The Ripple Effect Of Missions

Connect
1. Describe a time when you saw something good come out of something really difficult.

Dig
The murder of Stephen scattered Christians to different parts of the world. God used that to reach out to other nations and peoples with the gospel. Oftentimes suffering is a tool the Lord uses to grow us and His kingdom. The city of Antioch was where some of the Christians moved to after the persecution and there they preached the gospel. Many came to the Lord and the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas there to shepherd them. Barnabas sought out Saul and brought him back to help teach those at Antioch.

From there, the Holy Spirit led the church at Antioch to send out Barnabas and Saul to other parts of the world as missionaries. This is the first such missionary calling/endeavor from a church to other parts of the world. Whether it was those who moved to Antioch because of persecution, or it was Barnabas and Saul going to Antioch or it was the church sending out Saul and Barnabas to other parts of the world, these Christians realized the good news Jesus provided for them was not for them to hoard, but to give away to the world. There was a ripple effect to countless lives throughout the world because of God’s work through each of these individuals. They were all part of God’s missionary work to the world. You can have that effect as well!

Acts 11:19-26 (ESV)
19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)
Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Dig Deeper
1. According to Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, for what purpose has God commissioned all Christ-followers until His return?

2. Read Acts 8:1-4 and Acts 11:19-26. What was the impact of persecution on the church?

3. What observations can we make concerning the church in Antioch? What ripple effects occurred through the Antiochian church?

4. How is God using Gateway to continue the ripple effect that began in Acts 13:1-3?

5. How can you be involved in building God’s kingdom outside of Gateway? What is God specifically calling you to?

Next Steps
There are several ways to have a ripple effect with the gospel on people from other cultures. Here are some ideas:
- Pray for a missionary (see list on next page)
- Contact The University of Findlay and ask how you can care for international students.
- Adopt a missionary (i.e. pray, send encouraging letters, care packages, financial support).
- Go on a short-term missions trip.
- Pray for an unreached people group.
- Talk with your kids about how you give financially to missionaries.
- Talk with your kids about what missionaries do.
- Pray about serving vocationally in cross-cultural missions.
- Serve at the City Mission.
- Pray for the persecuted church throughout the world.

Commit as a Life Group to take a next step toward ministering to others cross-culturally.
Gateway Supported Missionaries and Organizations

The Gibson Family (Hungary)
The Hamd Family (Lebanon)
Chris & Julie Bauer (Miami University)
Justin & Hanah Mast (Ohio State University)
Mark & Diane Brown (Miami University)
Brad Dukes (Univ. of Toledo)
Kate Ebert (East Asia)
Kendall & Lois Borthwick (Towson University)
Ron & Jacquie Touby (Priority Associates)
Chris & Nancy Akers (Inner City Project)
Tracy Rath (Mission Possible)
Lynn Lowen (Youth For Christ)
Tara McBride (Mission Possible)
Bill Corbin (CCO—Coalition for Christian Outreach)
Impact Ministries (Nathan & Emily Evans)
Carlee Fletcher (Mission Possible)
Mission Possible (Kurt Bishop)
City Mission (Findlay)
Child Evangelism Fellowship (Hancock County)
Hancock Christian Clearing House
Chopin Hall (Hancock County)
Hancock Co. Religious Education
Terry Jones (Sri Lanka)
Pioneers (Jamie & Susan Ramge)
African Oasis Project (Ron Hansen)
Chris & Beth Steiner (Taiwan)
Besor Ravine Ministries (Hancock County)

For Further Study (optional)
Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 6:8; Acts 8:1-4; Acts 14:27; Galatians 2:7

New Testament Bible Reading Plan

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