

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, May 27, 2018

**What Is Interfering With Your Influence?
Week 1 in the series "Leave Your Mark"
A Study of Acts 13:1-12**

www.hillcrest.church



Who has been some of your biggest influences at different stages of your life? How did they influence you?

Do you consider *yourself* to be a person of influence? Explain.

Followers of Christ are called to be influencers. In the following verses, describe the people or groups we are expected to impact:

- ❖ Matthew 28:18-20
- ❖ Proverbs 22:6
- ❖ Hebrews 10:24-25

Today we begin a four-week study called “Leave Your Mark.” From today through Father’s Day, we’ll study Paul’s first missionary journey. Through this study we’ll discover ways to become persons of positive influence.

To see how Paul’s first missionary journey began, read Acts 13:1-3 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ How do you think the Holy Spirit spoke to the leaders at Antioch?
- ❖ How does he speak today?
- ❖ Take a moment right now as a group to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to our church about the “Paul” and the “Barnabas” he wants for our next Youth Minister and Children’s Minister.
- ❖ After your group prays, discuss what each of you will do to remind yourself to regularly pray for this search.

In today's sermon, we learned from Acts 13 that in order to influence others, we need to pay attention to any *interference* that may be keeping our influence from breaking through.

Read Acts 13:4-8.

- ❖ How does verse 7 describe Sergius' reaction to the gospel?
- ❖ How does verse 8 describe Elymas's reaction to this?
- ❖ Why do you think Elymas interfered?
- ❖ Has anyone tried (or is anyone trying) to interfere with your spiritual search or your spiritual growth? How?
- ❖ What do you think their motivation was (or is) to stall out your spiritual search or spiritual growth?

Read Acts 13:9-12.

Do you think there was a connection between Elymas trying to keep Sergius spiritually blind and Paul's judgment against Elymas' physical eyesight?

Give some examples of how the following persons or things could interfere with someone's spiritual search or spiritual growth:

- ❖ Peer pressure
- ❖ Belittling by an authority figure (a boss, a teacher, a parent)
- ❖ Movies, TV shows, music
- ❖ Role models

How can you address this interference?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ Since “the weapons of our warfare are not worldly,” what kind of “weapons” should we use in persuading others?
- ❖ Does this passage encourage you to keep trying to be a positive influence on others even when you face opposition?

As you get ready to take prayer requests, what kinds of interference do you currently face in your efforts to positively influence others? Think of your family members, your lost friends, other members of your ministry group in this church. List these concerns as you make your prayer list.



Close with praise reports and prayer requests