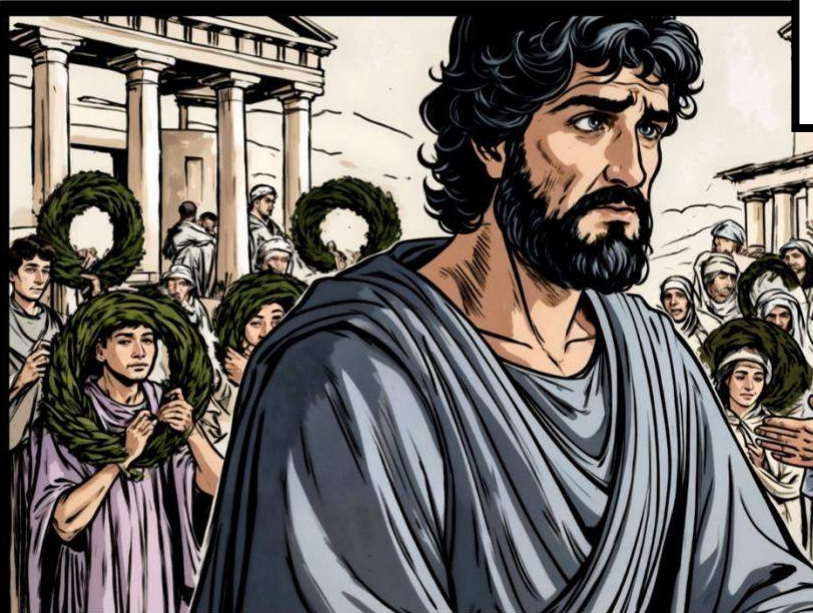
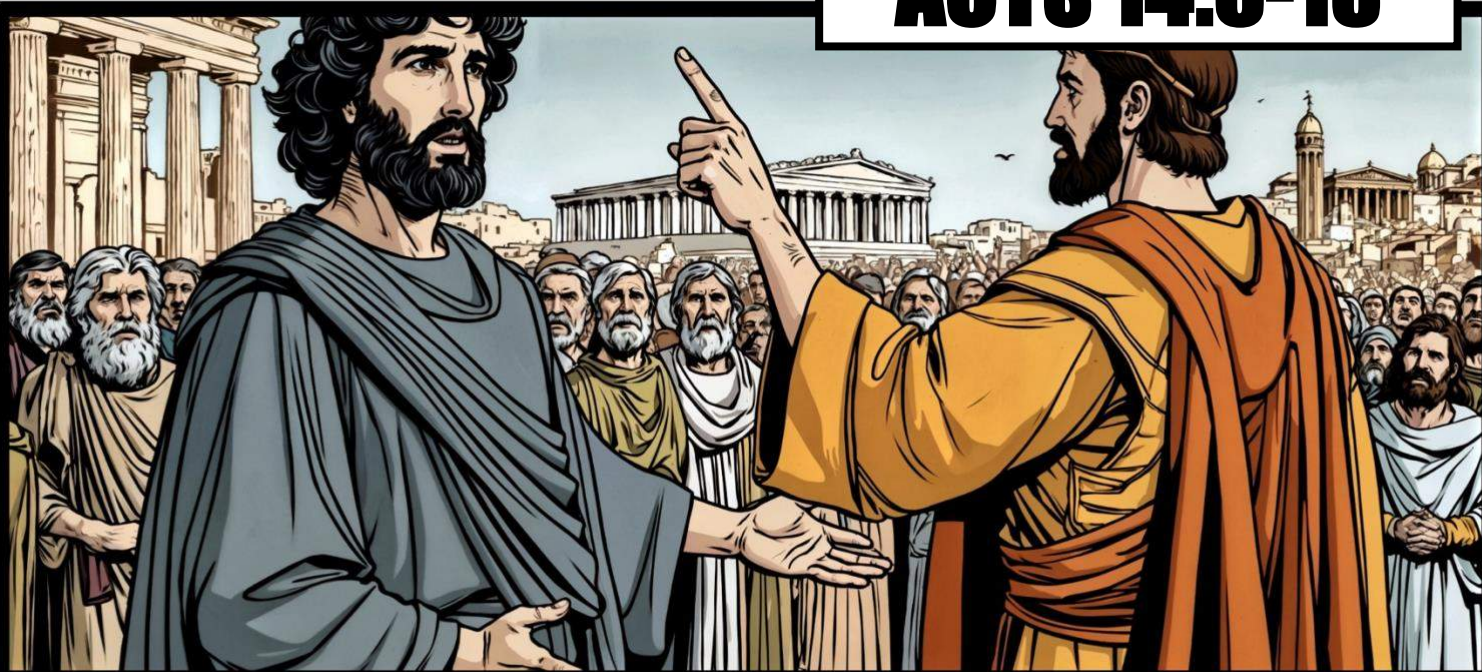


# **PAUL AND BARNABAS IN LYSTRA**



**ACTS 14:6-18**



# PAUL AND BARNABAS IN LYSTRA

Paul and Barnabas faced a unique challenge in Lystra when their healing miracle led the people to mistake them for gods. Their response reminds us of the importance of directing all glory to God.

