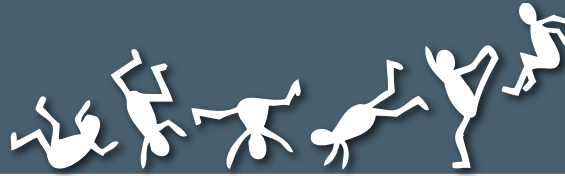


Not Gods, Just Men



Acts 14



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 14

MEMORY WORK:

“Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Acts 14:17”](#)
- [“Paul and Barnabas”](#)
- [“To Be Like Jesus”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 13-26](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 8 Bible Facts”)
- “Acts Chapter Summary” from “[Kids Prep 2](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Paul (Series 1) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note that only the apostles received the Holy Spirit baptism in Acts 2—skip card 1.2 or remove girl)
- [Map of Palestine](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Pictures of celebrities (sports figures, singers, etc.)



- Pictures of Greek and/or Roman idols
- Lessons From Lystra Visual (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=325>)
- Elders in Every Church Visual (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=317>)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

We should be careful who we set up as our examples and be careful in the example we set for others. Jesus was the best example. We should try to be like Him.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last time we talked about Paul and Barnabas being missionaries. What do missionaries do?

Do you know what an “example” is? Let’s say you want to learn to whistle [or throw a baseball, or anything else relevant to this age group] but you don’t know how. Your mom/dad/big brother, etc., can show you how to whistle. He is being your example for how to whistle. If Mom and Dad want you to behave in worship, they will show you how to do that—you can follow their example. But people make mistakes. Sometimes we hear about people who are famous just because they did something wrong. They aren’t the kind of example we should follow. People are not perfect. The only perfect example is Jesus, and He’s the one we should try hard to follow every day.

Today we’re going to talk about what happened to Paul and Barnabas when some people wanted to treat Paul and Barnabas as if they were more important than God. Let’s see what happened to Paul and Barnabas!

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson.

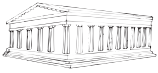
Is there a sports figure or an actor/actress or a singer that you admire and pay a lot of attention to? Every day we hear music, watch TV shows and movies, and hear news about people who are famous—sports stars, actors, etc. Sometimes, if we’re not careful, we can pay more attention to famous people than to God. Sadly, sometimes what we see them do and hear them say is not anything like what God expects us to do and say. It’s a great blessing to have good examples, like teachers and our parents, etc. But people make mistakes. So I must be careful to follow the perfect example of Jesus every day. No matter what the world says, no one on this Earth should be as important to us as God.

Some people wanted to make Paul and Barnabas more important than God, but they knew that they were not. They just wanted to teach others about Jesus. Let’s see what happened to these two great men.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review ABCs of Acts covered thus far.
2. Acts 14, “N” in our ABCs of Acts, stands for Not Gods, Just Men. Paul and Barnabas continued to travel to different places to teach many people about Jesus.

3. One of those places was **Iconium**, a wealthy town about 80 miles from Antioch of Pisidia (where they had “shaken the dust from their feet against them”—Acts 13:51). As was their custom, Paul and Barnabas went first to the synagogue to teach others about Jesus, and many—both Jews and Gentiles—believed in Jesus because of their message. But angry, “unbelieving” Jews again forced them to leave town.



HISTORICAL NOTE: Iconium was a center of idol worship and “mystery cults.” In spite of that environment, inscriptions have been found by archaeologists proving that Iconium became one of the most important centers of Christianity in Asia Minor in the first century A.D.

4. Paul and Barnabas left Iconium and went to Lystra (the home of Timothy). After healing a man who had been crippled all of his life, the people assumed that Paul and Barnabas must be two of the gods they worshipped who had become men. The two preachers were so upset by this that they tore their clothes (a sign of grief or extreme emotional distress and a Jew’s response to blasphemy). Paul and Barnabas wanted the people to know that they were just men—ordinary men with an extraordinary message. They used the opportunity to teach the people about Jesus and the one true God.



HISTORICAL NOTE: An ancient legend may explain why the people treated Paul and Barnabas as gods. In Lystra, there was a beautiful temple to Jupiter (Zeus). “The Roman poet Ovid told of an ancient legend in which Zeus (Jupiter) and Hermes (Mercury) came to the Phrygian hill country disguised as mortals seeking lodging. After being turned away from a thousand homes, they found refuge in the humble cottage of an elderly couple. In appreciation for the couple’s hospitality, the gods transformed the cottage into a temple with a golden roof and marble columns. All the houses of the inhospitable people were then destroyed. After witnessing the healing of the cripple, they did not want to make the same mistake as their ancestors” (*The Nelson Study Bible*, p. 1,846).

