

**WEEK 2: MORE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY**  
**DAY 1: THEY PLANTED A CHURCH AT ICONIUM**

Acts 14:1-7

1. Greetings for a new week. Last week we saw the first missionaries sent out. We learned that a missionary goes to a new place to plant churches. We saw that the power of the Holy Spirit is greater than the power of sorcerers. We learned what Paul preached about at Antioch.

Have you been able to use any of these lessons in your life this week? \_\_\_\_\_

On Paul's first journey, what did some of the Jews in Antioch do to him after many believed?  
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What do Paul's actions in Antioch teach us to do when this happens? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. At Antioch the Jews drove Paul away. But Paul went on to preach in the next city. This teaches us to keep on witnessing when trouble comes. The next city where Paul and Barnabas went was Iconium. The same troubles happened which happened in Antioch. But some people believed. A church was planted. Let us learn:

After planting churches in Cyprus and Antioch, Paul and Barnabas planted a church in Iconium.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 14:1 to 7. Read verse 1 again. Did many or few people believe in Iconium?  
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3. Many people believed. It was a big crowd of people. Paul and Barnabas first went to the meeting place of the Jews. They preached and many people believed. But again there was trouble.

Acts 14:2:

But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds (or told them lies) against the brethren.

Who tried to turn the Gentiles from the truth? \_\_\_\_\_

4. It was the Jews who did not believe. They told lies to the people of Iconium. But Paul and Barnabas wanted to plant a church. They knew a church could not start in this place without their help.

Acts 14:3:

So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

From this verse, how do we know that Paul and Barnabas did not preach quickly and leave?

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5. Acts says that they stayed a long time. Some preachers go to many different places. They preach one or two sermons. Then they go somewhere else. They do not think about what may happen to those who believe. They are just giving out the good news.

What did Paul and Barnabas want to plant in Iconium? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. They wanted to plant a church at Iconium. They wanted to help people believe. They wanted to help them meet together in fellowship and worship. If people did not have teaching, they would not know how to follow Christ. The missionaries were on their first journey. They had planted churches on the island of Cyprus. They had planted a church in Antioch. Now they were planting one at Iconium.

Who were the missionaries who planted churches in these places? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Paul and Barnabas did this. They were called by God and sent out by the church. They were sent to plant churches in new places. After planting churches in Cyprus and Antioch, they planted one at Iconium.

On which missionary journey did they plant the church at Iconium? Was this their first journey or second journey? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. It was on their first journey. God was blessing their work. Many people were believing. Some people were persecuting them. But they kept on with their work.

What work did they want to do at Iconium? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. They wanted to plant a church there. They first preached in the synagogue of the Jews. A great crowd of people believed. Then some Jews made trouble. They tried to poison the minds of the believers. So Paul and Barnabas stayed a long time and taught them.

On the first journey, where did Paul and Barnabas plant a church after planting them in Cyprus and Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_

10. They planted a church at Iconium. This was in Asia north of the Great Sea. Tomorrow we will see all the places where churches were planted on the first journey.

At what two places did Paul and Barnabas plant churches before they came to Iconium?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

11. They first planted churches at Cyprus and Antioch. They were obeying their part of the command of Jesus. They were beginning to go to the ends of the earth. They were beginning the third part of the book of Acts. We saw witnessing in Jerusalem. We saw witnessing in Judea and Samaria. Now we see witnessing to the end of the earth.

On the first journey, where did Paul and Barnabas plant a church after doing this in Cyprus and Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_

12. They planted a church at Iconium. They stayed a long time there. They carefully taught all the word of God. We may go to new places to preach. Some people may receive Christ. But we have not finished our work unless we bring the Christians together. We have not planted a church unless the people are working and praying together.

