

# The Holy Spirit You Never Knew

## Week 4: *Build!*

### Teacher's Guide

#### 1) Preparation

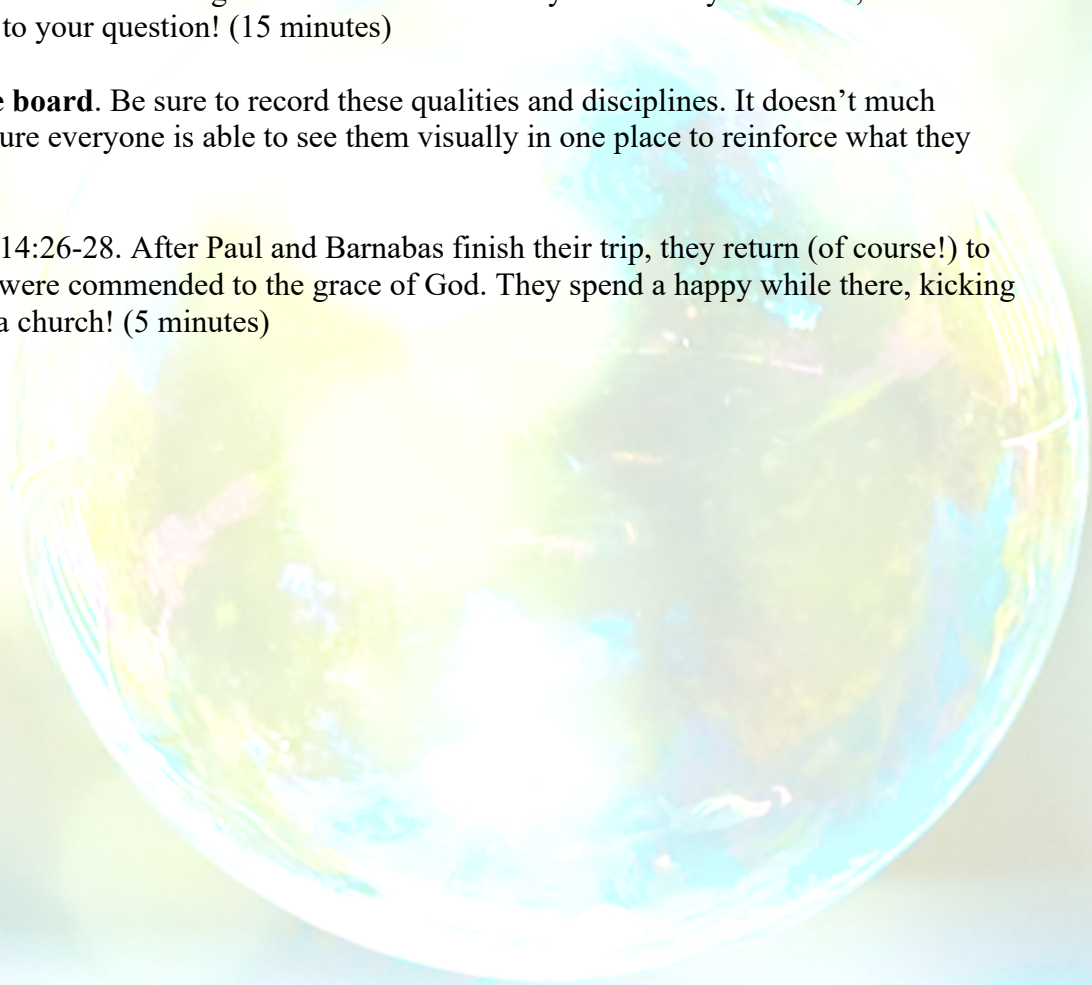
- a. Study the Bible
  - i. Acts 11:19-30
  - ii. Acts 13:1-6
- b. Carefully read *Fresh Air*, chapter 6, especially pages 150-65
- c. Read the discussion questions about these chapters at the end of *Fresh Air*.

