

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, June 3, 2018**

**What Makes Influencers Want to Resign?  
Week 2 in the series "Leave Your Mark"  
A Study of Acts 13:13-52**

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Select the statement below you most identify with and share with the group why you picked it.

- I have had at least one experience where I have given up on my efforts to exert influence at school, home, work, or a club or organization.
- I am hesitant to express an idea or opinion because I fear it could be ridiculed or shot down by someone.
- I fear trying to influence a person or a situation because frankly I would rather just remain in the background of things and not stick out.
- I usually will keep trying to influence people or situations even though my ideas or opinions aren't always taken or used.

To be a person of influence you will need to face things that could make you want to give up. On his first missionary journey, Paul faced problems **beside** him, problems **within** him, and problems **around** him.

### **Influencers face problems *beside* them**

Read Acts 13:13, 15:36-38, and summarize what happened and how Paul felt about it.

Did Jesus ever express a feeling of being forsaken?

A parent may feel she is doing the hard work of spiritual influence alone, or a church leader may feel that no one else cares about the church like he does. How do feelings like this make us want to give up the work?

How can we stay faithful when we feel abandoned?

Did Paul and John Mark ever patch things up? (Hint: Read 2 Timothy 4:11)

### **Influencers face problems *within* them**

Read Galatians 4:13-15.

What personal problems did Paul have on this journey?

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-8, what personal difficulty is revealed?

What personal problems make influencers want to give up?

According to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, what must we rely on to keep going?

***“Veni, Vidi, Velcro”***

***“I came, I saw, I stuck with it”***

### **Influencers face problems *around* them**

Read Acts 13:42-52 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ Identify how Paul experienced *opposition* to his message.
- ❖ Identify how Paul experienced *openness* to his message.
- ❖ Why do we tend to focus more on *opposition* than *openness* to the work we do?

What can we do to keep opposition from making us want to quit?

***One more thing...***

Our study focused on Acts 13:13-52, but we skipped verses 16-41. In these verses, Luke recorded the sermon Paul preached at Pisidian Antioch. New Testament scholar Darryl Bock summarizes Paul's sermon in one sentence: "At the center of the message were the person, promise, and provision of Jesus as the Christ."

- ❖ How would you describe "the person, the promise, and the provision of Jesus" to someone else?
- ❖ Paul concluded his sermon by calling on the people to make their choice and place their faith in Jesus. When did you do this yourself? (And if that is something you need to do right now, ask the group for guidance.)



Close with praise reports and prayer requests