

January 11, 2026
Mission Possible – Acts 13:13–52 Study Guide

Big Idea

God planned salvation, accomplished it through Jesus Christ, and now applies it to people through the proclamation of the Gospel. Because the world often gets Jesus wrong, God sends His people to clearly and faithfully tell the story—again and again.

Background & Setting

- Acts 1:8 provides the outline of the entire book: the Gospel moves from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, and now in Acts 13–20, to the ends of the earth.
 - Paul's missionary journeys (beginning around AD 44) are God's means of bringing clarity about Jesus in a world full of confusion, rumor, and incomplete information.
 - Acts 13 records Paul's **first missionary sermon**, delivered in a synagogue to a primarily Jewish audience, with Gentiles also present.
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Read the Passage

Acts 13:13–52

As you read, note:

- How often God is the subject of the action
 - How Paul connects Israel's history to Jesus
 - The different responses to the Gospel
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Section 1: The Travel Log (Acts 13:13–16a)

Paul and Barnabas travel from Cyprus to Pisidian Antioch, where they are invited to speak in the synagogue.

Questions

1. Why do you think Paul consistently begins his ministry in a new city at the synagogue?
 2. What does this invitation to speak suggest about openness—or expectation—within the synagogue gathering?
 3. How does geography and movement play an important role in God's mission throughout Acts?
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Section 2: God Planned It (Acts 13:16b–22)

Paul recounts Israel's history, emphasizing God's sovereign hand in every stage.

Questions

1. As Paul retells Israel's story, how many times does God take the initiative?
 2. Why is it important that Paul roots the Gospel in real history rather than abstract ideas?
 3. How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past help strengthen faith in the present?
 4. Which part of Israel's story do you most easily relate to—and why?
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Section 3: God Did It (Acts 13:23–31)

Paul moves from promise to fulfillment, showing how God accomplished salvation through Jesus.

Questions

1. What does Paul emphasize about Jesus' coming—reaction or plan? Why does that matter?
 2. How does the role of John the Baptist reinforce the identity and mission of Jesus?
 3. What does Acts 13:27–29 teach us about God's sovereignty even in human sin and injustice?
 4. Why is the resurrection essential to the Gospel Paul proclaims?
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Section 4: God Has Done It for You (Acts 13:32–41)

Paul applies the Gospel personally, calling his hearers to respond.

Questions

1. According to verses 38–39, what does Jesus provide that the Law of Moses could not?
 2. How would you explain justification in your own words based on this passage?
 3. Why is it tempting to treat Jesus as an “add-on” rather than the center of life?
 4. Which phrase or truth from this section feels most personal to you right now?
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Section 5: The Response (Acts 13:42–52)

The Gospel produces joy, faith, opposition, and division.

Questions

1. Compare the responses of those who believed with those who opposed Paul and Barnabas.
2. Why do you think opposition increased as the message spread and crowds grew?
3. What does verse 48 reveal about God’s work and human response in salvation?
4. How do Paul and Barnabas respond to rejection, and what can we learn from their example?

Personal Reflection

1. If someone could hear your inner response to this message, what would they notice—resistance, curiosity, joy, indifference, worship?
2. In what ways might God be calling you to live more sacrificially for the mission of Jesus?
3. Who in your life might need greater clarity about who Jesus is and what He has done?