

ACTS 13:13-14:28

Gentiles Receive the Gospel



12

May 29, 2005
2.ACT12

Lesson Goal

Students will understand why the Gospel went to the Gentiles.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain what was in the message Paul gave to the people in the synagogue at Psidian Antioch.
- Explain why Paul gave his message to the Jews first.
- Explain why the Jews disliked Paul's message.
- Tell the teacher who the people of Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were.
- Retrace Paul's first missionary journey on a map.

Memory Verse

Acts 14:27 "...they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles."

Application

- Understand how the Old Testament points to Christ.
- Don't be discouraged if someone doesn't respond right away to the Gospel when you share. Keep sharing!
- Continually give God the glory for the work of salvation.
- Remember that the gift of salvation is for everyone.
- Remember that there will be trials as we proclaim the truths of God's word.

TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

HOOK

Time

BOOK

Time

LOOK

Time

TOOK

Time

Materials
Needed:

ACTS CHAPTERS 13:13—14:28

Gentiles Receive the Gospel



12

1st–3rd Grade
May 29, 2005
2.ACT12EL

MEMORY
VERSE
✠
“...they
gathered the
church
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the door of
faith to the
Gentiles.”
Act 14:27
✠

SHOOK

Acts Bible Trivia (Game). Ask the students the following questions:

1. Who wrote the book of Acts? *(Luke)*
2. How many days were the Apostles eyewitnesses to Jesus being alive following His resurrection? *(40)*
3. What things happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles? *(Sound like a blowing wind, tongues of fire and they could speak in tongues.)*
4. What did Ananias do wrong when he sold his property? *(Lied about how much he sold it for.)*
5. What happened to him? *(He was struck dead.)*
6. The Apostles were arrested and put into the public jail. How did they get out? *(An angel of the Lord opened the doors.)*
7. What happened to Stephen after he preached to the Sanhedrin?
8. Who was giving his approval to the stoning of Stephen? *(Saul)*

In Galatians 6:7 it says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Remember how Saul began his life; he was a persecutor of the church. Tell the students that in today’s Bible adventure they are going to learn about how Saul, now called Paul, will experience what it is like to be persecuted for his faith and the message that he brings to an unbelieving world.

Zeus & Hermes (Discussion). Explain a bit about Greek Mythology in contrast to the truth of God’s word. Ask the students what they know about Zeus and Hermes, **2.ACT12EL.GF1 Pgs. 1 & 2.** Let the students share what they know. Help them out if they are not quite sure. Use the overheads of Zeus and Hermes. Lead into the lesson explaining how the people thought that Barnabas and Paul were Zeus and Hermes.

Some helpful mythology might be: *Zeus; The tale is Zeus overthrew his Father Cronus. He then drew lots with his brothers Poseidon and Hades. Zeus won the draw and became the supreme ruler of the gods. He is lord of the sky, the rain god. His weapon is a thunderbolt which he hurls at those who displease him. He is married to Hera but, is famous for his many affairs. He is also known to punish those that lie or break oaths. The tale of Hermes; Hermes is the son of Zeus and Maia. He is Zeus’ messenger. He is the fastest of the gods. He wears winged sandals, a winged hat, and carries a magic wand. He is the god of thieves and god of commerce. He is the guide for the dead to go to the underworld. He is credited for inventing the lyre, the pipes, the musical scale, astronomy, weights and measures, boxing, gymnastics, and the care of olive trees.*

We know there is no truth in these characters, but the sad thing is, back in the days of Paul and Barnabas these people were deceived by idol worship. What

good news Paul and Barnabas brought about the true and living God!
Sharing God (Discussion/Testimony). Ask the students if they have ever shared with anyone how they became a Christian. Tell them that this is what it means when we give our testimony. Start sharing your testimony with the students (please use discretion if there are specific details that may not be appropriate). Talk about what your life was like before you met Christ, how you met Christ, and how you have seen God change your life after you became a Christian. Tell the students that in today's Bible lesson they will learn how Paul and Barnabas were witnesses of the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Martyrs (Story). Read or tell a biography about people who suffered persecution such as Martin Luther, Jim Elliott, Corrie Ten Boom, or John Wesley. Fox's Book of Martyrs would be a great resource on martyrs. Some other resources for different and possibly more current stories are:
www.persecution.com – Voice of the Martyrs web site; www.gfa.org – Gospel for Asia Web site. Tell the students that in today's Bible adventure they will be learning about how Paul and Barnabas suffered for the name of Jesus. Paul was even stoned in the process. Let's see what happened.