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 14:6-18

**MEMORY VERSES:** "... We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them' (Acts 14:15)

## BACKGROUND TO THE STORY

During their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas arrived in Lystra, a city unfamiliar with Jewish customs and beliefs. There, the people witnessed a miraculous healing. Paul healed a man who had been crippled from birth. With just a command for the man to stand, he was instantly made well, leaving the crowd in awe.

However, the people of Lystra, influenced by their own religious traditions, misunderstood what they had seen. They believed Barnabas to be Zeus and Paul to be Hermes, and they even began preparing sacrifices to worship them as gods. Faced with this misunderstanding, Paul and Barnabas quickly rejected the praise, making it clear that they were mere humans and that the true glory belonged to God. They seized the moment to share the gospel, urging the people to turn away from their idols and instead worship the Creator of heaven and earth.

This passage highlights the importance of always directing praise to God, especially in a world where misunderstandings and misplaced worship are common.

## KEY POINTS FROM THE PASSAGE

### 1. ALLOW GOD TO WORK THROUGH YOU - ACTS 14:8-10

When Paul met the man in Lystra who had been crippled from birth, he didn't rely on his own strength or abilities. Instead, he trusted in God's power to work through him. Paul called out for the man to stand, and immediately he was healed and began to walk. This miracle reminds us what can happen when we allow God to work through us. Paul was simply a vessel for God's power.

Zechariah 4:6 says, "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." It's not our abilities, strength, or wisdom that make great things happen, but God working through us by His Spirit. Just like Paul's healing of the man, God can do incredible things through our lives when we trust Him.

Think about David, who fought Goliath with just a sling and a few stones. David wasn't relying on his own strength or military skill; he relied on God's power. He declared, "The battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47), trusting that God would deliver him.

Our small acts, when combined with God's power, can have a much bigger impact than we realize. Whether it's offering a kind word to someone who is struggling, helping a friend in need, or simply living out your faith daily, God can use these moments to do something amazing.

## **2. THE DANGER OF MISUNDERSTANDING - ACTS 14:11-13**

When the people of Lystra saw the miracle Paul performed, they misunderstood what was happening. Instead of recognizing God's power, they assumed Paul and Barnabas were gods themselves—Zeus and Hermes—because that's how they made sense of things in their own culture. This highlights a significant danger: when we interpret God's work through our own experiences, understanding, or cultural views instead of through the truth of God's Word, we can easily misinterpret His actions.

Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." God's wisdom is greater than ours, and the Bible helps us stay grounded in His truth.

We need to be careful not to let our own experiences or traditions shape how we see God's work. When sharing the Gospel, remember that others might not understand it right away. It's our job to explain things clearly, using God's Word, and help them see the truth for what it really is, not through the lens of past traditions or misunderstandings.

## **3. DIRECT GLORY TO GOD - ACTS 14:14-15**

When Paul and Barnabas realized that the people of Lystra were about to worship them as gods, they acted quickly. They made it clear that they were only human, like everyone else, and that all glory belonged to God, not to them. This teaches us an important lesson about humility and ensuring that all praise goes to God, who deserves it.

We often like to receive recognition for our accomplishments—whether it's getting good grades, excelling in sports, or helping someone. It feels good to be praised. But we need to remember that any talent or success we have is because of God working through us. Like Paul and Barnabas, we should quickly point out that God is the one behind it all.

## **4. THE DANGER OF MAKING IDOLS - ACTS 14:16-18**

Paul and Barnabas explained to the people of Lystra that God had always provided for them, sending rain, crops, and joy, despite their previous idolatry. Yet, even with this explanation, the people still struggled to stop treating Paul and Barnabas like gods. This shows a deep issue in human nature: the tendency to create idols.

Exodus 20:3 says, "You shall have no other gods before me." This commandment speaks to more than just physical idols, it's about our hearts. When we give our admiration, devotion, or attention to something or someone above God, we're creating an idol.

Even within the church, we must be careful not to idolize and worship leaders, preachers, or Christian influencers, focusing more on them than on God Himself. Our ultimate focus should always be on Him. If you find yourself giving more attention to a favourite musician, athlete, or church leader than to God, it's time to refocus. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 22:37 to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." God should always have the highest place in our lives.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

