

# Behavior

## Lesson 6

**Lystra**

# Behaviors

Begin with  
Prayer

## Lesson 6

**Lystra**

**Acts 14:8-28**

### Memory Verse

**Don't let evil get the best of you. Romans 12:20 (The Message)**

### Lesson Goals

Understand that God wants us to recognize evil.  
Understand that God wants us to avoid evil.  
Understand that God alone should be worshipped.

### Behavior Focus Scripture

**Run for dear life from evil.... Don't let evil get the best of you.  
Romans 12:10, 20-21 (The Message)**

### Bible Story

**Read Acts 14:8-20 aloud.**

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

### Welcome

Have you noticed that when a player does well the people cheer and yell and like that player? But if the player doesn't do well the very same fans are calling for that player to be fired. Most sports are a team effort. Team players know that. They also know their fans. They know that one day they may cheer and the next they are saying that the player needs to be fired. In today's lesson we will see some people who acted just like sports fans.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to Lystra. There they found a man who was crippled. He had been crippled since birth. The man had been listening to Paul speak. The Bible says that Paul "saw that he had faith to be healed." (Acts 14:9) When Paul saw his faith, he told the crippled man to get up. God healed the man. The man began to jump and walk.

When the people in Lystra saw the crippled man walking and jumping they were excited. They began shouting that the gods had come down to visit them. They worshipped a god whose temple was just outside the city. The priest from that temple "brought bulls and wreaths" because the people wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas. (Acts 14:13)

When Paul and Barnabas realized what the people were doing, they **tore their clothes**. They knew this was **wrong**. Paul and Barnabas knew that **only God should be worshipped**. They were very upset that the people wanted to worship them instead of God. It is **evil** to worship anything or anyone but God.

Paul and Barnabas "rushed into the crowd" **to stop them**. They did not just walk, they ran **to stop the people**. Then they shouted, "Men, why are you doing this? We, too, are only men?" (Acts 14:15) They wanted the people to know that what they were doing was **wrong**. It was crazy. Paul and Barnabas wanted the people to know they were human. It was God who had healed the man, not them. Paul and Barnabas did not want to be a part of this **evil thing**.

Paul and Barnabas told the people that they came to tell them about Jesus so that they could **turn away from worshipping idols** because **only God should be worshipped**. Paul and Barnabas told the people that God is not without witness of His existence.

They told the people of Lystra that God has been kind. "He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons." (Acts 14:17-18)

God, the living God, the Creator is the **only One they should worship**. God is the Creator. The heaven does not give rain, but the Creator of the heaven gives the rain. **Only He is worthy of worship**.

Even though they did not want the people to do so, Paul and Barnabas had a hard time keeping the people from sacrificing to them.

Week 6

**Memorize:  
Romans 12:20-21  
(The Message)**

Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium. They spread lies about Paul. The very same people who had tried to worship Paul stoned him and dragged him outside the city. Normally, when they were going to execute (kill) someone, they did it outside the walls. These people were so angry that they stoned Paul inside the city. They didn't put him on a cart to carry him out, they dragged him out.

One day the people of Lystra were ready to worship Paul, the next day they stoned him until they thought he was dead.

The believers in Lystra stood around Paul until he got up and went to the city. The next day Paul and Barnabas left Lystra and went to Derbe where many believed. They came back later to strengthen the believers in Lystra.

**Do you know Jesus?** Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra to tell people about Jesus. Some people did not understand that we're **not supposed to worship idols**. Paul and Barnabas told them that they were there to share the good news that Jesus died and rose again so that they could know God. Would you like to know Jesus?

**Pray this prayer:** Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that He has risen from the dead; and because He lives I can have a personal relationship with you. Please forgive my sins. Please come be a part of my life and help me to **recognize evil** and to **avoid it**. Help me to **worship you alone**.

### Review:

- 1. Why did the people want to worship Paul and Barnabas?** (God had used Paul to heal a man crippled from birth)
- 2. What did Paul and Barnabas do?** (tore their clothes, ran to stop the people, told the people they were human, told the people only God should be worshipped)
- 3. What did Paul and Barnabas say to the people?** (do not worship idols, God sends the rain and crops, only God should be worshipped)
- 4. Explain how Paul and Barnabas were stoned by the same people who wanted to worship them.**  
The people of Lystra were idol worshippers. They worshipped the gods. When they could not understand that God had healed the crippled man, they assumed that Paul and Barnabas were gods. Then, when the Jews came and spread lies about Paul, the people of Lystra believed the lies. They got so angry, they tried to kill Paul.