#### 2) **Class goal:** to see a thriving, Spirit-filled early church at work in the book of Acts—and to see how that model can **build** a community at Highland Church of Christ today that is especially receptive to the Holy Spirit.

#### 3) **Suggested class outline** (spelled out, with variations, in *Fresh Air*, 150-65, so feel free to follow it closely, though realizing that the book does not exactly match this outline)

- a. Review. Very briefly review each prior week (5 minutes)
  - i. Breathe: the Spirit in every breath we take
  - ii. Thrive: the Spirit in drama (Elihu) or discipline (Daniel)?
  - iii. Learn: the Spirit and a lifetime of learning
- b. Acts 13:1-6 (10 minutes)
  - i. Read Acts 13:1-6 out loud.
  - ii. Set Acts 13:1-6 in context: Antioch is where mission began. In Acts 13-14, Paul and Barnabas undertake the first full-scale mission in the early church
  - iii. Why do they do this? Because the Spirit told them to!
  - iv. Raise the essential question: *What prepared them for this moment? Why this church rather than, let's say, the church in Jerusalem?*
- c. To understand this, take everyone to the backstory in Acts 11. You can do this in either of two ways. (15 minutes)
  - i. Have them (in pairs) read the texts in Acts 11 (see below) and ask them to look for the qualities that prepared Antioch to be a church that naturally would receive a word of the Holy Spirit. This is more unruly but could be fun for them—a time of discovery.
  - ii. Go through each of the three texts, teaching everyone the key qualities of the church that prepared them for this moment. Do this by reading each out loud and teaching on it. Don't read all three texts and teach; read each text (teach on it, then move onto the next text).

- iii. These are the qualities of the church in Acts 11:
  - 1. Outreach-oriented (11:19-21)
  - 2. A Hunger for Learning (11:22-26)
  - 3. Generous to a Fault (11:27-30)
- d. Return to Acts 13:1-6 and ask, *What else made Antioch a natural starting-point for mission?* (10 minutes)
  - i. The quality of their leadership team
    - 1. Multicultural
    - 2. Teachers
    - 3. Prophets
  - ii. The character of their disciplines
    - 1. Worship
    - 2. Fasting
    - 3. Prayer
- 4) ***Their time!*** Using the handout provided, give them the opportunity to compare the church in Antioch with Highland Church of Christ. This can be done as individuals or in pairs. Afterward, have a whole-class discussion. Don't give the handout out until you are ready to discuss, as it contains the answers to your question! (15 minutes)
- 5) **Suggested use of the board.** Be sure to record these qualities and disciplines. It doesn't much matter how. Just be sure everyone is able to see them visually in one place to reinforce what they are learning.
- 6) **Conclude** with Acts 14:26-28. After Paul and Barnabas finish their trip, they return (of course!) to Antioch, where they were commended to the grace of God. They spend a happy while there, kicking up their heels. What a church! (5 minutes)



## Your Time, Your Turn

Take a few moments to compare the church in Antioch with Highland Church of Christ.

- ✓ Begin by grading Highland Church of Christ for each category. (Don't worry, it's confidential, for your eyes only.)
- ✓ Next, identify key characteristics of the Antioch church that would make Highland even more receptive to a world-transforming word of the Holy Spirit. In short, in which areas do you think Highland Church of Christ needs to grow?
- ✓ Finally, real quickly, prioritize the transformation ahead. Do this instinctively. Which do you think should be done first, second, and so on? (Remember, this is for your eyes only.) Put numbers, from 1 to 6, in the last column.

Qualities of Antioch	Highland Church of Christ	What Antioch Offers to Highland	Priority
<i>Outreach-oriented</i>			
<i>Hunger for learning</i>			
<i>Generous to a fault</i>			
<i>spiritual disciplines:</i> <i>worship</i>			
<i>spiritual disciplines:</i> <i>fasting</i>			
<i>spiritual disciplines:</i> <i>prayer</i>			