

Lesson 42: Acts 14:1-7 Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

Background: Paul and Barnabas in the city of Iconium.

Acts 14:1-2 When Paul and Barnabas spoke about Jesus at the Jewish synagogue, who believed their message? _____

Acts 14:3 How did the people know that Paul and Barnabas' words were really from God? _____

Acts 14:4-7 What did Paul and Barnabas do when they learned that the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles wanted to stone them? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 14:1-7 Question Answers

Acts 14:1-2 After leaving Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabas moved on to tell the people of Iconium about Jesus. Today, Iconium is known as Konya (Kon-ja), Turkey. Like always, they first went to the Jewish synagogue, the place where the Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism would gather for the reading of God's Word and for prayer. There, **many Jews and Greek believers in God came to believe that Jesus is God the Son** and that He died to pay for their sins.

Acts 14:3 As Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly for the Lord, for King Jesus, Jesus gave them the ability to do many signs and wonders, things that were only possible if God was working through them. Luke, Paul's traveling companion and the writer of the book of Acts, does not tell us what kinds of signs and wonders Paul and Barnabas did in front of the people of Iconium, just that many of the Jewish and Greek believers in God, came to believe that Jesus is God the Son and that He died for their sins, because **Paul and Barnabas were able to do things that were only possible if God was working through them.**

Acts 14:4-7 The Jews and Gentiles of Iconium were divided between believing in Jesus and rejecting Jesus. Once Paul had spoken to the people about Jesus, it was up to God to continue to build His church family after Paul had left. It was Paul and Barnabas' job to tell people about Jesus, not to make them believe. When Paul and Barnabas learned that the Jews and Gentiles who rejected their message about Jesus were going to try to stone them to death, **they moved on to the next city** in order to tell more people about Jesus.

Lesson 43: Acts 14:8-18 Paul and Barnabas at Lystra

Background: Paul and Barnabas in the city of Lystra.

Acts 14:8-10 Why was Paul able to heal the crippled man at Lystra? _____

Acts 14:11-17 How did the crowd react to the healing of the crippled man? _____

Acts 14:18 How did the people of Lystra respond to Paul and Barnabas when they told them about the one and only God? _____

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Acts 14:8-18 Question Answers

Acts 14:8-10 Lystra seems to be the first city that Paul and Barnabas went to that did not have a Jewish synagogue. The people of Lystra were mostly gentiles, non-Jews, so they did not know the One True God who made the world. After Paul had taught the people of Lystra that Jesus is God the Son, he could tell that the man who had been crippled and unable to use his legs from birth, had believed. **Because the crippled man trusted that Jesus is God the Son,** Paul knew that Jesus would heal him, so Paul told the man to “stand upright on your feet.” Suddenly, Jesus healed the man’s legs and he was able to jump to his feet and begin walking around for the first time in his life.

Acts 14:11-17 Lystra was a Roman city located in what is now Turkey. The people of Lystra were gentiles who did not believe in the One True God, but instead believed that there were lots and lots of gods who would sometimes take a human form to live among humans. According to Greek mythology, Zeus was the ruler of all the Greek gods and the Greek god Hermes, the son of Zeus, was the messenger of the Greek gods. Because the Greek gods are just characters in ancient Greek stories, when the people of Lystra saw Paul actually heal someone in a way that only a god could, **they believed that Paul and Barnabas were real Greek gods and tried to worship them.** Because Paul and Barnabas knew that only the One True God should be bowed down to and worshiped, they cried out for the people of Lystra to stop, because they were just humans.

Paul and Barnabas explained that it is the One True God who sends the rain and makes fruits and vegetables grow in the fields every year, hoping that the people would trust that there is only one God, and follow Him alone.

Acts 14:18 Because the people of Lystra had never heard of the One True God, the Creator of everything that was made, and because they had just seen Paul and Barnabas heal someone in a way that only a god could heal, it was hard for them to believe that Paul and Barnabas were not gods in human form.

Lesson 44: Acts 14:19-23 Paul Stoned at Lystra

Background: Paul and Barnabas in the city of Lystra.

Acts 14:19-20 What did the Jews from Antioch and Iconium get the crowd to do to Paul? _____

Acts 14:21-22 What did Paul do after the unbelieving Jews in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch tried to kill him? _____

Acts 14:23 What did Paul and Barnabas do after sharing the Gospel in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch?

