

Connect Group Guide: “Encouragement In Hard Times”



Passage: Acts 14:8-22

Sermon Link: [▶ Encouragement In Hard Times | Acts: Part 18](#)

Welcome:

(Choose a question for your group to discuss)

- Can you think of a time when someone encouraged you during a difficult time? Please share how much this meant to you.
- Have you ever had to encourage someone else whilst you were going through a difficult time? How did it go?

Worship:

(You may choose to use YouTube or other mediums to facilitate your time of worship)

- [▶ Charity Gayle - I Speak Jesus \(feat. Steven Musso\) \[Live\]](#)

Word:

(Discuss these questions in your group, encourage everyone to take part)

Before reading the scripture:

- Why do you think people need encouragement?
- Why is encouragement such a scarcity in today's society?

Read: Acts 14:8-22

- The people of the city believed Paul and Barnabas were Gods - even wanting to bring them sacrifices - but quickly changed their minds once the Jews won them over.

- Have you ever experienced situations where praise turned into disgruntlement because of personal beliefs?
- Why do you think the people of the city became angry enough at Paul that they stoned him?
- Paul willingly decided to return to the same city the next day after his stoning.
 - “Paul valued encouraging others in their faith more than he feared for his own life.” Discuss this statement, and how it addresses your own personal faith.
- Paul’s willingness to return to the city preaching about Jesus and encouraging people meant many more people became Christians.
 - Have you ever had to endure difficulties so someone could get to know Jesus? Please share...
- They encouraged other followers of Jesus to remain firm in their faith.
- We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.

Works:

(Take some time for personal reflecting on the following questions and then share back with the group)

- Consider taking the time to pray for others in your group and encouraging them with how you see Jesus working in their lives.
- How can you be an encouragement this week to people who do not yet believe in Jesus?
- How can you be an encouragement this week to other Christians this week?
- Who can you call/text to encourage other people this week? Consider making a list of 3 names.

Closing:

(Remember to ask for prayer requests.)

- Spend time in prayer for others in your group.