A Case of Mistaken Identity (Discussion/Intro). The superstitious people of Lystra mistook Paul and Barnabas for the Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes. Think back to our study of Luke. Who else was mistaken for another person? (*John the Baptist.*) Who was he mistaken for? (*Messiah*) Tell the students that in today's Bible adventure they are going to see how Paul and Barnabas refused the people's attempts to honor them after the healing of the lame man, and instead began to give all the credit to God.

Who Am I? (Activity). Before class, make up enough name tags for all the students and assistants. The name tags should have names like: Goofy, Bugs Bunny, Cinderella, Michael Jordan, Abraham Lincoln, etc., use your imagination. Make sure the names you use are age appropriate. The teacher will place a name tag on the backs of each student and assistant as they enter the classroom. The students and assistants are to try and guess who they are by asking "yes" and "no" questions. For example: Am I a girl? Am I a cartoon character? They cannot ask questions with choices. If they do, the person responding must say, "I'm sorry I'm only allowed to answer "yes" or "no". After some time has passed, ask them: "How many of you have guessed who you are? How many guessed correctly on the first guess? Tell the students that in today's Bible Adventure they will hear about how Paul and Barnabas healed a man and suffered a case of mistaken identity by the people of Lystra. When we hear of great things people do, praise God because He gives them the power to do great things. Do not focus your praise on the person.



Presentation Ideas

Priest of Zeus Honors Paul & Barnabas (Illustration/Coloring Page). Acts 14:11-15; 2.ACT12EL.GF2.

Paul, Dead or Alive? (Illustration/Coloring Page). Acts 14:19-20; 2.ACT12EL.GF3.

Paul's Journeys, Then & Now (Map/Overhead). Use during today's Bible Adventure to follow the steps of Paul and Barnabas back to the origin of their journey.

Paul's Journeys, Then & Now (Laminated Wall Map). Today you will follow Paul and Barnabas to the end of their first missionary journey. Review today's Bible Adventure by tracing their steps from Pisidian Antioch back to Antioch in Syria.

Three Cities (Presentation idea). After you cover the content of Paul's first sermon in Pisidian Antioch, divide the class into three groups. Give each group one city and corresponding scripture passage as follows.

Antioch - Acts 13: 42-52

Iconium - Acts 14: 1-7

Lystra - Acts 14: 8-20

Have each group present Paul's experience in its assigned city. Have them show how the Gospel was received in each city. Be creative. For example, groups may dramatize their passage or draw a picture (or series of pictures) and present these to the class. Provide the materials they may need.

Bible Adventure for 1st- 3^d grades

Have you ever betrayed a friend? It may have been something very subtle, like being silent when someone was laughing at them, or going back on a promise to spend time with them. As humans we are prone to do things like this. When the chips are down, too often we bail out and look out for ourselves.

God doesn't want us to live that way. He wants us to develop strong convictions, things we won't compromise on no matter what. He wants us to stand on those convictions and leave the results to Him. Listen to this true story from the Bible about Paul and Barnabas and what they did when their convictions were challenged.

After they met Elymas and Sergius Paulus in Paphos, Paul and Barnabas sailed to Pamphylia (modern day Turkey). They went to Pisidian Antioch, a different city from the Antioch we talked about a few weeks ago. On the Sabbath Day they went into the synagogue and were invited to speak to the people gathered there. Paul stood up and began to tell those listening of the history of the Jewish people. From the descendants of King David, God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus. But the Jewish leadership had Jesus put to death. God raised Him from the dead, and many saw Him and became witnesses to the Jewish people. Jesus was the only Way they could be made right with God. Following all their laws and rituals would not save them. The people were so interested in what Paul and Barnabas had to say that they invited them back on the next Sabbath to tell them more. The next week, almost the whole town turned out to listen to them. But when the Jews saw how many had come to hear Paul and Barnabas and that so many of them were Gentiles, they became very jealous. They started talking against what Paul was saying. Paul and Barnabas answered them: "We had to speak the Word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles." When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad, and many of them became believers.

