



## **ACTS CHAPTER 14 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is the one of the biggest risks you have ever taken? Why did you take that risk? What was the outcome?

### **Opening Prayer**

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Tell the Story**

#### **Read the Story (Acts 14:1-28)**

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

### **Acts 14:1-7**

- It is important to note that Paul and Barnabas are moving further and further away from civilization in going to Iconium. This is significant because the further away from civilization they are moving, the bigger the risk they are taking because they no longer have Rome to keep everything in order. In light of this, why do you think they entered Iconium in the first place?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- What risks have you taken in living as a disciple of Jesus? What risks do you need to take in living as a Christian?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.



- Why do you think that Paul and Barnabas chose to stay in the region when they faced opposition in verse 3 but chose to leave the region in verse 5 when they faced opposition?
  - There are probably a few reasons for this but one of the reasons is because Paul and Barnabas had already spent a great deal of time in the region speaking for Jesus. They didn't seek to leave the region when things got difficult but they also understood that their time in that specific region was complete.
    - How do we evaluate when we have done all that we can do and said all that we can say regarding proclaiming Jesus and His truth?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Acts 14:8-18**

- What do you think it means to have faith to be made well and how do you reconcile this with what a father says regarding his son who has an unclean spirit in Mark 9:24?
  - Having faith to be made well does not mean having a perfect faith that has no doubts, holes, or gaps. Rather, that type of faith means that I have a willingness to go to the ultimate source, Jesus knowing that He is more than capable of intervening in situations to move and act according to His will.
- What type of humility and character did Paul and Barnabas demonstrate in verses 14-15 when the people were treating them as gods? What does this teach us about living as disciples today?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Acts 14:19-23**

- What is so significant/weird about verse 20?



- The verse references ONLY that the disciples gathered around Paul causing him to get up from being stoned. It doesn't reference anything that they did other than gathering around him. There are times when we just need to be present as disciples and God will take care of everything else. The other significant/weird thing about verse 20 is that Paul got up the very next day AFTER being stoned and traveled with Barnabas. He was a man who literally made no excuses for not being able to serve Jesus.
- What does verse 23 indicate about how the church made decisions, especially significant ones?
  - Verse 23 indicates that the church was intentional about seeking the counsel and wisdom of God in making decisions rather than relying on their own wisdom and insight.

### **Acts 14:24-28**

- How did Paul and Barnabas celebrate with the church in verse 27 and why was this important for all involved?
  - The church celebrated with Paul and Barnabas simply by sharing stories and telling what God had done and was doing. This was important for the church to see and experience to be encouraged in their efforts but it was also important for Paul and Barnabas to be able to celebrate with the church because of everything they had been going through on their journeys in preaching Jesus.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**



- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Acts 15)