



# ACTS

Of All the Apostles

**You Will Be  
My Witnesses:  
Running the Race**

**Lesson 27**



# Lystra

## Acts 14:1-23

### Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3  
Romans 1:19-21  
Isaiah 44:6-8  
Exodus 20:1-6  
2 Corinthians 3:4-6  
2 Samuel 7:18-22

### Memory Verse

In ourselves we are not able to claim anything for ourselves. The power to do what we do comes from God.  
2 Corinthians 3:5 (NirV)

### Lesson Goals

Understand that Paul and Barnabas preached boldly and performed miracles

Understand that some people refused to believe and stirred up trouble

Understand that when mistaken for gods, Paul and Barnabas pointed the people to Christ

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

When you win a race, or do well at something else, do you puff up and think it is all about **you**? Do you think that **you** did a good thing, that **you** alone did this, that **you** really deserve to be praised? Let's see how Paul and Barnabas handled a situation like this.

While Paul and Barnabas were in Psidian Antioch, do you remember that we saw a range of attitudes? Some of those attitudes came from the Holy Spirit's fruit in a person's life (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.). Other attitudes were from a lack of the Holy Spirit in a life (hatred, fighting, jealousy, anger, etc.). Paul and Barnabas left Psidian Antioch where some of the Jews had stirred up trouble. They headed for Iconium.

"At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went in to the Jewish synagogue as usual. They spoke with great power. Large numbers of Jews and non-Jews became believers." (Acts 14:1 NirV) But when many people come to the Lord, there are others who don't like it. There were Jews in Iconium who refused to believe. They caused trouble for Paul and Barnabas. That didn't scare away either Paul or Barnabas. They spent quite a bit of time there speaking for the Lord with boldness. They even preformed miracles. "In this way the Lord showed that they were telling the truth about His grace." (Acts 14:3 NirV) The city of Iconium was divided, with some on the side of the Jews and others on the side of the apostles. Those on the side of the Jews were so angry that they decided to kill Paul and Barnabas. They found out about the plan, though and "escaped to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding area. There they continued to preach the good news." (Acts 14:6b-7 NirV)

In the city of Lystra, Paul and Barnabas met "a man who couldn't walk. He hadn't been able to use his feet since the day he was born." (Acts 14:8 NirV) As Paul was speaking about the Lord, he would look at the lame man. He could tell that the man "had faith to be healed. So he called out, 'Stand up on your feet!' Then the man jumped up and began to walk." (Acts 14:9b-10 NirV) When the crowd in Lystra saw what happened, they began shouting in their own language that Paul and Barnabas were gods in human bodies! They thought Barnabas was Zeus, the most powerful of the Greek gods and because Paul was the one who spoke the most, they thought he was Hermes, the messenger of the gods.

The people began to bring bulls and wreaths/garlands of leaves from the Greek temple of Zeus that was just outside the city gates. They "wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas." (Acts 14:13 NirV) "When Barnabas and Paul finally realized what was going on, they stopped them. Waving their arms, they interrupted the parade, calling out, "What do you think you're doing! We're not gods! We are men just like you, and we're here to bring you the Message, to persuade you to abandon these silly god-superstitions and embrace God himself, the living God. We don't make God; he makes us, and all of this—sky, earth, sea, and everything in

## Application

What do you do when people think you have done a great job and congratulate you? Do you take all the glory for yourself?

What did Paul and Barnabas do? They pointed the people to Christ. Our memory verse says, "The power to do what we do comes from God." Your talents and likes and strengths were given to you by God. Are you ready to give glory to Him, the One who provided you with the ability in the first place?

And will you thank Him for the way He has provided for our salvation? You and I are sinners in need of salvation. We cannot save ourselves. Have you ever trusted your life to Christ? Don't wait; do it today.

them." (Acts 14:14-15 MSG) They continued, "the nations do what they want, but the One True God has made it quite clear that there is a God. Just look at all He made. He's the one who gives you a good crop in its season and provides you with food. He sends rain from heaven and He is the One who satisfies hearts." Paul and Barnabas were having trouble stopping the men from honoring them.

Then some Jews from the towns where Paul and Barnabas had recently visited stirred up even more trouble! They convinced the crowd not to honor Paul and Barnabas, but to throw stones at the messenger, Paul. When they thought he was dead, they carried him outside the city gate. As the believers were gathered around Paul, he came to, got up, and walked back into the city!

