

Passage Study Guide - Acts 13:13-41

Series: Acts



Part 1: Getting to the Big Idea

Questions get to the Big Idea of the passage

1. Highlight all of God's activity in Paul's sermon (v16-41). How would you summarise God's intention and heart in the history of Israel?
2. Refer to the phrases you highlighted above. How would you summarise God's involvement in the life of Jesus?
3. Paul cites Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 55:3 and Psalm 16:10 in his sermon (v32-39). What does God promise in these passages? What were His people expecting?
4. How does Jesus fulfil the promises of God in v32-39? How were those promises fulfilled in a way that far exceeds the expectations of God's people?

Part 2: Takeaways & Applications

Applying the passage to our lives to grow in Christlikeness

Fallen Condition Questions

Considering our idols and temptations; how we are both sinners and sufferers

1. The people of Israel were looking for God's promises to the fathers for a long time (v32). What kinds of circumstances tend to make us feel that God fails to keep His promises towards us?
2. Sometimes we mistake true freedom for the ability to direct our own lives. In what areas of our lives have we rejected God's will and guidance? How is our cynicism towards God's goodness and love in our lives related to this rejection of God's will?

Personal Renewal Questions

Considering how we can be renewed and transformed in Christlikeness

3. Consider the difficult circumstances we shared in the above questions. How does the person and work of Jesus encourage our hearts, when difficult circumstances eclipse God's love and goodness towards us?
4. Consider the ways we tend to reject God's guidance in favour of our own "freedom." How does the fact that Jesus is the promised King encourage us to entrust our lives to him?
5. Paul says that Jesus frees us from everything which the law could not free us from. Consider the freedom that the gospel promises us: what does the gospel personally set you free from? How does this reality of freedom compel us to live?

Shaping Church Culture Questions

Considering how the gospel shapes and permeates the culture within our community

6. What are some ways we can encourage one another in our CG to fix our eyes and hopes on King Jesus, even when the circumstances are difficult? How can we fight cynicism together?

7. Even when we have placed our faith in Jesus, we often find ourselves still struggling with either the guilt (condemnation) or effects (temptations) of remaining sin. How can we in the community help each other to wrestle against these remaining sins with the freedom that Jesus gives?

Optional Activity: Paul's sermon is a narration of Israel's story that highlights God's active role in pursuing, loving and delivering them. Think back to a difficult season of life (or meditate on the current season) – take time to write/narrate your story in a way that highlights God's active role and his love for you. Share it/read it out to one or two others in your CG.