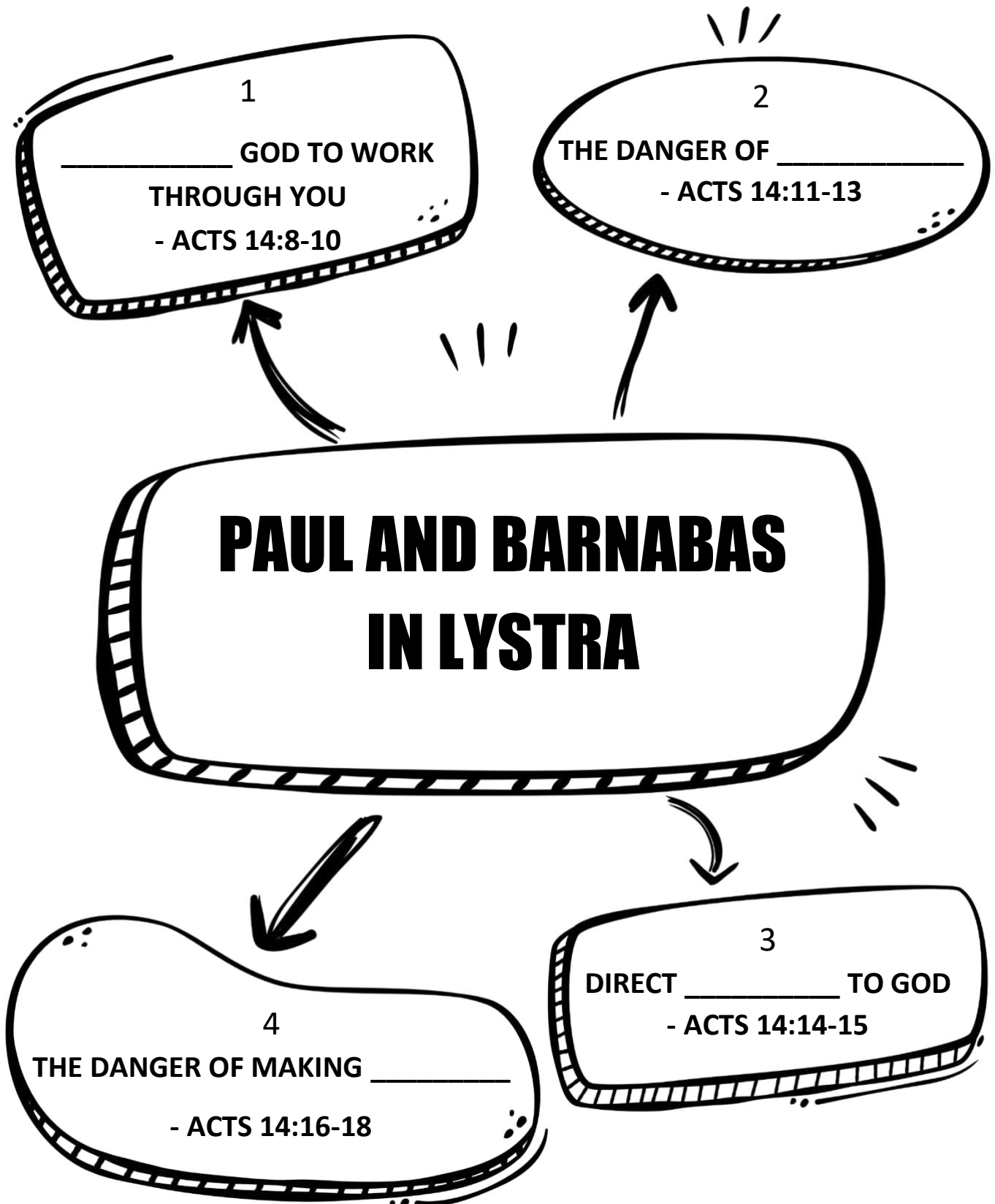
**WHY DID THE PEOPLE OF LYSTRA THINK PAUL AND BARNABAS WERE GODS?**

**HOW CAN WE HELP PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?**

**WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN REDIRECT PRAISE TO GOD IN OUR LIVES?**

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO AVOID WORSHIPING THINGS OTHER THAN GOD?**

# STUDY NOTES MIND MAP



# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

## GLORY TO GOD

**Materials needed:** A soft ball or object to pass around, music.

**Instructions:**

1. Have the group sit in a circle and play a game by passing the ball around while music plays.
2. When the music stops, whoever is holding the ball must share a way they can give glory to God in their everyday life.
3. Continue the game until everyone has shared.

**Reflection:** Discuss how we can redirect attention from ourselves and give God the credit in all situations, just like Paul and Barnabas did in Lystra.

## MISUNDERSTANDING CHALLENGE

**Materials needed:** Paper and markers.

**Instructions:**

1. Pair up the teens. One person in each pair describes an image or scene without showing it, while the other person must draw it based on the description.
2. The goal is to see how well the listener interprets the description and how the final drawing matches the original idea.
3. Afterward, compare the drawings with the original descriptions.

**Reflection:** Discuss how misunderstandings can happen easily, just like the people of Lystra misunderstood Paul and Barnabas. Talk about the importance of clear communication when sharing the Gospel.

