

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/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.

Begin your time with group discussion. Ask students to form groups of four and have them talk through how they would feel and respond to the following scenarios:

- You tried talking to someone about Jesus, but they laughed at you.
- You invited someone to youth group, but they said no.
- You got bullied for your beliefs.
- You tried to help someone, but they were rude and didn't accept.
- You prayed for someone who was mean to you behind your back.

Consider ending by sharing personal stories from leaders about how God worked in you and others in a discouraging situation.

Teaching Moment:

In our study of Acts today, we will read about a time when Paul and Barnabas were rejected, insulted, and opposed. The hard truth is not everyone wants to hear the gospel message or receive it, but we are all called to share it, just like Paul and Barnabas.

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 13:42-52.

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)?

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?

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?

GOING DEEPER

Why is it important for Christians to be okay with rejection?

What did Jesus say about the way His followers would be treated?

APPLICATION

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

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.