

Acts.

vol. 4

the church
on mission

Accompanies the 10/23/22 Sermon

Acts 13:13-52

Acts 13 is a turning point for the church. Up to this point the activities in the book of Acts have been focused on Jerusalem and Samaria. The church is now being sent out to other regions and with it the Gospel is spreading. The rest of the book of Acts is largely marked by the spread of the Gospel and the missionary activity of Paul and others. This portion of Acts will teach us what it looks like to live missional lives even during difficulty and division.

This week we will see that: **Their resistance might be God's redirection**

GETTING STARTED

Start your group time by opening with a discussion. If you did this last week skip ahead

Mission accomplished: At the end of any great mission or effort you can look back and determine if the goals were accomplished or missed. Think of the football team that defeats the other team by that last field goal, or the medical advancement that saves thousands of lives... mission accomplished. Imagine yourselves at the end of your life on this earth. As you reflect on all that you experienced and did **what is it that you hope to look back on and say to yourself, "mission accomplished"?**

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Acts 13** (we will primarily focus on v13-52) read **Acts 1:8**

- Paul and his companions were on a mission. How does Acts 13 relate to Acts 1:8?
- In v42-43 what was the initial response of the Jews in Perga when they heard the Gospel?
- What shifted the crowd's response to the Gospel that Paul shared?
- What was Paul's reaction to the shifting of the crowd's favor?
- What does Paul's response tell us about how he understood the mission that he had been given?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Acts 1:8 tells us of the instructions that the early church was given. Acts 13 tells us about the specific calling that Paul and Barnabas had.

- 1) What general instructions does the church have today?
- 2) Have you ever received specific instructions from God?
- 3) Why might people be resistant of the Gospel?
- 4) Paul and his companions are met with all sorts of resistance when it came to their spreading of the Goodnews of Jesus, yet they were still passionate about the calling they had. What are some reasons that we may be apprehensive to share the Gospel today? Should we do so despite these apprehensions?
- 5) When people receive the gospel, they often respond with Joy just as the gentiles did in today's text. How should this inspire us to share the Gospel with others?

Here are 3 rules for going on mission:

- a. Ask God for an Open Door
- b. Look for the Person of Peace
- c. Be Ready to Share Your Story

Would you be willing to take these three steps over the next two weeks and share any results with our group next week?