

# ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

November 26, 2023

## Acts 14

### BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

- **Does anyone want to share how they came to faith in Christ? [God SENT someone, and they were OBEDIENT to His command. As a result, YOU heard the Gospel!]**

### BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

This week, we're diving into **Acts 14** and the mission of Paul and Barnabas in spreading the message to the Gentiles continues. In **Acts 13**, we witnessed the challenging start of their mission. Despite facing rejection, they pressed on, leaving places that weren't receptive. They didn't let setbacks stop them from spreading the good news. Today we'll read they will pass from town to town, preach the gospel, endure persecution. Through their perseverance, they start to see the fruits of their labor as new communities of believers begin to form.

**Question 1:** Why does "fear" keep us from sharing the gospel? What are we most afraid of?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 14:1-7**

### BUILD

Engage the Scripture

**Question 2:** In referring to the people at Iconium, **verses 1 & 2** use the words "believed," and "unbelieving," and that a result of this mixture of people caused minds to be poisoned.

- In your own words, define "poisoned" in the context of these verses.
- What tools or responsibility does the church have to be on guard against this happening at FBC?

**Question 3:** **Acts 14:2-3** says that Paul and Barnabas remained in Iconium a long time, despite the opposition by the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles.

- Why did they remain there?
- In your opinion, does this describe the church today? Do we continue to push on with mission despite "opposition"?
  - Why or why not?

**Question 4:** In **vss. 5-7**, what is significant about when the Jews and the Gentiles came together? What happened?

- As a result, we read that Paul and Barnabas "flee" Iconium, but do we read that they **continue** or **flee** the mission?
- Why is this an important aspect of the mission for us to notice?

## BECOME

Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read [Acts 14:8-18](#)

**Question 5:** Iconium was a very populated, educated, commercial region. Lystra was a smaller town with less educated people.

- What are the differences in their responses to the gospel and the signs and wonders performed?
- Do culture and education sometimes affect responses to the gospel? How?

Have someone in your group read [Acts 14:19-23](#)

**Question 6:** Despite persecution in Iconium and Lystra, Paul and Barnabas made their way back through those towns. Why?

- Does this reveal a connection between evangelism and discipleship?
- In your opinion, does FBC do a good job of following up and discipling new converts?

**Question 7:** [Verse 23](#) mentions that Paul & Barnabas install leadership of newly appointed elders, but more importantly, whose hands do they commit the elders into?

- What are elders and are they biblical? [[1 Timothy 3:1-7](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); and [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)]
- Traditionally, has the church gotten away from elders? Why? Is this reasoning biblical?

Have someone in your group read [2 Timothy 3:11-15](#)

**Question 8:** In these verses, what does Paul say God did when he faced persecution?

- What does [2 Timothy 3:12](#) promise all believers? Does this promise make you want to flee or continue in the mission?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

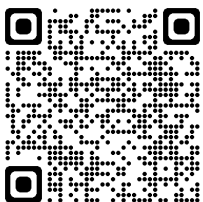
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Blue Letter Bible:** [Acts 14](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin:** [Acts 14](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

