

Acts 13:1-25 Discussion Questions

- In a sentence or two, how would you summarize what happens in Acts 13:1–25?
- What strikes you most as you read this passage for the first time (a word, phrase, action, or person)?

1–3

- How would you describe the leadership team at Antioch in verse 1 (backgrounds, diversity, gifts)? What might this tell us about God’s heart for His church?
- What were these leaders doing when the Holy Spirit spoke (v. 2)? What does this suggest about how we hear God’s direction?
- What do you notice about the church’s response to the Spirit’s call (vv. 2–3)?
- Do you think it was hard for the church to let Paul and Barnabas go? Why or why not?
- Where have you seen God “set apart” people for particular ministry roles in your own church or life?

4–12

- What do you learn about Elymas/Bar-Jesus in this account (vv. 6–8)?
- How would you describe Paul’s boldness in vv. 9–11? When is such strong confrontation appropriate, and what dangers do we need to avoid when we confront error?
- In what ways does the blindness of Elymas mirror his spiritual condition?
- How does the Governor respond (v. 12)? What seems to convince him—the miracle, the teaching, or both? How have you seen God use both truth and power to draw people?
- What is the significance of Saul being called Paul from now on?

13–25

- Paul begins by reviewing Israel’s history (vv. 16–22). Why do you think he starts there with this audience?
- Make a quick list of what Paul says God has done (verbs describing God’s actions) in vv. 17–22. What picture of God emerges from this list?
- How does Paul show that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel (vv. 22–23)?
- John the Baptist appears briefly in vv. 24–25. Why is his role important in Paul’s argument? How does John model humility in ministry?
- If you had to summarize Paul’s “good news” in vv. 16–23 in one or two sentences, what would you say?
- Where do you sense the Holy Spirit might be “setting you apart” in this season (a person, ministry, or step of obedience)? What helps you discern that, and what still feels unclear?
- What kinds of “Elymas-like” obstacles tend to discourage you when you try to share your faith or serve?
- Paul and Barnabas leave a thriving church in Antioch to go where God sends them. What might it look like for you to hold your comfort and routines more loosely for the sake of mission?
- How can your small group or church better imitate Antioch—both in listening to the Spirit and in sending/supporting people for ministry?