SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 14

A Door of Faith Through Many Tribulations

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 14:22

“strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.””

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 14

In Acts 14 Paul is cheered like a god one day and stoned the next — and he gets up and walks back into the city. This week, whatever has knocked you down, the chapter asks you to get up, keep going in the faith, and remember that the road into God's kingdom runs through hard places with Jesus, not around them.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Bold, and Still Going

READ · ACTS 14:1–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened when Paul and Barnabas preached in Iconium, how did the city react, and what did they do when the plot to stone them came out (14:1–7)?

REFLECT

They spoke "boldly with reliance upon the Lord" (14:3). Where do you need to speak up about Jesus but keep holding back?

REFLECT

They left Iconium, but "there they continued to preach the gospel" (14:7). Is there a place you need to leave — a crowd, a habit, a setup — without quitting on God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person today, in a sentence or two, what the Lord has done for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 14:22)

DAY 2 OF 5

Stand Up

READ · ACTS 14:8–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Describe the man at Lystra. What was he doing while Paul spoke, what did Paul see in him, and what did Paul tell him to do (14:8–10)?

REFLECT

The man had never walked, but when Paul said, "Stand upright on your feet," he "leaped up" (14:10). Where has God told you to stand up in an area where you have never been strong?

REFLECT

"This man was listening to Paul" (14:9). How well are you listening to God's word right now? What gets in the way?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one thing God has told you to do that you have been putting off, and take the first step today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 14:22)

DAY 3 OF 5

Only Men

READ · ACTS 14:11–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the crowd call Barnabas and Paul, what did the priest of Zeus try to do, and how did the apostles respond (14:11–15)?

REFLECT

Paul and Barnabas said, "We are also men of the same nature as you" (14:15). Have you ever put a man in God's place — or enjoyed being looked up to more than you should?

REFLECT

God "did not leave Himself without witness" — rain, harvest, "food and gladness" (14:17). Where have you seen God's kindness this week without thanking Him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down three plain good things from this week — a meal, a laugh, a kind word — and thank God for each one out loud.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 14:22)

DAY 4 OF 5

Get Up and Go Back

READ · ACTS 14:19–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to Paul at Lystra, what did he do afterward, and what did he and Barnabas tell the new believers on the way home (14:19–22)?

REFLECT

Paul was stoned and left for dead, "he got up and entered the city" (14:20). What has knocked you down, and what would getting up look like for you this week?

REFLECT

Paul said, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (14:22). How does it change your trouble to know it is part of the road, not proof that God has left you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Call or visit one brother who is struggling, encourage him to keep going in the faith, and pray with him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 14:22)

DAY 5 OF 5

What God Had Done

READ · ACTS 14:24–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

When Paul and Barnabas got back to Antioch, what did they report, and whom did they give the credit to (14:26–27)?

REFLECT

They told "all things that God had done with them" (14:27), not what they had done. When you tell your story, who gets the credit?

REFLECT

God "opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" (14:27). Think back to how you came to faith — who did God use to open that door for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God by name for the person who first told you about Jesus, and if you can, let that person know.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 14:22)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The crowd at Lystra went from wanting to worship Paul to stoning him (14:13, 19). Why do you think people turn so fast, and how do we keep from being that kind of crowd?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

On the way home Paul and Barnabas strengthened, encouraged, warned, appointed elders and prayed (14:22–23). Which of these does our group most need right now?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Where did you see God open a door this week — for you or for someone else (14:27)?

MY PRAYER

Lord, when I get knocked down, help me get up and keep going in the faith, and today I ask You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 14:22

"strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.""