God's Word was spreading through the whole region, but those angry Jews kept stirring up trouble against Paul and Barnabas. They were thrown out of Pisidian

Antioch, so they shook the dust from their feet to show that those who rejected God's Word would be held responsible. They traveled to Iconium, then on to Lystra. In that city there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked right at him. The Holy Spirit gave Paul the understanding that this man had faith to be healed. **He called out to the man, "Stand up on your feet." Immediately the man jumped up and began to walk.**

When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in their language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" These people worshipped the false gods of the Greeks. They assumed that because Paul had the power to heal, he and Barnabas had to be gods. They called Barnabas, Zeus, and they called Paul Hermes because he was doing the speaking. **The chief priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates in order to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas**

When Paul and Barnabas finally understood what was happening, they were very upset. They ran out into the crowd shouting, "Men, why are you doing this? We are only men, like you. We are bringing you the Good News, telling you to turn from these worthless things (like the worship of false gods) to the living God!" Paul went on to tell them that even though they were not given God's Law to follow, God had made Himself evident to them by providing for their physical needs. **Even though they said this, they had a hard time keeping the crowds from sacrificing to them.**

While all this was going on, some Jews from Pisidian Antioch and Iconium came and turned the crowd against Paul. **They stoned Paul until they thought he was dead, then dragged him outside the city, where they dumped his body.** What a horrible thing to have happened. This was not a casual beating Paul went through. His body was slammed with huge stones, thrown with hatred and a desire to kill. We don't know what Paul's injuries were, but they must have been severe. He had to have been badly hurt for the crowds to assume he was dead. Paul was not without friends in Lystra, though. Some of the disciples gathered around him as he lay there. **Then, to their lasting joy and delight, he opened his eyes, got up, and fearlessly headed back to the city.** Paul was miraculously healed, and instead of allowing himself to dwell on what had just happened, he went right back to the city in which he was so viciously attacked. Can you believe the courage he displayed? Where did he get it? If you answered, "from God" you'd be perfectly correct.

The next day, Paul and Barnabas headed for the city of Derbe, where a large number of people became disciples of Jesus. Then they went back to Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch, encouraging the new disciples there to stay strong in their faith. **They told them, "We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God."** Paul would know! They chose elders for each church to lead the believers and prayed for them. They went to several more cities and shared the Gospel. Then they sailed back to Antioch in Syria, back to the church that had sent them out in the first place. They gathered the church together there and told them everything God had done through them, and how the Gentiles were responding to the Good News about Jesus. They stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Let's take a hard look at ourselves. Many of us have probably never suffered or been made fun of because of our faith in Jesus. Part of the reason may be that God has not allowed us to go through that yet. But a bigger reason may be that we're busy trying to blend in with the world, keeping our faith a secret. **I think we can all agree that God is more than worthy of our taking a stand for Him, no matter what anyone else thinks.** Why then do we pull back and by our silence deny or betray the Lord we love so much? The answer comes in two parts. Number one, the reason we deny our faith is that we're not 100 percent convinced of its truth. If someone said to you, "Today the law of gravity has been suspended. Go jump off that ten-story building, and I'll guarantee you will not be hurt." Anyone with any brains knows that gravity is still in effect. It's true, it's unchanging. That's the way God's truth is, too. We can stand on it, no matter what. Number two, when we try to stand for the truth on our own, we are doomed to failure. The Apostles' witness was bold and fearless because the Holy Spirit was giving them the power to be that way. That same Holy Spirit waits to give you a bold, fearless witness, too. Commit yourself today to doing whatever it takes to strengthen your faith. Tell your teacher about it so he or she can check on your progress. Most of all, trust that God will take your willing heart and do great things with it.

Aim Questions:

1. **Show on a map the places that Paul and Barnabas visited on their first missionary trip. In which city was Paul stoned and dragged from the city?** *Lystra*
 2. **What group of people caused trouble for Paul and Barnabas when they went of different cities?** *Jewish religious leaders.*
 3. **Who did the people of Lystra think Paul and Barnabas were, and what did they try to do to honor them?** *They thought Paul & Barnabas were Zeus and Hermes, and tried to offer sacrifices to them.*
 4. **How much suffering or ridicule would you be willing to face because you are a Christian?**
 5. **Where does our strength to endure trials and hardships come from? Do you have a relationship with the One who provides that strength?**
 6. **Vocabulary words from Acts: Apostle, Sanhedrin, Witness.**
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A.C.T.S. 13:13 – 14:28 (Worksheet). Which two Apostles were mistaken for Zeus and Hermes? *Paul and Barnabas respectively.* What south central Asia Minor city is an important center about 20 miles from Iconium and 130 miles from Antioch? *Lystra.* Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowd. What did they do to Paul? *He was stoned.* What happened to Paul after he had been stoned? *He was raised up and went on to establish churches,* **2.ACT12EL.GF4.**

Paul and Barnabas in Lystra (Worksheet). Duplex copy **2.ACT12EL.GF5 Pg. 1** and **2.** Have the students color the pieces of the puzzle and then cut apart. Put each puzzle into zip-lock bags to be sent home to share with their family and friends.

