

CLOSING HYMN

Thanks Be to God! | 788

Refrain

Thanks be to God! He gives us the vic - to - ry through

Refrains 1-3 | *Final Refrain*

Je - sus Christ, our Lord. Lord. A - men.

1 Blessed are they who washed their robes
and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
They are before the throne of God and serve him,
and serve him day and night in his temple.

Refrain

2 Never will they hunger or thirst;
the sun will not beat upon them,
For the Lamb will be their shepherd;
he will lead them to springs of living water.

Refrain

3 Blessed are they who washed their robes
and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them,
and then their God will wipe away ev'ry tear from their eyes.

Final Refrain

Text (refrain): 1 Corinthians 15:57, alt
Text (verses): Revelation 7:14-17, alt.
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Closing Prayer

Close with prayer for the spiritual needs of your family, your spiritual family, and people everywhere.



Connection Group Study Guide

For the week of May 12 – May 18

Acts 13:15-39

He Lives, All Blessings to Impart!

Opening Prayer

Introduction

Have you ever read a book, seen a movie, or heard a story that didn't make sense until the very end?

Into the Bible

Read Acts 13:13-25

Why do you suppose Paul recounts so much history to a group who surely already knew it?

What pivotal role did John the Baptist play in the salvation story?

Read Acts 13:26-39

What kept people at the time of Jesus from recognizing Him as the Messiah? What keeps people today from recognizing Him as such today?

How does “seeing” Jesus automatically lead to being a “witness” both then and now?

Christ’s bodily resurrection (not seeing decay) was central to Paul’s message—why? Is it central to your proclamation of the good news—why or why not?

How are verses 16-37 a proclamation of the forgiveness of sins as Paul claims in verse 38?

Connecting

In his sermon, Paul demonstrates a healthy knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. Are you as accustomed with the Old Testament? Is it as important or relevant to us today? Why does it matter to people today that what happened to Jesus was a fulfillment of what had been written about Him?

As a Christian do you feel you have been set free from every sin as Paul tells us in Acts 13:39?

What are some ways besides Jesus that people try and use to gain freedom from sin—or do they even realize they are held captive by sin?

Read Acts 13:42-52.

What was the result of Paul and Barnabas’ witness? What can we appropriate from that for our own witness?