

Stewardship of the Gospel

- Jesus said as he sent out disciples in pairs:
- "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (ESV)
- Luke 10:2



Reading Suggestions

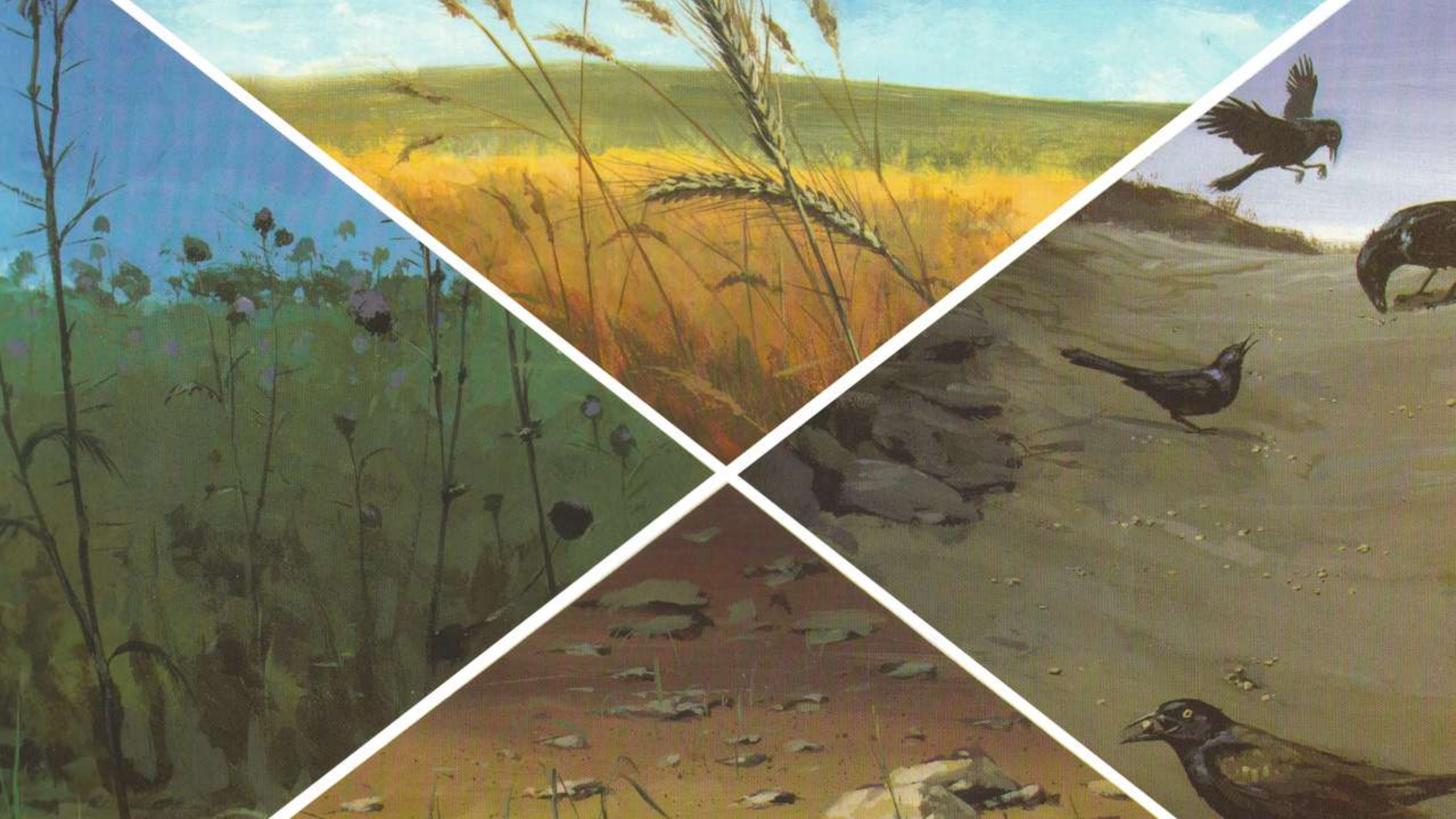
- Read Actively
- Read a Letter, not an Encyclopedia
- Read as if for the First Time
- Read with Purpose – Follower
- Read with Prayer
- *Tell* the story to your children
- *If* you miss a day – don't quit.