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Acts 14:19-23 Question Answers

Acts 14:19-20 Even though the people of Lystra had just seen Paul heal someone in a way that only God can heal, when the Jews who had rejected Jesus came there from Antioch and Iconium, they were easily persuaded to turn against Paul and **to throw stones at him until they thought he was dead.**

In Acts 7, Paul, whose name at that time was still Saul, thought it was good for the Jews to stone Stephen to death for telling them about Jesus. Now, in Acts 14, the Jews who had rejected Jesus were stoning Paul for doing what Stephen had done.

Normally, stoning a person, kills them. The text says that after the crowd had stoned Paul they dragged him out of the city, because they thought he was dead. God is in control of all things and knows when each person is going to die. Because God had more for Paul to do, He kept Paul from dying during the stoning. Having been saved from death, the next day, Paul and Barnabas went on to the city of Derbe.

Acts 14:21-22 Paul had been called by God to tell the gentiles, the non-Jews, that Jesus is God the Son and that His death on the cross paid for the sins of all who trust and follow Him, this is the Gospel, the Good News. After many people in Derbe came to believe the Gospel, **Paul went back to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch to tell them about Jesus again.**

Even though these people had hurt Paul before, he knew that Jesus, God the Son, would save anyone who believed He had died for their sins. So instead of hating the people of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, Paul showed them the love of God by going back to those cities to tell more people about Jesus. Paul suffered a lot of pain and hurt telling the world about Jesus, so he taught everyone who came to believe that Jesus died for them that following Jesus would be hard. When we are trusting and following Jesus, people who do not know or love Jesus will hate us and try to hurt us. Instead of trying to get back at those who hurt us, Jesus calls everyone who follows Him to love our enemies and to pray for those who attack us.

Acts 14:23 After making disciples of Jesus in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in each of the churches,** leaders who would help their church family become more and more like Jesus everyday. Trusting that God would take care of these new church families, Paul and Barnabas went on to the next city.

Lesson 45: Acts 14:24-28 Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

Background: Paul and Barnabas with the disciples in Antioch.

Acts 14:24-25 What did Paul and Barnabas do in the city of Perga before going to Attalia? _____

Acts 14:26 Where did Paul and Barnabas sail to from Attalia? _____

Acts 14:27-28 What did Paul and Barnabas report to the church in Antioch? _____

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Acts 14:19-23 Question Answers

Acts 14:24-25 After preaching the Gospel in Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, sharing the Good News that Jesus died to save us from our sins, Paul and Barnabas went back to the city of Perga to speak the Word of the Lord Jesus to the people there. Perga was the city that Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark sailed to from the island of Cyprus in Acts 13. It was at Perga that John Mark left Paul and Barnabas to go back to Jerusalem. It seems that during their first time in Perga, they just went straight through to Pisidian Antioch. This time though, Paul and Barnabas stopped in Perga to **speak the Word of the Lord to the people**, this time, Paul and Barnabas stopped in Perga to tell the people that Jesus died for the sins of all who trust and follow Him. From Perga they went on to the city of Attalia.

Acts 14:26 After sailing all over Asia minor from about the year 46 to 48, **Paul and Barnabas finally returned to Syrian Antioch.** This was the city where God the Holy Spirit told the followers of Jesus to “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Acts 14:27-28 Paul and Barnabas reported that during their three year journey, **God had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.** God had sent Paul and Barnabas on a mission to tell the Gentiles, the non-Jews of Asia Minor, the Good News about Jesus, God the Son on earth. These gentiles had grown up worshiping all sorts of fake man-made gods. No one would have ever thought that these people would have ever come to change their minds about Zeus, Hermes, Atriums, and come to believe in the One True God who created everything. And no one would have ever thought that these people would have ever come to believe that Jesus was God the Son, whose death on the cross was for the forgiveness of the sins of all who trust and follow Him. The change in these gentile believers was like a locked door that they could not go through, being opened by God.

As followers of Jesus, we too have been called to share the Gospel with everyone we know. Even if someone seems like they would never trust and follow Jesus, God can change their hearts. It is our job to share the Gospel and to trust that God will use it to save His children.