

2024 - Family Devo

June 30 - a



READ: Acts 14:8-18

Main Idea: In Lystra Paul is enabled to heal a man crippled from birth. When the people see this they begin to call Paul Hermes and Barnabas Zeus. These were false gods they worshiped. They wanted to offer sacrifices to them. Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes (expression of great sadness) and do their best to impress on them that they are just men. They pointed the people to the one true God and his son Jesus Christ.

DISCUSS

Children: Why did Paul and Barnabas stress to the people that it was the Living God who had created everything, including the rain? A statue, or a story about a man or god, is not what created the world, or blessed the fields with rain. It is the Living God, who cares for people, who provides what we need to live. He is the One who should be worshiped. Zeus and Hermes were not real. God is.

Teen: If you encounter someone who believes in other gods are you prepared to tell them about our one true living God and his son Jesus? What would you say?

Adult: Here is another healing where the result is immediate and impactful. The lame man had never walked, but he didn't have to learn. He walked. The crowd was astonished. Why do you think they attributed this to the Greek gods, rather than the God Paul told them of? Compare Barnabas and Paul's reaction to Herod's in Acts 12. We're not given insight to Herod's thinking, but what do you believe he would have told this crowd?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)
Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



2024 - Family Devo

June 30 - b



READ: Acts 14:19-28

Main Idea: When in Lystra the Jews from previous towns come to persecute Paul. They manage to stone him and drag him outside the city (Jewish method of execution). Somehow Paul is not dead and in fact he goes back into town (with disciples). The next day he goes forward to Derbe to preach and then backtracks to those same towns and encourages the Christians and appoints elders for each church that had been started. He tells them “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

DISCUSS

Children: What does it mean to ‘stone someone?’ Take little rocks like gravel and toss them at Paul? No, these were LARGE stones, meant to hurt and cover up a person until the pressure of the stones killed them. They must have thought he was almost dead because the removed the stones and took him outside the city to die. However, God wasn’t through with Paul yet and he lived. Other disciples came to him and he was able to get up and go into town. Do you think those other men were praying for Paul? Do you think might have been part of why he was able to not only live, but get up and go preach more?

Teen: Is keeping faith during hard times difficult? What strengthens you during those times?

Adult: History surmises that this missionary journey could have lasted for up to 2 years. It's Paul's first real exposure to the life he would lead. At the end of this time, he and Barnabas are able to say that hardships are part of the journey. And they realized that God had done the work through them, opening doors to the Gentiles. If you had been working on a pet project, unrelated to religion, for 2 years with mixed results, sprinkle in some adversity and some threats to your life, what would your attitude be? Would you quit or continue on? What do you think drove Paul to continue his ministry?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

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