



THE GOSPEL: A MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS

Open it

1. When did someone promise you something and then broke their promise? How did that make you feel?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 13:13–43

2. What did Paul and his companions do when they arrived at Pisidia?
3. What key people and events did Paul mention from the Old Testament?
4. What evidence did Paul give for Jesus' being the Savior?
5. How did the people respond to Paul's message?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: BE READY

Read Acts 13:13–16

We are told in 1 Peter 3:15 to always be prepared to give an answer for our faith. In today's passage Paul had that very opportunity to give that answer. He was asked to stand and share an encouraging word with those who had gathered at the synagogue. He saw this as the perfect opportunity to share the gospel message, or the good news, and that's exactly what he did! So Paul presented the gospel clearly in a way that the people he was talking to would understand what he was saying. Let's just say it's a good thing Paul was ready!

Lots of times we don't even look for opportunities to share the gospel message. Maybe one of the reasons for that is, even if the opportunity were there, we wouldn't know what to say! We aren't ready to give an answer for the faith that we have. This week let's learn how to be ready!

- 6. What is the gospel? Explain it in your own words as if you were explaining it to one of your friends at school.**
- 7. How could you share the gospel message in a way that your friends would better understand?**
- 8. What does it mean to be ready to give an answer for your faith?**

Are you ready? If not, why not?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- That God would help you to really understand the gospel deeply in your heart.
- That God would help you be ready to share the gospel.
- That you would have opportunities to share the gospel with your friends!

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: A PROMISE GIVEN

Read Acts 13:16–25

Do you know where the first promise is of a Savior? It's all the way back in Genesis 3:15! All throughout the Old Testament God keeps telling His people that He is going to send a Messiah or that a Savior is coming to deliver them. That's been part of God's plan from the very beginning! Everything in the Bible is about God telling His story about how He is redeeming, or saving, His people to restore their relationship with Him. Everything in the Bible works together just like a puzzle—all the pieces fit together to show a bigger picture.

Paul is telling the people in Pisidia that God made a promise way back when, and He started to show them how He has been working through history to fulfill that promise!

9. Why did Paul think it was important to explain key things from the Old Testament as he talked to the people in Pisidia? How would that have helped them understand the gospel?

10. How does knowing the Old Testament help people today know their need for Jesus?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here is something you could pray for today:

- That God would help you understand how the whole Bible is one big story!
- That God would help you trust in the promises that He has given you, especially the promise to save you from your sins.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: A PROMISE KEPT

Read Acts 13:26–37

Jesus is the promise you learned about yesterday that God had mentioned way back in Genesis 3:15. Paul tries to explain to his audience that the religious leaders failed to recognize Jesus as the promised Savior— the One the Old Testament had talked about all along! He even quotes Old Testament passages and explains how Jesus fulfilled what the Old Testament said would happen! He wanted those people to know the TRUTH about Jesus and to be saved.

Not only did God promise to send a Savior, but he kept that promise by sending His one and only Son to die on the cross for your sins. And then Jesus rose again from the dead so that you can have LIFE! God loves you so much that He would give so much— even sacrificing Himself— to save you. Aren't you glad that God keeps His promises?

11. How do you know that Jesus is really the Savior?

12. How does it make you feel that God loves you so much that He sacrificed His own Son so that you can be saved?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Thank God for providing a Savior to save you from your sins.
- Ask that God would help you to tell other people about this good news!
- Ask that God would help you trust Him more and more every day.

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: SALVATION

Read Acts 13:38–39

There is nothing you can ever do to earn your salvation. You'll never be good enough. No amount of good works will save you from your sins. Jesus is the ONLY way to be saved.

When Jesus died on the cross, He took all the punishment that you deserved for all your sins that you have ever committed in the past and ever will commit in the future so that you wouldn't have to bear that punishment. And when He rose from the dead, He once and for all conquered the power of sin and death. Did you know that the punishment for your sins is death? That death isn't just that you would die physically, but that you would spend eternity in hell, separated from God. But there is good news! The gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ!¹ Because Jesus died and rose again you can now spend eternity with God in heaven.

13. Why is sin such a terrible thing?

14. We all have a “criminal record” of sins we have committed. What sins are on your record?

Read Isaiah 1:18. How would it make you feel to have all those sins forgiven and removed from your record?

15. What does it mean to be free from sin? How can you live differently if you are truly free from sin?

I HAVE A QUESTION! Write it down so you can ask your leader!

PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Maybe today is the day that you pray and confess your sins to God and ask Jesus to save you from those sins for the very first time!
- Ask God to never let you forget how much He loves you—that He would pay the penalty for your sins.

¹Romans 6:23

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: YOUR RESPONSE

Read Acts 13:40–43

Yesterday you learned about some pretty great news! Since you can't do anything to save yourself, Jesus did it all. Now you just have to respond. Will you trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you willing to turn away from your sinful life and live a life full of joy with God? Are you willing to surrender to Jesus, and by His Spirit, change how you live so that you live for God to be glorified in all that you do?

Your response to the gospel message is the most important decision you'll ever make in your entire life. Are you ready to make that decision?

16. Why can we never earn our own salvation?

Why is it necessary that we are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ?

17. Have you trusted in Jesus for your salvation? If you have, what did God do to bring you to that moment when you trusted? If you haven't trusted Jesus yet, what is stopping you from trusting Him today for your salvation?

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PRAYER GUIDE Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Maybe today is the day that you pray and confess your sins to God and ask Jesus to save you from those sins for the very first time!
- Ask God to never let you forget how much He loves you—that He would pay the penalty for your sins.
- Pray for other people you know who have not trusted in Jesus for their salvation that they would do that.
- Pray for opportunities to tell other people about this great news!