



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 9:
"God, Grit and Good Theology: How to Survive When
You're the Nail"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 14:19-23

1. Imagine you were Paul in Lystra, having just been stoned almost to death (*Acts 14:19*) Now see what Paul does in *Acts 14:20*. Does this strike you as remarkable? Would you have done the same? Why or why not?

2. Notice whom Paul credits for saving his life from the stoning in *Acts 14:19-20* (see *2 Timothy 3:11*). Have you or anyone you know been through a "near death" experience? Do you believe that God was sovereign over that experience, saving you from death? Have you thanked Him?

3. Is it ever a good idea to flee a situation when you will experience persecution (see *Acts 14:4-7*)? How do you know when to stay and when to leave? Have you ever stayed in or fled a situation when you knew that you would experience persecution?

4. What can we learn from Paul's example in *Acts 14:21* where he returns to Lystra after having almost been killed there? Why do you think he returned to Lystra?

5. What activities do Paul and Barnabas perform in *Acts 14:21-23*? How do these activities model healthy ministry for us today? What ways can you participate and serve in ministry that you are not already doing? What steps do you need to take?

6. Paul seems to indicate that suffering is critical to participation in the Kingdom of God (*Acts 14:22*, cf. *2 Timothy 3:12*). If this is true, why do we so often orchestrate the events of our lives to avoid suffering? Does the Bible mention different kinds of "suffering?" If so, what "kind" is Paul referring to here?

7. Describe a situation from your life where you encountered painful circumstances or loss, but where you knew that God was working out the situation for your good and His glory (*Romans 8:28*). How did this understanding impact your view of God and His sovereignty?

Memory Verse:

"... strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.'"
(Acts 14:22, NASB)