

Acts of the Holy Spirit #16, On Mission Together with Jesus
Acts 14, Week of Oct 29, 2017
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant Guide

The era in which we are now living, between these two advents, is “the day of salvation,” the intermission in which the Spirit is bringing a remnant from all nations to Jesus Christ. It is therefore a universal mandate, precisely because the kingdom is identified not with any nation on earth but with God’s heavenly mission to all peoples. There is not something called Christianity and then missionaries who spread it. Christianity is in its very essence is a mission to the world. If it is not reaching teaching, baptizing, and multiplying disciples, it is not Christianity.¹

What a privilege and joy it is for us to be on God’s kingdom mission together! May God use your time together to grow our faith, hope and love for all things Jesus!

1. Finish one of the following:
 - A funny thing happened to me this past week . . .
 - What I love about our times together is . . .
 - My favourite family tradition is . . .

Read Acts 14:1-20

2. Picture yourself as Paul (Paulette), Barnabas (Barnetta) or one of the new converts. How might you have responded to the events as they unfolded? In what way might you have been like those in Acts 14? In what ways different?
3. How would you describe the people of Lystra given their reaction to the miracle of a healing?
4. Read the quote below and answer:
 - Have you experienced or practiced this?
 - Who in your sphere of influence might you try this with and how?

To Jews, Paul starts his communication of the gospel with their Scripture (Acts 13). To philosophers Paul starts with the truth in their philosophy (Acts 17). With religious people, Paul starts with the truth in their religion (Acts 17). And with unsophisticated, uneducated people in Acts 14 Paul starts with nature and their own inner experience. Obviously, before we speak, we need to listen. Before we

¹ Michael Horton, *The Gospel Commission*, (Baker Books, 2011) p 87

become teachers, we need to become students – not only of Jesus, but of those we wish to love in his name.²

~ Bruxy Cavey

Read Acts 14:21-28

5. Throughout acts we see that being a Christian is a commitment to joining Jesus' life, Jesus' community, and Jesus' mission.
 - Can you find the parallels to this definition of a Christian in Acts 14?
 - How might the story been different if one of the commitments had not been followed through in Acts 14? Give examples.
 - Which of the three core commitments to you find most enjoyable? Least?

6. Sunday's Acts 14:1-20 sermon ended with these 4 observations:
 - Christianity is being on mission together not in the majority together. The early Christians were in the minority, never in a position of power. This never stopped them from being on mission of proclaiming God's grace to both the afflicted and the persecuting.
 - The gospel of grace is both glorious and scandalous. If people of other religious and world views can affirm and agree with everything we believe it's probably not the gospel we're preaching! Cf Mtt 10:34.
 - Hardship isn't our enemy, apathy is. Joining Jesus' life, community and mission is not about being except of trials, or going around them, but by God's grace going through them to his glory. Cf 14:22
 - You don't have to be a martyr to be on mission. When news of murderous plots surfaced, the disciples moved on.

Which of the four observations spoke/speaks to you most and why? How has God been challenging and encouraging you through them?

Read 14:27 and let it guide your prayer time together.

² Bruxy Cavey, *Plot Twist – When God Surprises His People*, (The Meeting House, March 2010)