

Human Gods?

Acts 14:8-20; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 177-185

Denise and Cameron were new to the country. Everyone looked so different, and many of them spoke a different language. It was a strange experience, but they shared their toys and helped others. Pretty soon they made friends, but they also had some kids who did not like them.

Just like Denise and Cameron, Paul and Barnabas traveled to a new place where they didn't know anyone. They traveled to share the good news of Jesus' love. Here's the story of what happened next.

Paul and Barnabas stopped to rest by the roadside. They looked at the city before them. "Most of the people of Lystra don't know anything at all about the God of heaven," Paul sighed.

"Not for long!" Barnabas replied with a smile.

The two apostles may have prayed. "Show us, Lord, how to let the people of Lystra know the good news about Jesus!"

They walked on and soon entered the city. The two friends began to talk to people. Soon several of the townspeople had gathered to listen. As he spoke, Paul noticed a man who had never been able to walk. Paul may have silently prayed, "He believes in You, Jesus! You can make him well!" Then Paul said

to the man, "Stand up on your feet." And the man jumped up and walked!

"Amazing! Unbelievable!" people began to shout. "How can this be?"

Someone in the crowd shouted, "The gods have come down to visit us!" Others agreed. They believed that their gods sometimes came to help them in miraculous ways. After seeing the lame man healed, they were sure that Paul and Barnabas were gods too.

The people became so excited. They shouted, "Let's have a celebration! We can offer sacrifices to these gods and give them gifts!"



Paul and Barnabas moved among the people. "No, no," they said. "You don't understand! We're people just like you! We've come to tell you the good news about

The Message

We serve God when we help others.

Memory Verse

“Carry each other’s burdens, and . . . you will fulfill the law of Christ”

(Galatians 6:2).

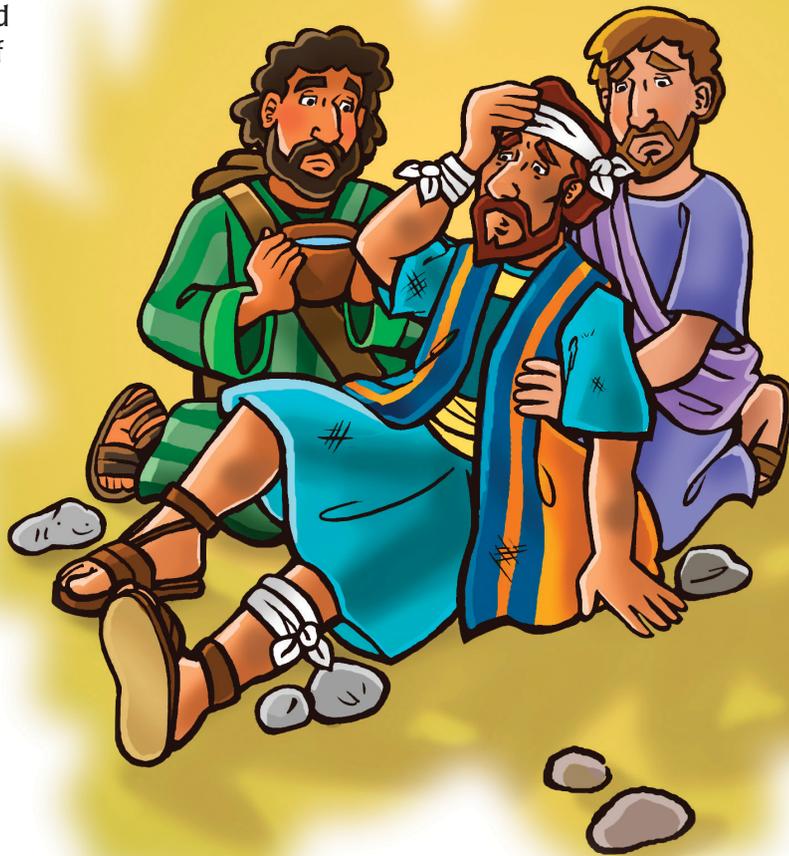
the real God, the true, LIVING God! He is the one who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them.” But the people were determined to worship Paul and Barnabas.

