

# Empowered Evangelism:

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

MAP 13



## *Spontaneous or Strategic?*

# Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource  
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region  
Church of the Nazarene

# Acknowledgments

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# Preparation Checklist

**The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.**

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
  - Pens and/or pencils
  - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
  - Projector
  - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

# Empowered Evangelism: Spontaneous or Strategic?

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

Module at a Glance

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Introduction	5 mins.	5	Introduce module, purpose, and objectives.
II. Lecture	25 mins.	6	Observe the divine and human dynamics in the Church and sense the tension between spontaneous and strategic evangelism.
III. Small Group Discussion	15 mins.	11	Note how the church at Philippi starts because of God's intervention and human interaction.
IV. Action Planning	15 mins.	11	Employ human plans and pray for divine assistance.
V. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.	11	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
<b>Total Module Time: 65 mins.</b>			

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# I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

*The purpose of this module is:*

- ***To grasp how the Holy Spirit ministered through the church;***
- ***To look for opportunities opened by the Spirit;***
- ***To become useful to the Holy Spirit for evangelism.***

*Things to Keep in Mind...*

- 1. The disciples’ concern was kingdom restoration (Acts 1:6).*
- 2. Evidently the disciples wanted to know more about God’s timetable (Acts 1:7).*
- 3. Jesus refused to give them all the information they wanted.*
- 4. He made it clear He was leaving, the disciples were staying, and the Holy Spirit was coming.*
- 5. He assured them they would be filled with His Spirit and they would become witnesses (Acts 1:8).*
- 6. We can view Acts as outlined by Acts 1:8 and conclude the New Testament Church strategically planned to move from Jerusalem to Judea and then Samaria with the Gospel.*
- 7. Some biblical interpreters see the Church selecting certain cities to evangelize.*
- 8. Others point out the Church targeted centers of Roman administration, Greek civilization, Jewish influence and commercial importance, e.g. Philippi, Corinth, Cyprus and Ephesus.*
- 9. The Church appears to focus on specific provinces in which to plant congregations (Acts 19:21).*

Notes

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## II. Lecture

(20 minutes)

Notes

- I. Persecution quickly impacted the fledgling Church.
  - A. Persecution **SCATTERED** the disciples from Jerusalem (Acts 8:4).
  - B. Philip going to Samaria to minister is an example of the dispersed disciples **MOVING** into new areas.
  - C. The Jerusalem church had shown no signs of becoming missionary.
  - D. Persecution **CAUSED** the Church to take the Good News elsewhere.
  - E. The human impulse to **RUN** to safety united with the divine impulse to witness
- II. Planned or spontaneous evangelism?
  - A. The work of the early church probably was more spontaneous than it was planned.
  - B. Antioch was a city where the Jew/Gentile **BARRIERS** were slight.
  - C. No official policy in the Jerusalem church **INDICATES** this city was to be evangelized.
  - D. Disciples who could not keep quiet about their faith **ACTED** spontaneously where doors were open and people were responsive.
  - E. Berea was not as large as some other cities in Macedonia, but the Spirit seemingly **LED** Christians there.
- III. Spirit-directed or humanly led?
  - A. The role of key personnel
    1. Paul seemed to **TARGET** leaders in the community for evangelization.
    2. The proconsul of Cyprus, chief man in Malta, procurators, Felix and Festus, King Agrippa, Bernice and the Emperor serve as examples.
    3. These individuals had no greater value, but they did have immense influence.

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## II. Lecture (cont.)

### Notes

4. On the other hand, the Spirit **RECRUITED** Philip to encounter the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40).
5. The Spirit **PUSHED** Peter to go to Cornelius (Acts 10).
6. The Church **LISTENED** to the Spirit who selected Barnabas and Saul to evangelize.

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### B. Natural channels

1. Paul chose to **WORK** along natural means of communication in the Roman Empire.
2. Every major area where Christians were effective in the first century, the Jews were there first.
3. When Paul went to Cyprus (Acts 13:5-8), he preached in synagogues.
4. He **PREACHED** first to the Jews in their synagogues (Romans 1:16).
5. Going to the Jewish synagogues seemed to be a good beginning place for Gentile ministry as well, because God-seekers were found in the synagogues.
6. Paul's strategy began in the synagogues (Acts 17:2).

