**Study on Acts 13:1-3**

* **The witnesses *to the stoning* left their cloaks in the care of a young man named Saul** *(Acts 7:58).*
* The Lord said to Ananias,**“Go, because I have chosen him, *Saul,* to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings, and to the people of Israel”** *(Acts 9:15; cf. 22:14-15; 26:16-18).*
* **Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,**

**“Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?”**

**“Who are you, Lord?”, he asked.**

**“I am Jesus, whom you persecute”, the voice said. “But get up and go into the city, where you will be told what to do”** *(Acts 9:3-5; cf. 22:6-11; 26; 26:12-18; 1 Cor. 15:8).*

* **In the church at Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon (called the Black), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the governor), and Saul. While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said to them, “Set apart Barnabas and Saul to do the work to which I have called them”. They fasted and prayed, set their hands on them, and sent them off”** *(Acts 13:1-3)*

DVD Spot: **Growing Young: Helping young people**

 **discover and love the Church**

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il1KMMwPDpI>

 (From 28:46 – 48:12)

Discussion Questions:

1. Think back to your childhood and your youth….

Did you have experiences at home, or at school, or playing sport or games where you were undervalued because people thought that you had limited abilities? Share your

experiences.

1. Do you think that God wants to make use of you in His Kingdom, *you whether you are a young person, an emerging adult, a single or married adult, a parent with children, a middle aged person, or an older person?*

How do you think that God wants to use *you?*

How might you mentor the faith of the young people around you? Who is God calling you to mentor?

1. What do think of the relationship between Barnabas ‘the encourager’ and the “young man” Paul? How did Barnabas encourage Paul? *Read Acts 7:58; 9:26-28; 11:25-26, 30; 12:25; 13:1-3, 4-5; 14:8-12.*
2. Unlocking keychain ministry is all about giving the young the keys of ministry. What do you think of the illustration of giving a young person the keys of your car and teaching him or her to drive? Is this a good illustration of “unlocking keychain ministry” and mentoring a young person? Why? Or why not?
3. Are you and I unlocking keychain leadership in our church here at Glynde? Are we entrusting and empowering young people for ministry? Are we mentoring young people and emerging adults for ministry?

And are we striving to be the best neighbours that we can to the people around us? Talk about the ways in which we are doing these things and ways in which we could do these things. Brainstorm ideas.

**Quotes:**

The following are quotes from Sunday’s message on the theme: “The call of the young man Paul to ministry”, *which is subtitled: “Growing Young: What is God calling you to do?”*

**\***I don’t tell you these stories to big-note my football ability…. Any thing but…. In the final analysis, I was just an average sort of footballer, but **I tell these stories to help us start reflecting on how God wants to make use of the young among us, *rather than the young among us being undervalued as being immature in their faith, or being of limited abilities….***

**\*I want you to be thinking about what God is calling you to do in your life, *you who might be a young person, an emerging adult, a single or married adult, a parent with children, a middle aged person, or an older person like me….***

**And I want you to be thinking about how we as a church family might together mentor the faith of the young among us, and encourage them in their walk with Jesus….**

**\*Luke in *Acts* tells us that it is here in Jerusalem that Saul first met Barnabas, the encourager, an older man who took Paul under his wing** *(Acts 9:27****).* After going to Jerusalem, Paul returned to the region of his home town of Tarsus in Cilicia, *modern day Turkey,* again to escape the murderous anger of the Jews** *(Acts 9:30; Gal. 1:21).*

The next thing we are told about Saul is in connection with the church at Antioch in Syria, where, Luke tells us, “the believers were first called Christians” *(Acts 11:26****).* Luke tells us that Barnabas went from Jerusalem to Antioch, and from there he went looking for Saul to be a partner in his ministry there for the Lord** *(Acts. 11:25-26).*

**During much of this time in Antioch, it seems that young Saul has been working with Barnabas for the Lord and probably being mentored by him.**

**\*Unlocking keychain leadership is what we have been describing in the story of the “young man” Paul, and how God called him into leadership in ministry, and did wonderful things for His Kingdom through this young man…. Maybe, Paul’s ministry for God wouldn’t have happened to the extent it did, though, if the older man, and dare I say it, a more respected man in the early church, Barnabas, hadn’t befriended Paul and seen his potential for ministry for the Lord.**

**\*The picture is that of you as a parent giving your teenage son or daughter the keys to the car, and saying, “Now you can drive!”.** Of course, the picture is better fleshed out, with the parent teaching the child to drive before giving him or her the keys, and the parent sitting in the passenger seat alongside the young person giving that person encouragement and help.

**\*The last remaining core commitment is that of being the best neighbour that you can.** It is subtitled:

**Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbour well locally and globally.**

**Well, I’ve got to say that this is exactly what Paul did: he didn’t condemn the world around him, but he strived to neighbour well locally and globally. He did it not by helping his local and global neighbours *physically,* but by helping them in the ultimate way: by bringing the good news of God’s grace and His mercy and His forgiveness through Jesus.**

Are we striving to be the best neighbours that we can to the people around us? **Well, yes, our mid-week ministries are all about this, I think. We are aiming to care for the people in our community, *particularly those from other cultures, and those with young children….* And our ultimate aim is to care for them by bringing the Good News of Jesus to them….**