

MESSAGE NOTES

DECEMBER 4, 2022

UPSIDE DOWN | WHEN GOD OPENS DOORS

ACTS 14:1-28

INTRODUCTION

BIG IDEA: Because God opens doors of faith for us and through us, we should be grateful and challenged.

OVERVIEW

"They reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles." (Acts 14:27)

Background to Paul and Barnabas' First Missionary Journey

- Iconium (Acts 14:1-7)
- Lystra (Acts 14:8-20)
- Return Trip (Acts 14:21-28)
- *"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:10-12)*

How do we reach the nations? (cf Matthew 28:19-20 & Acts 1:8)

1. Seek God, the Lord of the Harvest—through Fasting and prayer
2. Send those the Lord is calling and support them in prayer and financially
3. Be clear about the message—ask God to confirm it through whatever He chooses
4. Prepare for opposition and see closed doors and opportunities to reach others
5. Strengthen believers and plant churches that have capable leadership

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Gratitude
2. Challenge