

HomeWord For Parents

God used Paul to preach the gospel to the Gentiles through three remarkable missionary journeys. Other apostles joined him as he traveled. The first journey included sailing to Cyprus where Paul preached in Salamis and Paphos. Paul and Barnabas continued on by boat to Perga in Pamphylia, departed Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia, moved on to Iconium, and continued to preach, eventually going to Lystra and Derbe (Acts 13–14).

As Paul preached in these cities, he would start by telling the Jews that God had fulfilled the promise of a Savior made to their fathers (Acts 13:32–33). But, many of these Jews did not believe. Often it was the Gentiles who begged to hear Paul preach (Acts 13:42). As Paul preached, the Word was received by many, and the Jews became envious. They openly opposed the things Paul taught (Acts 13:45). Paul turned his attention and preaching to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46).

Reactions to Paul's message of salvation were unpredictable. In Iconium, there were unbelieving Jews who

tried to stir the Gentiles up and poison their minds against the truth. Still, Paul and Barnabas remained a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who allowed them to do signs and wonders as witness to God's grace and truth (Acts 14:2–3).

In the city of Lystra, God healed a crippled man through Paul (Acts 14:9–10). Impressed, people believed Paul and Barnabas were gods and prepared to sacrifice to them (Acts 14:11–13). Paul quickly denied this and prevented them from offering sacrifices. He explained that their gods and sacrifices were the very things they should turn away from, and instead they should turn to the living God (Acts 14:15).

The people of Lystra quickly changed. They were persuaded by unbelieving Jews to turn against Paul. They did so violently and stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead (Acts 14:19). God spared Paul's life in Lystra, and he moved on and continued preach the gospel.

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

Paul's First Journey

KEY THEME

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

KEY PASSAGES

- Acts 14:1–15, 14:19–20
- 1 Corinthians 1:18



What You HEARD in the WORD

- God allowed Paul to do signs and wonders, which included healing, to show the people that Paul was sent from God.
- The people of Lystra were amazed by Paul's miracle and wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. But they were quickly persuaded to stone Paul and leave him for dead.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 There were two reactions to the truth Paul preached. What were they?
- 2 What did God allow Paul to do that showed the people that Paul was telling the truth?
- 3 Many people hated Paul and what he was saying. What did people in both cities—Iconium and Lystra—want to do to Paul?



1) Some people believed. Some did not. 2) Miracles—signs and wonders such as healing. 3) They wanted to stone him.

OutWord For Family Discussion

What if your friend says he just can't believe the Bible. He thinks believing in Jesus and the Bible is dumb. **What could you say?**

The Bible is a book about God. God inspired men to write it. It tells us who Jesus is and what Jesus did for sinners like us. It is far from dumb. In fact, it tells the best news ever—that the Creator of the universe would provide a way for sinners to know Him personally! The Bible has never changed. It has been the same for thousands of years. That's because it is God's Word. A lot of people would rather believe in what men say. But the words of men are always changing! Nothing man says or does stays the same. But, the Bible tells us that the Word of the Lord will endure forever. Please don't think it's dumb. It is wonderful truth. And the message in it can bring hope and joy and eternal life to those who believe.

inWord For Family Study

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). You desire for your children to truly love God's Law. They must know it well and meditate on it often.

Help them begin a lifetime of learning and memorizing God's Word!

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



Read the Word

Monday {Acts 13:3}

Paul and Barnabas were sent on the first journey. What did the leaders at Antioch do before sending them away?

Tuesday {Acts 13:38-39}

Paul preached about Jesus. What did Paul say about Him?

Wednesday {Acts 13:45}

Some Jews believed. But what did others do when they heard Paul preach?

Thursday {Acts 13:49}

Where was the Word of the Lord spreading?

Friday {Acts 14:2}

What did the unbelieving Jews do?

Saturday {1 Corinthians 1:18}

What do people who are perishing in their sins think of the Cross? (Your memory verse.)



Learn the Word

Write the letters of the numbers they have replaced on the clock to complete the verse.

For the m 1 5 5 8 1
of the c 4 2 5 5
7 12 2 are perishing, but to us who are being
5 1 3 2 7 1 4 of God.
I C 2 4 9 12 8 5 1:18