Matthew 28:19-20:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

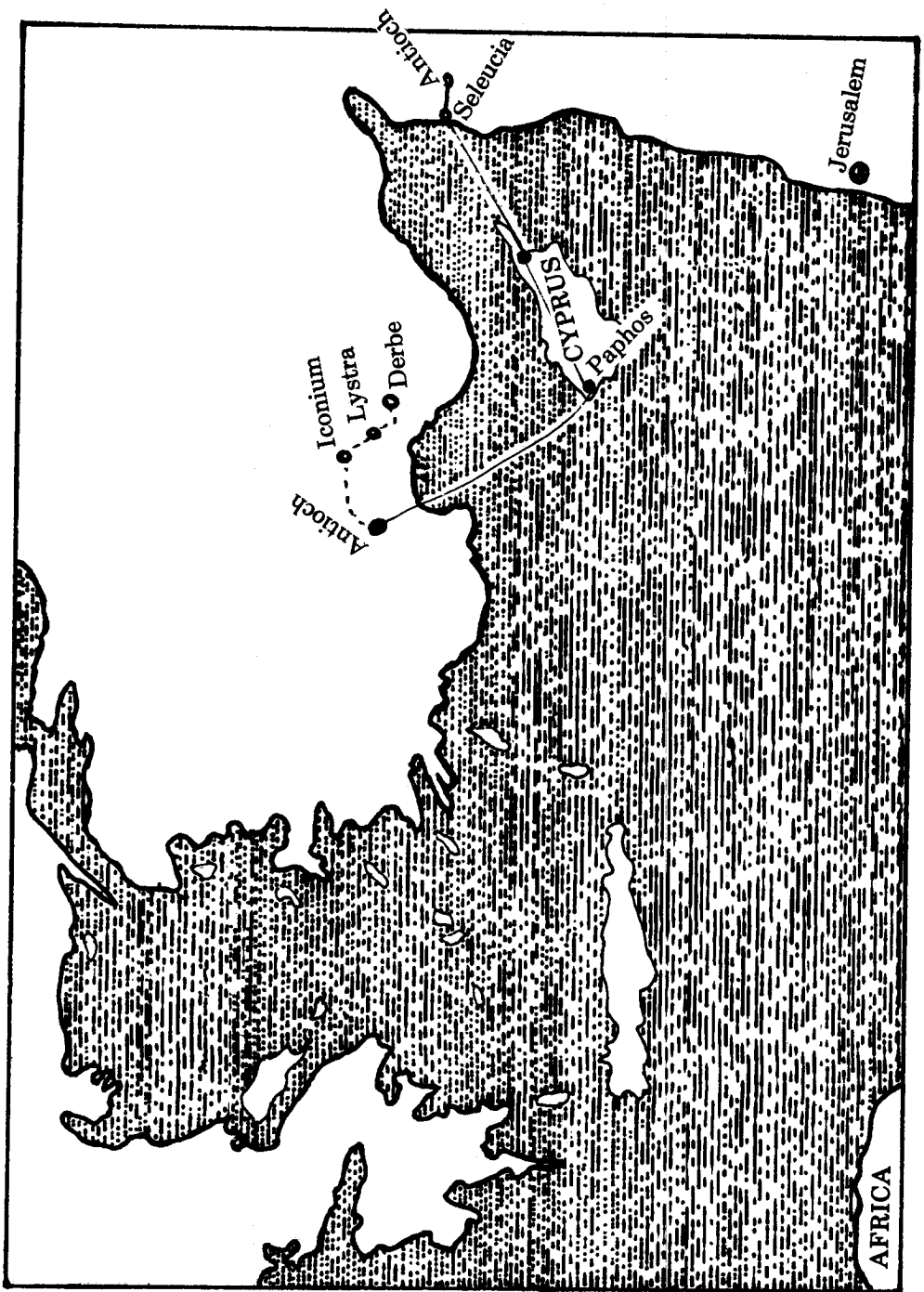
Has anyone from your church ever planted another church? \_\_\_\_\_ Be ready to tell in class how this was done.

13. By the end of this book we want you and your people to be doing missionary work. We hope you will be planting a new church.

Begin now to pray about this. Pray about who should go as missionaries. Pray about where they should go. Pray about what you yourself should do.

14. On the first journey, where did Paul and Barnabas plant a church after doing this in Cyprus and Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_

# The First Missionary Journey



**WEEK 2: MORE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY**  
**DAY 2: PEOPLE AT LYSTRA TRIED TO WORSHIP THE**  
**MISSIONARIES**

Acts 14:8-18

1. We are seeing that Paul and Barnabas had a very important journey.

On this first journey, where did they plant a church after doing this in Cyprus and Antioch?  
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2. They planted a church at Iconium. Then they went on to Lystra and Derbe. At Lystra a strange thing happened. A lame man was healed. Then the people tried to give sacrifices to them. We can learn from what Paul and Barnabas did.