## ACTS 14: LIVING STORYBOARD

**Materials needed:** None. (Optional: A camera or phone)

**Instructions:**

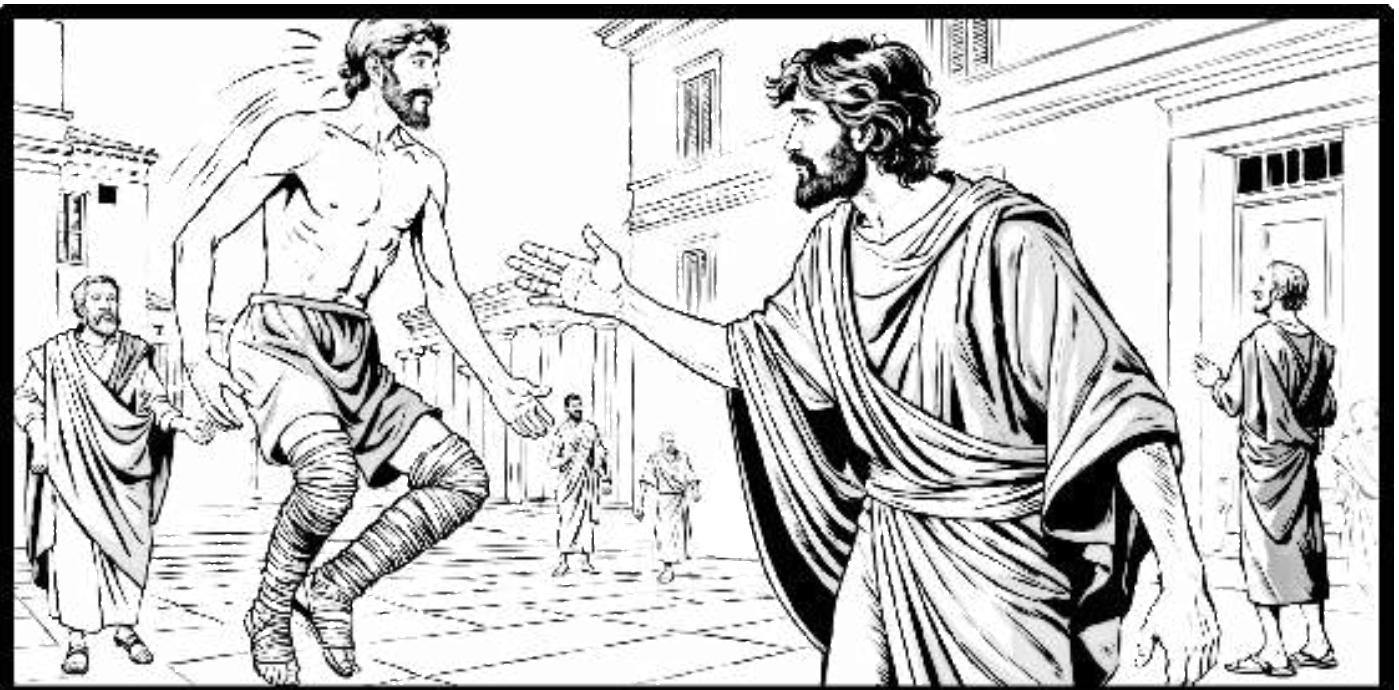
1. Divide the group into teams. Each team creates a frozen pose representing a key moment from Acts 14 (e.g., Paul healing the crippled man, the crowd offering sacrifices).
2. Teams present their scene while the others guess which part of the story they are acting out.
3. (Optional) Take pictures of the freeze frames to create a storyboard.

**Reflection:** Discuss the significance of each scene and how Paul and Barnabas directed all glory to God, emphasizing the importance of humility and clear communication of the Gospel.

# WORD SEARCH

D S M L Z K H D X B T D A S L O D I  
X A Y E C Y L Y S W O R S H I P C Q  
B C U Q G X H P D O S L P D N Y K V  
B R C H M O K E A S Q X O D J N J X  
A I C Z U S E W S D A G P V M H L M  
I F G O S P E L I V Y S V Y E T S O  
E I H U Q K M K Z L V B Z A T E V E  
L C X X J E T X I H R A L N M V D C  
C E P L O X C R C P Y I O R E X R B  
A Z D X G U A U E N N L E G N I Y M  
R B S G N D R F O G Y H E Y P N R Y  
I T D V I Q R P N S U E Z P P E I W  
M H B P H E O A R T S Y L P D X E X  
V N J M C T T Q J L C E R K O K I X  
S K X P A E A V A A D Q V V S G Q E  
N H M V E Z E B A R N A B A S F E Z  
C U N L R S R F G U Y W I T J N E M  
A O F D P Z C P A U L S K I L Z N E

BARNABAS  
CREATOR  
CRIPPLED  
GOD  
GOSPEL  
HEALING  
HERMES  
IDOLS  
LYSTRA  
MIRACLE  
PAUL  
PREACHING  
SACRIFICE  
WORSHIP  
ZEUS



# GIVING GLORY TO GOD

For each scenario, describe how someone could give glory to God in their unique position. Then, explain how their action can be a witness to others.

SITUATION	HOW TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD
A student wins an award	<i>Publicly thank God for giving them the skills and opportunities</i>
A football player wins a game	
A movie star receives an award	
A politician is elected	
A social media influencer gains 1 million followers	
A musician wins a music award	
An entrepreneur grows a business	
An artist finishes a successful project	
A leader runs a successful event	

# IDENTIFYING IDOLS

Inside each wreath, write one thing in your life that could potentially become an idol. Outside of the wreath, write down a specific way you can put God first in that area.