Barnabas & Paul's Missionary Journey Maze (Worksheet). Explain to the students that Barnabas and Paul have traveled to many cities as they work through this maze, **2.ACT12EL.GF6**. They first went to the Jews to preach Jesus. When the Jews rejected their message, they went to the Gentiles and many new churches were established. Describe for the students the joy that is ours because of the fact that Jesus died for our sins and not just the sins of the Jews. Isn't it wonderful that we also have access to the saving grace of Jesus' death and are not left in our old sinful ways? Spend time praying and thanking God for the wonderful gift of salvation that He brought forth in eternity past.

ABC's Review (Activity). Help students remember the events from today's Bible adventure by memorizing these ABC facts.

- ◆ Antioch sends out missionaries.
- ◆ Barnabas and Paul go.
- ◆ Concerned, John Mark
- ◆ Declaring the Truth
- ◆ Evangelize the Lost
- ◆ Faithful return to Antioch
- ◆ God gets the Glory.

Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT12EL.GF7**.



TOOK _____

Boldly Go! (Activity/Memory). Continue the training process in which the students share the Gospel clearly, using the "Who's in Charge?" (JR) and "Who is My King?" (EL) tracts suggested in last week's lesson. Have older students practice drawing the diagrams and learn the verses (1 Peter 3:18 and 2 Thes 1:9) in sections 3 and 4 of "Who's in Charge?" Younger students can color the diagrams and discuss the meaning in sections 3 and 4 of "Who's My King?" Keep these again for another week so that, after the students have learned or discussed each point, they can practice sharing the Gospel with each other. Another resource to use is the Bill Faye materials from a couple of week ago. The questions to use in general conversation can aid students in bringing Christ into the everyday conversations they have with their friends.

Light for the Gentiles (Craft/Verse/Discussion). "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." Acts 13:47. Teachers, bring one flashlight for each group. Have each student cut out the large circle on this worksheet, **2.ACT12EL.GF8**. Then cut the cross out of the middle. At this point, have students save their covers to finish at home and just make one for the "group" flashlight. Press the circle over the end of a standard flashlight. Wrap around the edges. Let the students shine the flashlight onto a wall while lights are turned off in the classroom or use black construction paper at each table to reflect the light. Paul was called by God to be a light for the Gentiles; we are told by God to let our light shine before men, also. What does it mean to be a light? What does a light do to the darkness? How did Paul's light bring salvation to the ends of the earth? How can we let God's truth and love, bring salvation the people we know?

Hardships (Craft). Each student will need:

2.ACT12EL.GF9

spring-type clothespin
pipe cleaner
glue or glue stick
scissors
colored markers

Request the sails to be laminated if you plan on putting them in water. Talk to the students about hardship as they build their boats. The Bible tells us that Christians *will* face trials, but God promises to help us through them. Paul and Barnabas faced much opposition and difficulty on their journey; they never stopped teaching the truth about Jesus. What hardships did Paul face in this week's Bible adventure? What was his response? How did God help him? Ask the above questions, but referring to trials the students might face. Bring tubs or pails, and have boat races when the "hard ships" are complete.

Testimonies (Activity). Telling people how you became a Christian is one way you can be a witness of the Gospel to others. Write out your story as to how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior. In your story, include: what your life was like before you met Christ if you can remember, or what made you realize your need for Christ, and how you met Christ. What specific areas in your life have you seen God change? If the students wish, have them share their testimonies with the class next week. Be sure to encourage the students to talk to their parents about their testimony.

This workbook is not available at this time.

A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook). Encourage students to continue using the Apostle action cards to memorize the significant statistics throughout the book of Acts. The main events of Acts 14:13-28 are:

- A. Paul & Barnabas.
- C. In the city of Lystra.
- T. Paul is stoned by a mob.
- S. Paul is raised, and churches are established.

