



### **Bible Study about Visitation (adjust to fit circumstances)—10 minutes or less recommended**

The Holy Spirit led the congregation in Antioch to send out Paul and Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Was this the first time anyone had done something like this? We don't know, but there are no other records in the Bible of a trip like this. The two men were sent off, perhaps with some money for expenses, but without any firm destination. It was a lot like a prayer we sometimes pray together, "Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Attributed to Eric Milner-White, first published in 1941.)

On their first journey, they visited Cyprus, Antioch (a different one than the church that sent them), Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. They traveled over 300 miles by sea and more than 400 miles on foot, without knowing that anyone would "leave the light on for them" at a motel on the way.

This doesn't sound like a very easy journey. Read Acts 13:7–8. What made it even harder?

And not only that. Read Acts 13:50–52

And then ... Read Acts 14:19–20.

And yet, after Paul and Barnabas returned (walking hundreds of miles more), they reported their work to the leaders of the church, and then ... Read Acts 15:36.

Visitation, like relatives used to do, was a regular part of the early church. It is said, "Relationship is the currency of the Kingdom." What further insights do the following passages provide?

Acts 14:21–22

Acts 15:41

Acts 20:17–18, and 36–38

And so we visit with one another:

- Strengthening
- Encouraging
- Seeing each other through many tribulations as we enter the Kingdom of God
- Providing examples of being Christ followers
- Building generosity for the Kingdom
- Challenging each other to love and good works
- Cheering one another up