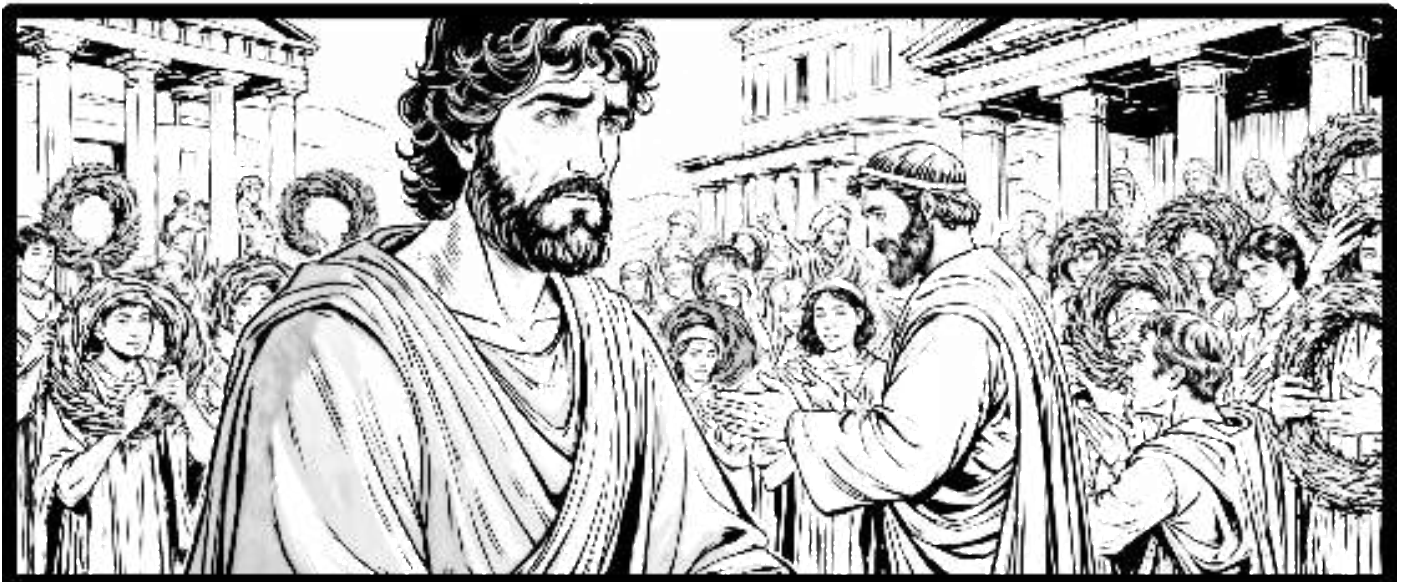


# TRUE OR FALSE

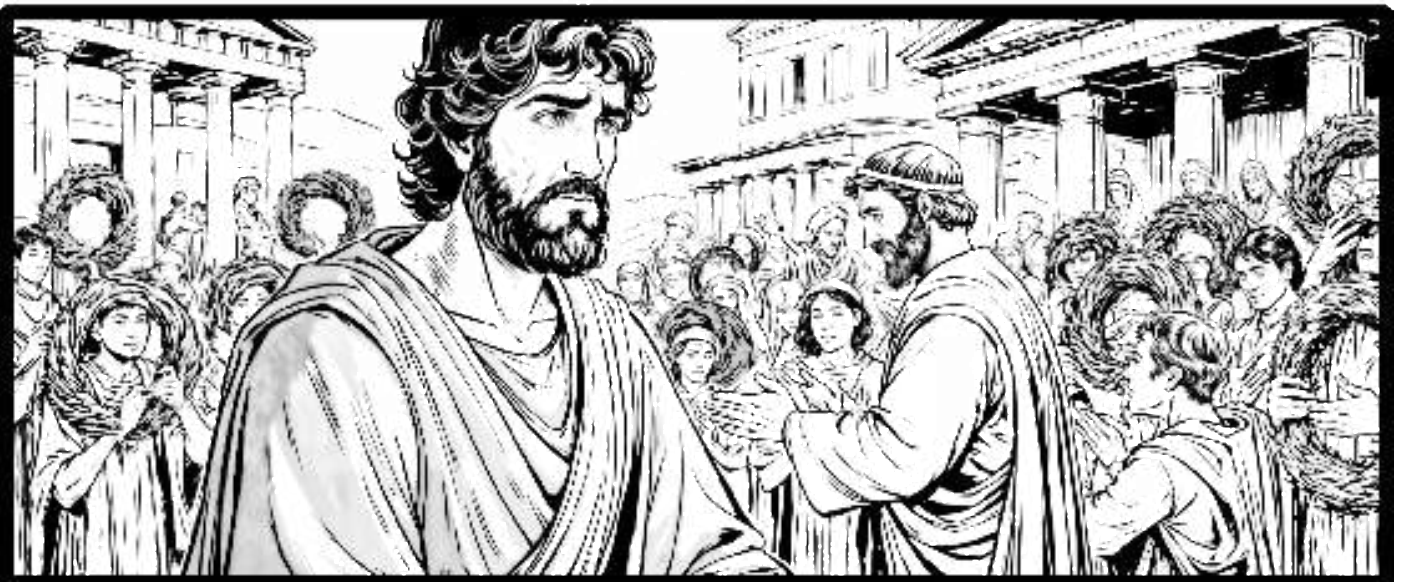