ANSWERS: message, cross, who, saved, power, Corinthians

PAUL IN LYSTRA

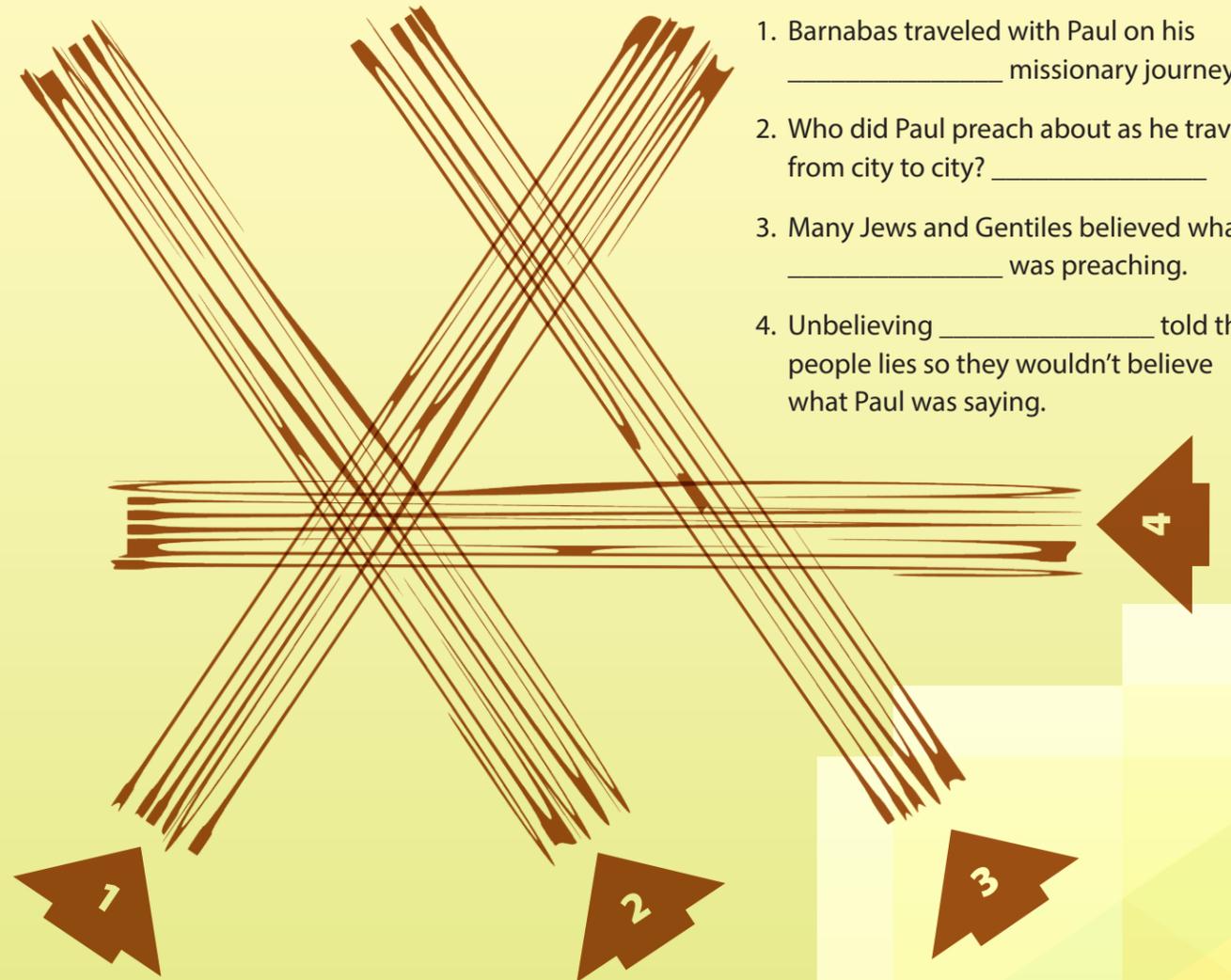
Answer the questions from the lesson from Acts 14:3-19 and 1 Corinthians 1:18. We used the New King James Version of the Bible. Use the word bank for help.

Word Bank: Foolishness, God, True, Lystra, Stoned, Walked

1. Where did Paul heal a crippled man? _____ . Acts 14:8.
2. Paul told the crippled man to stand up. The man leaped and _____. He was healed! Acts 14:10.
3. After the miracle, the people of Lystra claimed Paul was a _____. Acts 14:11-13.
4. Paul said they should give up useless things and turn to the one _____ God! Acts 14:15.
5. In Lystra, the people were so angry that they _____ Paul, dragged him outside the city, and left him for dead. Acts 14:19
6. The message of the Cross is _____ to those who are perishing. 1 Corinthians 1:18.

PAUL IN ICONIUM

Use the puzzle to find the answers to the questions below about Paul's time in Iconium on his first missionary journey. See Acts 14:1-5 if you need help. (Hint: Hold the puzzle about chin level and tilt it slightly downward. Let your eyes follow the direction that the arrows are pointing.)



1. Barnabas traveled with Paul on his _____ missionary journey.
2. Who did Paul preach about as he traveled from city to city? _____
3. Many Jews and Gentiles believed what _____ was preaching.
4. Unbelieving _____ told the people lies so they wouldn't believe what Paul was saying.

ANSWERS: 1) First, 2) Jesus, 3) Paul, 4) Jews.

LIVE the Word

Suppose you heard your friend say that he is going to give up telling people about Jesus because nobody wants to hear the gospel message. What could you say?

I know it can be discouraging when your friends and neighbors aren't interested in hearing about Jesus. But don't give up trying! When the Apostle Paul preached, many people did not believe. Some people were so angry with his message that they wanted to kill him! But that never stopped him. He kept preaching the truth about Jesus.

Heaven is real! And so is hell! And only those who hear the truth of the gospel, repent, and receive Jesus will be saved! It is very important that we tell others about Jesus. We can't give up. One day God may open their eyes to hear and understand the truth of the gospel.

SNEAK PEEK
How will a business woman and a jailer respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Come next week to find out!