



ACTS 14

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

Scripture: Acts 14

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Main Takeaway: Sharing the gospel isn't always easy, but we can stand firm in our sharing of the gospel.

Supplies: Magnet (or several), metal bolts (as many as you have magnets) 50 metal paperclips, poster board of the Mediterranean Sea, pins with labels.

Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Peter's escape from prison). Today, we're going to move away from talking about Peter to talking about Paul. Who can tell me what they remember about Paul? (Allow for answers. i.e. He persecuted Christians, he was blinded on his road to Damascus, he became a Jesus follower, he became a great leader in the church)

Explain:

When Paul got saved, he went on a mission to spread the good news. He went all over the world that was known to him, spreading the message of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. Eventually, he focused on the gentiles. Does anyone remember what a gentile is? (Not a Jew).

Paul took three missionary journeys. We have a map that we're going to look at so that we can visually see all the places that Paul went. Today, we'll look at his first missionary journey and trace his path.

Do an Activity

Pulling out the Mediterranean poster board map, trace the first missionary journey of Paul, pointing out the main stops he made along the way. Explain that in each of these places, he preached the good news and started churches. Once a church was established or he was run out of the town, he would leave for another place to plant a new church. On the next page, see a brief description of what happened at each place on his first journey. Place a pin on each place as you talk about it or draw arrows.

Paul's First Missionary Journey Explained (This took 1-2 years, about 46-48 AD)

- Antioch- This was a main hub of the early church. Paul and Barnabas left from Antioch to begin their journey. People laid hands on them, prayed, and sent them off.
- Seleucia to Cyprus- at Cyprus, they preached through the whole island until they came to Paphos. At Paphos, a man named Bar-Jesus was a false prophet. He opposed Paul's message, and Paul cursed him so that he was made blind for a time.
- On to Perga in Pamphylia, then to Pisidian Antioch
- In Pisidian Antioch- Paul preached a well-documented sermon and many people asked to hear him again. He had many converts in his time at Pisidian Antioch until Jewish leaders stirred up persecution and expelled them from the city.
- Iconium- This will be explained in our lesson today.
- Lystra and Derbe- Paul healed a lame man and the people believed he and Barnabas were gods. Paul and Barnabas refused their worship, but soon the mob turned against them and they stoned Paul.
- Return to Lystra, Iconium, Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia, Antioch- In these places they encouraged the believers as they returned home.
- Return to Antioch

Explain:

Now we're going to spend some extra time on some of these stops over the next few weeks, and today, we're going to talk about Paul and Barnabas' stop at Iconium.

Read: Acts 14:1-7

Ask:

Did you notice how the people responded? Some really took the gospel to heart, others didn't. The Jewish people didn't care for the message of the good news and poisoned the minds of the people against Paul. This poison, this pull away, divided the people.

Do an Experiment:

Now we'll do an experiment to remember how the people pulled others away from the good news.

Give a magnet to each child (or share among them if you don't have enough) and have them attach the magnet to a bolt. Next, give two kids a pile of paperclips. Using the nail, have each child try to create a chain of paperclips, adding one at a time. See who can get the most from their pile. If your magnets aren't strong enough to form a chain, have the kids race to see who can gain the most for their pile by pulling the paper clips one at a time. Set a timer for 30 seconds.

Explain:

You see, Paul shared the gospel and won many converts, but others came in and sowed division. They pulled people away from Paul and the good news, poisoning their minds. I think sometimes when we think about sharing the gospel, we think it might be easy without any problems. Or we think the opposite- that it will be too hard, and no one will listen. But let's look at Paul's example. He won a lot of converts but also faced adversity. In spite of the adversity, he and Barnabas spent a considerable amount of time there. He wasn't deterred by the Jews poisoning the minds of the people against him. He stood firm until a plot to kill them came to light and fled the city.

Apply:

Have you ever gotten discouraged when sharing the gospel? Has it ever gone well? Has it ever been hard? How can you stand firm when sharing about Jesus to your friends, even if others poison their minds against you? Is there anything poisoning your mind from the good news of Jesus?

Memorize Acts 14:4

Close in Prayer

