

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 17, 2007

Passage: Acts 14:1-28

Memory Passage: 2 Timothy 3:12

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 14:1-4.** What reaction did Paul and Barnabas have to the preaching of the gospel in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13)? What had caused the problem?
- (b) How did the disciples respond to this persecution (Acts 13:51-52)? What did this symbolize (Mark 6:11)? How did it affect them personally (Acts 13:52)?
- (c) Which groups responded to the gospel in Iconium? What was the focus of their attack? What did Paul conclude about these kinds of attacks (1 Thessalonians 2:15-16)?
- (d) Because of this opposition, what did they do (Acts 14:3)? Why?
- (e) What happened in the city? Is division a natural result of preaching the gospel (Luke 12:51-53; John 7:43)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 14:1-4 and Luke 12:51-53. Talk about some reasons why people reject the gospel. How is the gospel described in Acts 14:3? Why would this offend people and cause division? Pray that you will be willing to keep on sharing even when there is opposition and persecution.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 14:5-13.** What did the apostles do when the crowds planned to stone them (Acts 14:5-6)? Is it proper for disciples to flee (Matthew 10:23)?
- (b) Who did they encounter in Lystra? How serious was his condition? Compare this miracle with the one in Acts 3:2-10).
- (c) Was Paul using healing to preach the gospel or healing as he preached the gospel (Acts 14:9)? How can you tell? Why does this matter? What was the priority in his ministry (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)?
- (d) What did Paul “see” in this man? Why is faith essential (Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 9:28-29; Matthew 13:58)?
- (e) What was the reaction of the Lyconians? What did this miracle cause them to think about Paul and Barnabas? What can happen when there is a miracle without explanation?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 14:5-13. Which is more important: healing or telling the good news about Jesus? Do miracles always lead to faith? What is essential for saving faith (Romans 10:17)? Pray that God will touch people and heal them, but more importantly that He will use you to share His word and see people saved.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 14:14-23.** Why didn't Paul and Barnabas know what they were doing initially?
- (b) What did Paul tell them about his own nature (Acts 14:15)? How is this consistent among the apostles (Acts 3:12-13; Revelation 19:10)?
- (c) What does Paul call their idols (1 Samuel 12:21; Psalm 31:6; Jeremiah 10:3-8)? How is God compared with these idols (Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 44:6-9)? What does this God say (Isaiah 45:21-22)?
- (d) Even though these people did not have the Scriptures, were they without a witness (Acts 14:17)? What does Paul say is the nature of this witness (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:19-20)?
- (e) How did the crowd respond to this good news? What did Paul do after this (Acts 14:20-21)? What does this tell you about Paul's focus in life (Philippians 1:21)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 14:14-23 and Isaiah 44:6-9. Talk about idols. Why do people worship them? How would you define an idol? Do people in America have idols today? What did John warn his readers in 1 John 5:19? What did Jesus tell his disciples in Matthew 6:24? Pray that you will recognize idols in your life and cling only to the living God.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 14:21-24.** What city did they preach in next? What were the results in that city?
- (b) What lessons do you think Paul learned from these cities (2 Corinthians 1:9-10; 2 Corinthians 4:1-5; 4:7-10)?
- (c) What did Paul and Barnabas do as they made their way back to Antioch (Acts 14:22)?
- (d) What did they teach them about suffering and persecution (also 1 Timothy 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 3:4; Philippians 1:29)?
- (e) What did they do in every church? What does this tell us about the ministry of the elders? Who was responsible for the leadership of each of these new churches?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 14:21-24 and 2 Corinthians 1:9-10. Talk about suffering as a Christian. What does it do for us? How does it affect our faith? How does it affect non-believers? Pray for suffering believers around the world that they may have the boldness to keep on sharing the gospel even in their sufferings.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 14:25-28.** Why did they return to Antioch of Syria (Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:26)? Why is it important to hear what our missionaries are doing?
- (b) What were they able to say about the work that they had set out to do (Acts 14:25; also Acts 14:3)? What does this tell us about their planning for missions?
- (c) Who was the emphasis on in their report? What did Paul later say about his ministry in 1 Corinthians 15:10?
- (d) What was his view of their success (1 Corinthians 3:6)? Who had “opened the door to the Gentiles?” Why is prayer so essential in all missions and evangelism? How important was it to Paul (Colossians 4:3; Romans 15:30; Ephesians 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:25)?
- (e) What were Paul and Barnabas doing after their return to the church (compare Acts 11:26; Acts 15:35)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 14:25-28. Discuss missions and missionaries. How do we choose them? What do we do in supporting them? What should we expect from them? What do they need most from us? Pray together for the missionaries in your church.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 14. Why do people reject the gospel? Why does it always cause a division? How can healing affect the gospel message (both positively and negatively)? Read 1 Timothy 3:12. What kinds of persecution do you face in sharing the gospel? Pray for tomorrow’s worship services that Jesus may be clearly proclaimed.

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The Message of the Gospel
“...bearing witness to the word of His grace...”