Zeus



Hermes



Priest of Zeus Honors Paul & Barnabas



Paul, Dead or Alive



A.C.T.S

13:13 - 14:28

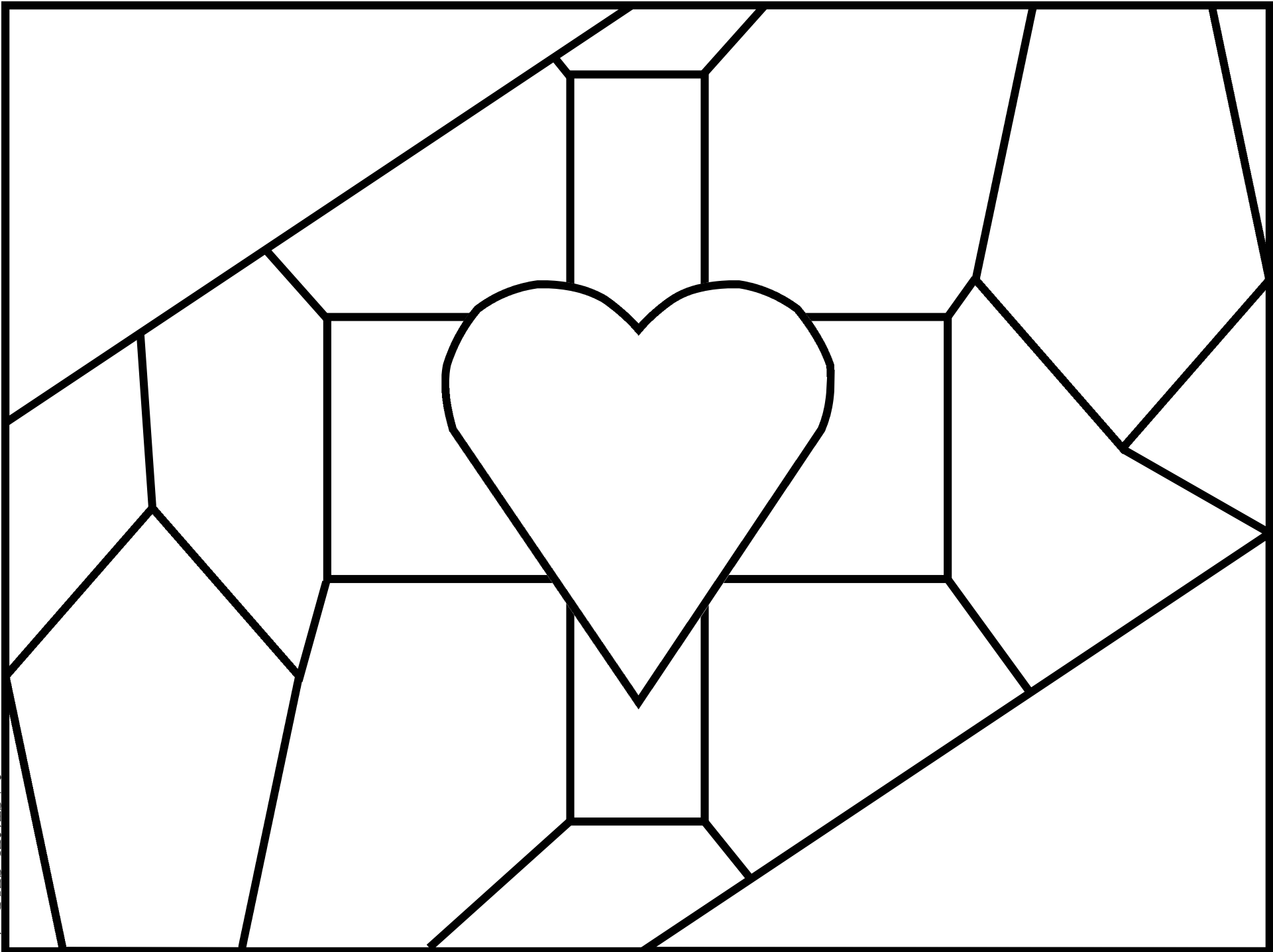
Apostles – What two Apostles were mistaken for Zeus and Hermes?

City – What city in south central Asia Minor is an important Lycaonian center about 20 miles from Iconium and 130 miles from Antioch?

Trials/troubles – Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowd. What did they do to Paul?

