

# Crossway Life Group, Week of May 26

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

## Community

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Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

## Scripture: Acts 13:13-43 "The Only Way"

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### Reading & Discussing Scripture

- What makes someone a good/better/best student? ... or teacher? boss? employee? Christian?
- Background: In time of the early church, Jewish people considered themselves 'near' to God, and non-Jewish (or Gentiles) 'far' from God. The Gospel message teaches that all need salvation through the same work of Christ, both those near and far.
- **Read Acts 13:13-15.** What details reveal that the congregation in Pisidian Antioch with whom Paul meets is a mixture of 'near' and 'far' people? Why is this important?
- **Read Acts 13:16-22.** What actions of God does Paul highlight? (list the verbs). King David committed murder to cover his adultery. In what sense could God considered him 'a man after my own heart'?
- **Read Acts 13:23-31.** What details does Paul highlight to teach that Jesus is the Promised One, God's own plan for salvation for everyone, both 'near' and 'far'? John the Baptist required repentance even among the 'near'. Why might this be a surprise? What does it teach about Christianity?
- **Read Acts 13:32-39:** How is Jesus greater than David or Moses? What does Jesus offer that no one or no law could do?
- **Read Acts 13:40-43:** What is Paul's warning? Why is this important in this context? What is the initial response to Paul's message?
- Do you have any other questions about the sermon or the passage?

### The Big Idea

**God's work with humanity is to save/forgive people through Jesus' historical death and resurrection the centerpiece of God's ongoing work for everyone forever**

How do these passages affirm the big idea: Luke 24:27; Mark 10:45; Colossians 1:19-20; Hebrews 10:14

### Application & Reflection Questions

1. Have you experienced the wonderful grace of Christ, being welcomed and loved by God entirely by His grace in Christ? If so, what was that like?
2. **Read Galatians 3:3 and 6:14.** Discuss this statement: A good Christian is someone who keeps depending upon the grace of Christ; who keeps becoming more and more like Jesus, 'full of grace and truth'. How is this different from the idea that Christians become better people less in need of grace?
3. In what ways are you tempted, "after beginning by means of the Spirit, to finish by means of the flesh and work"? In what ways are you tempted to judge others, separate from grace?
4. What does it look like to "keep depending upon the grace of Christ" on a daily basis? What helps you do that?

### Growing in Cross Cultural Understandings

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The church is a mixture of people from various religious backgrounds. Some people from a Christian background; some from other religions; some with little or no religions background. How would you describe your background? How does the Gospel affect how we see ourselves and others in (or not yet in) the church?

## Serving beyond ourselves

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What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves? In particular, in what way can you be Spirit-filled messengers of the Good News about Jesus Christ?

### Acts 13:13-43 New International Version (NIV)

#### In Pisidian Antioch

<sup>13</sup> From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak.”

<sup>16</sup> Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! <sup>17</sup> The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; <sup>18</sup> for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; <sup>19</sup> and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. <sup>20</sup> All this took about 450 years.

“After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup> Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’

<sup>23</sup> “From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. <sup>24</sup> Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup> As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

<sup>26</sup> “Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup> The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup> When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

<sup>32</sup> “We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors <sup>33</sup> he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: “‘You are my son; today I have become your father.’” <sup>34</sup> God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay.

As God has said, “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’” <sup>35</sup> So it is also stated elsewhere: “‘You will not let your holy one see decay.’”

<sup>36</sup> “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. <sup>37</sup> But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

<sup>38</sup> “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup> Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. <sup>40</sup> Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: <sup>41</sup> “‘Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.’”

<sup>42</sup> As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. <sup>43</sup> When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.