

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 31: Making Disciples in a Fallen World (Part 2)

READ Acts 14:21-28 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

The call of Christ is to make disciples, not just converts. It is for this reason Paul and Barnabas returned to the cities they had visited, despite formally being persecuted and driven from them. They did this to strengthen the new converts in their faith and to place them in the care of godly, God-appointed elders. Upon returning they encouraged the church with all that the Lord was pleased to do through them.

Big idea: Paul and Barnabas show that faithfully fulfilling the Great Commission requires more than making converts; it entails follow up, nurture and oversight.

Questions:

1. When you came to Christ, did someone ever “disciple” you? What did this look like and how did this help you grow spiritually? Be ready to share.
2. A. Consider the immense danger Paul and Barnabas put themselves in to return to those cities they were persecuted in, in order to strengthen “the souls of the disciples” (v. 21). What does this tell you about the importance of discipleship?

B. They strengthened the disciples by “encouraging them to continue in the faith” (v. 22). What might this mean and why was it important?

C. They strengthened the disciples by “saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (v. 22). What might this mean and why was this important? See Luke 14:25-33.

3. All Christians are disciple-makers (Matt 28:18-20). What might this look like practically? Who are you discipling? If no one, would you pray for someone?
4. A. To ensure the ongoing care of the new disciples, they appointed a group of elders over them in every church. Why was this important?

B. What is the role of the elders in discipling believers from these verses:
Heb 13:17

Acts 20:28-30

Eph 4:11-14
5. A. What did Paul and Barnabas do upon returning to Antioch and what effect might this have had on the local church (v. 27)? See Heb 10:24.

B. How has God been working through you this week (even if small)? Would you share this with your family or Life Group?
6. Paul and Barnabas spent about a year “with the disciples” (v. 28) before their next mission trip. What are some warning signs of burnout? In light of the many needs in the world, is it wrong to take time off from ministry?

STOP AND PRAY:

Worship: the Lord for His grace and mercy through his free offer of the gospel to all
Thank: God for all that He has done through you to grow and strengthen the church
Pray: specifically that God might give you a person to help grow & mature spiritually