SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 13

Sent Out: A Light for the Gentiles

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 13:38–39

"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 13

Acts 13 is the week God sends ordinary men out from a praying church, and one of them quits on the way. Whatever you are carrying — a record, a relapse, a door that slammed shut — this chapter says that through Jesus you are freed from all things, and that the joy of the Holy Spirit can meet you even in a hard place.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Set Apart

READ · ACTS 13:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who were the leaders at Antioch, what were they doing when the Holy Spirit spoke, and what did the Spirit tell them (13:1–2)?

REFLECT

The call came "while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting" (13:2). What crowds out simple time with the Lord in your week?

REFLECT

The church let go of two of its best men (13:3). What is God asking you to hold loosely so He can use it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Skip one meal today and use that time to worship God, asking Him for nothing.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 13:38–39)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Straight Ways of the Lord

READ · ACTS 13:4–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who wanted to hear the word of God at Paphos, who tried to stop him, and what happened to the man who opposed them (13:7–11)?

REFLECT

Elymas tried "to turn the proconsul away from the faith" (13:8). Has anyone ever pulled you away from God — or have you ever made it harder for someone else to come to Him? Be honest about it.

REFLECT

Saul, the man who was once struck blind himself (9:8), now speaks for the Lord "filled with the Holy Spirit" (13:9). What does that tell you about what God can do with a man's past?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God to show you one way you could be a straight path for someone watching you this week, and do it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 13:38–39)

DAY 3 OF 5

When Someone Quits

READ · ACTS 13:13–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did John Mark do at Perga, and what part of Israel's history did Paul tell in the synagogue, from the fathers to David (13:13, 17–22)?

REFLECT

John Mark "left them and returned to Jerusalem" (13:13). Where in your life have you walked away when things got hard — a job, a family, a program, God Himself?

REFLECT

Paul tells God's story as one thing after another that God did: He chose, He led, He gave, He raised up (13:17–23). Looking back over your own life, where can you now see God working when you didn't know it?

RESPOND — TODAY

If you have quit on something good, take one small step back toward it today — make the call, show up, or tell a brother you want to start again.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 13:38–39)

DAY 4 OF 5

Freed from All Things

READ · ACTS 13:26–41

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the people of Jerusalem do to Jesus, what did God do, and what does Paul say is now proclaimed to everyone who believes (13:27–30, 38–39)?

REFLECT

Paul says "through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things" (13:39). What is the one thing you find hardest to believe Jesus has really freed you from?

REFLECT

Paul warns, "take heed" (13:40), so that we don't hear the good news so often that we stop marveling at it. Where have you grown used to the gospel?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the thing you are most ashamed of, then write across it: "Freed through Him" (13:39) — and thank Jesus out loud.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 13:38–39)

DAY 5 OF 5

Joy When the Door Closes

READ · ACTS 13:42–52

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did the crowds respond the next Sabbath, how did some of the Jews respond, and how were the disciples doing at the end of the chapter (13:44–45, 48, 52)?

REFLECT

The same message made some people jealous and others rejoice (13:45, 48). When you hear God's word, which way does your heart lean — and why?

REFLECT

Thrown out of town, the disciples "were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (13:52). Where are you facing a closed door right now, and what would it look like to meet it with joy instead of bitterness?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one hard situation and pray, "Lord, fill me with joy and with Your Spirit right here," then tell one man what God is doing in you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 13:38–39)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The church at Antioch heard God while they worshiped (13:2). What helps you hear God, and what gets in the way?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Paul's whole sermon pointed to "a Savior, Jesus" (13:23). If a man asked you this week who Jesus is and what He did, what would you say?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Which verse in Acts 13 did God use on you most this week, and what did you do about it?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You that through You I am freed from all things, and today I bring You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 13:38–39

"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."