

Note: Typically, Paul and Barnabas preach in the synagogue, and great numbers become believers. Then, unbelieving Jewish leaders become envious, stir up the powerful Gentiles, poison their minds against the missionaries, and the missionaries must leave.

1. But there is a difference in Iconium. The apostles don't leave.
 - a. How long did Paul and Barnabas stay, and what did they do? (Acts 14:3)
 - b. How did the Lord reward their perseverance? (Acts 14:3)
2. Iconium is a short distance from Antioch. How do we know that word of Paul and Barnabas might have preceded them? (Acts 13:49; 14:1-2)
3. Why did Paul and Barnabas finally leave Iconium? (Acts 14:4-7)
4. In Lystra, Paul cured a man crippled from birth. What quality did Paul perceive in the crippled man that enabled him to perform the healing? (Acts 14:9)

Note: The local pagans believed that gods occasionally appear in human form. This leads them to misinterpret the miracle. This incident reveals cultural difficulties with which the early church had to cope. (Acts 14:8-10)

5. What was the pagan crowd's response to the healing? (Acts 14:11-12)
6. In the Bible, there are many examples of Jewish people tearing their clothes. Why did Paul and Barnabas tear theirs? (Acts 14:13-16; Gen 37:29; 2 Samuel 1:11-12; Job 1:20)
7. As Paul and Barnabas are telling the Lystrans about the living God, the Creator of all things (Acts 14:15-18), angry Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrive in Lystra.
 - a. What could the Jews from Antioch and Iconium have said to the Jews in Lystra to turn them completely around to the point of stoning Paul and Barnabas? (Acts 14:19)
 - b. Because of the prayers of the believers, what was Paul able to do after being left for dead? (Acts 14:20)
8. After Derbe, Paul and Barnabas retraced their steps, revisiting towns where their lives had been put in danger.
 - a. Why did they do this? (Acts 14:22)
 - b. What did they warn the people would happen before entering the kingdom of God? (Acts 14:22)
 - c. How did they develop structure in the fledgling communities? (Acts 14:23)

Note: In different bibles, the terms "elders" and "presbyters" are used interchangeably. Paul appointed them in each new missionary community to provide guidance and stability, allowing Paul to continue his missionary work elsewhere. In the future, the institutional church would turn the role of elders/presbyters into the priesthood (or presbyterate).

9. Paul's first missionary journey ends where it began, in the Syrian city of Antioch. What did Paul and Barnabas do when they returned to Antioch? (Acts 14:27)
10. What do you think it meant when the brothers in Antioch declared that through them, God "had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles"? (Acts 14:27)