

## D-group Discussion Guide

Wednesday 3/31/2021

### Scripture: Acts 13:13-52

**Main Point:** God has done everything in the past that brought Jesus (salvation) and he is continuing his plan in our lives as well.

**Meaning for 2021:** Our belief in Jesus = relief of burdens! We can trust God is walking with us continuing to make his plan happen in our lives too. 😊

### Set the Stage

Context- Paul and Barnabas 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey arriving in Perga and heads straight to synagogue. Even though they are strangers to this synagogue, they are asked to speak before the congregation. (God is working!) God is immediately providing a platform for Paul and Barnabas to share the gospel. Paul's sermon is packed full of "God did it" comments. He is intentionally pointing out that God made all of Israel's history happen to bring the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus, they were longing for. But, they missed it! Paul's point is to show through a history lesson and prophecy that Jesus was indeed the Savior of Israel.

### Begin Video

#### Read Acts 13:13-37

Paul connects himself to the Jewish congregation by recapping Israel's proud history. He intentionally makes God the "action hero" by stating 15 times that God was doing the action.

Examples:

- God chose Israel and made them great
- God led them out of Egypt
- God destroyed seven nations of Canaan
- God gave them the promised land

**etc... ALL OF THIS IS LEADING TO JESUS!**

**Vs. 26-27** Paul is explaining that the Jewish people who crucified Jesus sat in similar synagogues hearing the same prophecies concerning the Messiah (Jesus) over and over every Sabbath, **BUT THEY MISSED IT!** He doesn't want these people to miss it too!

## Potential Path

Personal Note: As a child I always heard that the Jewish people did not believe or recognize the prophecies concerning Jesus. I heard over and over that these prophecies through thousands of years were fulfilled by Jesus and that was why we could trust he truly is the long-awaited Messiah that God had been preparing to send all along. So, what in the world are they? Here are the most important ones to share with the kids like “Linay” who ask lots of questions and have to have specifics. (God bless my parents)

### Great Links to Prophecies:

<https://jewsforjesus.org/answers/top-40-most-helpful-messianic-prophecies>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-Christ.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html>

### Read Acts 13:38-52

**Paul’s Power Statement vs 38-39** “I want you to know, my very dear friends, that it is on account of this resurrected Jesus that the forgiveness of your sins can be promised. He accomplishes, in those who believe, everything that the Law of Moses could never make good on. But everyone who believes in this raised-up Jesus is declared good and right and whole before God.” Message Version

**Paul has shown how God moved all of history to bring the Messiah and now he shares the meaning of Jesus.** Jesus came to bring salvation and to lift the burden of the Law. No matter how hard Israel tried they could not fulfill the demands of the Law and the “right with God.” (Especially after they added man-made laws to “protect” the God-given laws.) Jesus was sent to pay the penalty for all sins and lift the burden of the Law through His perfect obedience.

**Belief = True FREEDOM for us as well. No matter what, God is still working his good plan!**

### Questions:

1. What is something in your life you try to perfect, but you just can’t do it and feel guilty? We never have to feel guilty that we are not perfect for God. God has accomplished all that we need.
2. Why do you think it was so hard for Israel to believe that Jesus was the Messiah they were looking for? Take it a step further and talk about how important it is for each student to have their own belief, not their parent’s or grandparents.
3. How does it impact your life knowing that God has been working all through time to bring Jesus to save his people? How does it make you feel knowing that God is still working his plan for us today in both the good and bad seasons? Try examples 😊