

God will spread his good news everywhere...



9/14

Y1-3

...but not everyone likes the good news

Take Home Sheet – Years 1 to 3

Bible Story Summary

Paul's first missionary journey, Acts 12:25-14:28

The book of Acts is a great story. We began by recapping main parts of the story so far, thinking especially about the theme of Jew/gentile relationships.

- Jesus promised that the good news would spread to the ends of the earth.
- The good news was all about Jesus dying for sinners and God raising him from the dead. Anyone who turns from their sin and believes in Jesus will be saved.
- Peter learned that this good news is for gentile people as well as Jewish.
- Saul, later called Paul, was given the job of telling gentiles the good news.
- In Antioch people were called Christians for the first time. The Christians were Jewish and gentile people who believed in Jesus *Christ*. Paul joined them to teach them more about Jesus. God had arranged everything to happen this way. It was now time for the good news to spread even further afield.

These Christians in Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. In every place Paul and Barnabas went they first told Jewish people about Jesus – some believed, some did not. Then they told gentiles about Jesus – some believed some did not. In Lystra this was very dramatic: gentiles thought Paul and Barnabas were gods and tried to make sacrifices to them! Then Jewish people from other towns arrived and threw stones at Paul until they thought he was dead! But God healed Paul and he went to the next place to keep speaking about Jesus. When Christians tell other people about Jesus this pattern often happens. Some believe in Jesus and some don't. Those who don't believe can be pretty nasty to Christians. But God is still in charge, and his good news keeps spreading to the ends of the earth, just like Jesus said it would.

ACTS Prayer

Here's an example of the kinds of things we prayed today:

- A We praise you that you are always in charge of the good news about Jesus spreading, even when people don't like what they hear and don't believe.
- C We confess that we don't like hearing that speaking about Jesus can lead to hard times.
- T Thank you that the good news about Jesus brings together people from different backgrounds.
- S Please help missionaries from St Helen's keep speaking about Jesus even when it could be dangerous for them to speak about Jesus.

Memory verse for the series (not all groups learn this each week): Psalm 117 *NIV2011*