

Acts 13:42-52

November 2, 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 or passage?

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

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

MAIN POINT

In Antioch, Paul and Barnabas met opposition from the Jews, and open acceptance from the Gentiles. Many believed and the gospel continued to spread.

INTRODUCTION

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

What big takeaways do you have from our study of Acts so far?

What have you learned that has surprised you?

What stands out to you that we have studied in Paul's ministry so far?

Last week, we read about Paul and Barnabas's visit to the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia. Paul delivered a sermon there that pointed the people to Jesus and, in our study today, we'll learn what happened next.



UNDERSTANDING

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

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 13:42-43.

How did the people respond to Paul and Barnabas's message?

Compare this with the way other groups responded at different times.

What did it mean for Paul and Barnabas to "continue in the grace of God" (v.43)?

These two verses set up the passage we will study today. After Paul's sermon in the synagogue, the congregation urged them to come speak to them again the following Sabbath.

The Holy Spirit used Paul's apparent gifts of teaching and evangelism to speak to the people's hearts. They wanted to hear more and even followed them. Luke's note about urging the people to "continue in the grace of God" (v.43) points people toward Jesus (we are saved by God's grace, not good works).

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 13:44-45.

How did the Jews respond to Paul and Barnabas?

How did this compare to the people in verses 42-43?

What do we learn was the Jews' motivation? How does this impact the church today?

Paul's message was so popular that "almost the whole town" showed up the next week to hear what he had to say. Luke gives us a peek into these particular Jews' hearts, and it looks familiar. Remember, the Jews couldn't refute Stephen back in Acts 6, so they stirred up the people against him. The Jews also refused to accept Jesus's message during His earthly ministry. We shouldn't lump all first-century Jews in with the ones who rejected Jesus, but we see a familiar pattern here (and we'll see it continue in Acts). People were jealous of the attention the gospel garnered and began to oppose the ones sharing it.

This is a good reminder for us today. Not everyone will want to hear the gospel message, and some will even radically oppose and work against our sharing it.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 13:46-52.

How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the opposition they received?



How is this instructive for us today?

How did God continue to work in the area, despite the opposition the disciples received?

In the face of false contradictions and insults, Paul and Barnabas responded with boldness. They said the Jews judged themselves “unworthy of eternal life” (v.46). When we share the gospel, we aren’t in control of others’ responses. Our job is simply to sow, and in this case, Paul and Barnabas had done their job.

The New Testament regularly mentions this idea of the gospel message coming first to the Jews. Per God’s plan, the gospel was always meant to make its way to the Gentiles too, and God used Paul and his companions as a “light for the Gentiles” (v.47; Isaiah 49:6). Salvation was going to the ends of the earth in the hands of believers living out the great commission.

This was cause for celebration among the Gentiles, and many believed. Once again, we see the good news spread throughout the region!

The jealous Jews, though, weren’t done with their opposition. We learn in this passage that women of wealth and status had the power of influence in this society. Along with “leading men of the city” (v.50), they stirred the people up against Paul and Barnabas and kicked them out of the district.

As Jesus taught in Matthew 10:14, Paul and Barnabas “shook the dust off their feet” (v.51) and left once the people rejected the message of the gospel. Despite the rejection, the disciples were “filled with joy” (v.52) at the spread of the gospel.

APPLICATION

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

In this passage, the disciples saw opposition and spiritual fruit. How have you experienced the two of these at once in your life? Why should we expect this?

How can we seek to respond boldly when faced with opposition to the gospel message?

Who is God calling you to share the gospel with this week? How will you respond?



PRAYER

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

Thank God for making salvation available. Thank Him for everything He is teaching you in your study of Acts. Ask that He would help the members of your group as you consider how to share the gospel with those around you.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

November 9, 2025 --- Acts 14:1-28



COMMENTARY

Acts 13:42-52

13:42–43 Whether due to the speech's novelty or their genuine spiritual hunger, the people wanted to hear more. It was probably in the "downtime" outside the synagogues, in small groups or individual meetings, that Paul and Barnabas accomplished their most effective teaching.

13:44–45 Keen interest sprang up over the gospel message everywhere Paul and Barnabas went, whether for or against. Jesus foretold the opposition the evangelists would face (Mk 13:13).

13:46–47 The NT consistently says the gospel message came first to the Jews (e.g., Mk 7:27), though the Gentiles were anticipated as eventual recipients. Acts shows the same pattern. Early in their mission work, Paul and Barnabas recognized that their duty was to bring the good news to the Jews first. But Jewish rejection of this message warranted their taking it to the Gentiles.

13:48 This verse expresses one of the great enigmatic truths of Scripture: all who had been appointed to eternal life believed. This touches both on God's election ("appointed") and the human responsibility to choose ("believed").

13:49 The whole region was predominantly Gentile. Thus those who were historically "outside" God's people were coming to overshadow and redefine God's people.

13:50 Seeing that the gospel was gaining wide acceptance, the Jewish leaders incited both men and women of status to reject Barnabas and Paul. This was a familiar tactic (Mt 27:20).

13:51 They shook the dust off their feet, obeying Jesus's command to his disciples (Lk10:11).

13:52 Joy is the outward expression of the work of the Holy Spirit within a believer.