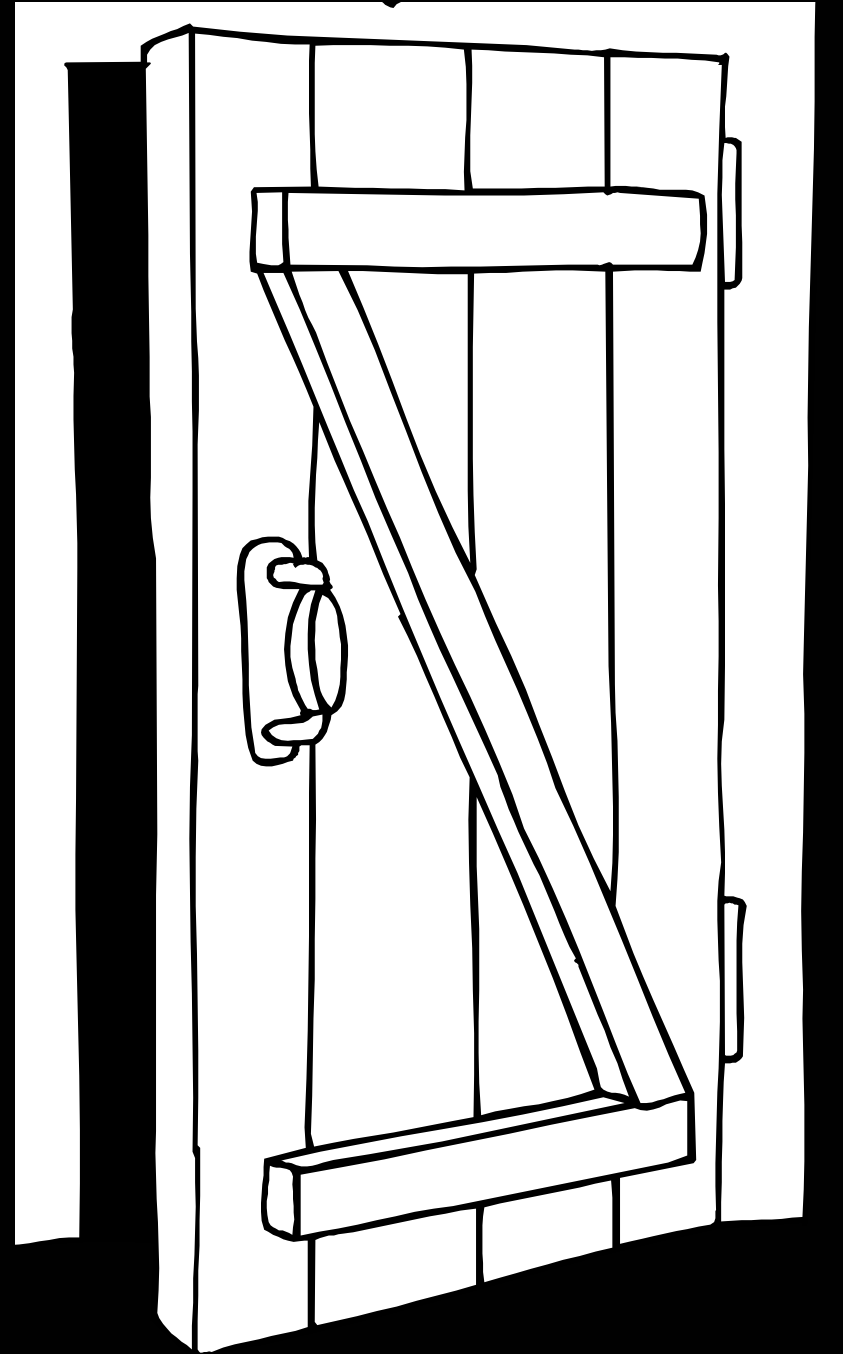
Spirit – What happened to Paul after he had been stoned?

“...we must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.”
Acts 14:22b



On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27



BARNABAS & PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Barnabas and Paul have traveled to many cities. They went first to the Jews to preach Jesus. When the Jews rejected their message, they went to the Gentiles and many new churches were established. Starting in Antioch in Syria, work your way through the maze in the correct order that Barnabas and Paul visited each city. Find your way back to Antioch.

