GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Wilderness Essentials **November 14,2026**
Week 3: Flexibility **Jeff Griffin**
Acts 13:44-49

In our study of Paul's first missionary journey, we looked at the exciting events that occurred in Pisidian Antioch. While the synagogue leaders proved to be inflexible, Paul and Barnabas demonstrated Spirit-empowered flexibility. We must learn to do likewise.

Kicking it off:

It seems that Christmas decorations are getting put out earlier and earlier. What do you think about setting up Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving?

Discussion:

1. Reread Philippians 4:12-13 (NIRV): *I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I can do it through the strength Christ gives me.*

Can you think of an unplanned situation that required you to be flexible? Did Christ give you the necessary strength? Tell the group about it.

2. Reread Acts 13:42 (NLT): *As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day, the people begged them to speak about these things again the next week.*

Paul's sermon in the Pisidian Antioch synagogue was a big hit! Why do you think that the people were so moved by Paul's teaching?

3. Reread Acts 13:44-45 (NLT): *The following week almost the entire city turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord. When some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous; so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said.*

It would seem that record attendance at the synagogue would be celebrated, but it was not. Why were the Jews so upset?

4. Reread Acts 13:46 (NLT): *Paul and Barnabas declared, "It was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews. But since you have rejected it, we will offer it to the Gentiles!"*

Why was this demonstration of flexibility probably difficult for Paul and Barnabas?

5. Reread Acts 13:50-51 (NLT): *Then the Jews stirred up a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town. Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet and went to the town of Iconium.*

Can you guess the thought process that Paul and Barnabas went through to demonstrate this flexibility? Share what you suspect they thought.

Wrapping It Up:

As life unfolds, it rarely lines up with our preferences and plans. Pray for the Lord to help you accept disappointing circumstances and learn to make the most of each situation.