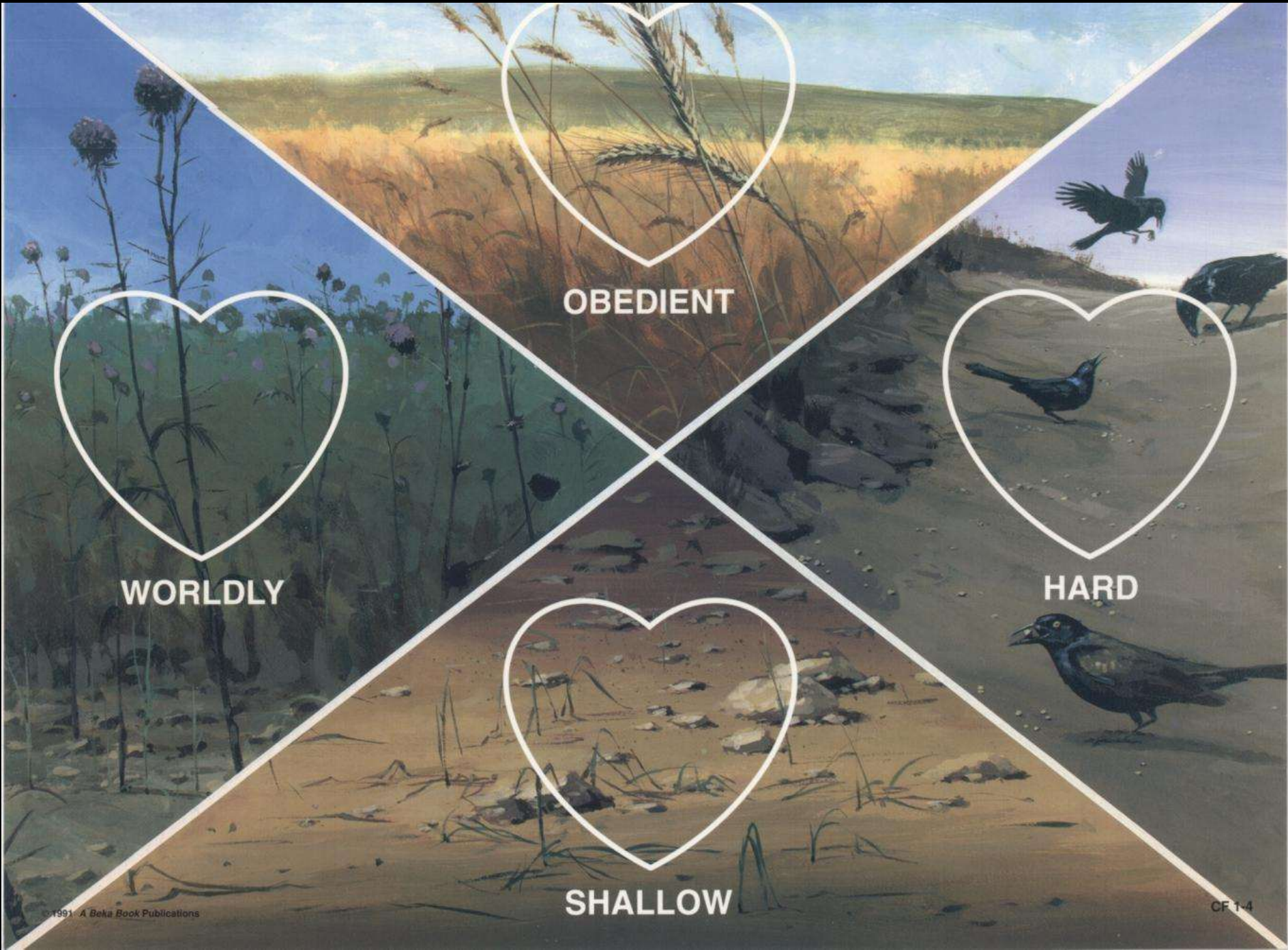


Parable of the Sower

- Seed is the word of God.
- Seed determines the quality of the soil.
- Seed is spread on all soil types.
- Fruit production is the purpose of sowing seed.







