

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?

INTRODUCTION

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

Timeline Scramble

Items Needed:

Notecards with the following biblical periods listed on them. You will need one set of notecards for each group.

- The Exodus
- Wandering in the wilderness
- Occupation of the Promised Land
- Period of the Judges
- King Saul
- King David
- God Sends Jesus
- John the Baptist's Ministry
- Jesus's Life, Crucifixion, and Resurrection

How to Play:

- Divide students into small groups.
- Give each group one set of notecards, mixed up, face down.
- Set a timer for 3 minutes. Students have until the timer is up to unscramble the events in the biblical timeline (No looking in your Bible!).

- When the timer is up, do a group-wide review of the correct order (above) and see how everyone did.
- If you have extra time, play again.

Teaching Moment:

In our game, we put Old Testament and New Testament events in order. All these really happened in the history of God's people. In our reading today, we'll study Paul's first public sermon in the book of Acts, where he walked through these events and showed how the Old Testament points to Jesus.

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER OR VOLUNTEERS TO READ ACTS 13:13-41.

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?

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?

GOING DEEPER

How can we strategize the way we share the gospel with others without compromising the message of the gospel?

What are some other examples from Scripture where people (including Paul again) did this?

APPLICATION

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?

PRAYER

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 Dr. Hershel York leads us in a special study on marriage and Christ-like love.

November 2, 2025 --- Ephesians 5:21-33

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.