### Pray:

Pray that God will help you recognize evil.  
Pray that God will help you avoid evil.  
Pray that God will help you always worship Him alone.

### Challenge:

Think about the things you value. Are they temporal ( things that won't last)? Our society teaches us that people and things are to be valued more than they should. Our society focuses on movie stars, money, fame, clothes and many things which are temporal. The things that are eternal are not valued. Talk about why it is **wrong to place too much value** on the things our society says are important. Write in your prayer journal about changes in your attitude towards things.

### Application:

It is evil to worship anything or anyone but God. Don't do it. Evil is present around us. Be aware of it. **Avoid it**. That means **stay away** from people who do bad things. Choose friends who love God. Think about the places you go, the things you see, the things you say and do. Do they please God? If they don't, **stop** going to those places. **Stop** watching those things. **Stop** saying those things. **Stop** doing those things.

### Planning Ahead:

Macedonian Call  
Acts 16:6-15

End with  
Prayer

Hands-on Activities  
For  
Lystra

Memorize: Romans 12:20-21 (The Message). Create a memory puzzle. Put the words of the verses on one side. Put a picture on the other. Have the kids put the picture together first. Then let them use it to practice the verse.

Create footprints with the words to the verses. Lay them out and ask the children to walk beside the footprints to learn the verses. You could create a set for each child, if possible.

Prayer journal: Work on your prayer journal. Write down what God has said to you about the things you value. What has he said about the things you don't need to consider important now that you are a believer. Write down what you need to change. Ask God to help you.

Play a game. Create an obstacle course with "danger zones." Just write "danger zone" on a piece of paper. Turn the paper over so that the children cannot read it. Put blank paper in the obstacle course as well. You may number the pages that say "danger zone" and the blank pages (to identify the "danger zones"). Have the children walk four to a group, arm in arm through the obstacle course. Tell them to be careful not to step on any "danger zones". Be a spotter and at the end tell the children which groups stepped on the "danger zones." Tell the children it is not always easy to recognize evil. Sometimes friends cannot help you recognize evil. Tell the children it is important to read the Bible and pray so they can avoid evil.

Create a game board (you may want to make several) with a curved, zig-zag line of blocks containing the names of things worshipped other than God. (One throw of the dice means you move "X" number of spaces.) Put things people worship throughout the board. If they land on the following they have to go back. The winning spot should say, "worship God alone."

Power - go back 5 spaces

Position - go back 4 spaces

Houses - go back 3 spaces

Money - go back 2 spaces

Fashion - go back 1 space

Remind the children about Exodus 20:5. God says that He is a jealous God. He does not want us to worship anything or anyone except Him. Some of the things that people worship other than God are: fashion, money, houses, position, power, beauty. Tell the children God wants to be the most important person in our lives.

Create a river with blue plastic table cloths. Put rocks in the river (write "rock" on a piece of paper). Put "drop off" to indicate deep water on another piece of paper. Ask six children to participate. The rest of the class will be observers. Instruct each child individually so that no one knows what the other is doing.

Group Crossing The River: Three children will walk together holding on to a bandana or small piece of rope.

1. One child will be blindfolded. Tell this child he must cross the river with the help of two friends.
2. A second child will be assigned to tell the child how to avoid the "rock" and "drop off" areas. Tell this child that his job is to avoid the obstacles. It is the best way to go.
3. The third child will be assigned to make the blind folded child fail and go through the "rocks" and "drop off" areas. Tell this child that this is the fastest way to cross the river.

Group Helping Those Crossing: Assign a parallel partner to those crossing.

1. Tell one child he is to help the blindfolded child know who to listen to.
2. Tell a second child that he is to help the blind folded child to listen to the one who has been assigned to help him to avoid the "rock" and "drop off" areas.
3. Tell the third child he is to help the blind folded child listen to the child assigned to go through the "rock" and "drop off" areas.

Talk about what it was like to be each of six people. Ask the observers what it was like to watch and not be able to do anything. Talk about evil. Sometimes the people who think they are helping us are not helping us.

**Don't let evil  
get the best of you.  
Romans 12:20  
(The Message)**

## **Romans 12: 20-21 (The Message)**

**Our Scriptures tell us  
that if you see your enemy hungry,  
go buy that person lunch,  
or if he's thirsty,  
get him a drink.**

**Your generosity will surprise him with  
goodness.**

**Don't let evil get the best of you;  
get the best of evil by doing good.**

**Romans 12: 20-21 The Message**