



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 6:**  
**"He Walked a Crooked Mile"**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 13:1-12**

1. The church at Antioch was by any standard a successful, growing, church. Does God appear to be satisfied with that? By setting 40% of the pastoral staff apart for the work and sending them off, what does this tell us about God's preference for "mission" over "maintenance?"
  
2. According to verses 4 and 5, where did Barnabas and Paul go? [Note: Try to locate these places on a map in the back of a Bible or in a Bible atlas.] What did they do when they got there? Why do you think they started in the synagogues?
  
3. Imagine that you are doing evangelism in another state, and a senator of that state (such as Sergius Paulus in verse 7) invites you to share the gospel with him. How would you feel? What if while you are there one of his top aides opposes you? What would you do?
  
4. What is interesting about Paul's first miracle in Acts 13:11? Do you think that what happened to Elymas was fitting? In view of Paul's own experience (Acts 9:8-9), how might we see this blinding as a "severe mercy" by Paul?

5. How did the Proconsul react when he saw what happened to Elymas? What is striking about the first three Gentile converts in the Book of Acts (Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8:25-39; centurion Cornelius, Acts 10; and Sergius Paulus)? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
  
6. When Paul talked to people about Jesus, what source did he use to convince people (Acts 13:5, 7, 12, 15, 44, 46, and 49) that Jesus was the Messiah? What does this tell us about witnessing, and our own preparation and approach for evangelism?
  
7. In verse 8, Elymas tried to “turn away” the proconsul from the faith. Paul explains this in verse 10 as Elymas “making crooked” the straight paths of the Lord. How is the Lord's path a “straightaway?” Who are today's Elymases who try to make it crooked, and lead the innocent astray? How can you pray for them and speak truth to them?

**Memory Verse:**

**“Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.”  
(Acts 13:12, NASB)**