5. The Jews from Antioch of Pisidia and Iconium followed Paul and Barnabas to Lystra and stirred up trouble again—so much trouble, in fact, that they convinced the people of Lystra to stone Paul and leave him for dead outside the city walls. The crowd thought he was dead. Much to the relief of the new Christians in Lystra, Paul had not been stoned to death (like Stephen). He got up and went back into the city! Paul’s instant recovery was an unmistakable sign of the power of God for the Christians in Lystra.
6. Paul and Barnabas next traveled on to the town of Derbe where they spent some time teaching and where they made “many disciples.” Then they bravely returned to each of the towns where they had been before—even those where there was danger—to encourage the Christians in every place where they had preached so that they would have good leadership after Paul and Barnabas were gone. The Christians knew about the sufferings of Paul and of his great faith in the Lord, and he knew that they would probably suffer for being Christians, too. When Paul and Barnabas finally sailed back to Antioch of Syria, after almost two years of traveling, they reported to the Antioch congregation all that had happened on their first missionary journey. The Bible says they stayed in Antioch with the disciples a long time.
7. Today some famous people are treated almost like gods. People want to spend time with them, get their autographs, listen to their music, read about them in magazines, watch them regularly on TV,

etc. How many people do you know who are that “crazy” about God? Huge crowds of people followed Jesus around when He was alive, and they listened to His every word. They wanted to touch Him and be close to Him. We can’t touch Jesus today, hear His voice, or walk with Him through the countryside. But we can read about Him and read His words in our Bibles and talk with Him in prayer every day. We can also worship Him with other Christians and encourage one another. Think about it: do you know more about some celebrity or sports figure than you do about the Lord? Do you behave as if that famous person is more important to you than God? Paul and Barnabas refused to be treated like gods because they served the great and awesome God of the Universe. They preached to bring people to God, not to make other people follow them.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Paul and Barnabas in a Synagogue Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) p. 14 provided in activity sheets)
- Write important words from this lesson and lesson one on large index cards or on the blackboard. Let the children copy the words onto paper or small “marker boards” (laminated poster board). [two- and three-year-olds may need the words in dot-to-dot format which they can trace.]
- Bowling Review game: Write review questions over this and the previous lesson on index cards. Divide the class into two teams; let each member of the teams have a turn choosing a card. Read the question to the student and give him an opportunity to answer. Set up 10 empty toilet paper rolls as bowling pins (or use plastic toy bowling pins). When a child gets an answer correct, he gets to roll a sponge ball or tennis ball at the pins. His team gets a point for each pin he knocks down. (See N.T. 8 Review Questions for example questions)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) p. 14 provided in activity sheets)
- [“Paul and Barnabas in a Synagogue Crossword Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe or Hang Man with clues from this and the previous lesson. ([“Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions”](#) and board, as well as N.T. 8 Review Questions, are provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. ([“ABCs of Acts Booklet”](#) p. 14 provided in activity sheets)
- [“Paul and Barnabas in a Synagogue Crossword Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe or Hang Man with clues from this and the previous lesson. ([“Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions”](#) and board, as well as N.T. 8 Review Questions, are provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - Acts 14

- *Paul's Journeys*, by Loyal Kolbrek, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: remove the sentence starting with "He felt the Spirit..." on p. 6)
- *Discovery* magazine articles: "To God Be the Glory," [March, 2004](#)

SONGS:

"ACTS 14:17"

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See "[Christian Evidences Memory Work](#)" CD)

"PAUL AND BARNABAS" ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Bannie Burt

(Tune: "Are You Sleeping?")

Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Barnabas,
Were chosen to work, chosen to work,
By our Heavenly Father, by our Heavenly Father,
And they worked, and they worked.

"TO BE LIKE JESUS" ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: "This Land is Your Land")

To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus,
All I want is to be like Him.
All through life's journey,
From Earth to glory,
All I want is to be like Him.

To love like Jesus, to love like Jesus,
All I want is to be like Him.
All through life's journey,
From Earth to glory,
All I want is to be like Him.

To pray like Jesus, to pray like Jesus,
All I want is to be like Him.
All through life's journey,
From Earth to glory,
All I want is to be like Him.

To serve like Jesus, to serve like Jesus,
All I want is to be like Him.
All through life's journey,
From Earth to glory,
All I want is to be like Him.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



Not Gods, Just Men



Acts 14



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 14

MEMORY WORK:

“Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

We should be careful who we set up as our examples and be careful in the example we set for others. Jesus was the best example. We should try to be like Him.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Briefly review Sunday's lesson (See [N.T. 8 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.

OLDER CHILDREN: Emphasize that Paul and Barnabas chose Elders for each congregation where they had been. There were more than one Elder in each congregation. Discuss the importance of good leadership in congregations; gratitude for our good Elders, etc. You could also read the qualifications of Elders given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Mention that there are two other terms also used for Elders—Bishops and Shepherds.

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Use this time to re-emphasize good behavior in worship services. Remind them that these are special times when we should act our best and pay attention. Worship is one important way that we show our love to God. Review the five acts of worship to God.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning's lesson.

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