



THE GOSPEL: A MESSAGE THE WORLD NEEDS TO HEAR

Open it

1. What is something you enjoy (a movie, TV series, book, video game, sport, or hobby) that, when you tell other people about it, they argue with you about why they think it is dumb? How does this affect your appreciation for it?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 13:44–52

2. How did the Jews respond to the crowds coming to hear Paul and Barnabas preach the gospel?
3. What all did the Jews do to oppose the preaching of the gospel?
4. How did the Gentiles receive the gospel message?
5. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the persecution from the Jews?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: BEING POSSESSIVE WITH THE GOSPEL

Read Acts 13:44–45

When Paul shared the gospel message in the Jewish synagogue the week before, the Jews were thrilled about it! It says they begged Paul and Barnabas to come back and share more the next week. Well, when the next week rolled around, everyone in town decided to show up! Now suddenly the Jews didn't seem so thrilled about the gospel and, as a matter of fact, tried to oppose Paul and Barnabas! What happened is they didn't want this message going out to the world—they just wanted it to belong to them alone.

We sometimes do the same thing today even though we may not think about it! Sometimes we think that salvation and all God's promises are just for us as Christians, so we don't share the good news with other people! Sometimes you may even be upset if you see someone you don't like show up at church because they are invading "your turf." We need to be careful not to adopt this mindset of being possessive with the gospel, but instead ask God to continually help us be very generous with it—sharing it with all kinds of people around us!

6. Why do you think the Jews became jealous when all these people showed up to hear about salvation through Jesus Christ?

7. In what ways do we show that we think that we are better than non-Christians?

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 give you a heart for people around you to hear the gospel
- That God would enable you to share the gospel with those people! That you would have opportunities to share the gospel with your friends!

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: FEELING SUPERIOR TO OTHERS

Read Acts 13:46–47

We hear an awful lot about these Jews and Gentiles, but it never seems like they are getting along very well. Well, a big reason for this seeming “rivalry” of the Bible that is highlighted so much in Acts is that the Jews believed that they were superior because they were God’s chosen people, and no other group of people could possibly have a relationship with God. That’s why in Acts, when we have seen many Gentiles (anyone who is not a Jew) come to faith in Jesus, the Jews seem to get all upset or skeptical about it! It was a big deal for the Gentiles to be included as “God’s people”!

Aren’t we the same way today? We feel that we are so much better than those worldly non-Christians that we don’t want to associate with them, let alone share the gospel with them. Jesus modeled spending time with sinners and tax collectors (Tax collectors were hated and considered traitors by the Jews because they collected taxes for the Romans with inflated fees for themselves from fellow Jews.) so that He could save them (see Matthew 9:10–13). We, too, need to spend time with the “sinners and tax collectors” in our world so that we can share the gospel with them.

8. What does it mean to be in the world but not of the world (see John 17:14–16)?

9. Who are the people in your school that some Christians “look down” upon?

What can you do to help share the gospel with those people?

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 love everyone around you, even those who are different
- That God will help you be creative in ways to share the gospel message with those people
- Pray for missionaries who are working closely with people who do not like Christianity, that they would be safe and have good chances to show them the love of Jesus.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: BEING BOLD WITH THE GOSPEL

Read Acts 13:46, Romans 1:16, Matthew 28:16–20, 1 Corinthians 3:6

Sometimes sharing our faith can be intimidating. We get all nervous and have second thoughts right before we say something, because we wonder what they'll think of us or if it'll make things weird. But why do we get so nervous?! The verses you read today show you that Paul and Barnabas were bold as they spoke the truth because they knew it was the power of God for salvation, that God was with them and that they could at least plant a seed. Next time you have an opportunity to share your faith, think about these important truths!

10. What things keep you from sharing your faith with people around you?

11. Not knowing how someone might respond to your evangelism can be scary. What truths about God and His Word give us greater confidence and boldness to share our faith, even when we don't know how the listener will respond?¹

12. What can Christians do to grow in their confidence and boldness in sharing the gospel through evangelism?

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 overcome your fears in sharing the gospel with others
- That God would give you confidence to share your faith

¹ Badal, Timothy. *What Kind of a Light Are You?* September 2018. Village Bible Church, Sugar Grove.

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: INTERESTED IN THE GOSPEL

Read Acts 13:48

While sharing our faith is difficult and scary at times, it's all worth it for those times when people seem receptive and interested in learning more about Jesus! The Gentiles were clearly interested in the gospel message. We know that because they "began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord" upon hearing it! The week before, the people begged Paul and Barnabas to come back and teach again. This reminds me of what Jesus says in Matthew 9:37, "*The harvest is plentiful....*" There are lots of people out there who are ready to hear the gospel and respond to it in faith and repentance!

13. What do you think causes people to be excited to hear more about the gospel?

14. Are you excited to hear more from God's Word?

Why do you think some Christians get "bored" of learning from God's Word?

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

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

- Pray for the people in your life that you know you want to talk to about Jesus. Pray that God would be working in their hearts right now to prepare them to hear the gospel!
- Pray that God would send out more and more people to tell the world about Jesus!

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: RESISTANT TO THE GOSPEL

Read Acts 13:45, 50–51

Wouldn't it be great if everyone walked around with some sort of sign on their forehead that let you know if they were going to accept the gospel message or resist it? That sure would seem to make everything a lot easier! But in reality, that doesn't exist. We've learned that there are some out there who are ready to believe, but there are also some who may get mad at you or resist you as you share the gospel message. In America, we don't face much persecution for our faith, but there are Christians all around the world who are being arrested, beaten, and even killed for sharing their faith with others. Paul and Barnabas faced persecution from the Jews, so much so that they had to leave town. The good news is that I don't think we will face much of that in our country if we step out and share our faith! So then, what's stopping you?!

15. What kind of resistance is there in your school against the gospel today? Who is trying to stop it? What are they doing to stop it?

16. Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust from their feet and moved on to another city. How should we respond when we share the gospel with someone who denies it and opposes its message?

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

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

- Pray for those who are hostile to the gospel, that God would soften their hearts to respond to it in faith!
- Pray for those who are ministering to people who are hostile to the gospel, that they would be able to love and care for those people and show them the love of Jesus!