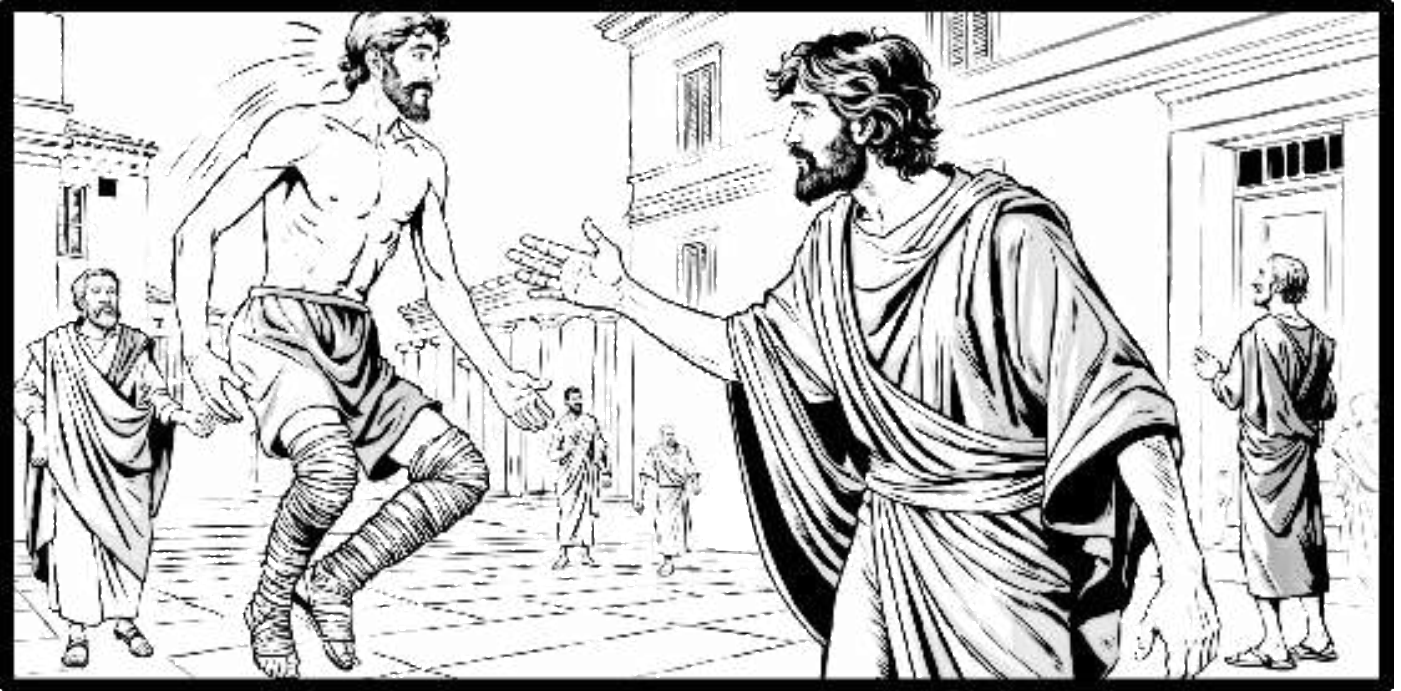
Read the statements below about Paul and Barnabas in Lystra.