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### C. Indigenous churches.

1. The longest Paul stayed was two years.
2. He would find converts, **ORGANIZE** them, move on and send letters.
3. He would **"PIGGY-BACK"** on the work the Spirit who had preceded him.

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## IV. People of God as evangelists

### A. All Christians **BECAME** evangelists.

1. Roving ministers did not stay long in one place.
2. Congregations **DEPENDED** upon the spiritual gifts of its members to sustain vitality.

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## II. Lecture (cont.)

### Notes

3. Christians were not **ELECTED** by a church, but felt called of God to evangelize.

B. Local pastors were **ENGAGED** in evangelism (II Tim. 4:5).

1. They built up Christians in such a way that each person discovered and **EXERCISED** their unique ministries.
2. In an address to Ephesian pastors, Paul sets his own evangelistic example before them (Acts 20:17-21).

C. Theologians and philosophers

1. Early schools were set up as evangelistic agencies.
2. The purpose of these schools was to **BRING** all kinds of people with various intellectual abilities to the truth about God as revealed in Christ Jesus.

D. Informal missionaries

1. The great mission of Christianity was **ACCOMPLISHED** by informal missionaries.
2. Christianity was primarily a **LAY** movement (Acts 8).
3. Women, such as Dorcas, Lydia, Drusilla, the four prophesying daughters of Philip, upper-class women of Berea and Thessalonica, **SHARED** their faith.
4. Eight of twenty-six greetings in the Book of Romans, are directed to women.

V. The character of Christians

A. The quality of Paul's life **CONVINCED** the Thessalonians his message was the Word of God (I Thessalonians 2:1-14).

B. Law abiding

1. Claudius Lysias **WRITES** to Governor Felix assuring the governor of Paul's innocence (Acts 23:26-30).

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## II. Lecture (cont.)

### Notes

2. Many charges of wrongdoing were **AIMED** at Paul and the disciples (Acts 24:5-6).
3. Luke is intent upon showing impartial and competent judges **CONFIRMING** the innocence of Christians.

### C. Humility

1. When miracles took place, the early Christians wanted to point to the work of God (Acts 3:12-13).
2. Miracles were to bring people to Christ and to bring glory to God.

### D. Sacrifice

1. Paul and Barnabas were willing to **RISK** their lives (Acts 15:26).
2. Their frequent persecutions **BECAME** their credentials.

### E. Obedience to God

1. Obeying God **RECEIVED** higher priority than obedience to humans (Acts 5:29).
2. The Holy Spirit was **GIVEN** to those who obeyed (Acts 5:32).
3. Even spiritual leaders inside of Judaism began to serve God (Acts 6:7).
4. Paul **AVOWED** his obedience to the Lord (Acts 26:19).
5. The disciples were **RESPONSIVE** to God's commands (Acts 5:20).
6. They eagerly **FOLLOWED** the impulse of the Great Commission (Acts 5:21).
7. They were subject to the Holy Spirit's direction (Acts 26:27).
8. Peter **RESPONDS** to the Spirit's direction (Acts 10:20-21).

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## II. Lecture (cont.)

### Notes

#### F. Intensity

1. Paul **GAVE** himself completely to teaching the Word when he got help from Silas and Timothy (Acts 18:5).
2. Paul was able to **TEACH** full-time after he made tents (Acts 18:3).
3. Paul **FOCUSED** on God's mission of testifying to the Gospel (Acts 20:24).

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#### G. Joy

1. The disciples **CONSIDERED** it sheer joy when they were able to share the claims of the gospel.
2. Conversion and joy were closely related (Acts 8:8, 13:52, 15:3).

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## III. Small Group Discussion

(15 Minutes)

Read Acts 16:11-40. Discuss the following questions:

1. How do you see God at work in this story?
2. Describe the human dynamics in this account.
3. Evaluate the divine and human factors in starting a congregation in Philippi.

## IV. Action Planning

(15 Minutes)

1. How can you personally and together as a congregation unite with the Spirit to reach people for Christ?
2. What characteristics of the New Testament Christians will you imitate?
3. To whom will you go in your community to share Good News?
4. What groups of people in your community are receptive to the Gospel?
5. Schedule prayer for improved evangelistic effectiveness.

## V. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.
- Close in prayer asking God to help us offer invitations to discover God.

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