

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 5/07/2023

### Acts 13:38-52

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

**Opening discussion: Have you ever been nervous the first time you've done something? How did you get through it?**

### Highlights

- Our passion at Connection Point is to become Everyday Disciples
  - We understand the value of Sunday gatherings
  - But we realize our call starts when we leave the Sunday gathering. Our mission is outside of the building – Everyday.
- We strive to be Everyday Disciples who are becoming Everyday Missionaries
  - Taking the things we've learned to people who do not yet know Jesus.
- Everyday Discipleship: Discover, Connect, Grow and Multiply



- Multiply is not how to get more people at Connection Point
  - It's how to get more people into the Kingdom of God.
  - **What do you think about that? What does that mean to you?**
  - Connection Point is solely focused on multiplying the Kingdom
  - **Wherever we are the church is. YOU are the church.**
- Remember, when Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch the Bible wasn't a thing!
  - All they had was the Gospel...the Word.
  - **Can you tell the story of the Gospel without your Bible? Can you tell how Jesus is changing your life?**
- When Paul got to a city, the first place he would go was to the synagogue, where the Jews are.
  - **Why would he start there?**
- It's very scary to give your first sermon.
  - It's possible based on the words Paul used, he was thinking of Stephen as he first shared the Gospel. Remember, he was the one collecting the cloaks of the people who

were stoning Stephen. **Read Stephen's words (Acts 7) and Paul's words (Acts 13:16-40) and compare. Do you see the similarities?**

- **Acts 13:38-39**
  - **What does through Jesus mean?**
  - Believe is more than just knowing. It's moving from the head to the heart. You don't just think it, you think it and do it.
  - Every sin, forever. Under the Law, you had to ask for forgiveness of your sins annually on the Day of Atonement, and through the year offer animal sacrifices to cover sins.
    - THROUGH Jesus ALL your sins have been forgiven. You have been set free.
- **Acts 13:42-43** – The people said, “awesome. Tell us more!” **Have you ever heard the gospel in a way that you said, I want to hear more? What was it like. What was so special about it that you just had to hear more?**
  - The Jews hung around and talked to them. Everyone was happy.
- **Acts 13:44** – The whole city gathered. That means those who had heard Paul's sermon went out and told others! **How can YOU impact the whole city. Hint – one person at a time! But you have to go!**
  - When they came back they came to hear the Word – the Gospel – not Paul
  - The Jewish leaders became jealous. They had been telling the people all about the God of Israel and Paul comes in, shares the Gospel, and the people are excited, moved, and want to hear more!
  - The gospel is offensive.
    - When you speak the gospel out loud someone has to make a decision.
- **Acts 13:46** – Paul is saying, “hey Jews, I know we're family but you have decided to disrespect the Gospel, so we're moving on to the Gentiles.
- **Acts 13:47-48** – Quoting Isaiah 49:6. Gentiles were glad to hear the Gospel. Glad: hears were full of joy; they couldn't believe what was being shared FOR THEM!!
  - **When you are on fire for Jesus and He is changing your life, it's hard to stop talking about Him. What about you?**
- **Acts 13:51** – They shook the dust off their feet not because the Jews didn't embrace the Gospel but because they disrespected it.
  - This is easy to do with loved ones; the ones closest to us. **Have you ever given up on a family member because they didn't embrace the Gospel right away?**

### **What do we learn from Paul and Barnabas?**

- When the Kingdom grows rapidly, persecution follows quickly.
- The Gospel creates life change; not persuasive communicators or passionate arguments.
- Our ability to share the Gospel is about the Gospel and NOT about us.
  - It doesn't matter if you stutter, don't know the Bible or sinned yesterday. It's not about you; it's about the Gospel. You are not that important.

### **Two Questions**

1. **Is Jesus changing your life?**
2. **Who knows He is changing you**
  - a. The whole world needs to know Jesus is changing your life.
  - b. You don't have to have all the answers when He is changing your life.
  - c. When we share the Gospel with others, it moves us as much as it could move them. We **MUST** tell others.

**We multiply the Kingdom when we share how Jesus is changing our lives with others: first with those closest to you and then others.**