
Application Guide: Acts 14

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Do you like being complimented? What's the best compliment you've ever received? Is it easy for you to become overconfident when you are complimented? Why or why not?

- b. Has anyone ever thrown something at you, intending to hurt you? How did it feel to know someone disliked you so much? How did you respond to that incident?

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul and Barnabas became such good preachers that the people in Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas had actually become gods themselves. With God using people so powerfully to preach and heal, do you think it would be easy to eventually forget that it is God working through them and to start thinking they are performing these miracles in their own power?

Do you know anyone who is so good at something that they have become arrogant? How do you think Paul and Barnabas safeguarded themselves against this?

The people of Lystra are one day praising Paul and Barnabas as gods and then the next day trying to kill them. The crowds did this to Jesus as well. Why do you think people in crowds change their minds so easily and so radically? Have you ever been influenced by people around you to do something wrong that seemed okay at the time? What can you do to safeguard yourself against this kind of peer pressure?

Instead of being discouraged by all the conflict in their ministry, Paul and Barnabas kept going to strengthen the other Christians in the area who were being persecuted as well. What do you think makes the difference between persecution strengthening a person or discouraging them?

Why was it important for the Apostles/missionaries to go in twos instead of alone?

Can you think of a spiritual companion that you can team up with for encouragement?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Make a list of all your closest friends. Put them in order of best influence to worst influence, spiritually. Do you think there are any friends on your list that you should spend less time with? Why? Are there any friends on your list that you should be spending more time with? Why?

- b. Try to think of a spiritual person that you know that you would like to become friends with. Think of three things you can do to become better friends with this person.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray for God to bring a person into your life that can be a spiritual companion to you. Ask God to open your eyes to who that may be.
- b. Pray for the friends on your list that you feel have a negative spiritual influence in your life. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit into their lives to draw them closer to Him.

5. Research Idea

Plan a spiritual event with your Sabbath School or Pathfinder leader that you can invite your friends to. Plan spiritual activities that you think may help your friends be more interested in having a relationship with Jesus. Plan to share your testimony about how studying the lives of the Apostles in Acts has helped you grow spiritually.