(1) When the people in Lystra tried to worship them, Paul and Barnabas were troubled.

(2) When people praise us because of what has happened in our church, we should say, "Do not praise us, praise God."

These things happened at Lystra. This is where Paul went from Iconium. Find Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe on the map facing this page. Fill in the line from Antioch to Iconium. Then fill the line to Lystra and to Derbe.

3. These lines show where Paul and Barnabas went on the first journey. They stayed in Iconium a long time. But finally some of the Jews and Gentiles tried to stone them. So they went to Lystra. There they found a lame man.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 14:8 to 18. What happened when Paul told the lame man to stand up?  
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4. The man stood up. He jumped up and walked. Paul had been watching him as he preached. He saw that the lame man had faith to be healed. When he told him to stand up, the man obeyed. He was healed! The Holy Spirit through Paul had done a miracle.

Acts 14:11:

And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

What did the people think Paul and Barnabas were? \_\_\_\_\_

5. The people thought they were gods. They began calling them gods in their own language. When Paul and Barnabas understood this, they ran out into the street. They shouted to the people to stop. The people wanted to praise Paul. But Paul knew it was God who had done it.

Acts 14:15:

“Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God.

Were Paul and Barnabas pleased or troubled that the people were sacrificing to them?  
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6. Paul and Barnabas were troubled. They did not want the praise which belonged to God. Some people want to be praised. When we preach and people are saved, we think we have done well. We sometimes forget that it is the Holy Spirit who works in their hearts. Sometimes when God works in our church we praise ourselves.

Have you ever been tempted to do this? \_\_\_\_\_

7. We church leaders can have trouble with this. We think the work of God is our work. We sometimes want to be king over that work. We want people to honour us. Peter later wrote about this to the leaders.

I Peter 5:1-3:

So I exhort the elders among you ... Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not by constraint (or force) but willingly, not for shameful gain (or praise) but eagerly, not as domineering (or ruling) over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.

What leaders were troubled when the people of Lystra began to worship them?  
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8. Paul and Barnabas were troubled. They saw that the people were doing wrong. They knew they were not chiefs or gods for the people. They knew they should be servants. Perhaps they thought of the words of Jesus.

Matthew 20:28:

The son of man (or Jesus) came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom (or sacrifice) for many.

If Jesus came to serve and not to rule, do you think it is right for a pastor to rule over the church?  
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How did Paul and Barnabas feel when the people of Lystra tried to worship them?  
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9. Paul and Barnabas were troubled. Peter said a pastor should not rule. He should not expect glory from the people. He should not take praise if the people try to give it. You remember the story of Herod in Acts 12. Herod made a speech. The people liked it. They began to shout that Herod was a god. But God struck him with worms and he died.

Try to remember what you learned. Why did God send an angel to strike Herod with worms? \_\_\_\_\_

10. It was because Herod did not give the glory to God. But Paul and Barnabas did not make this mistake.

How did Paul and Barnabas feel when the people of Lystra tried to worship them? \_\_\_\_\_

11. They were troubled. They stopped the people. There is a great difference between Herod and Paul. Herod was pleased to be called a god. When the people called Paul a god, he was troubled. He spoke to them in strong words. He told them that giving sacrifices to anyone besides the true God is sin. They must not worship the things God made.

Acts 14:15:

we ... bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God.

To whom should the people of Lystra give praise? \_\_\_\_\_

12. They should give praise to God. They should not praise other things or people on earth. When God does a miracle through us, we should give the glory to God. When people want to praise us we should say, "Do not praise me, praise God."

Who taught us to do this by the way they spoke at Lystra? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Paul and Barnabas taught us this. It is an important part of God's word. God does not want anyone else to have what belongs to him.

Isaiah 42:8:

I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to graven images.

Psalms 34:1:

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

What should we tell people to give to God? \_\_\_\_\_

14. All people should give praise to God. No man should accept praise for what God is doing.

When people praise us because of what happens in our church, what should we say?  
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15. We should say: Do not praise us, praise God. This is what Paul and Barnabas did at Lystra.