OBEDIENT

HARD

WORLDLY

SHALLOW

What are Thorns?

- The thorns are “worries, riches and pleasures of life.” (Lk. 8:14)
- The thorns are the cares and concerns of this life.
- The thorns are the desires and concerns that drive us to fill our lives with things that don’t directly impact the kingdom of God.
- The thorns steal our **focus** from God and his kingdom.
- The thorns steal our **affection** from God.
- The thorns steal our **energy** from the real work God has called us to do.
- Worry — Riches — Pleasure.
- Worry — Stuff — Fun.

Good Soil

- *“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”*
(Lk. 8:15)



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Good Soil

- Antioch
- Acts 11:19 – 26
- “The Disciples Were First Called Christians at Antioch” (11:26)
- Fruitful Leaders
 - In Acts 11, Barnabas and Saul were the main teachers in Antioch.
 - In Acts 13, more than a year later, there were at least 5 prominent prophets and teachers in Antioch; among whom were Barnabas and Saul. (Ac. 13:1)
 - In Acts 15, a few years later, there were many others in Antioch teaching and preaching the word of the Lord. (Ac. 15:35)

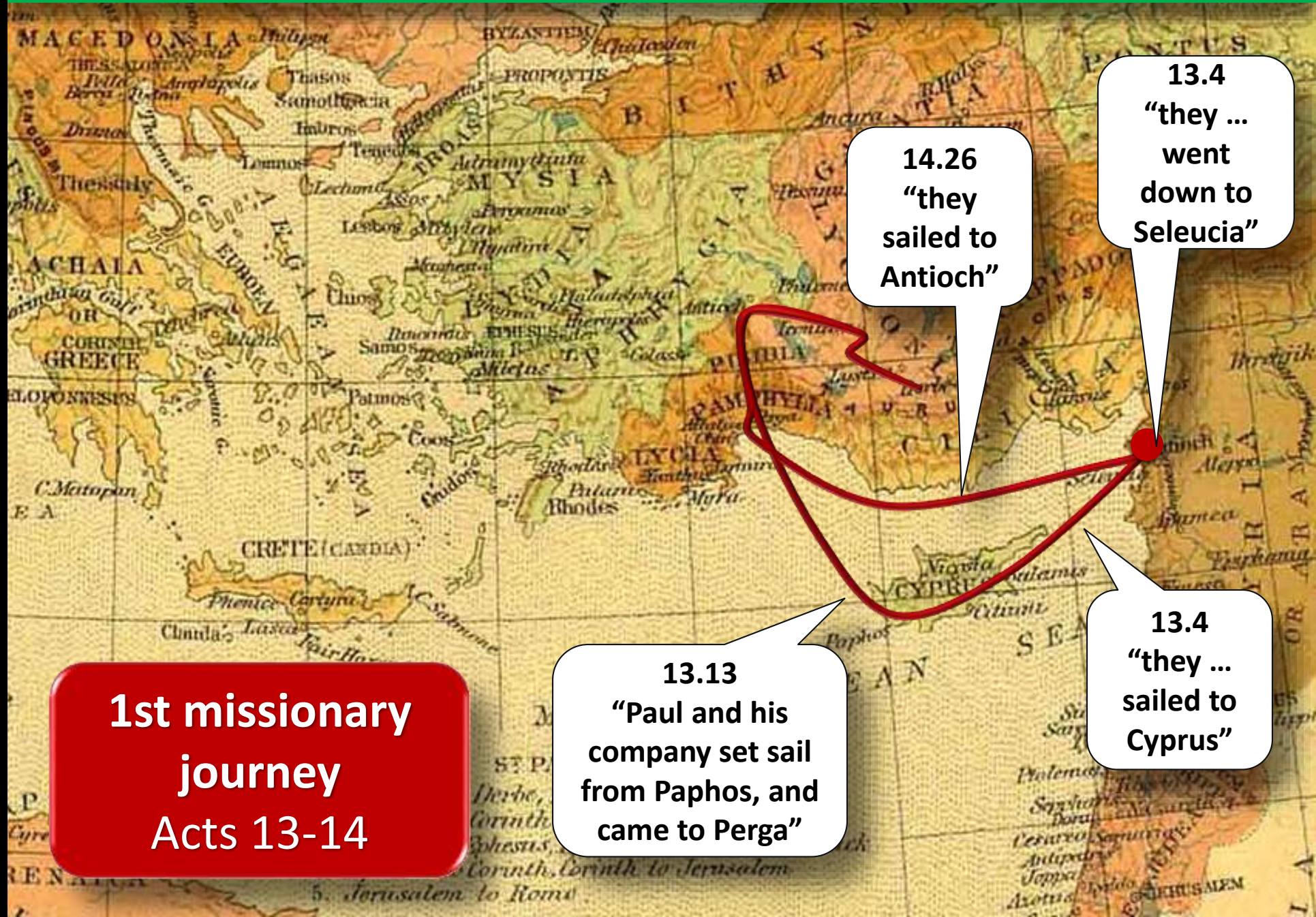
Antioch: Teaching At Home and Far Away

- In Acts 13 and Acts 15, the disciples at Antioch were willing and able to send Barnabas and Saul away to sow the seed in other parts of the world.
- Luke records, *“when they fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away”* (13:3)



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Paul's journeys



**1st missionary
journey
Acts 13-14**

13.13
"Paul and his
company set sail
from Paphos, and
came to Perga"

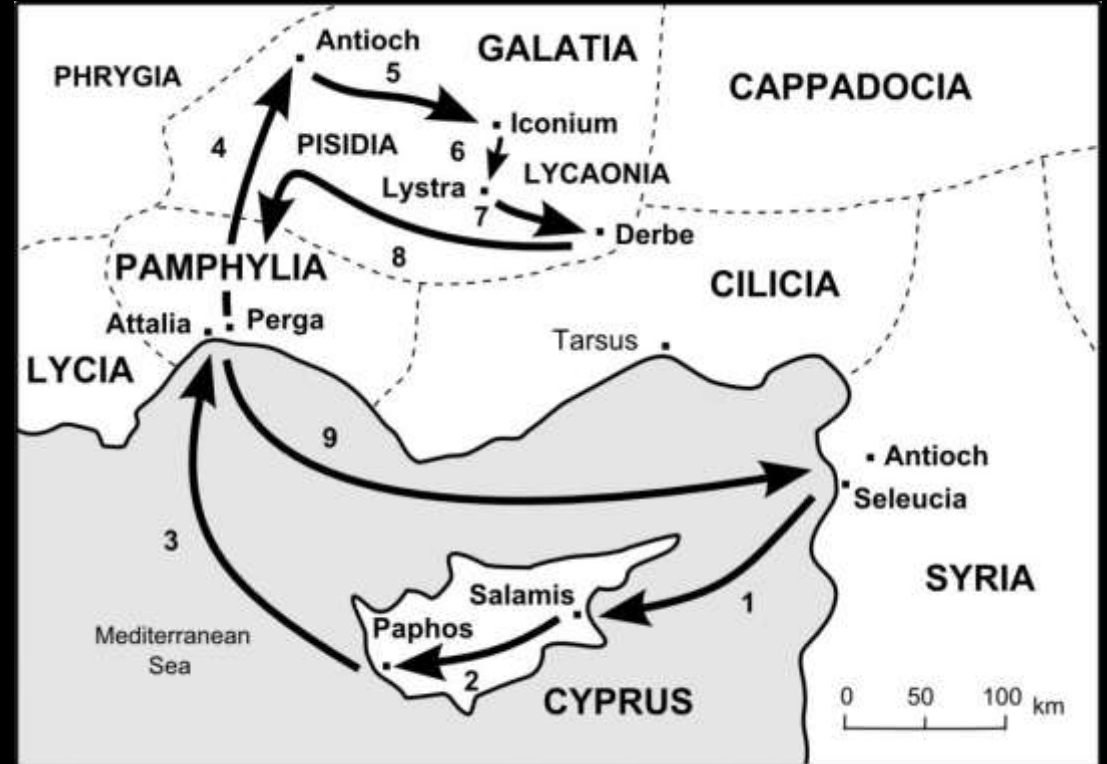
14.26
"they
sailed to
Antioch"

13.4
"they ...
went
down to
Seleucia"

13.4
"they ...
sailed to
Cyprus"

