

Acts 14

The First Missionary Adventure (Part 2)

Scripture: Acts 14

Memory Verse: Acts 14:27b *“They [Paul and Barnabus] reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”*

Lesson Focus: Continuing on the heels of last week’s lesson we will follow Paul and Barnabus again as they wrap up this missionary adventure. We will encourage the kids to consider missionary work both now and as they grow up and feature one of our RMC missionaries with cards that they can take home. *

Activities and Crafts: Pray for Your Missionary Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Take The Gospel Everywhere Craft

Starter Activity: Coming Home

Consider getting the kids attention with some discussion about what it is like to come home after a long trip. First ask the kids about some of their adventures this year that took them away from home.

Q: Where are some of the places you visited this year that took you away from home?

Q: How long were you gone from home?

Teachers: Consider sharing a story of your own if you had a vacation, work assignment, or maybe even extended hospital visit that took you away from home this year! *

While we all probably enjoy exploring and visiting new and exciting places, there is no place like home, right?

Q: What is your favorite part of coming home? (i.e. pets, your own bed, stuffies, etc.)

Teachers: Again, consider sharing a story of your own about what you like best about coming home from a long absence. *

You might remember that last week we followed Paul and Barnabus on their crazy adventure to new places. They were “sent out” from their home church in Antioch and have now been gone for many, many months. * I bet they were a little homesick too, but as we will see today, they continue on their mission to bring the good news of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection to new places. Buckle your seatbelts as it’s going to be a bumpy ride, but by the end of the chapter, we will see them make it back “home” too! Let’s open our Bibles and see what happens next!

Bible Study:

Acts 14:1: They are hundreds of miles from home in a city called Iconium (in modern day Turkey) and preached the gospel to many people.

Q: And what happened? A: Many people believed and became followers of Jesus! Paul and Barnabus continue to bear much fruit, but as we have seen before in this book, as the church grows, so does the opposition!

Acts 14:2-3: The bad guys make their move by stirring up trouble, but God makes His countermove bolstering Paul and Barnabus with boldness and miracles. * I wish we had more detail on what these signs and wonders were, but the Bible doesn't tell us!

Acts 14:4: And here we see the impact of the message of the gospel: It divides!

Teachers: Consider dividing the class over a preference (i.e. dog-lovers vs. cat-lovers or chocolate vs. vanilla, etc.) and have them stand on either side of the room to make this point.

Jesus Himself said that His coming would bring division **Luke 12:51!** We still see the same today! When people are presented with the reality of their sin problem and that Jesus is the ONLY solution (**John 14:6**), they either believe and receive forgiveness or they reject. * There really is no middle ground!

Acts 14:5-6: Despite all of the good that was accomplished in Iconium, it got so dangerous that Paul and Barnabus decided it was time to move on. *

Acts 14:7: And they continued on their mission to preach the gospel.

Q: What does the word "gospel" mean? A: GOOD NEWS! It is the BEST news that God has made a way for sinners to escape the punishment they deserve and be forgiven through faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

Acts 14:8: Now in Lystra we are introduced to a man who has been crippled since before he was born.

Q: What does this mean? A: He has NEVER used his legs and has had to rely upon others to get places. (**Teachers:** Consider asking a volunteer to approach you without using his/her legs. Have the kids imagine what life would be like having such a condition!) *

Acts 14:9-10: WOW! This guy caught Paul's attention as he was sharing the gospel. Something in the gospel message clearly got this man's attention and God miraculously heals him through Paul. Remember, this guy had NEVER walked! But now he was walking and leaping! (**Teachers:** Command that volunteer that approached you as the cripple to stand up on his feet and run and leap back to his/her seat!) *

Some of you might be thinking this all seems a little familiar. * That's because God did something very similar back in Acts 3 through Peter. We saw there how the miracle was like a "billboard" that got people's attention and pointed them to Jesus Christ. As a result, thousands of people repented of their sin and became followers of Jesus! *

Acts 14:11-13: But things take a surprisingly different turn here! This is because these people in Lystra believed in various false gods. Peter’s audience was Jewish so they knew about the God of the Bible and the promised Rescuer. * These people did not and due to their superstitions thought Paul and Barnabus themselves were gods! *

Acts 14:14: Paul and Barnabus were horrified and figured out they had more work to do to help these people truly understand the good news of the gospel!

Acts 14:15: Notice that instead of talking about Jesus, Paul goes back to the beginning. Q: What does Paul teach them about? A: Creation, and how there is only one living God who made all things (and that their gods were false!).

Acts 14:16-17: Paul pleads with them to look around and see all of the beauty and wonder of nature. The marvelous design and complexity of the universe is a witness to the one true and living God who made all things (**Romans 1:20**). *

Acts 14:18-19: WOW!! And just as Paul seemed to be getting the crowd to understand, the bad guys from the previous cities come and stir everyone up against them, even stoning Paul! (**Teachers:** Consider acting this out. Have someone be Paul while another group is listening to him teach. Then have another group come with some paper balls, stir up the first group, and then all “stone” Paul and drag him away as though dead!) *

Acts 14:20: Double-WOW! Paul appears to miraculously get back up and go “back into the ring” for more. But shortly afterwards he departs for another city with Barnabus. *

Acts 14:21a: And in this city, they make many more disciples. This is now the last new city they will visit. They are going to make their way “home” next.

Acts 14:21b: But instead of going directly home, they go backwards and revisit the cities that they preached in, even the one’s where they had fierce opposition! Why? *

Acts 14:22-23: To establish churches with strong leadership and encourage these young believers to continue in their faith! * It won’t be easy, but the Lord would be with them!

Acts 14:24-26: And continuing to retrace their steps they set sail one more time and arrive back at their home church: Home Sweet Home!

Acts 14:27-28: Imagine gathering around the campfire with Paul and Barnabus and hearing all of the amazing stories that they had to share on their adventure. * And most important of all was that God had used them to get the gospel to the nations!

Key Point: This completes this missionary adventure, but it won’t be the last for Paul. As we will see, God will send him out again. * 2000 years later, God is still sending people out into new cities and cultures. Have you ever thought about going on a mission trip or becoming a full-time missionary? * The Lord has sent many missionaries out through RMC and maybe you will be one someday! * But if you are a believer, your mission field is also your school, your sports team, or wherever you go this week. RMC is your church “home”. You’re here to get filled up so that you can go and be poured out! Let’s go! *