Acts 14:18:

With these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

When the people at Lystra began to worship them as gods, how did Paul and Barnabas feel?  
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16. They were troubled. They were not pleased. They did not want the people to sin in this way.

When people praise us because of what happens in our church, what should we say?  
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17. We should say: Do not praise us, praise God. People are often tempted to worship something besides God himself. Perhaps some people in your village pray to other gods or spirits. They may pray to images of wood or stone. Or they may pray towards the sun or moon, or a great rock or tree. They may even want to praise you instead of God. You can preach as Paul preached.

Acts 14:15:

turn from these vain (or useless) things to a living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

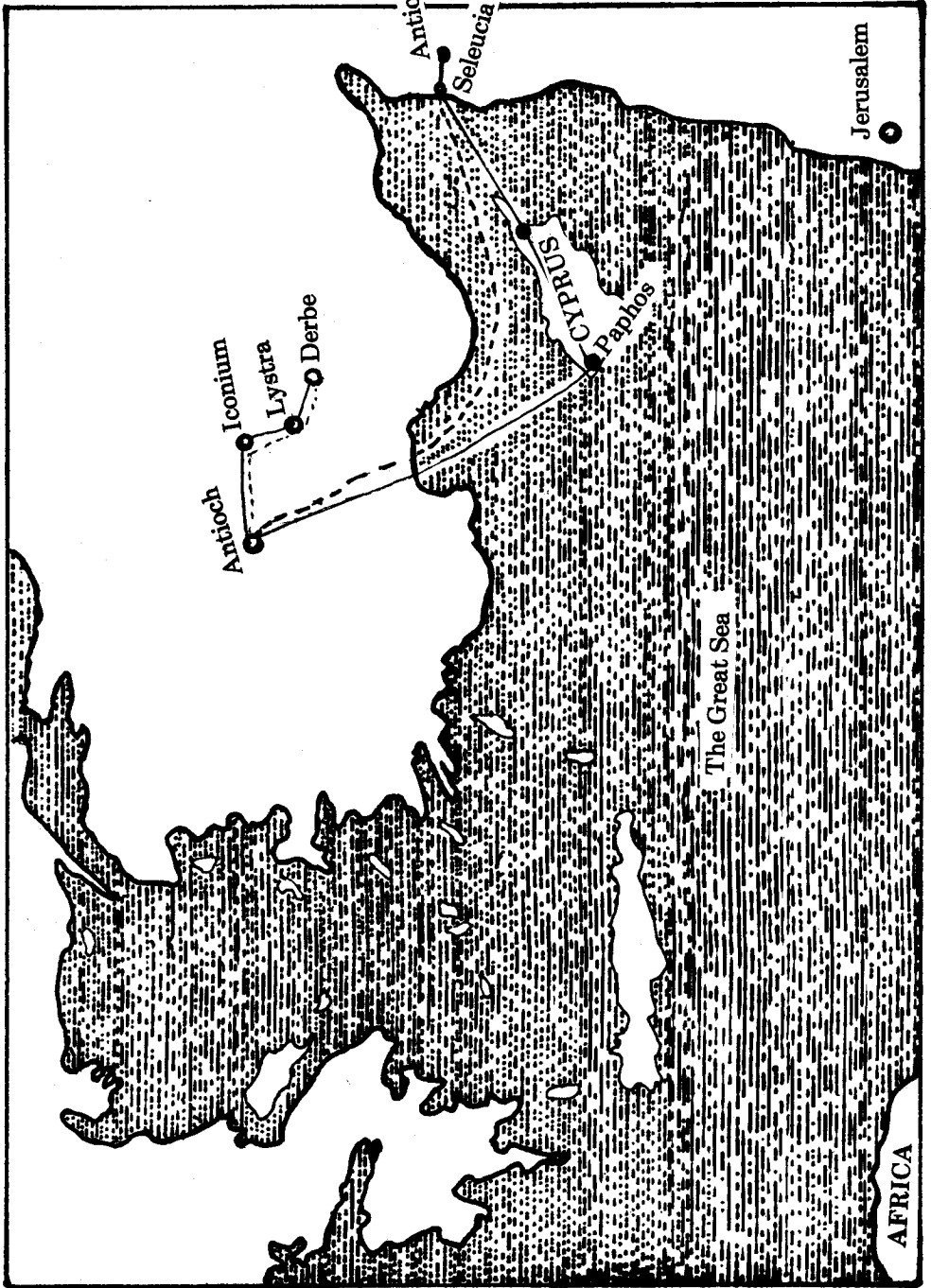
What things have the people of your tribe prayed to instead of God? \_\_\_\_\_

