

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Make Room” (pt. 4) - 03.06.16

**Scripture:** Acts 13:13-39

**Bottom Line:** Faith in God leads beyond mere hope, but to a Holy Spirit- filled JOY!

## ICEBREAKER

Icebreakers are a great way to get your group talking and learn more about each other. Use some of the following examples or make up your own questions for you group. What was the best thing that happened to you this past week? What are the best perks that you have ever had at a job? What part of your daily routine do you enjoy most?

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

Life without hope is terrible. Many of us are discouraged and need encouragement and hope now. We need hope when facing addiction, illness, pain, depression, marriage, kids, etc. For those of us not experiencing difficult times we know we will in the future. What would you say to someone who is discouraged and needs hope now? What will you say over a coffee or glass of wine to bring real hope?. Where does true, lasting encouragement and hope come from?

### Read Acts 13:13-15

*The rulers of the synagogue were seeking “encouragement”. They were asking for hope, urging, comfort (same root as Holy Spirit). They are asking for Holy Spirit wrought hope and comfort.*

#### **1) What do we typically do when we are seeking encouragement/hope that doesn't work?**

**Answer:** Fake it till we make it; Blame; Self-Medicat:: We mask with hobbies, alcohol, media; Bunker Mentality; Minimize & Promote self-reliance.

### Read Acts 13:16-39

#### **1) What we just read was Paul's first sermon! Discuss each place that Paul points to hope/encouragement in his sermon:**

a. Hope Starts with God and is Found in God: Paul starts to give hope and encouragement with God. Hope is not found in me, you, a better situation.

**- Do you turn to God for hope in tough situations? Why or why not?**

b. Hope is Found in God who is Sovereignly Involved (13 times Paul says God is sovereignly involved in history): And not just involved, but sovereignly involved!

**- Where is God at work in your life now? (Use this time to encourage your small group where you as their small group leader see God working in their life).**

c. Hope is Found at the Cross of Christ: At the cross Jesus took our place. Thus, he took our sin, our shame, our guilt and our hopelessness. Now we receive LOVE, NO CONDEMNATION, GRACE and SALVATION.

**- At the cross you are forgiven, loved, and cherished by God. Do you struggle to believe that in Jesus, this is how God views you? If you do, STOP, and embrace His great love for you!**

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

**1) Are you feeling hopeless?** Place your faith in Jesus! When you place your faith in God, you get hope that leads beyond mere hope, but to a Holy Spirit- filled JOY!

**2) Take time to ask you group if anyone is experiencing such hopelessness and pray for one another. Encourage them to preach the gospel to themselves daily!**