

LESSON PLAN

MISSIONARY WORK

Acts 13 – 14

Lesson Memory Verse: Acts 14:22 - "We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to know that they should witness for Jesus even at the risk of their lives.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever seen a house on fire? (For a few minutes let the children tell what they have seen.) Sometimes a person gets trapped in a burning building and someone has to go into that building and try to get him out. Whose job is it to fight fires and to go into burning buildings to try to save people from the flames? (Firemen)

Today, we want to talk about God's "firemen." God's firemen are Christians. Although they do not put out fires, they do save people from fire. They save people from the fire of Hell by bringing sinners to Jesus. God wants all Christians to try to save people from going to Hell.

HE (for Authority): Sometimes firemen get hurt and sometimes they even die when they try to save people from burning buildings. God's firemen will also get hurt and sometimes they will even die when they try to save people from burning in Hell. This is what our memory verse is talking about when it speaks of Christians having "tribulation." "Tribulation" refers to the troubles and suffering that a Christian goes through when he serves the Lord as His fireman. This verse tells us that we will suffer if we live and labor for Jesus as we ought to do; we may even die, but it will be worth it all when we enter into God's kingdom. We will know that we tried to help save others from the burning fire of Hell. (Other verses about suffering and tribulation: Acts 15:26; Phil 1:29; 1 Th 2:2; 2 Tim 3:12; Mt 5:10-12; Jn 15:16-21).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's lesson will be about Paul and Barnabas. They were God's firemen who helped save many people from Hell. In today's story we will learn how they risked their lives being God's firemen and got hurt trying to save others.

I. Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Syria - Acts 13:1-4

A. They had been good firemen for God in Antioch (13:1; cf. 11:19-26).

B. They were told by the Holy Spirit to be God's firemen in other places (13:2-4). The church in Antioch sent them to be God's firemen to other people that were in danger of the fires in Hell.

WE: If we are Christians, God wants us to be His firemen to rescue children and other people from Hell.

II. Paul and Barnabas at Cyprus - Acts 13:4-13

A. They found Sergius Paulus (13:7). He was a deputy who wanted to hear the Word of God.

B. They were opposed by Elymas (13:8). He was evil and tried to keep the deputy from believing.

C. Paul (Saul) made Elymas blind for a while by God's power (13:9-11). He did it because Elymas was hindering the deputy from being saved from Hell. God's fireman was bold and powerful.

D. The deputy was astonished at the power of God (13:12). As a result he believed the message about Jesus and was saved from the fire of Hell.

E. John Mark left Paul and Barnabas and returned to Jerusalem (13:13). He came with Paul and Barnabas to help them, but after the first conflict, he quit and went home. That was disappointing.

WE: We must be bold and help save those who need to hear the Word of God even if their friends, or their parents, or their brothers and sisters stand against us. We must not quit for any reason. God needs us to be faithful firemen.

III. Paul and Barnabas at Antioch near Pisidia - Act 13:14-52

A. Paul preached the Word of God in the synagogue to the Jews (13:14-41). He told them how Jesus died and rose again to save them

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B. The Gentiles asked Paul and Barnabas to tell them the words of God (13:42-43).

C. The next week almost the whole city came to hear God's Word (13:44).

D. The Jews became jealous and spoke against Paul (13:45). They were jealous that Gentiles were given the same good news of salvation by Jesus Christ that was given to them. They felt superior to Gentiles and Paul made them equal to Gentiles. As a result they opposed Paul and contradicted his message.

E. Paul and Barnabas determined to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles (13:46-49). As a result many Gentiles believed on Jesus Christ to save them from Hell and bring them into God's family.

F. The Jews stirred up important people in the city against Paul and Barnabas (13:50). They cast Paul and Barnabas out of the city

G. Paul and Barnabas were not discouraged (13:51-52). They were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit because they had rescued many people from Hell. They had been successful firemen.

WE: We, too, will be joyful when we rescue someone from Hell. We will not complain about the suffering that we receive from the enemies of Jesus Christ when we are working as God's firemen.

IV. Paul and Barnabas at Iconium - Acts 14:1-6

A. They preached the Word of God (14:11). Many Jews and Greeks believed and were saved from Hell in that city.

B. Unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles against them (14:2-4). Some stood with the Jews, but others stood with Paul and Barnabas.

C. The Jews and their rulers made plans to stone God's firemen (14:5-6). When Paul and Barnabas heard about their plans, they fled to Lystra.

WE: We must give out God's Word in order to save people from Hell. That is the only way we can do our job as God's firemen. It is not wrong to run from people who are planning to kill us, but it is wrong to stop being God's firemen. We need to keep on witnessing in the next place God puts us.

V. Paul and Barnabas at Lystra and Derbe - Acts 14:6-21

A. They preached God's Word (14:7). No one can be saved without knowing God's Word.

B. Paul healed a lame man (14:8-10). The people thought he and Barnabas were their gods.

C. The people were ready to sacrifice oxen for them. (14:11-18). Paul told the people that they were ordinary people like them, but the living God, who made the heaven, earth and sea and all things in them was the one who provided all the things that they enjoyed. He finally convinced them not to offer sacrifices to them.

D. Jews from Antioch and Iconium persuaded these people to stone Paul (14:19-20). The Jews came to Lystra and changed the people's minds about the missionaries. Paul was stoned and left for dead (14:19). It seems that he died, but suddenly, while the Christians were gathered around him, he rose up. Then he boldly went back to the city of Lystra and the next day he and Barnabas went to Derbe to witness to those people (14:20-21).

WE: We may be loved one day and hated the next, but we are to keep on witnessing for Jesus Christ. That is our job as God's firemen.

BE (for Action): Do you think it would be exciting to be one of God's firemen and save people from Hell? God wants every Christian to be His fireman. Will you tell God that you will be one of His firemen by rescuing boys and girls and even adults from going to Hell? (Pray for them.)