



ALDERSGATE
United Methodist Church
St. Louis Park, MN

FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate United Methodist Church - St. Louis Park, MN

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Scripture: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Memory Verse ~ Acts 14:15: *“People, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news...”*

Theme of the story: Barnabas and Paul were preaching about Jesus. They healed a man who could not walk. Because of this healing, the crowds thought that they were gods. Barnabas and Paul wanted the people to know that they were healing in the name of Jesus and they were not God.

Retelling For Young People

Paul and Barnabas went on a mission to tell people about Jesus. They went to a town called Lystra. There they healed a man who could not walk. He had been crippled from birth. This man stood on his feet and walked.

The people living in Lystra worshiped a Greek god named Zeus. They believed Zeus was the king of the gods. When they saw the crippled man healed, the people thought that their gods had come down as humans in the form of Paul and Barnabas. They thought Barnabas was Zeus and they thought Paul was Hermes because Hermes was the messenger of the gods. The priest of Zeus' temple brought gifts to the city gates because he and the people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas.

When Paul and Barnabas realized what the people were doing, they stopped them and told them they were only human as they were. They shared God's words with them and told them to turn away from their worship of false gods to the true God. Even when Paul shared God's Words with these people they were having a hard time not worshiping Paul and Barnabas.

Family discussion: In this story, the crowd got all worked up. Are there times when we just go along with the crowd? How easy is it to get swept up in group thinking? How can we start to think for ourselves?

Activities & Crafts:

Activity

"I Went on a Journey and I saw..... "

Have players sit in a circle. This game can be played with two people or more. The first player says, "I went on a journey, and I saw (ITEM 1)," The second player must then say, "I went on a journey and I saw (ITEM 1) and (ITEM 2)." Each player adds one new item. Players must remember all previous items and add their own. If they forget any, they are out of the game. See who can remember the most items.

Craft

Soap Sailboat

You will need: small bars of soap, a spoon for carving, toothpicks, bits of paper. Search online for pictures of boats used in the first century. These may be similar to the boat that carried Paul on his first missionary journey. You could also search for maps of Paul's journey and discuss what those would have been like.

Use a spoon to carve the soap into a boat shape. Add sails using small pieces of white paper and toothpicks. Place in water to see if it floats.

*You can also make boats out of other things such as aluminum foil. See what will float and what will not.

Family Prayer

Dear god, Thank you for bringing people into our lives to teach us about Jesus. Watch over people who are teaching others about Jesus. Keep us focused on what is important. Amen.

