



Welcome + Opening Prayer

Acts 14:8-23

See passage printed on the back of this page.

THEMATIC OVERVIEW

How does the early church in Acts show who God is in a context similar to ours here in Seattle?

Explore + Apply

1. Who are people that God is prompting you to “notice”—whether at work, on the playground, in a class—and pay more attention to? What are some ways you could care for them both verbally and with acts of service? Why is it important that both words and deeds are present when we extend God’s love to someone? (v.9 Paul both teaches and heals)
2. What are some examples of God’s generous hospitality that you enjoy most (see v. 17 for the examples Paul mentions)? Who do you struggle to be generous toward? So often God’s generosity goes without notice or thanks (check out Luke 6:45)—how does this move you toward generosity to know God continues to be so hospitable to you and even to people who hate God?
3. In what area of your life do you find that you are willing to suffer? Why? Is there an area of your life where you suffer in order to love someone? How does the coming of God’s Kingdom encourage you that suffering is not meaningless (v. 22)?

Pray

PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.

- Praise God for His generous hospitality to us in providing our daily bread.
- Pray that we would be moved to generosity by God's generosity.
- Pray God’s Kingdom come as we become more and more willing to suffer for loving our community, city, and world.

GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*lent begins Feb 14
week of Feb 18
week of Mar 4
week of Mar 18*

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

Acts 14:8-23

8 In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed 10 and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15 "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." 18 Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

21 They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. 23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.