

Family Worship Guide – Week 6

READ

Read Acts 14

In chapter 14 we see Paul and Barnabas completing their missionary journey. After persecution in Antioch of Pisidia, they leave and go to Iconium, where they receive more persecution. In fact, it is Jews from Antioch and Iconium that eventually seek out Paul and stone him in Lystra. All in all, it is a pretty rough couple of months. Yet, as the door of salvation for the Gentiles swings open, many are found to be “appointed for eternal life.”

Notice the effect of persecution in each place. In some places, Paul and Barnabas resist. In other places they flee. God sovereignly uses even the evil plans of man to accomplish His purposes.

In our memory verses we get a unique glimpse of the progression of the gospel. Paul and Barnabas were faithful to preach it, and then people heard and believed it. They strengthened the souls of the new believers and then encouraged them to continue in the faith. God’s intention is for all of us to take part in this mission.

Questions:

Take some time to compare the cities in which Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the gospel. What do the situations have in common? How are they different? Why are the events that are mentioned in each city even mentioned? What do you think the writer was trying to communicate through each encounter?

Take a minute to think beyond just what you see in the text. Why do you think these men wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas?

Consider what Paul says in verses 15-17 and then compare them to what you find in Romans 3:23-26. How does Romans 3 address what Paul is saying to them?

Imagine the scene in verse 27. How has God called your family to take the gospel to all peoples? How are you accomplishing that together in your home city? Have you carefully considered how God wants to use you to reach peoples who have never heard His gospel?

Bottom Line: God is pleased to make Himself known through His gospel, by His church, in all nations and among all peoples.

PRAY

On Paul and Barnabas’s first missionary journey together, they encounter much opposition (Acts 13-14). In each city, they are opposed at some point by a ruler, the Jews, or a mob of people. John Mark, a fellow co-worker, leaves them. In Lystra, they are misunderstood and the crowds attempt to worship them, and then Paul is stoned. As Paul travels back, strengthening the disciples, he encourages them saying that “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). We desire to be a faith family who is passionate about making disciples in Birmingham and around the world. This commitment to gospel proclamation will meet resistance. It will come with tribulations and hardships. Pray this week that we will persevere. When people reject the gospel, pray that we will persevere and continue to proclaim the truth. When someone or some government attempts to hinder gospel proclamation, pray that we will persevere and continue to be a light to the world. Pray this week that no matter what the obstacle—whether it is busyness at work or resistance to the gospel—that we will persevere and daily be faithful to proclaim the gospel and be intentional about disciple-making.

Please see the Prayer Card for additional guided prayer this week.

SING

This week our family worship song is ‘Exalted/Yaweh’. We learn from the Old Testament that ‘Yahweh’ is the name for God in Hebrew. This song is a beautiful declaration of how amazing our God is. To Him belongs all honor and glory and praise.

In Acts 14, we see a picture of God’s desire for His gospel to be known among all people and also His church being faithful to proclaim the truth that they knew. Through us, His church, all people can know the love and saving power of God -

Yahweh. Praise the Lord, who has graciously allowed us to be a part of His glorious mission and has entrusted us to spread the heart of this song to all nations!

MEMORIZE

Acts 14:21-22 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Domino Effect: For Complete Family Participation

- Read Romans 10:14-15 to see how God uses people to spread the gospel to others.
- As a family, find a way with blocks or dominoes to create the longest continuous line you possibly can. When completed say, "Paul spread the gospel on his missionary journeys at great personal cost, and Romans 10:14-15 shows us how God moves the gospel TO people THROUGH His people, the church."
- State, "The gospel moves in some ways like this set of dominoes. People call on the Lord in faith, because they have believed in Christ. They believe in Christ because they have heard the gospel. They have heard the gospel because someone preached or shared it with them. They shared it with them because they were sent on a mission from God."
- Now start to knock down your line of dominoes or blocks by starting with the first one, and as the chain of dominoes begin to fall, quickly pull one domino out of the way in the middle of the line so the chain of falling dominoes stops. Ask, "At what domino does the chain of gospel influence stop? The only time there is a break down in the process is if God's people fail to preach and share the gospel with others."
- Rebuild your domino line, and start the domino effect one more time and emphasize how much God wants the gospel to move through us to others for His glory!

