

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 02-17-19

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 44-46; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 204-206; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 117-128.

Getting Started:

1. When have you heard some version of the claim "Accept Christ and everything will be fine"? What do you think of that statement?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Paul's message in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:14-51). As you read, consider how Paul's message shows sensitivity to his audience and the context.
 - a. In the first part of his sermon, Paul traces Israelite history. What episodes does he mention?

13:16-19

13:20-22

13:23-25

13:26-31
 - b. Next Paul explains the significance of these events. What has God promised the Jews that he has now fulfilled (13:32-37)?

- c. What will happen if the Jews believe what Paul claims about Jesus (13:38-39)?

- d. What happens when many of the Jews reject Paul's message (13:40-51)?

3. Read Acts 14:8-18.

- a. Acts 14:15-17 gives us our first example of what Paul and Barnabas preached to purely Gentile audiences, as opposed to Jews, proselytes, and God-fearers. In addition to proclaiming Jesus, what did the apostles have to explain to pagans that they didn't have to say to Jews and God-fearers in chapter 13?
- b. What are some of the assumptions about God or gods, miracles, creation, morality, the nature of man, etc. that your friends hold? Which of those beliefs are barriers to understanding and believing the gospel? How can you help them rethink those assumptions?
- c. As you review the elements that Paul included in his gospel presentations, which of these elements are crucial to include in your particular context?