Antioch in Syria

Seleucia

Salamis

Antioch in Pisidia

Perga

Paphos

Iconium

Derbe

Lystra

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Show on a map the places that Paul and Barnabas visited on their first missionary trip. In which city was Paul stoned and dragged from the city?
2. What group of people caused trouble for Paul and Barnabas when they went of different cities?
3. Who did the people of Lystra think Paul and Barnabas were, and what did they try to do to honor them?
4. How much suffering or ridicule would you be willing to face because you are a Christian?
5. Where does our strength to endure trials and hardships come from? Do you have a relationship with the One who provides that strength?

*It is through a relationship with
Christ that we have the boldness
to share Him with a world that is lost.*

Acts
Chapter
13:13-14:28

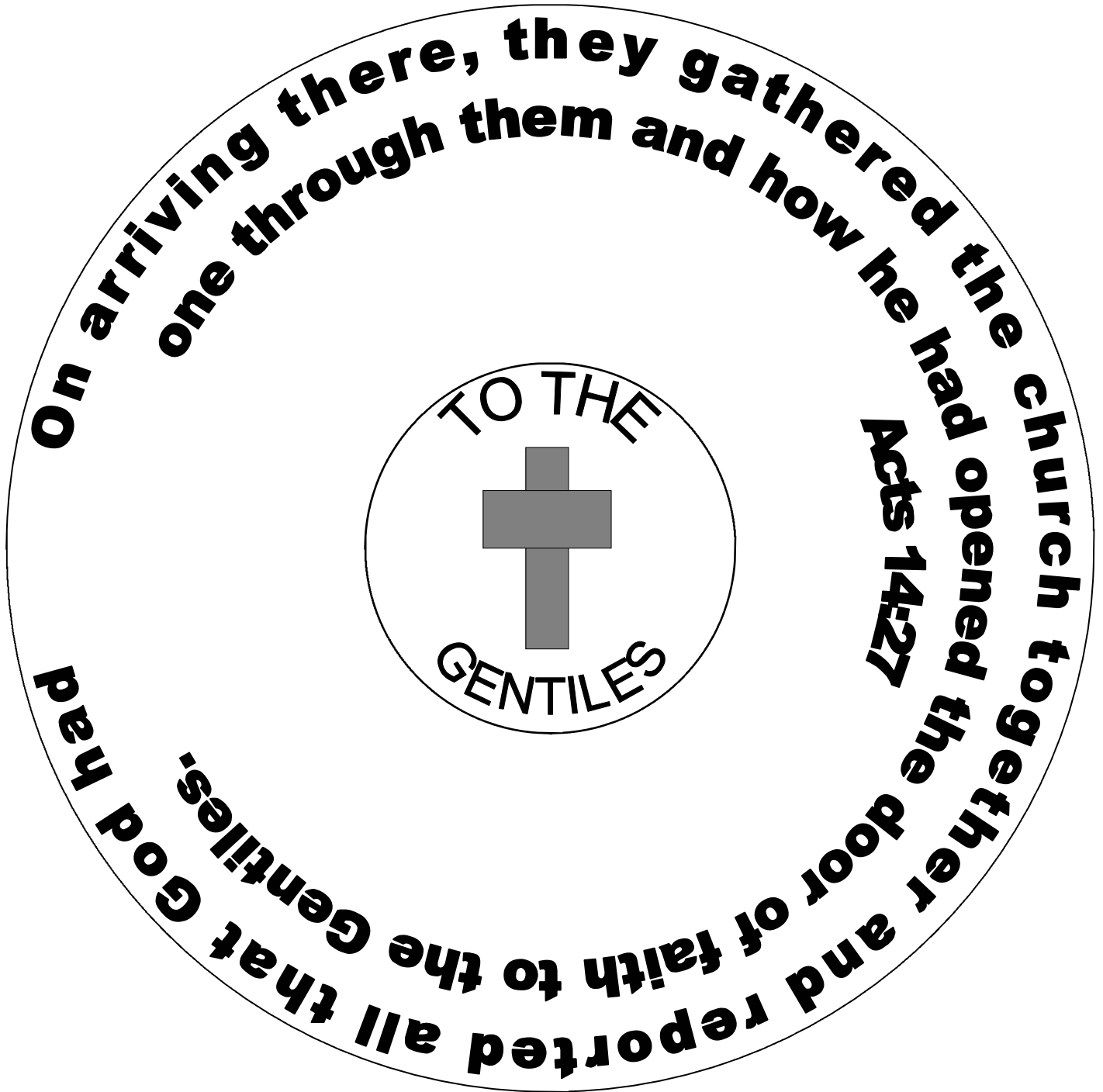
“...they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”