Preschool

- After the domino activity hold hands in a circle, and challenge the family to set a new family record. You will set the household hand squeezing record. One person will start by squeezing the hand of the person to their right, and they will pass that to the next person until it gets back to the person who started. Try a second time and see if you can be even faster. Remind your family that we have been given an important message of God's love that we need to spread as fast as possible to everyone we can. Pray for God to make your family to please God by passing on the message about Jesus.

Children

- After participating in the domino activity, have each member of the family (including mom & dad) think of one person they encounter on a regular basis that needs to hear the message of the gospel.
- Have each family member pray for the person they have in mind. Ask that God would bring them to Himself and ask for an opportunity to share the love of Christ with them this week.
- Throughout the week continue praying for the people on your list in need of salvation and for one another as you have opportunities to share with them. Continue to ask one another if they have shared Christ's love with the person for whom they are praying.

Students

- What happens if one domino is removed from the trail? How does it affect the dominoes that follow it?
- How is this similar to the way God designed the spread of the gospel to occur?
- We believe that God is the one who ultimately advances the gospel and we cannot stop the work he is doing. How might our disobedience affect the work God intended in the lives of those around us? Imagine your life is represented by one of the dominoes on the domino trail. If you are silent with the gospel, how could that affect those with whom you are intended to share? If you are bold in proclaiming the gospel, how could that affect the remainder of the "trail"?
- Parents, give each of your children a domino to carry with them as a reminder of their role in sharing the gospel. You may choose to write the memory verse for the week or another encouragement (such as John 3:16 or the Great Commission) to them on the back. You could even use this time as a chance to commission them as missionaries in their schools and relationships.

Prayer

Lives/Church

Pray this week that we will persevere in the face of opposition, resistance, and persecution. Pray for a heart stirred by the truth of the gospel and the glory of Christ. And pray that God will give us great faithfulness and great fruit as proclaim the gospel and become more intentional in making disciples.

Local

Focus: Lovelady Center - a transitional housing ministry for women recovering from abuse, addictions, incarceration and life pain. It is the largest facility of its type in the country and is located in the East Lake area of Birmingham. They currently house approximately 300 +/- women and children.

Local Church: First Baptist Church of Pelham, Pastor Mike Shaw

Monday: Pray God will open the hearts of women and their children at the Lovelady Center to the gospel.

Tuesday: Pray God will heal and transform the hearts and minds of women at the Lovelady Center.

Wednesday: Pray God will move on hearts of Brook Hill's members to serve in various ways at the Lovelady Center, especially as mentors to the women there.

Thursday: Pray God will provide the resources needed for the Lovelady Center to continue to serve women and children there.

Friday: Pray God will open doors for transitional housing and local church involvement in the immediate area for women leaving The Lovelady Center.

Saturday: Pray God will give the women at the Lovelady Center opportunities to share with others when they leave the program about God's faithfulness to them.

Scripture Memory

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. Acts 14:21-22

Week 6

Exalted/Yaweh

By Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves

Exalted He is exalted
On high He is exalted
Great is the Lord let all the nations say
Exalted He is exalted

Blessing and honor
Glory and power unto the Lord be praised
Sing with a chorus resounding before us
Holy is His name His name

Yaweh holy is Your name

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Global

Partner: This week we are praying for MC our Brook Hills Mid-Term Missionary in the Middle East.

Short Term Teams: East Asia

Monday: MC works in a city where 0.08% of the population of 2 million is a Christian. Pray for MC as she shares the gospel and pray for many to know Christ.

Tuesday: Openly believing in Jesus is dangerous in this Middle Eastern country. Shari'a law, culture and family expectations are all factors in this. Pray for MC as she encourages the believers she knows and for boldness as she shares with others.

Wednesday: MC is spending time building relationships and discipling women in her neighborhood. Pray for deep friendships to grow and for these women to know Christ.

Thursday: There are many outside distractions on the field that can take time away from the main purpose of sharing the gospel. Pray for MC to have focus and for God to give her many access points so many can know Christ.

Friday: MC is new to the field and is adjusting to her new culture. Pray for MC as she continues to study and learn the language of her people and that God would give grace as she adjusts to the field.

Saturday: Pray for MC to be strengthened and encouraged as she is in the Middle East. Pray God makes her steadfast as she pours her life out for the sake of the gospel.

