

ON YOUR FEET

Paul, Barnabas, and
a Man Born Lame
Acts 13:1–3; 14:8–18
AD 47

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Our God is the one true God.

BIBLE VERSE

Jesus Christ . . . is the true God and eternal life. 1 John
5:20

LEARNER GOAL

I can share the truth that our God is the one true God.

LAW & GOSPEL

In our sinful world, I fail to recognize the true God or His followers.

God reveals Himself to me and the world in Word and Sacrament.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The Holy Spirit leads the Church at Antioch to send Paul and Barnabas on a momentous missionary journey. In Lystra, they heal a man who had never been able to walk. The people who see this think Paul and Barnabas are gods come down to earth, and they attempt to offer sacrifices to them. In grief, Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes and rush into the crowd, barely preventing them from making the offerings.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Acts 13:1–3; 14:8–18 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

IN DEPTH Read Acts 13:4–14:7 with study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- Half-sheets of paper
- Whiteboard or index cards
- Dry-erase marker or marker

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

If you have a more mature group, you might want to ask them how they know if something is true or false.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 6.



LEADER NOTE

Have learners turn to the map in the back of the *Defend Journal*. Find Antioch—Paul and Barnabas left from here. Then trace Paul and Barnabas’s missionary journey to the island of Cyprus to Perga to Iconium to Lystra.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Help youth see connections between the narrative and now with “Idols Today?”

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

Name one thing that you know is true.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Hand out half-sheets of paper to youth and ask them to write one thing they know is true and one thing that is not true (e.g., the sun is hot, pigs can fly). Gather the papers and read them, asking youth if the items are true or false.

SAY We know and believe some things to be true, and others to be false. Today, we’ll hear how Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the one true God.

PRAY Heavenly Father, You are the one true God, our Creator and Redeemer. Help us witness the truth about You to others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

▷ What is one misunderstanding that some people have about God?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Let youth share their thoughts.

LEARN ABOUT “ON YOUR FEET”

After reading each Bible section below, ask youth to make a quick sketch or write a few words in the corresponding box in their *Defend Journal* to show what is happening.

Read **Acts 13:1–3** or ask a volunteer to read as others follow along in their Bibles.

▷ Describe what prompted Paul’s first missionary journey.

- Prophets and teachers in Antioch were worshiping together when the Holy Spirit told them to send Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey.
- They laid their hands in blessing on Paul and Barnabas and sent them off.

Read **Acts 14:8–10** or ask a volunteer to read.

▷ Describe what happened to the man who was crippled from birth.

- The man was listening to Paul preach, and Paul saw that he had faith. Paul told him to stand, and the man stood and started walking—he was healed!

Read **Acts 14:11–13**.

▷ How did the people of Lystra completely misunderstand what had happened?

- The people thought that the gods they worshiped, Zeus and Hermes, had come down to earth in the form of Paul and Barnabas.

Read **Acts 14:14–18**.

▷ What did Barnabas and Paul do when they found out what the people were doing?

- They tore their clothes in distress and told them that it was the true God who had healed the man and that they should turn from false gods to worship the true God.

LIVE

DISCUSS “THE TRUTH”

Have youth get together in small groups. Have them think about ways that people misunderstand God or twist His Word. After a few minutes, let groups share their thoughts. Together, discuss the question below. Use the discussion points and “Apologetics Helps” on the back page for support.

► **How do I speak the truth about God to this world? What is the truth about God?**

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Speaking the truth about God and His Word begins with knowing what that truth is. We come to know who God is and what He has done for us through the Scriptures. As we read and study God’s Word, we grow in our understanding of God.
- **Romans 6:23:** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **John 3:16:** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- **1 John 5:11–12:** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
- **Galatians 4:4–5:** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- The prophets and teachers in Antioch fasted and prayed before sending Paul and Barnabas out to share the Gospel. We can prepare to speak the truth about God by focusing on His Word and praying before we witness to others.

CONSIDER “OFFERING A SACRIFICE”

Greek religious rituals included animal sacrifices to the gods. In Old Testament times, the Israelites offered sacrifices to the one true God. These biblical sacrifices pointed to the time when the Messiah would be sacrificed for our sins once and for all. Jesus is the Lamb of God who sacrificed Himself on the cross for our sins.

► **We don’t make animal sacrifices anymore. What do we offer up to God instead?** (Prayers, time, talents, treasures, ourselves)

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to tell a partner why our God is the one true God.

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

Jesus Christ . . . is the true God and eternal life. 1 John 5:20

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus Christ is the one true God. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.



LEADER NOTE

Write the Bible references in the discussion points on the board or on index cards so youth can look them up and read them.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Discover visual ways to talk about the true God with “Symbols of the Trinity.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

Lystra was a Roman colony in Asia Minor, which is now Turkey. Timothy was a native of Lystra. Paul most likely met Timothy on his first missionary journey when he stopped in Lystra. When Paul returned to Lystra on his second missionary journey, he asked Timothy to join him in his missionary travels.

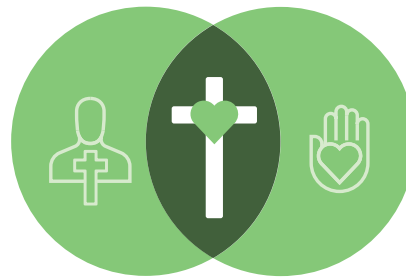
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► Who does the Church send out today to go and preach the Gospel?

The Church still sends out missionaries to other countries to share the Gospel. The Church trains pastors, ministry leaders, and teachers to share the Gospel in churches, schools, and the local community. The Church also sends *you* to share the Gospel as you talk about your faith at school, at home, and with friends.

► What can I say to someone who believes something that's not true about God?

Some people have wrong ideas about God. They may have heard these ideas from their friends, people at school, the media, or some other place. We can know if someone's ideas about God are true by looking in God's Word, because God has made Himself known to us in His Word, and God's Word is truth. So what can we say to someone who says something we know is false about God? We can point them to the Bible and gently show them what God's Word really says about who He is and what He has done and continues to do for us.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God reveals Himself to me in the Word and Sacraments.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to keep me in His Word.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can examine the text to see how Paul and Barnabas reveal that our God is the one true God, and I can apply that understanding to my own life.

YOUTH

I can share the truth that our God is the one true God.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is the one and only true God.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God is the one true God, and He wants everyone to be saved.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

SYMBOLS OF THE TRINITY

5–10 minutes

Look online to find symbols of the Trinity, the one true God (triangle, three interwoven circles, hand, dove, cross, etc.). How is each one helpful in describing who God is?

IDLDS TODAY?

10–15 minutes

The people in Lystra worshiped false gods. Bring in a book about Greek gods and goddesses or print out a picture of an idol. Show the book or the picture as you talk about false gods that some people worship today. There is only one true God!

TALKING ABOUT GOD

15–20 minutes

Ask youth to think about what they would say if someone asked them the question, “Who is God?” Then divide learners into pairs and have them role-play, acting out different situations (talking with a friend, a sibling, or a classmate, for example).