

## INTRO

- What is something you look forward to doing in the summer?
- Do you have any summer vacation plans?

## READ

Acts 11:19-26

Antioch was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in the ancient Roman world with a population of 500,000. It was a wealthy city and ethnically diverse. Its population included Greek, Roman, Jewish, Arabic, Persians and more.

Key Verse:

So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. v25-26a

What happened through Paul in the Antioch church was nothing short of spectacular. Paul was the right person, in the right place, with the right purpose. That one divine placement changed the face of the church and eventually the world as Antioch became the most powerful missional church of the era.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

### THE RIGHT PERSON

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

*Qu: What can we learn from Paul's willingness to use his great talents to extend the kingdom of God?*

*Qu: How are you using your gifts and talents to advance God's kingdom?*

### THE RIGHT PLACE

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 1 Corinthians 12:18

There is a place in the body of Christ where we properly fit. A place where we receive life giving input and exercise our spiritual gifts to bless the church and extend God's kingdom.

*Qu: Why is it important to find your place in the body of Christ and remain connected?*

### THE RIGHT PURPOSE

The Antioch church persevered and broke down the ethnic divisions to become a spiritual family. They were simply called Christians.

*Qu: What special blessings and impact can a multiethnic church have?*

The Antioch church did not wait for persecution to scatter them. They purposely sent out their people to start new churches.

*Qu: What does being sent into the world look like for you individually and for us as a church?*

## PRAY

- Pray for God's grace upon our lives to be the right people
- Pray that God would help us to persevere in our relationships as members of his body
- Pray that God would reveal more of His purpose for our lives
- Pray for any needs that may be present in the group