



24 SEVEN PRAYER WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY

24/7 PRAYER WEEK: SMALL GROUP STUDY

*Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were **worshipping the Lord and fasting**, the Holy Spirit said, “**Set apart** for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had **fasted and prayed**, they placed their hands on them and **sent them off.** (Acts 13:1-3)*

This was a pivotal moment in church history. This moment of prayer and fasting sparked a missional movement that would see Christianity become the dominant religion in the Roman Empire within 250 years. Churches were planted and letters written to those churches that would instruct and encourage the Church for the next 2000 years.

I believe that we are living in a pivotal moment in church history in Australia. We are coming out of a global pandemic. We have a generation growing up with no connection to church and confused about their identity. There is a growing antagonism towards the church and yet there is a growing recognition that science can't solve all of our problems. People in our community are searching for hope and I believe God is calling His church to get on our knees and pray for revival in our nation in our generation.

1. The Church in Antioch was worshipping the Lord and fasting. Begin your small group by spending some time in worship, declaring the goodness and greatness of our God together.
2. Fasting is giving up food for a time to focus our thoughts on God, creating a greater spiritual awareness in prayer. What is your experience of prayer and fasting? How have you heard God speak and seen God move as you have committed to fast and pray?
3. In the church in Antioch, there was a growing urgency to take the gospel to the gentile world. What is the prayer that is growing in urgency in your heart for the church and community? How is God calling you to commit to pray and/or fast until you see Him breakthrough?
4. As they fasted and prayed, they heard the Holy Spirit tell them to “*set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them*”. To be set apart is to be different; holy; separate from the ways of the world. How is God setting you apart to be more like Christ in your character and fulfil His calling in this season?
5. Barnabus and Saul were sent on a missionary journey throughout Asia Minor. You may not be sent to other nations or new cities, but we are all sent somewhere to share the gospel with someone. Where are you being sent to share the good news? How can the group pray for you and the people that you are sharing Jesus with?
6. Use the prayer guide to pray for some other churches in our Queensland Baptist Movement as they reach out to their communities with the love and truth of Jesus.