18. We will talk about this in class.

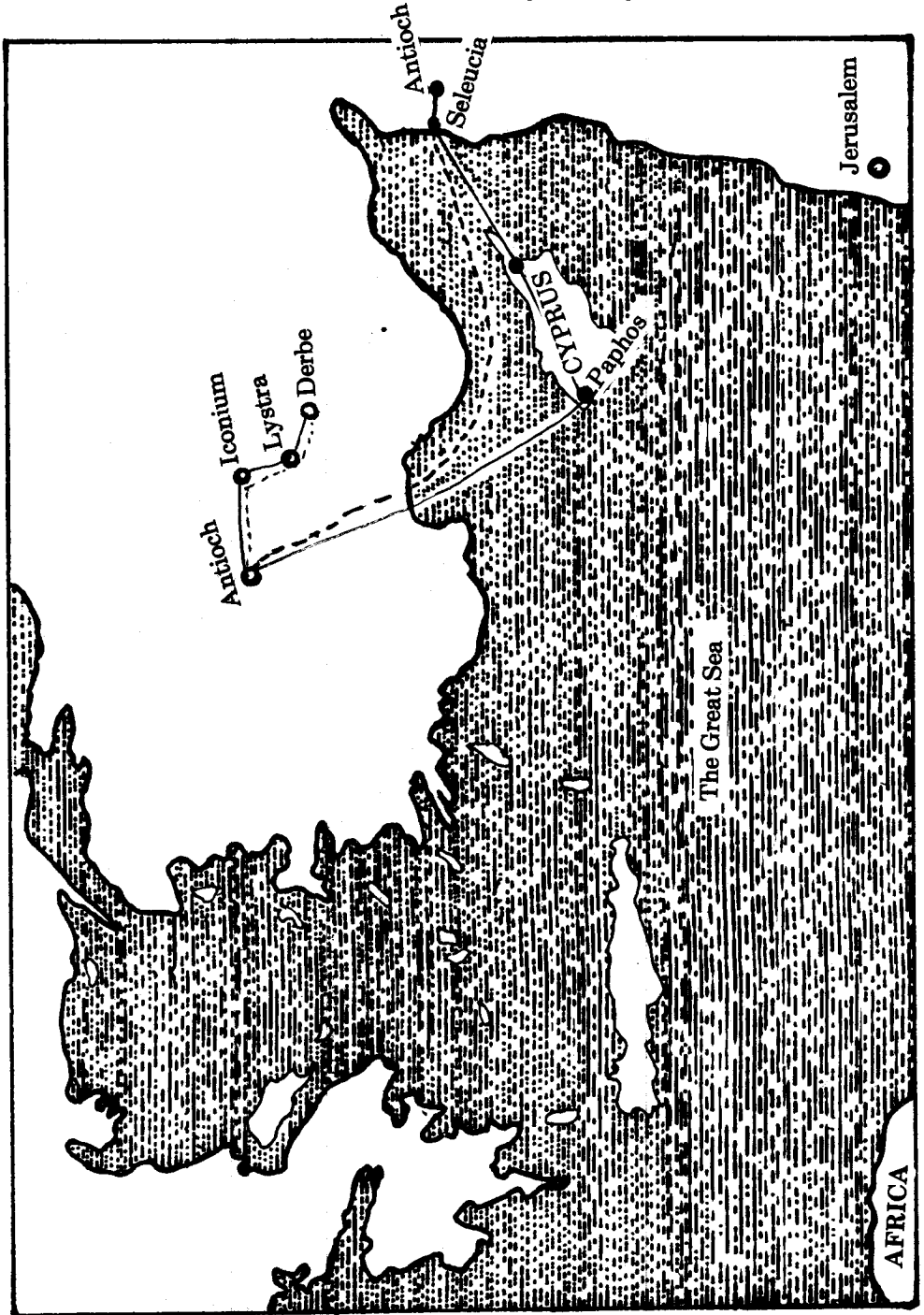
When the people of Lystra began to worship them as gods, how did Paul and Barnabas feel?  
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When people praise us because of what happens in our church, what should we say?  
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# The First Missionary Journey