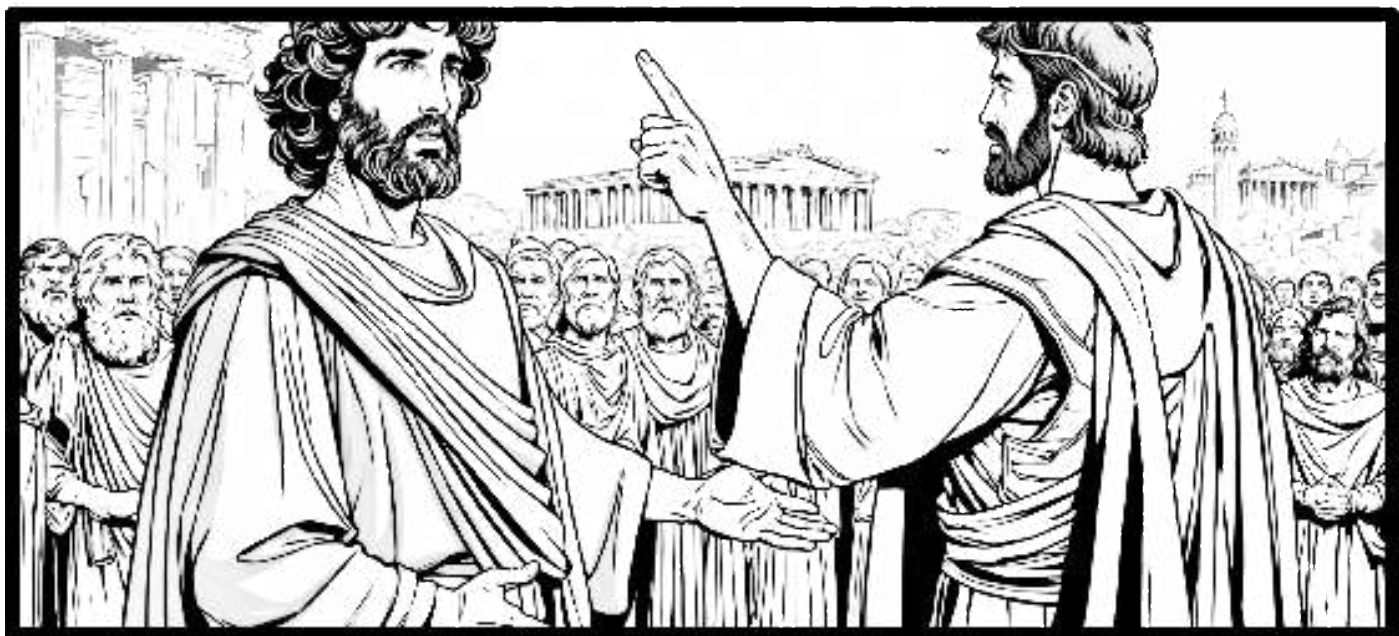
Cross out the statement which are NOT true.

1. Paul and Barnabas healed a man in Lystra, and the people immediately gave glory to God.
2. The people of Lystra thought Paul was Hermes, the messenger god.
3. Paul and Barnabas encouraged the people of Lystra to worship them as gods.
4. One way we can give glory to God is by using our talents to serve others.
5. God's power working through us means we should take all the credit for our success.
6. The people of Lystra eventually realized that Paul and Barnabas were humans and stopped worshiping them.
7. The Bible teaches us to point all praise and glory to God, not ourselves.



