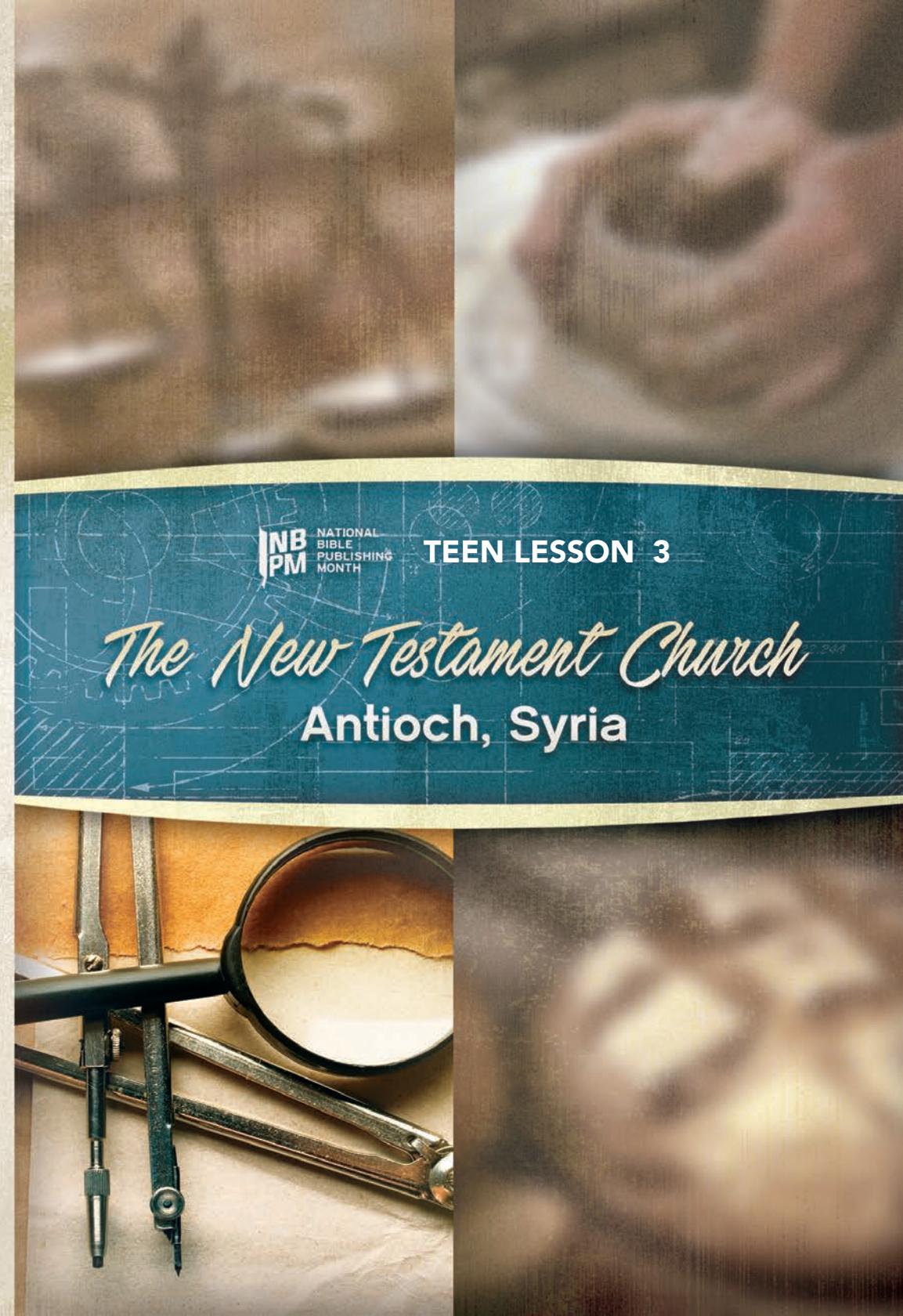
Evangelize - to preach the gospel to

Commission - an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner or perform prescribed acts

Hierarchy - a ruling body of clergy in authority



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio



The New Testament Church Antioch, Syria

Acts 11:22-26; 13:1-5:

The Christians at Antioch experienced God in such a personal way that it altered their lifestyles. This was the first place where people were identified as being “little Christs” or *Christians* (Acts 11:26). They essentially became the *missions model* carried out today in our evangelical churches. This lesson will look in detail at those traits as well as point out the impact that a “messenger with the message” can have in his efforts to evangelize the area where God has called him.

The Church at Antioch:

- A Phenomenal church. These saints had such a powerful testimony, that the term Christian became what the world described them as (Acts 11:26).
- Sent out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:6).
- Established the pattern that we follow for sending missionaries.

Their Pattern of Evangelization (Acts 13):

- They had faithful men who were actively serving the Lord in the church (Acts 13:2).
- They were sensitive to the Holy Ghost’s direction for their service (Acts 13:2).
- They did not take the sending out of missionaries lightly. They fasted and prayed first (Acts 13:3).
- They commissioned them through THEIR local church, not a hierarchy from Jerusalem (Acts 13:3).
- They sent them out as a team (Acts 13:3).

Discussion:

Why do you think it was important that those sent out were already actively serving in the church? Why is a team concept important in ministry?

Acts 13:1-14:28; Acts 15:36-18:22; Acts 18:23-21:16 :

God is looking for individuals who will totally surrender and yield all restrictions, aspirations, personal goals, and desires to simply follow Him (Romans 12:1).

Conclusion:

The result- “So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed” (Acts 19:20).

What could God do with a life of total surrender to Him? What could be accomplished for His glory if a youth group or Sunday School class would take time to pray and fast? What are you going to change in your life so that the Great Commission is fulfilled in your generation?

The Value of Influence by Lisa Turnbull

I was fortunate to have grown up in the Christian home that I did. I had spiritual truths instilled in me from the beginning of my life and came to know the Lord as my Savior at the age of five. My parents were leaders in the ministry of Master Clubs at our church and required no less than my best in everything. Early on, I observed that my whole family seemed to have a good godly reputation in our church and therefore I felt somewhat pressured to have that same reputation. In spite of this, when I reached Junior High, I fell into the peer pressure of trying to be popular.

For three years of my life, I played the part of a good church-going Christian who was completely surrendered. However, outside of church I had become spiritually empty. I was too busy trying to please my friends. It took me three long years to realize that being popular was not about being a good spiritual leader or being friendly to everyone; it was a quest that led to shallow emptiness and often hurtful attitudes and actions toward others. I knew in my heart I was not where I should be. I thought repeatedly, “I was raised better than this!” The last half of ninth grade, I cried myself to sleep every night because I wanted to be where God wanted me to be, but I didn’t have the back bone to walk away from my so-called “friends.”

I was glad when school ended so I was not under the constant pressure of trying to be popular, but I still felt spiritually empty. I believe God was testing me to see how serious I was about changing my ways. I was desperate for God’s presence in my life and finally gained it when I realized I had first to obey Him.

A true friend invited me to go to a small missions conference with her one weekend. I quickly accepted the invitation since I was willing to do anything to find God’s will for my life. The first night, I could immediately feel the presence of the Lord and was feeling convicted about the very real need in missions. I could not wait for the second night. I cannot tell you what the preacher preached about, but God