



The Acts of the Spirit
GATHERING THE CHURCH

ACTS 13:13-43

"THE MESSAGE"

APRIL 21, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Jeff preached about Paul's message of the good news of Jesus' resurrection. His listeners were godly religious people who already knew and followed God. So Paul was bringing a message of the new, astonishing thing God has done through Jesus. We've heard that message before – in fact, maybe we've heard it so many times that we're no longer amazed or astounded by it.

But our faith and hope are centered on the incredible claim that Jesus actually rose from the dead. And his resurrection is now at the center of our understanding of what God is like, our confidence in what God is doing in our lives, and our hope for the future. It's a message that God wants us to be astounded at (again).

Expand Your Awareness

- What astonishes you these days? Why?
- What does it mean to be astonished? What does it feel like?
- Why and how do we lose astonishment?
- How do think we regain it?

Extract The Truth

Read Acts 13:13-43

- What jumped out to you from the text?

Pastor Jeff said we should be astonished by this text because it gives:

- Evidence of God's Promises Fulfilled
- Reveals Jesus' Identity as Son of God
- Reminder of the guarantee of our salvation.



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.



When we slow down and think about them, those are amazing things.

- Where do you see evidence of these things in the text?
- Why do you believe these were spoken to the people?
- What were they supposed to do as a result of hearing these things?

Explore Your Experience

- Looking at the list from the text, which of these three astonishes you the most about God?
- Which has grown stale for you?
- Why do you think that is?

Experience Transformation

Pastor Jeff highlighted that oftentimes, the way to shake off familiarity is to slow down, observe, and practice gratitude. When we do that, we can feel wonder come back.

Let's go down the list from above; what would everyday life be like if we did not have:

- Evidence of God's Promises fulfilled?
- Relationship with Jesus- the Son of God?
- The Cross-the guarantee of our salvation?

Conversely, what is everyday life like because we have:

- Evidence of God's Promises fulfilled?
- Jesus- the Son of God?
- The Cross- A Guarantee of our Salvation?
- What is getting in the way of you slowing down and being astonished with these things?
- What is one thing you could do this week to awaken your sense of astonishment at who God is and what he has done?
- How can this group help you with that?

Prayer

- Pray for one another's needs and our sense of astonishment with Jesus