

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 2, 2020

Theme: The Acts of the Apostles

Topic: Consistent Witnessing

Main Text: Acts 14: 1-28

Key verse: Acts 14:22 *“strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: To be consistent means to be reliable, steady, uniform. Fully conscious of the task assigned to them by the Holy Spirit, Paul and Barnabas set about the task in all earnestness. Having been chased out of the region of Pisidian Antioch, they proceeded to Iconium, then Lystra, Derbe, Perga. In each of these places, one could predict what they did. No wonder Paul would later write in 1 Corinthians 4:2 ‘... *it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*’ (NIV). And God was pleased to also attest to their ministry in the winning of many souls to Christ, in signs and wonders, in miracle of healing (Acts 14:1, 3, 10, 20).

1. (a) Let participants identify some of the observable patterns in the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. See Acts 13:14, 32, 44; 14:1-7, 21, 25-27 (b) In which aspect of our God-given ministry, as a Church and as individuals, do we need to show some more consistency?

Not only were Paul and Barnabas consistent in preaching the word of God wherever they went, but their message varied in context for each city: Where there was a Jewish Synagogue, they would often start their message about Jesus Christ, speaking from the Old Testament. However, in Lystra which didn’t seem to have a synagogue, they took advantage of an attempt to sacrifice to them to tell them about the One God who created everything (Acts 14:11-18). Paul even used the everyday occurrences like the seasons, planting and reaping, things which are often considered ‘natural’ to attest to the existence of the One True God. Paul tailored the message to suit his audience, but the message was always about the one true God and His offer of redemption through Jesus Christ.

2. (a) What are some practical benefits of personalizing and contextualizing the gospel of Jesus Christ? (b) What should be the goal of contextualization of the gospel message? (c) Looking at the instances and ways Paul contextualized the message for his audience, what, do we suppose made it easy for him to do so?

Though persecuted, they still preached; and whenever any town or city became unbearable, they fled to another town or city. This was the directive of the Saviour, ‘*When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*’ (Mathew 10:23 NIV). The Apostles were so focused on witnessing for Jesus, that they returned to Lystra, where Paul was almost killed. And rather than warn the believers to be careful, they encouraged them not to pay attention to whatever tribulations that may come their way! (Acts 14:21-22).

3. (a) How do you think the believers in Lystra understood Paul’s encouragement ‘to continue in the faith, saying that through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God’? (b) How should we and other believers who are being targeted in parts of Nigeria and around the world, apply Paul’s exhortation in Acts 14:22 to our situation?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to continually preach the gospel with simplicity and boldness. Amen.