



9/8/2024 | Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever felt like the odd-man-out at a party or gathering? How did someone make you feel welcome?

READ: Acts 13:1-3

FOCUS: Reject division, embrace diversity and cherish unity.

OBSERVE:

- The church in Antioch was diverse in their nationalities and ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses and backgrounds. They were also diverse in their Spirit-empowered graces and gifts.
- The Holy Spirit spoke to the church in Antioch while they carried out their worship, fasting and prayer so that they would become united and empowered in God's mission.
- Likewise, the Holy Spirit empowers us as a diverse church to reject division, embrace diversity and cherish unity so we can be united in God's mission.

REFLECT:

- How have you been overcoming the enemy's strategy to divide you from others different from you?
- How do your relationships with those who are different showcase a peace that seems unattainable, especially when you are among others who are very divided?
- How can you be a lifeline to a world drowning in distress and despair?

TAKE ACTION:

- Think of times you have prejudged another person, only because they are different. Did this make you feel distanced from them?
- Commit within your group to boldly embrace those who are different. Find ways to approach them and find things you have in common, even if it is just that you are total opposites. Everyone eats, sleeps, and experiences the weather!

PRAY: *Lord Jesus, give me eyes to see others who are different from me the way You see them. Cause me to desire a relationship with them, even as You long for relationships with the people You created. Help me to love those who are not like me the way You love them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*