Acts 14:27

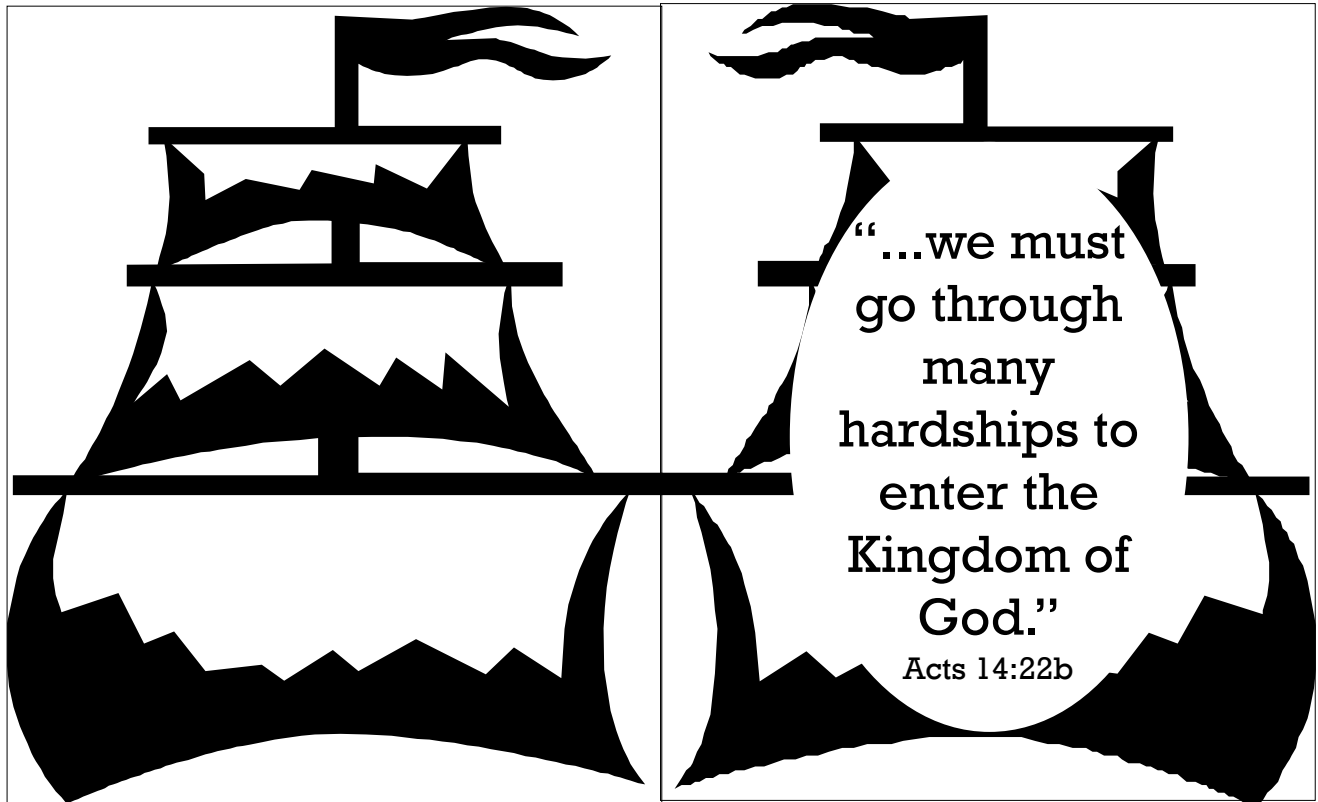


Light for the Gentiles

Cut out the large circle, then cut the cross out of the middle.
Press the circle over the end of a standard-size flashlight.
Secure with tape or rubber band.



HARDSHIPS



FRONT

BACK

Items needed:

spring-type clothespins
glue or glue sticks
markers

pipe cleaners
scissors

Directions:

1. Remove the hinges from the clothespins.
2. Cut out the sail.
3. Glue the flat pieces of clothespins together, to make the boat leaving a hole at one end.
4. Glue the front to the back, with the pipe cleaner in the middle forming the sail.
5. Put glue into the hole, and insert the pipe cleaner.