

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

31 March – 4 April 2003

ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT #12 –CONDITIONAL OBEDIENCE

INTRODUCTION:

- Can you think of a time when you or someone in the Bible obeyed God but didn't get the immediate expected results? Explain.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: The initial spread of the Gospel came more as a reaction to persecution than from a strategic plan that man created. Now Luke tells of growth resulting from intentional and strategic planning under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. For Paul and Barnabas this meant exciting, challenging work that nearly got Paul killed. The intensity of the conflict shows how passionate the Jews were about their religion.

Read Acts 14:1-7

- What does it mean that Paul and Barnabas went "as usual" to the synagogue? (1, 13:46)
- Why were the people divided? (2)
- Why do you think they stayed at Iconium even though they initially faced resistance? (3)
- What was the purpose of the signs and wonders? (3)

Read Acts 14:8-20

- What was religious life like in Lystra?
- How was the message different to the people of Lystra than to those of Iconium or Antioch?
- Why was the format of the message different?
- What does this teach us about sharing the Gospel?
- How is Paul "rewarded" for faithfully preaching the Gospel? (19)
- How might obedience to God be conditional – "If I'm to be blessed, I'll do it."?
- What can we learn from Paul's obedience?

APPLICATION:

- How can you be better prepared to share the gospel to someone with a background different than own?
- What can you do to make sure that you hear and know God's will?

*They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples.
Acts 14:21*

On arriving there (Antioch), they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27