

03 ONE TRUE GOD

KEY TEXT: ACTS 14:11-23

CENTRAL truth

As Barnabas and Paul continued their ministry journey to the city of Lystra, they were mistaken for something they were not: gods. The missionaries corrected the onlooking crowd and taught them that there is only one true God. Doing this proved to be costly for Paul. This week's teaching reminds us that **we must point others to the one true God, even when it costs us.**

key question

How did Barnabas and Paul react to the townspeople's attempt to worship them? Why does this matter?

Barnabas and Paul tore their robes in distress, rushing into the midst of the crowd to correct them. The missionaries were quick to declare that they were ordinary humans, not gods. However, they confidently knew where the power to perform the healing came from: the one true God who has revealed Himself in Jesus. In moments when we're tempted to receive the praise and celebration that rightfully belongs to the Lord, we must follow the missionaries' example.

keep in mind

- The missionary team returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch—all places they had experienced persecution. This shows us the importance of having mature followers of Jesus encourage us in our faith. Help students identify who these people are in their lives and to think of ways that they can reach out and thank or encourage these believers.
- The townspeople's worship of Greek gods may seem ancient for students and unrelatable to their lives. Help students to see that idolatry—that is, giving our primary devotion and allegiance to anything other than the Lord—is still very present in our world today. Barnabas and Paul's example reminds us that only the Lord is worthy of our worship—not athletics, relationships, social status, academics, finances, or anything else.

application

What can we do this week to thank the people who have encouraged us in our relationship with the Lord?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should grasp the truth that although it can be costly at times, we must point those around us to the one true God through our words and actions.

FOR THE LEADER: As you lead this week, contextualize idolatry for students as you remind them that only the Lord is worthy of our total devotion and praise. God has surrounded us with people to help us follow Him.

FALL
2024