

02 A MIXED RESPONSE

KEY TEXT: ACTS 13:42-52

CENTRAL truth

Sharing the good news with others is risky. If we're honest, sometimes we allow our fears about the way others may respond to prevent us from sharing. This week's teaching reminds us that there will be those who believe the gospel—and those who reject it. **As we share the good news, we must trust God with the results.**

key question

Why did Barnabas and Paul encourage their audience to “continue in the grace of God” (v. 43)?

Paul and Barnabas knew that God's grace—not their words—would be ultimately responsible for drawing the curious listeners to faith in Christ. Similarly, we must create space for people to have conversations with us about the good news, inspiring them to remain open to what the Lord is doing. God alone saves and brings new life.

keep in mind

- For students and adults alike, it can be uncomfortable sharing about our faith in Jesus. One reason is that we might be afraid we'll be asked a question we don't know how to respond to. Using the **Culture note** in the session as your guide, remind students that it's okay admit when we don't know something and to ask for time to process, then circle back with a response later. You might even want to come prepared with some tools or resources that you think students will find helpful.
- Verse 52 outlines the joy that the disciples experienced through the Holy Spirit. Point out that this joy doesn't depend on our circumstances, and it is always available to us. It may be helpful to break down the way students currently understand the word “joy” and help them redefine it from a biblical perspective.

application

What does it look like to trust God with the results as we share the good news?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should be reminded that the Holy Spirit is the One who enables us to share the good news, and it is not up to us to convince. We need to trust God with the results—even when we face resistance and discouragement.

FOR THE LEADER: As you teach and share portions of your story, help students to see that we can be gracious and respectful even when we experience resistance for following Jesus.