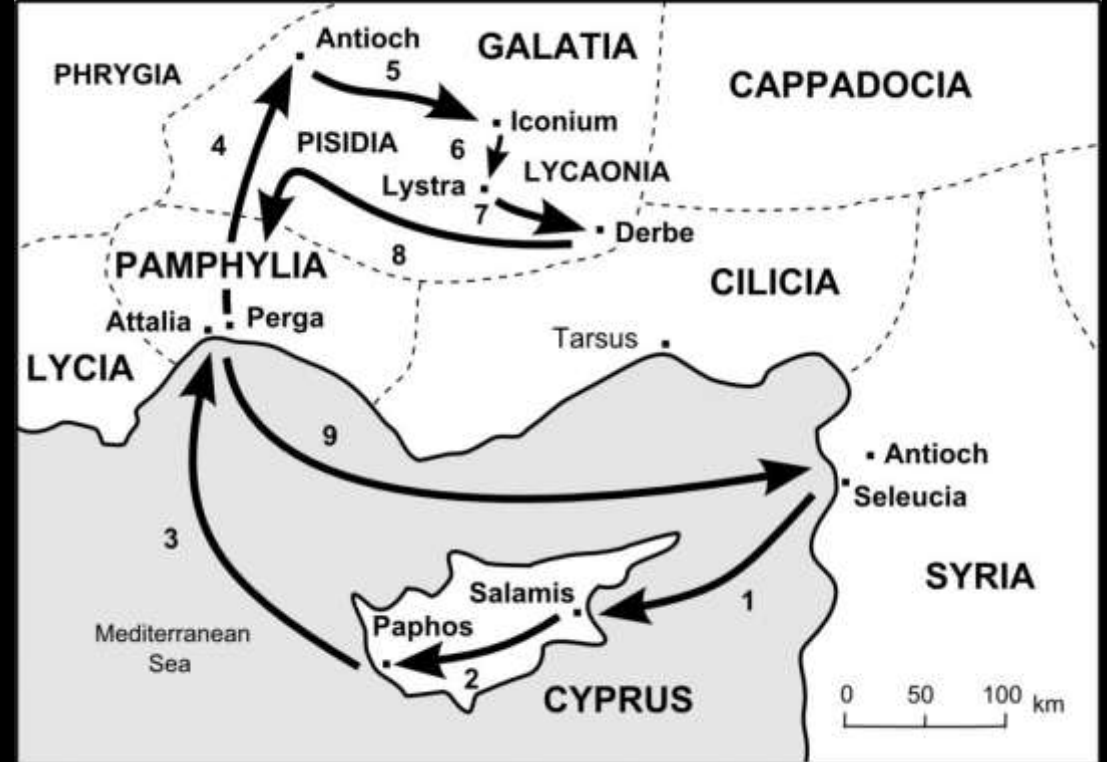
Good Soil in Galatia

- As Paul and Barnabas travelled throughout the cities of Galatia, Jews grew more hostile to the message and followed them from city to city, instigating persecution. (14:19)
- Their encouragement, *“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”* (14:22)



Good Soil in Galatia

- **The Fruit: “They Appointed Elders For Them In Every Church” (14:22)**
- **More Fruit: “Having Prayed With Fasting, They Commended Them To The Lord In Whom They Had Believed” (14:22)**



Good Soil in Ephesus

- **The Fruit: “All Who Lived in Asia Heard The Word of the Lord.” (19:10)**
- Disciples carried that message with them.
 - Disciples confessed Christ as Lord.
 - Followers proclaimed the gospel.
 - Disciples told others what the Lord had done for them and how he had mercy on them.



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Kingdom Fruit

- **Intentionally seeking God**
 - In God's word
 - In prayer
- **...Intentionally involved in the lives of brethren**
 - Sharing time, meals, possessions, life
 - Encouraging one another, praying together, reading together
- **...Intentionally sharing the word**
 - Teaching others (neighbors, family, co-workers, new Christians)
 - Teaching your children

Followers Prayer

- That God will help us eliminate thorns from our heart
- That God will cause growth and produce a crop a hundred times as great in your life and mine.
- That God will change me and you as we read through Luke-Acts.
- That we will learn what it means to **follow Jesus** and that we will truly **follow him**.