

January 18th Study Guide

Acts 13–20 | Focus: Acts 14

Opening Reflection

The trivia questions remind us that things are often not what they seem. In the same way, **devotion** can be misunderstood in our culture.

“Devotion is when your involvement with life is so absolute that you yourself do not matter anymore.”

Opening Questions

1. When you hear the word *devotion*, what comes to mind?
 2. What are some things our culture encourages people to be devoted to?
 3. Where do you see genuine devotion modeled in your own life—or where do you struggle with it?
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Devotion in the Journey (Acts 14:1–7; background from Acts 13–14)

Paul and Barnabas traveled more than **1,200 miles**—much of it on foot, through rough terrain, and amid personal hardship.

Read: Acts 14:1–7

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about the physical journey Paul and Barnabas undertook?
 2. How does knowing Paul likely had health issues affect how you read this chapter?
 3. Why do you think Luke includes these travel details in Acts?
 4. What “journey” has God placed you on right now that requires endurance or obedience?
 5. How does devotion show up not just in big moments, but in long, ordinary faithfulness?
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Devotion in the Midst of Distraction (Acts 14:8–18)

After healing a crippled man, Paul and Barnabas are mistaken for gods and nearly worshiped.

Read: Acts 14:8–18

Discussion Questions

1. Why would this moment have been especially tempting for Paul and Barnabas?
 2. How do they respond when people try to worship them?
 3. What does their reaction reveal about their devotion to God?
 4. What modern “distractions” compete for our devotion today (success, comfort, approval, etc.)?
 5. How can good things become dangerous distractions if they replace God?
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Devotion in Suffering (Acts 14:19–23)

The crowd turns violently against Paul—he is stoned, left for dead, yet continues the mission.

Read: Acts 14:19–23

Discussion Questions

1. How do the people’s actions toward Paul change so quickly?
2. What amazes you most about Paul’s response after being stoned?
3. Why do you think Paul returns to the same cities where he was persecuted?
4. How do verses 22–23 reshape our expectations of the Christian life?
5. In what ways have you experienced hardship or tension because of your faith?

Devotion Instructions (Acts 14:22–23)

Paul retraces his steps to strengthen believers and establish leadership.

Read: Acts 14:22–23

Discussion Questions

1. What four instructions or priorities do you see in these verses?
 - Strengthening souls
 - Continuing in the faith
 - Preparing for tribulations
 - Appointing leaders
 2. Why is strengthening the soul essential for devotion?
 3. How does understanding our identity in Christ protect us from pride or discouragement?
 4. Who helps strengthen your faith—and who are you strengthening?
 5. Why is community and godly leadership vital for long-term devotion?
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Personal Reflection & Application

Reflect

1. Where do you see devotion most clearly in your life right now?
2. Where do distractions most often pull you away from devotion to God?
3. How do you typically respond to suffering—avoidance, discouragement, or deeper trust?

Apply

- What is one step you can take this week to **continue in the faith**?
- Who could help walk with you in devotion to Jesus?
- How can you intentionally invest your **time, talents, and treasures** toward God's mission?