**Acts 13: Part 2 — The Anchor: CVC Life Group Guide & Outline**

**Big Idea**: Following Jesus doesn't always make life easier, but when Jesus is our anchor, circumstances don't have to determine our joy or faithfulness.

**Opening Question** : "Have you ever done what you thought was the right thing, and somehow it just made everything more difficult?"

Acts 13 reminds us that difficulty isn't necessarily evidence that we've missed God's will. Sometimes we're right where God wants us to be—and it's still hard.

Paul and Barnabas face rejection. They face opposition. They're driven out. But they're not driven away from Jesus.

Their circumstances moved. Their location changed. Their plans changed.

But their center didn't change.

That's why Luke can say, 'The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.'

Their joy wasn't anchored in what was happening around them. Their joy was anchored in who Jesus was."

**Q**: "What are some things that tend to move our 'anchor' away from Jesus?"

Read Together

- Acts 13:13–16
- Acts 13:38–41
- Acts 13:42–49
- Acts 13:50–52

**1. Jesus Is the Center of the Gospel  Acts 13:13–41**

**Discussion**

1. What stands out to you about Paul's message?
2. Why do you think Paul made Jesus—and especially the resurrection—the center of his message?
3. The gospel isn't simply, *"Try harder"* or *"Be a better person."* How is the gospel different from simply trying to improve ourselves?
4. Where do people today try to "prove themselves"??

5. What does it practically look like to stop trying to earn God's approval and instead live from the grace we've already received through Jesus?

**2. The Gospel Produces Different Responses: Acts 13:42–49**

“Why do you think the same message can produce such different responses in different people?”

1. Have you ever shared something about Jesus and received a response you didn't expect?
2. Why can someone else's response to our faith become discouraging?
3. When someone we love doesn't respond to Jesus the way we hope, what is within our responsibility—and what isn't?
4. What does faithfulness look like when we can't control the outcome?

“Is there someone or something you've been praying about where God might also be asking you to take a step?”

**3. Opposition Doesn't Mean You're Outside God's Will: Acts 13:50–52**

verse 52: “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

1. Why is verse 52 surprising after everything that happened?
2. Have you ever assumed that if God was with you, things should become easier?
3. Why is that assumption dangerous?
4. What are some forms of opposition Christians might experience today?
5. How can we tell the difference between opposition and simply making poor decisions?

**Personal Reflection:**

1. Is Jesus the Center of My Life?

“Is Jesus truly my anchor, or have I allowed my circumstances to become my anchor?”

2. Am I Willing to Remain Faithful?

3. Have I Lost the Joy?