# WRITE THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS



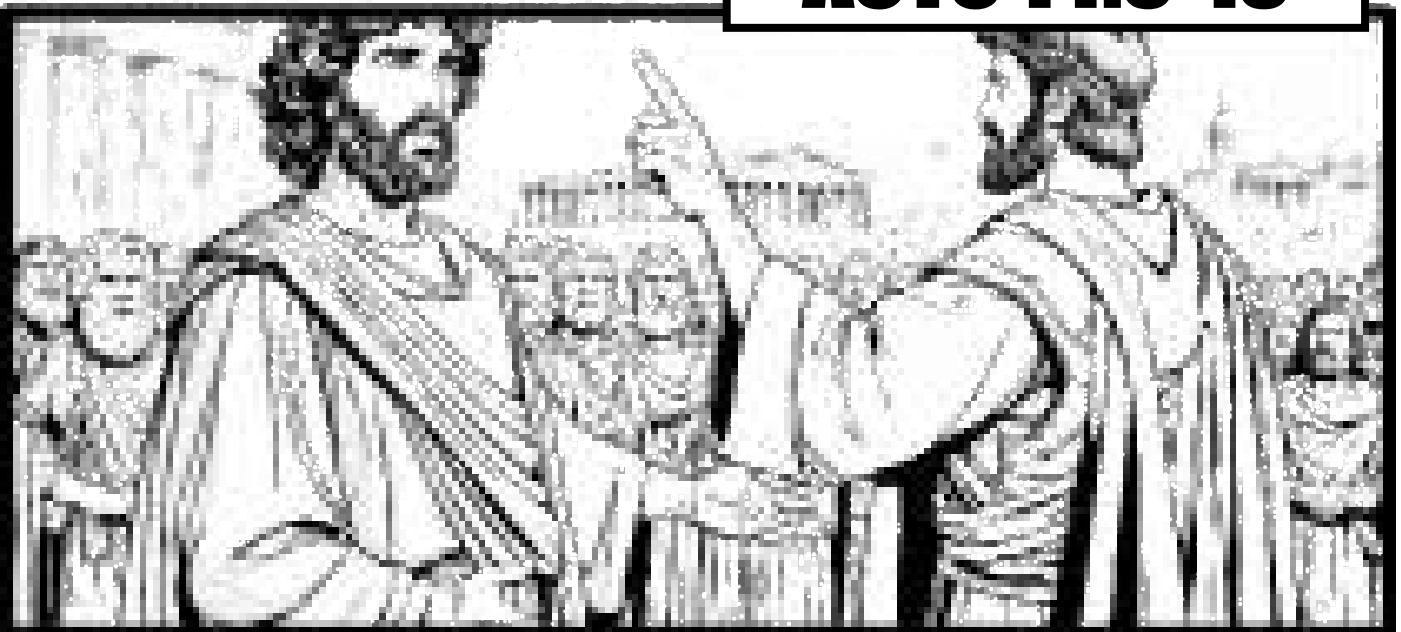




# **PAUL AND BARNABAS IN LYSTRA**

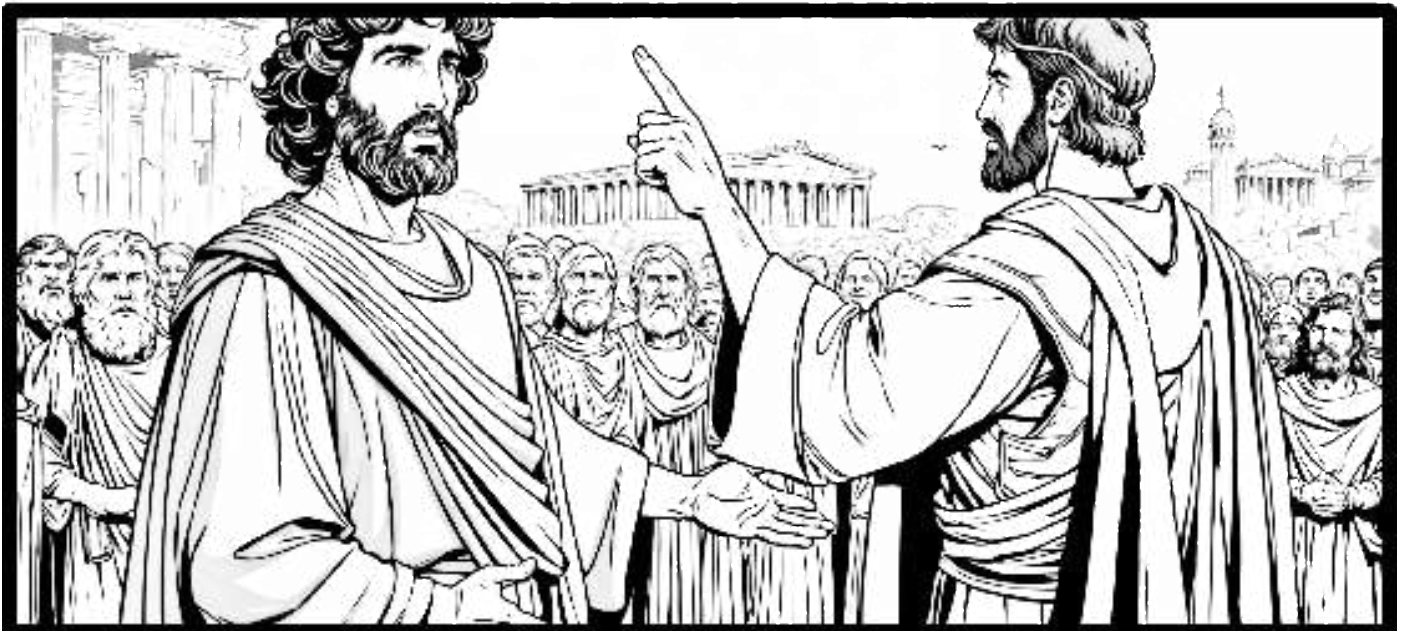


**ACTS 14:6-18**



# WRITE OUT THE MEMORY VERSE

**Acts 14:15**



# ANSWERS

D	S	M	L	Z	K	H	D	X	B	T	D	A	S	L	O	D	T
X	A	Y	E	C	Y	L	Y	S	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	C	Q
B	C	U	Q	G	X	H	P	D	O	S	L	P	D	N	Y	K	V
B	R	C	H	M	O	K	E	A	S	Q	X	O	D	J	N	J	X
A	I	C	Z	U	S	E	W	S	D	A	G	P	V	M	H	L	M
I	F	G	O	S	P	E	L	I	V	Y	S	V	Y	E	T	S	O
E	I	H	U	Q	K	M	K	Z	L	V	B	Z	A	T	E	V	E
L	C	X	X	J	E	T	X	I	H	R	A	L	N	M	V	D	C
C	E	P	L	O	X	C	R	C	P	Y	L	O	R	E	X	R	B
A	Z	D	X	G	U	A	U	E	N	N	L	E	G	N	I	Y	M
R	B	S	G	N	D	R	F	O	G	Y	H	E	Y	P	N	R	Y
I	T	D	V	I	Q	R	P	N	S	U	E	Z	P	P	E	I	W
M	H	B	P	H	E	O	A	R	T	S	Y	L	P	D	X	E	X
V	N	J	M	C	T	T	Q	J	L	C	E	R	K	O	K	I	X
S	K	X	P	A	E	A	V	A	A	D	Q	V	V	S	G	Q	E
N	H	M	V	E	Z	E	B	A	R	N	A	B	A	S	F	E	Z
C	U	N	L	R	S	R	F	G	U	Y	W	I	T	J	N	E	M
A	O	F	D	E	Z	C	P	A	U	L	S	K	I	L	Z	N	E