R. Albert Mohler Jr.

Acts 13-28

The Church Multiplies





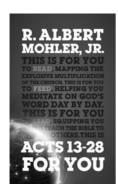
R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

Acts 13-28

The Church Multiplies



8-Session Bible Study



Acts 13-28 For You

These studies are adapted from Acts 13–28 For You. If you are reading Acts 13–28 For You alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of Acts 13–28 For You:

 Study One > Ch 1
 Study Five > Ch 6-7

 Study Two > Ch 2-3
 Study Six > Ch 8-9

 Study Three > Ch 3-4
 Study Seven > Ch 9-11

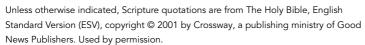
 Study Four > Ch 5-6
 Study Eight > Ch 12

Find out more about Acts 13–28 For You at: www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Acts 13–28: The Church Multiplies
A Good Book Guide
© R. Albert Mohler, Jr./The Good Book Company, 2019.
This edition printed 2025.







R. Albert Mohler, Jr. has asserted his right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as author of this work.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

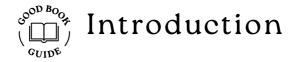
Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781802541540 | JOB-008395 | Printed in India



Contents

ntroduction Vhy Study Acts 13 – 28?	4 5
1. Mission Commenced Acts 13:1 – 14:28	7
2. The Council in Jerusalem Acts 15:1 – 16:5	13
3. The World Upside Down Acts 16:6 – 17:34	19
4. God's Word Prevails Acts 18:1 – 19:20	25
5. The God Worth Serving Acts 19:21 – 20:38	31
6. Accused in Jerusalem Acts 21:1 – 23:35	37
7. Hope on Trial Acts 24:1 – 26:32	43
8. Calm in the Storm Acts 27:1 – 28:31	49
eader's Guide	55



One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Acts 13 - 28?

In Acts 1:8 Jesus said to his disciples...

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

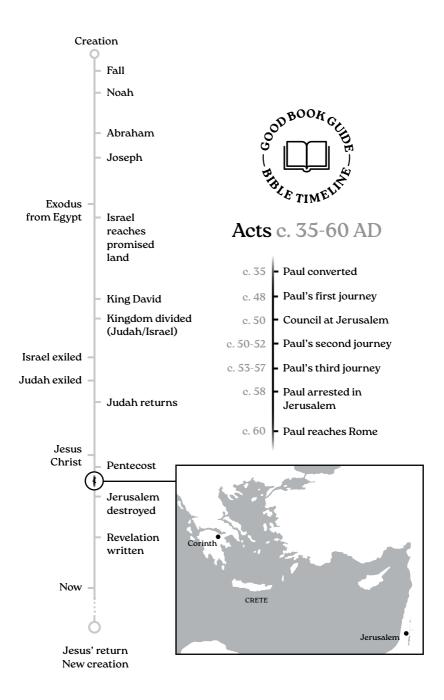
The church's obedience to our Lord's command is dramatically revealed in this second half of Acts.

Chapters 1 – 12 chronicled the birth and growth of the Jerusalem church, from Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost to the martyrdom of Stephen and the conversion of Saul, and finally to the coming of the gospel to the first non-Jews. Now, chapters 13 – 28 recount how the gospel began to extend to the ends of the earth. We travel with Saul (now called Paul) throughout the Roman Empire as he preaches the gospel, plants churches, and then is arrested and put on trial for his faithfulness to Christ.

Discipleship means difficulty—a life of ease, comfort, and prosperity does not await people zealous for God's kingdom. Yet Acts also reveals the glorious grace, mercy, and power of God. When Paul faced what seemed like certain death, he pressed on with an unspeakable joy, knowing that he lived as a citizen of heaven. Paul lived zealously, relied upon the Spirit, trusted in the promises of God—and changed the world.

But the book of Acts is not only the story of the apostles and the earliest churches. It is also the story of the worldwide church: a story that now continues in your church.

