

Acts 13:13-41

October 26, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul delivered his first sermon recorded in the book of Acts. His message to the Jews there was tailored to reach them specifically, showing how Jesus was the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What have you been learning in our study of Acts? Do you have any takeaways you'd like to share?

What did we study last week? What was happening in Paul's ministry?

When you think about strategies we can use to share the gospel, what comes to mind?



Last week, we read about Paul and Barnabas being called and sent off on what we know as Paul's first missionary journey. In today's reading, Luke recorded them leaving Paphos, where they encountered Elymas the sorcerer, and heading to Antioch of Pisidia, where Paul would deliver his first public sermon Luke recorded.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 13:13-15.

What actions did Paul and his companions take? Why might that be important?

What actions do you notice they did not take? Why might that be important?

Why does it matter that we are thoughtful in how we approach sharing the gospel with others?

These verses bridge our study from last week to our study today and help set up Paul's sermon in our next section of reading.

In verse 13, Luke recorded that John Mark left Paul and Barnabas to return to Jerusalem. We don't know why he left, but John Mark's return to Jerusalem would later drive a rift between Paul and Barnabas, causing them to go separate ways on their next missionary journey. (We'll read about this in Acts 15.)

Notice the actions Paul and Barnabas initially took in Pisidian Antioch. It was Paul's custom to always begin his ministry with the Jews. Sometimes the good news was accepted, sometimes it was not. In this case, it was the Sabbath, and they went to the synagogue. The law and the prophets (what we know as the Old Testament) was read and they were invited to speak by the leaders of the synagogue, thus setting the stage for Paul to evangelize.

🌿 ASK MULTIPLE VOLUNTEERS TO READ ACTS 13:16-41.

What stands out to you in Paul's sermon?

What connections did Paul make with Israelite history? Why was this pertinent to His audience?

Why is it important we share the gospel in a way that those around us will best understand and receive it?



God opened the door for Paul to share the gospel, and Paul walked right through it. He was ready to share his faith, and he didn't miss the chance.

He began by establishing common ground. Paul was an Israelite too. He knew what they believed and knew the very Scriptures they read on the Sabbath day pointed to the fact that Jesus was the Messiah. In his sermon, Paul delivered a retelling of the history of the Israelite people that pointed straight to Jesus.

In verse 23, Paul made the connection to the Messiah. God promised the people a Savior, and He delivered on that promise by sending Jesus. Paul made the point that even Jesus' rejection and suffering was prophesied in the Old Testament (vv.27 ,29). Paul was there to proclaim, "the good news of the promise that was made to our ancestors" (v.32). Paul made connection after connection proving that the law and the prophets firmly pointed to Jesus.

Justification is the forgiveness of our sins. This happens when we accept the gift of salvation. Our sins (past, present, and future) are fully, freely, and forever forgiven.

The law offered a temporary, works-based system to get right with God. If you sinned on the way home from offering a sacrifice, you would need another sacrifice to be justified again. This was always only meant to be temporary. Jesus was always the long-term plan. Jesus did what the law could not.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What would it look like to share the gospel in a way that those around you might best understand?

How can we collectively seek to share the gospel with those in our community?

Who has God placed on your heart that He wants you to start having gospel conversations with? What steps will you take?

Paul's ministry is a masterclass on strategically sharing the gospel. He related to his listeners and delivered the gospel in a way intended to reach them specifically. This remains an important practice for us today.



PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for the gift of being able to read about and learn from believers like Paul. Ask Him for help as you consider how you can minister to and share the gospel with the people He has placed in your life.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

November 2, 2025 --- Acts 13:42-52

COMMENTARY

Acts 13:13-41

The Setting (13:13–16a)

From Cyprus the two missionaries sailed to the coast of Pamphylia (southern Turkey today). John Mark left them, returning to Jerusalem. It is unclear why he did so. It was a sore spot with Paul (15:38). Paul and Barnabas continued on their journey, traveling the difficult trail that led from the coast to Antioch, which was located 3,600 feet up in the mountains on the border of Phrygia and Pisidia. There was a Jewish synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, which the two visited on the Sabbath. Paul was invited to speak. He preached a lengthy sermon, his first major address in Acts.

The Sermon (13:16b–41)

Since he was preaching to Jews, Paul's sermon had much in common with Peter's sermons of Acts 2 and 3. It was mainly constructed around Old Testament texts. It can be outlined in three sections. Verses 16b–25 remind one of Stephen's sermon. They summarize Israel's history from the Exodus to David. Paul highlighted events which emphasized God's promises and His mercy to His people. In verses 26–37 he introduced the Jews of Pisidian Antioch to Jesus, the promised Messiah. He told them of the death and resurrection of Jesus and quoted Old Testament texts which pointed to these events. Finally, he concluded his sermon with an appeal for them to repent and believe in Jesus. He emphasized that salvation is through faith in Jesus, not by works of the law. This became a favorite theme in Paul's epistles, which he would write later.