The next day, Paul and Barnabas left Lystra and went to Derbe. They continued preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and many people believed. And, believe it or not, they returned not only to Lystra, but also to Antioch and Iconium to help the believers there. "They told them to remain true to what they had been taught. 'We must go through hard times to enter God's kingdom,' they said." (Acts 14:22 NIV) Paul and Barnabas chose leaders for each church and prayed with them, placing them in God's care.

## Review

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas go when they left Iconium? (Lystra)
2. Who did they meet in Lystra? (A lame man, whom they healed)
3. What happened after they healed the lame man? (The people thought they were gods in human bodies and they tried to sacrifice animals to them.)

Next Week  
Back to Antioch  
Acts 14:24-15:35

# Preschool Lesson

Paul and Barnabas left Psidian Antioch. They headed for Iconium. “At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went in to the Jewish synagogue as usual. They spoke with great power. Large numbers of Jews and non-Jews became believers.” (Acts 14:1 NIV) But when many people come to the Lord, there are others who don’t like it. There were Jews in Iconium who refused to believe. They caused trouble for Paul and Barnabas. That didn’t scare away either Paul or Barnabas. They spent more time there speaking for the Lord with boldness. They even performed miracles. The city of Iconium was divided on how they felt about the apostles. Some were on the side of the Jews and others on the side of the apostles. Those on the side of the Jews were so angry that they decided to kill Paul and Barnabas. They found out about the plan, though and escaped to Lystra. There they continued to preach the good news.

In the city of Lystra, Paul and Barnabas met “a man who couldn’t walk. He hadn’t been able to use his feet since the day he was born.” (Acts 14: 8 NIV) As Paul was speaking about the Lord, he would look at the lame man. He could tell that the man “had faith to be healed. So he called out, ‘Stand up on your feet!’ Then the man jumped up and began to walk.” (Acts 14:9b-10 NIV) When the crowd in Lystra saw what happened, they began shouting that Paul and Barnabas were gods in human bodies!

The people began to bring things from the Greek temple of Zeus that was just outside the city gates. They “wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas.” (Acts 14:13 NIV) Paul and Barnabas tried to stop them. They said, “We aren’t gods. We are only humans, just like you are. Stop all of this silliness and turn to the One True God. He’s the One who made heaven and earth. He is the only One you should worship.”

Then some Jews from the towns where Paul and Barnabas had recently visited stirred up even more trouble! They convinced the crowd not to honor Paul and Barnabas, but to throw stones at Paul instead. When they thought Paul was dead, they carried him outside the city gate. As the believers were gathered around Paul, he came to, got up, and walked back into the city!

The next day, Paul and Barnabas left Lystra and went to Derbe. They continued preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and many people believed. And, believe it or not, they returned not only to Lystra, where Paul had had rocks thrown at him, but also to Antioch and Iconium to help the believers there. They told them to stay true to what they had been taught. Paul and Barnabas chose leaders for each church and prayed with them, placing them in God’s care.

# Activities

**Memory Verse Activity** - Make up motions or hand signs to help you remember the verse. Encourage your students to practice the verse several times with the motions until they know it from memory.

Sing “My Life is in You Lord,” “My God is So Big,” “Solid Rock,” etc.

Make a jointed, movable puppet of the lame man. Retell the story from his perspective.

Share a little information about the gods Zeus and Hermes. Read and discuss Isaiah 44:6-8 and Exodus 20:1-6.

Read the memory verse in several translations, including verses 4 and 6. Discuss what you learn. The Worldwide English version reads this way, “We can say this because we trust in God. And we trust in God because of Christ. We are not good enough to think we can do anything ourselves. But God makes us able to do it. God has made a new start with people. He has given us a new way back to God. It is not a written law. The Spirit gives it to us. The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3:4-6 WE)

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, focus on who our eyes are to be fixed upon.