These eight studies will reveal what every Christian needs as we go out as ambassadors for Christ. May God make us more zealous for his kingdom, show us our need for his Holy Spirit, and help us to trust him as we face trials and suffering in the cause of the gospel. May he encourage, strengthen, and equip us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ wherever and whoever we are: even to the end of the earth.



1

Mission Commenced

Acts 13:1 - 14:28

Talkabout

- 1. Think of a time when you have had good news to share. What responses did people have?
 - How would it have felt if they simply hadn't believed you?

Investigate

Ⅲ Read Acts 13:1-12

DICTIONARY

Prophet (v 1): God's messenger. Tetrarch (v 1): a Jewish ruler under the Romans. Fasting (v 2): going without food. Proconsul (v 7): important Roman official.

2. What starts Saul and Barnabas off on their missionary journey?
3. What is the missionaries' strategy to begin with (v 5-6)?
4. Trace the responses of the proconsul and the magician through the passage.
Apply 5. Consider how we see God working and how he uses people in this first part of Paul and Barnabas' mission. In what ways might this affect how we think about and do evangelism ourselves?

Investigate

Read Acts 13:13-52

DICTIONARY

Sabbath (v 14): Saturday, a holy day for Jews.

The Law and the Prophets (v 15): the Old Testament.

I have begotten (v 33): I am the father of.

Corruption (v 34): the rotting of a dead body.

Devout (v 43): pious, committed. **Reviling** (v 45): rejecting.

Gentiles (v 46): non-Jews.

6. What is Paul's concluding message (v 38-41)? How do you think you would have felt to hear it?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

- Look more carefully at the rest of Paul's sermon. Can you map out his argument? Try dividing it as follows:
 - verses 16-22
 - verses 23-25
 - verses 26-27
 - verses 28-37

In verse 46, Luke records a watershed moment in the Acts narrative. The gospel will now advance to the non-Jewish world. In verse 47, Paul establishes his mission in the prophetic witness of Isaiah 49:6; it was always God's plan to send Paul to the Gentiles.

7. After the gospel is preached, who feels joy, and why?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Paul reveals the significance of our response to the gospel. Why do Christians sometimes leave out the need to respond when they talk about their faith with others? When you share your faith, how can you call people to respond?

Read Acts 14:1-7

DICTIONARY

Signs and wonders (v 3): miracles. **Apostles** (v 4): disciples sent by Jesus as his representatives.

Stone (v 5): attack and kill by throwing rocks.

8. What patterns do you notice in the way the gospel is preached and received? Try comparing these verses with 13:1-12, 48-52.

☐ Read Acts 14:8-20

DICTIONARY

Zeus (v 12): king of the Greek gods. **Hermes** (v 12): Greek messenger god.

Vain (v 15): empty, pointless. **Tribulations** (v 22): suffering.

9. What is different about what happens in Lystra, and what remains the same?

10. How would you sum up all that has happened to Paul and Barnabas so far in these two chapters?	
☐ Read Acts 14:21-28	
DICTIONARY	
Pisidia, Pamphylia (v 24): regions in modern-day Turkey.	
11. How do Paul and Barnabas themselves sum up their mission (v 27)?	
Apply	
12. How do these chapters encourage us to keep on sharing the truth about Jesus?	
• How can we help each other to remember these encouragements?	

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Choose the aspect of the mission of Paul and Barnabas that has most struck you.

What would following their example in that aspect look like in your own life this week?

Pray

Spend time worshiping and praising God, like the disciples in 13:2.

Pray for one another, that the Spirit might equip you to go out and present the gospel faithfully and to take joy from serving the Lord in this way.

Pray for someone you would like to share the gospel with this week. Ask that, like the proconsul in 13:12, they might be "astonished at the teaching of the Lord," and that, like the Gentiles in 13:48, they might believe, rejoice in, and glorify the word of the Lord.