



Acts: The Birth of the Church in the World - Week 2: A Tale of Two Cities

Acts 14

Discussion Questions for July 19th, 2026

1. (IceBreaker) Pastor Shaen mentioned the Ewoks and how they mistakenly worshipped C-3PO as a god. Pick which statement is true:
 - Ewoks are delightful characters vital to the plot of Return of the Jedi
 - Ewoks are an obvious ploy to sell toys to kids in 1983
2. **Main Idea: True Christians Persevere.** This chapter is the remainder of Paul's first missionary journey. Which part of the narrative is the most vivid to you? Does it inspire you to serve God or scare you a bit?
3. **Point #1: Persevere Through Division.** In Iconium, it would be an oversimplification to say that Jews were antagonistic and Gentiles were receptive. Look again at verses 1 through 5 and describe the "good guys" and the "bad guys." What made the difference, aside from ethnic identity?
4. **Point #2: Persevere Through Confusion.** In Lystra, the crowd mistakenly worshiped Paul and Barnabas as gods. What are some modern-day misunderstandings or false beliefs that can distract people from Jesus? How might we reduce this confusion?
5. Share a time when you had a conversation with someone that helped clarify their view of God or the Bible? Initially, how did you know they were confused? How were you able to bring the conversation around to spiritual topics?
6. **Point #3: Persevere Through Persecution.** Verse 22 says, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." How does that statement challenge common ideas that the Christian life should be comfortable or easy? How should this shape our expectations?

7. Why didn't Paul go back to home base in Antioch after he was stoned? Imagine this happening today, and you are part of Paul's sending church or missions organization. Wouldn't you almost force him to take a breather? How do we balance the danger and risk of frontier missions with the urgency of spreading the gospel to those who haven't heard?
8. Pray that we follow Paul and Barnabas' example to persevere through many trials when we know God is leading us. Pray for people in our church family to connect in some way with the task of spreading the gospel to all "ethnos" (people groups / nations).