

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of July 21, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	<p>Read Acts 13:1-3. This was quite a crew of leaders in (Syrian) Antioch. Barnabas was a respected and loved Jewish man. Simeon was probably from Africa, and Lucius was from the island of Cyrene. Manaen came from the court of a hostile ruler, and Saul had been a violent persecutor of Christians who was now a leader among them. Sometimes we hear God speak and lead when we are praying with people with whom Jesus is our only common bond. Do you have people in your life who challenge you in prayer and listening to God?</p> <p>Prayer: God open the ears of my heart and speak to me through your people.</p>
Tuesday	<p>Read Acts 13:4-12. On the island of Cyprus, Barnabas and Paul spoke about Jesus to both secular and spiritual powers (the governor/proconsul and a "sorcerer"). This passage reminds us that Jesus is Lord over every dimension of our world.</p> <p>Prayer: Jesus, you are Lord over my heart, my hope, and my hands.</p>
Wednesday	<p>Read Acts 13:13-52. In (Pisidian) Antioch, Paul and Barnabas preached the Gospel to a primarily Jewish audience, with some positive and some very negative response. What do you observe about their message? What do you observe about their reaction to rejection?</p> <p>Prayer: God give me a Spirit of compassionate boldness to witness to your name.</p>
Thursday	<p>Read Acts 14:1-7. At Iconium, the Gospel encountered more mixed reaction. In your experience, what does opposition to Jesus look like? Who opposes the Gospel of Jesus most strongly? Why? How do you respond?</p> <p>Prayer: Lord, give me a heart full of passion for the Gospel compassion for the lost.</p>
Friday	<p>Read Acts 14:8-20. The people of Lystra profoundly misunderstood the message and witness of Paul and Barnabas. They interpreted these disciples of Jesus through the religious categories they were familiar with. How do you think people misunderstand Jesus today because of preconceived notions about the meaning of faith or religion?</p> <p>Prayer: Jesus, shine your light clearly through us, that the world might know your salvation.</p>
Saturday	<p>Read Acts 14:21-28. The travelers return home to (Syrian) Antioch and testify to all that God has done. They climbed some steep hills of opposition, but God brought them through. Remember that you too can rely on the strength of God for the hills you have to climb.</p> <p>Prayer: God, fill me with your Spirit to follow where you lead.</p>



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