

# SENDSUNDAY



## Sermon Study and Preparation Guide

### DISCLAIMER:

This guide is intended to assist pastors in preparing for **Send Sunday** by providing suggested biblical texts, key themes, and practical applications. However, every sermon should be shaped through **prayer, deep engagement with Scripture, and the leading of the Holy Spirit**. Let this serve as a tool, not a substitute, for faithful pastoral preparation.

### OVERVIEW:

A Send Sunday sermon is a call to action for both the individual believer and the entire church body. Each person should ask, *“Is God calling me to go?”*—whether across the street or across the world. At the same time, the church as a whole must ask, *“Whom among us should we send?”* Just as the church in Acts 13 sought the Lord and sent out its best, every local congregation is responsible for raising up and commissioning laborers for the global harvest. A Send Sunday sermon should stir hearts toward surrender, awaken a burden for the lost, and lead the church to boldly pray, *“Lord, whom shall we send?”*

## Suggested Preaching Texts & Themes

### 1. Acts 13:1-3 – The Church’s Role in Sending

#### Key Ideas:

- **Missions begins in the gathered church.** The Antioch church was worshiping, fasting, and seeking the Lord when the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas.
- **The Holy Spirit leads the sending.** The church does not call missionaries—the Spirit does. The church’s role is to recognize, affirm, and send those whom God calls.
- **Sending is sacrificial but necessary.** The church sent two of its most gifted leaders, showing that mission work is not for the leftovers but for the church’s best.
- **Every church should be a sending church.** This passage provides a model for Spirit-led missionary sending today.

### 2. Isaiah 6:1-8 – The Individual’s Response to God’s Call

#### Key Ideas:

- **Encountering God’s holiness leads to surrender.** Isaiah’s vision of God’s majesty and glory caused him to recognize his own sinfulness.
- **Cleansing precedes calling.** God purifies Isaiah before commissioning him, demonstrating that a heart devoted to holiness is essential for effective gospel ministry.
- **God calls, and we must respond.** The Lord asks, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah’s response—“Here I am! Send me.”—should be the posture of every believer.
- **The mission will be difficult.** The rest of Isaiah 6 makes it clear that faithfulness is required regardless of the results.

## Recommended Study Resources

### Commentaries on Acts 13:

- Richard Longenecker – Acts (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*)
- John MacArthur – Acts Commentary

### Commentaries on Isaiah 6:

- J. Alec Motyer – The Prophecy of Isaiah
- John Oswalt – Isaiah (*New International Commentary on the Old Testament*)
- Derek Kidner – Isaiah (*Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*)

### Missions Theology Books:

- John Piper – Let the Nations Be Glad!
- Roland Allen – Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?
- Neal Pirolo – Serving As Senders Today

## Powerful Missions Quotes

### On the Urgency of Missions:

*"If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is in the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world."* — Charles Spurgeon

### On the Heart of a Missionary:

*"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to him, the more intensely missionary we become."* — Henry Martyn

### On Prayer and Sending:

*"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."* — Samuel Zwemer

### On the Centrality of Worship in Missions:

*"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."* — John Piper

## Next Steps for Your Church

### **1. Attend a One-Day Church Missions Experience**

A powerful, interactive event to help your congregation engage with God's mission and explore their role in it.

[abwe.org/one-day/](https://abwe.org/one-day/)

### **2. Equip Your Church to Send Well**

Access free resources to help your church raise up and send missionaries.

[abwe.org/send](https://abwe.org/send)

### **3. Explore Missions Opportunities**

Whether you are considering going or mobilizing others, find opportunities to serve.

[abwe.org/go](https://abwe.org/go)