# The First Missionary Journey



**WEEK 2: MORE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY**  
**DAY 3: THEY RETURNED HOME BY WAY OF THE NEW CHURCHES**

Acts 14:19-23

1. Yesterday we saw how Paul and Barnabas were praised in Lystra.

When the people began to worship them as gods how did Paul and Barnabas feel?  
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When people praise us because of what happens in our church, what should we say?  
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2. Paul and Barnabas were troubled when people tried to worship them. When people praise us we should say: Do not praise us, praise God. Praise for Paul and Barnabas did not last long in Lystra. The Jews who made trouble in Antioch and Iconium came. So Paul and Barnabas went on to Derbe. Then they went back and visited all the new churches. They did two things for the churches, as we learn today.

(1) They strengthened the new disciples.

(2) They chose leaders in the churches.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 14:19 to 23. Read verse 19 again. After the people of Lystra worshipped Paul, what did they do to him?  
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3. They stoned him! This is hard to understand. But the Jews who did not believe were leading the people. They came from Antioch and Iconium to Lystra. They told the people that Paul was a bad man. The people of Lystra had just called Paul a god. Now they stoned him and dragged him out of the city.

Acts 14:20:

But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city; and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

What did Paul do the next day after he was stoned?  
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4. He went to Derbe. Paul went on to preach in another city. Here was a man of courage! Surely we would have run away from the work. The people thought Paul was dead. Perhaps God healed him. God gave him strength to go on. He planted a church in Derbe.

Acts 14:21:

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.

Find Derbe on the map facing this page. Fill in the line going back from Derbe to Lystra, then to Iconium, then to Antioch. Then fill the line going all the way back to the first Antioch.

5. The missionaries had been going for a long time. They must have been tired. They thought about returning home. It would have been easy to go straight from Derbe. But they did not do this. They went back to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, where they had been persecuted.

What people did they strengthen at these places? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. They did this to the new disciples. Remember that they left many believers at these places. Perhaps the Christians were being persecuted. Perhaps they had forgotten some of the teachings, or were failing to meet together.

Acts 14:21-22:

they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting (or telling) them to continue in the faith.

From this verse, what did Paul and Barnabas do for the souls of the new disciples?  
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7. They strengthened them. This is an important lesson for us. Paul did not only visit these places once and go away. He went back to visit them again. He kept on helping them like a father helping his children. Paul and Barnabas did two things:

- (1) They strengthened the new disciples.
- (2) They chose leaders in the churches.

If Paul and Barnabas wanted to strengthen the new disciples and make leaders, where did they have to go?  
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8. They had to go back to the churches. These were the new churches they had planted in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They had been driven away, but they went back. The new disciples needed help. Paul did not deceive the people. He told them that the way would be hard, but God would help them.

Acts 14:22:

strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

When Paul and Barnabas returned to visit the new churches, what is the first thing they did?  
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9. They strengthened the new disciples. It is not enough to preach to people and then forget them. It is important to keep helping them. A new Christian needs teaching and love. He is like a new baby. Let us say that a family in your village has a new baby. They may say, "This baby is strong. It can grow by itself." But if they leave it alone, it cannot grow.

Can new disciples be left to grow by themselves? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. We know that a baby cannot grow by itself. A new Christian cannot grow by himself either. He needs much help. When a person becomes a Christian he has many questions. He has many temptations. His friends may laugh at him. If you have brought someone to Jesus, do not forget him. Pray for him and help him. Go and visit him.

When Paul and Barnabas returned to visit the new churches, what is the first thing they did?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) They chose leaders in the churches

11. First they strengthened the new disciples. When we plant churches, we too must do this. We must also help the believers meet together as a church. When they meet together they will need leaders. Paul understood this.

Acts 14:23:

And when they had appointed elders (or leaders) for them in every church, with prayer and fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed.

