

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **June 28, 2020** sermon, “Encountering Extremes.” Please read the sermon passage (Acts 14:1-18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

PRESENTING CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF EXTREME CONDITIONS REQUIRES . . .

1. Perseverance, especially when facing relational conflict (1-7)
 - a. Unbelieving Jews used their influence to poison the thinking of many, creating divisions.
 - b. Paul is a gifted communicator, speaking “in such a way” that many believed on Jesus.
 - i. He continued to preach the gospel, even in the presence of opposition.
 - ii. When the gospel is clearly presented, people will quickly take sides.
 - c. Stand in the Scriptures against every foe.
2. Perspective, especially when choosing conversational starting points (8-18)
 - a. Paul looks intently at the physical needs of a man in Lystra and heals him.
 - b. Paul builds a verbal bridge from where they are to the truth of Jesus Christ . . .
 - i. You believe there are many gods, but there is only one living God.
 - ii. You believe that we are great, but we are mere servants of God, human like you.
 1. God created everything including mankind.
 2. God gives the increase of the crops (not Zeus)
 - iii. We must learn to understand our culture’s thinking so we can help them turn to the living God.
 - c. Replace temporal stories with God’s ultimate story.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The people who oppose Christ the most are sometimes religious unbelievers who feel constrained by Christ’s Lordship or embarrassed about the demands of the good news. Have you faced increasing opposition when sharing the gospel? How did you handle it?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul spoke “in such a way” that people believed. In what ways can you give attention to the way you speak so that you improve at presenting Christ? In what ways can you become more dependent upon the work of the Holy Spirit as you speak up for Jesus?
3. Based on #2, above: Paul heals a man and the crowds want to worship him as a god. Paul simply will not receive the praise and honor of the crowd but directs people to worship God. Do you ever struggle with receiving or longing to receive honor? How are you becoming careful in making sure all the glory for everything in your life goes only to God?
4. Based on #2, above: Paul understands the stories of the day—his listener’s worldview—so that he can re-direct all of their futile thinking to God. What are the temporary substitutes that our culture puts in the place of God? How can you build “verbal bridges” from Scripture to your hearers in order to make much of our great God?