About that time, some Jewish leaders heard about the excitement. They came to see it for themselves. These men wanted to stop the work of Paul and Barnabas. They saw that the townspeople were upset because Paul and Barnabas had stopped their celebration. So it wasn’t hard to make them turn against God’s men!

Very quickly, the same people who had wanted to worship the apostles now wanted to kill them! In fact, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. The Christian believers of Lystra sadly gathered around Paul. He was bruised and bleeding, but he got up! They helped him back to the city where they could care for him. But Paul and Barnabas decided to leave that place. “We will travel to Derbe for a little while. But we will come back soon to encourage you and help you!”

Paul and Barnabas were willing to show God’s love to others. Their words and kind actions led others to know Jesus. How about you? How can your actions say

“Jesus loves you” to someone this week?





S A B B A T H

DO With your family, read your lesson story. Then take a walk together. Look for someone you can help.

READ Find and read Galatians 6:2. What does it mean to carry someone's burdens?

SING Sing a "helping" song. Ask God to help you help others.

S U N D A Y

SHARE With your family, read Acts 14:8-10. What is your favorite part of the story?

DO Trace around one of your shoes on a piece of paper. Cut it out. Copy on it the words of your memory verse. Cut between each word, making a puzzle. Mix the pieces and try to put them in order. Pray with your family that your feet will take you to people who need you.

M O N D A Y

SHARE During family worship, read and discuss Acts 14:11-17. Who should get the glory when people praise us for helping them?

DO In Sabbath School you signed a contract to help someone this week. Talk about your contract with your family. Put your plans into action.

DO Mix up your shoe puzzle and put it in order.

SING For prayer, sing together "Be Like Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 115).

T U E S D A Y

READ For family worship, read Acts 14:18-20. Discuss: Paul was hurt by rocks thrown at him. God helped him to get up and continue to serve. Has anyone in your family gone through a scary time while serving God? How did God help?

DO Trace around your hand on paper. Inside your hand drawing, write or draw one way you will serve others today. Write "We Are His Hands" on your hand drawing.

SING Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129).

DO Say your memory verse. Tell your family how you served God yesterday.

The people in Lystra didn't worship the true God. They worshipped Jupiter.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO Before family worship, find some pictures of people in need (a child in rags, a starving child, homeless people, a sick person, etc.). During worship, talk with your family about what you could do for these people. What does Jesus say about helping others? Read together Matthew 25:40. Tell what this verse means.

DO Try to make up a tune for your memory verse. Sing it together. Then ask Jesus to help you ease someone's burden today.





F R I D A Y

T H U R S D A Y

READ During worship, talk about the meanest child you know. Would Jesus want you to help that child if he or she ever needed help? Read Romans 12:20, 21 together. Show your family how you could live out this verse.

DO Sing your memory verse, using the tune you made up yesterday. Ask Jesus to lead you to someone you can help today.

DO Ask your parents how you can help get ready for Sabbath. Or surprise them by cleaning your room and putting things away without being asked. Sing a happy song, such as "I Have the Joy" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 109) while you work.

SHARE During worship, act out your lesson story with members of your family. Talk about ways you helped others this week. Read Ephesians 6:7. Put your memory verse foot puzzle together without help. (See Sunday's activity.)

SING Sing "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132). Pray that God will help you to serve Him every day.

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PUZZLE

Directions: To learn a lesson from Paul and Barnabas, cross out every other letter. Begin with crossing out the second letter of each word.

Wvem sderrtyer _ _ _ _ _

Geopdx wqhzenn _ _ _ _ _

wuek hjeolmpc _ _ _ _ _

oftwhnexusv. _ _ _ _ _

