



## **Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: Road Trip Week 1: June 2, 2019**

### Recap:

- Jesus' earliest followers wrestled with huge issues of faith and trying to understand what it meant as they sought to make sense of what had taken place and what Jesus' life, death, and resurrection meant for the world and for all people. Because they were wrestling with huge issues, disagreements arose.
- In Acts, Paul, who had previously condemned Christians, started to minister with Barnabas and Barnabas' nephew John Mark. However, just because they were doing ministry together did not mean that everything was perfect. For whatever reason, there was "a sharp disagreement" that caused their party to separate. This splitting caused them to go their own ways, which may have brought more people into Christianity because more people in more cities were introduced to Jesus.
- Despite this "sharp disagreement", Paul recognized that the ministry that the others were doing was good and beneficial. Paul knew that we get mad at each other and have disagreements, but that does not mean that we have to stop working for the greater mission of the church.

### Discuss:

1. Have you ever gotten in a disagreement with someone concerning the ministry of the church? What was that disagreement like?
2. READ Acts 11:19-26
3. What do you think are some characteristics of successful missionary workers?
4. Why do you think that the early followers of Jesus were so successful in converting even Greeks, who were not Jews and did already believe in Jesus's God?
5. READ Acts 15:36-40
6. Why do you think it was important for Paul to check in on the believers in the towns? What do you think this says about how we should minister to one another?
7. Why do you think it might be important to work in ministry with those you get along with? Why do you think it might be important to work in ministry with those you do not get along with?
8. READ 2 Timothy 4:9-11
9. 2 Timothy was written near the end of Paul's life. How do you think Paul came to the realization that John Mark was useful for ministry despite their "sharp disagreement"? What do you think we can take away from this as a message?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

### Read at Home: Additional Readings about Disagreements

- Matthew 18:15-17
- Romans 14
- Ephesians 4:1-16