

## Paul and Barnabas at Lystra- Acts 14:8-20

### THE POINT

#### Focus:

The Holy Spirit guides and equips people to spread the Gospel.  
God's Kingdom expands in God's timing and in God's plans.

#### Application:

We choose to be faithful to God's call on our lives  
We expect God to work even in unexpected ways

#### Last Week:

#### 2 Weeks Ago:

---

### HEART CONNECTION (MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- None

#### **Content:**

*The goal of this time is to open up an opportunity to talk with the children about expectations. We all have expectations of each other and of God, and sometimes our expectations are wrong and lead to disappointment. Sometimes God works in ways that are not our expectation.*

**We're going to start our learning time today with a game. Have any of you ever played Rock-Paper-Scissors? Pick someone who has played before to demonstrate with you. In this game, you say Rock, Paper, Scissors, Shoot! And on "shoot", you make your hand into a rock (fist), paper (flat hand) or scissors (make a V with index and middle finger). The Rock breaks the scissors, the scissors cut the paper, and the paper covers the rock. You can't anticipate what the other person will choose or predict who the winner will be!**

*Let the kids play a few rounds, and then sit in a circle to segue into the story.*

**When we played this game, we had to anticipate what the other person might make happen. Was it ever hard to know what to expect from the other person? In your life, have you ever had something bad happen that you didn't expect?**

**Were you disappointed? It's okay to be disappointed!**

**Today we're going to hear another story from the book of Acts, and see how some people trusted God with their disappointment when something happened they didn't expect.**

---

## STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Story cloth
- Rectangle representing Lystra
- 5 red hearts, representing believers
- 15 gray hearts, (in groups of 10, 3, and 2) representing unbelievers
- 1 heart that is red on one side, and gray on the other (a convert)
- 4 cards with food/crops/water/a heart showing God's provisions
- A square that represents the Temple of Zeus

### Instructions:

Set up the story with a large piece of felt. Put a square in the middle and tell the children that this square represents the city of Lystra. All of the people in the story today will be represented by a felt heart. People that know Jesus are red hearts, and people that don't know Jesus are gray hearts.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

*This is a somewhat unusual children's story because it doesn't end with everyone coming to faith in Christ and Paul is stoned. It's okay to recognize that some people accept the Gospel and some reject it. The "happy ending" is that Paul is saved from death by God.*

Acts 14:8-20

8 In Lystra there sat a man who couldn't walk (*place a gray heart on the square*).

He hadn't been able to use his feet since the day he was born. 9 He listened as Paul spoke (*place 2 red hearts down- tell the children that one represents Paul, and the other Barnabas*).

Paul looked right at him. He saw that the man had faith to be healed. 10 So he called out, "Stand up on your feet!" Then the man jumped up and began to walk. (*Turn the gray heart over to reveal a red heart. Tell the children that the faith that the man had healed his body, but also his heart. He trusted Jesus and was transformed!*).

11 The crowd saw what Paul had done (*place a crowd of gray hearts around the 3 red hearts, reserving 5 gray hearts*).

They shouted in the Lycaonian language. "The gods have come down to us in human form!" they exclaimed. 12 They called Barnabas Zeus. Paul was the main speaker. So they called him Hermes. 13 Just outside the city was the temple of the god Zeus (*place a rectangle for Zeus' temple on the cloth next to the square for Lystra*).

The priest of Zeus brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates (*line up 3 gray hearts as the priests*).

He and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas. But the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard about this. So they tore their clothes. They rushed out into the crowd. (*move Barnabas and Paul among the crowd of gray hearts*).

They shouted, 15 "Friends, why are you doing this? We are only human, just like you. We are bringing you good news. Turn away from these worthless things. Turn to the living God. He is the one who made the heavens and the earth and the sea. He made everything in them. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17 But he has given proof of what he is like. (*tell the children that there are 4 ways that God has given proof*)

He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven (*place rain card on the mat*).

He gives you crops in their seasons (*place crops card on the mat*).

He provides you with plenty of food (*place food card on the mat*).

He fills your hearts with joy (*place joy/heart card on the mat*)."

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

(continued)

18 Paul and Barnabas told them all these things. But they had trouble keeping the crowd from offering sacrifices to them.

19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium *(place 2 more gray hearts down)*.

They won the crowd over to their side. They threw stones at Paul. They thought he was dead, so they dragged him out of the city. *(Move red hearts for Barnabas and Paul outside the city rectangle)*

20 The believers gathered around Paul *(place more red hearts down)*.

Then he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. *(Move Paul and Barnabas to the edge of the mat. Leave the story in the center for the discussion.)*

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, Nlrv® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "Nlrv" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

---

## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder how Paul and Barnabas felt after when they came to the city of Lystra.

I wonder how the man felt when he was healed.

I wonder how the people of Lystra felt when they saw the man be healed.

I wonder how Paul and Barnabas felt when they were sharing the Good News.

I wonder how Paul and Barnabas and the believers felt at the end this story?

What do you wonder?

---

## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**