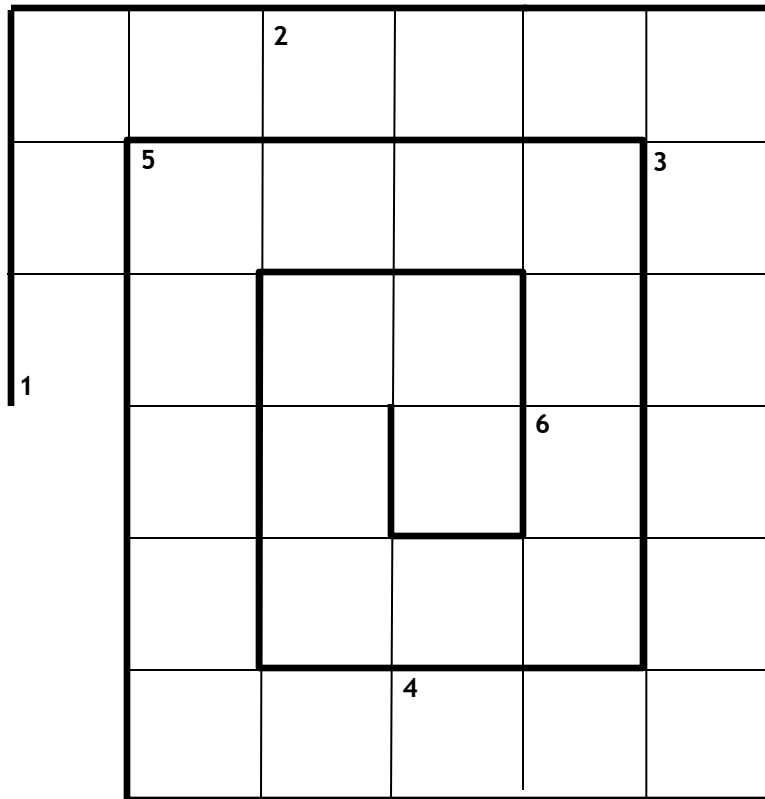


In ourselves  
we are not able to claim  
anything for ourselves.  
The power to do what we do  
comes from God.

2 Corinthians 3:5

# Racing Riddles

Answer the questions below. Beginning with the answer to number one, fill in the maze until you have reached the center.



1. In Iconium, Paul and Barnabas spoke with great power and \_\_\_\_\_ believed.
2. The people decided to \_\_\_\_\_ Paul and Barnabas.
3. Where Paul and Barnabas went after Iconium. (\_\_\_\_\_)
4. The lame man had faith to be healed. He \_\_\_\_\_ up and began to walk.
5. In Lystra, the people threw \_\_\_\_\_ at Paul.
6. Paul and Barnabas continued to preach the \_\_\_\_\_.



## Word Box

Lystra  
kill

jumped  
good news

many  
rocks

# Racing Riddles

Answer the questions below. Beginning with the answer to number one, fill in the maze until you have reached the center.

N	Y	<sup>2</sup> K	I	L	L
A	<sup>5</sup> R	O	C	K	<sup>3</sup> L
<sup>1</sup> M	D	E	W	S	Y
	E	N	S	<sup>6</sup> G	S
	P	D	O	O	T
	M	U	<sup>4</sup> J	A	R

1. In Iconium, Paul and Barnabas spoke with great power and many believed.
2. The people decided to kill Paul and Barnabas.
3. Where Paul and Barnabas went after Iconium. (Lystra)
4. The lame man had faith to be healed. He jumped up and began to walk.
5. In Lystra, the people threw rocks at Paul.
6. Paul and Barnabas continued to preach the Good News.



## Word Box

Lystra  
kill

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# Word Search

s t r a e e k i n g e n t p s  
u t c i c o n i r o a t d l h  
r s a v i a m e e i s i a o c  
p r r h m h t c b l s g n r o  
y e i e p r k a r l e i e t i  
c n m i r a c l e s n i i n t  
i a y g o a r s d a e t c o n  
l m r p a d e a c o l a o c e  
o u s s e n l b f h t i n f s  
n h c o i t n a n a i d i s p  
p y e h v v h n e e p a u l i  
d l y s t r a r c a r i m s d  
r n y h n m c a k i n e a u i  
c o i t n a n b i d i s p l s  
p c j y l c h a i c t i i f p

Psidian Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

lame man

Paul

Barnabas

miracles

only human

# Word Search

s t r a e e k i n g e n t p s  
u t c i c o n i r o a t d l h  
r s a v i a m e e i s i a o c  
p r r h m h t c b l s g n r o  
y e i e p r k a r l e i e t i  
c n m i r a c l e s n i i n t  
i a y g o a r s d a e t c o n  
l m r p a d e a c o l a o c e  
o u s s e n l b f h t i n f s  
n h c o i t n a n a i d i s p  
p y e h v v h n e e p a u l i  
d l y s t r a r c a r i m s d  
r n y h n m c a k i n e a u i  
c o i t n a n b i d i s p l s  
p c j y l c h a i c t i i f p

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