What did Paul and Barnabas choose in every church? \_\_\_\_\_

12. They chose elders or leaders. These men had the work of helping the other Christians. They would lead the meetings and take care of problems. The missionaries knew that the believers must have fellowship. They could not live well for Christ one by one. They should be a part of Christ's body, the church.

Who chose leaders in all the churches when they went back to visit them?

13. Paul and Barnabas knew that people need to be together. If a man is driven from his village he is very lonely. He has no one to talk to. He has no one to help him in trouble. No one likes to be alone. We like to be with our family and friends. This is why the church is important for Christians. Leaders help the church stay together.

When Paul and Barnabas returned to visit the new churches at the end of the first journey, what is the second thing they did?

(1) They strengthened the new disciples.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

14. They chose leaders in the churches. They did not send leaders from far away. They knew the men in the churches could lead by God's help. Paul and Barnabas did not make their friends or relatives leaders. They chose the men who could do God's work best. How did they choose? The verse tells us.

Acts 14:23:

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed.

How does this verse say they chose leaders in every church? \_\_\_\_\_

15. They chose them with prayer and fasting. They strongly asked for God's help. They did not just want to use their own thoughts. What about us? We must choose our leaders with prayer and fasting too. We must choose the ones who are faithful to God, and not just our friends.

Paul and Barnabas chose leaders in the churches. This was important so the Christians could learn about Christ. It was important so they could get spiritual food.

What is the first thing Paul and Barnabas did when they visited the new churches?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) They chose leaders in the churches.

16. They strengthened the new disciples. The missionaries did not only go to a village and preach. They did not go on and forget the people. They returned to help those who had received Christ.

When Paul and Barnabas returned to visit the churches what is the second thing they did? \_\_\_\_\_

17. They made leaders in the churches. It took much courage to go back to Lystra and Iconium. Paul could do this because he had the power of the Holy Spirit. He trusted God. Later he wrote about this to Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:10-11:

you have observed (or seen) my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

Do you think Paul did right to go back to these places? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it is always wise to go back where we are persecuted? \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Talk about this together in class.**

**When Paul and Barnabas returned to visit the new churches at the end of the first journey, what did they do?**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 2: MORE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY**  
**DAY 4: THE JEWS WANTED THE GENTILES TO BE CIRCUMCISED**  
**Acts 14:27 - 15:5**

1. Yesterday we saw Paul and Barnabas go back to the churches they had planted.

When Paul and Barnabas went back to the churches, what did they do?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. They strengthened the new disciples. They also made leaders in the churches. Finally they went back to the church which sent them. This was the church at the first Antioch. How happy the people were to see them again! They had a big meeting. Paul gave a report of the work. But then a big problem arose in the church. Today we learn:

(1) When the Jews refused the message of salvation, Paul went to the Gentiles.

(2) The Jews said that the Gentiles must be circumcised in order to be saved.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 14:24 to 28. Read verse 27 again. Did Paul and Barnabas tell wonderful things they themselves had done? \_\_\_\_\_

3. They could have taken the praise for themselves. But no! They told what God had done. It would be good for you to draw a line under the word God in this verse in your Bible. Paul gave all the glory to God.

Acts 14:27:

And when they arrived, they gathered the church together and declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

From this verse, who had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles?  
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4. God opened the door for the Gentiles. We have seen how he began to do this through Peter. Now God continued to do it through Paul. We remember what Paul said to the Jews in Antioch.

Acts 13:46:

It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

What did Paul say they would do when the Jews refused the message of salvation?  
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5. They would go to the Gentiles. Gentiles are all the people who are not Jews. It is important for us that this door was opened. This was part of God's plan. In the Old Testament God told the prophets it would happen. Isaiah wrote this prophecy about Christ, which Paul repeated at Athens.

Isaiah 49:6 repeated in Acts 13:47:

I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.

What does this prophecy say Jesus would be to the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

6. He would be a light. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, a priest named Simeon said the same thing.

Luke 2:30-32:

mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.

To whom would Jesus be a light? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Jesus would be a light to the Gentiles. He came to his own people first. But they did not receive him. Because of this, Jesus spoke strong words to the Jews. He told about some workers in a field. These workers refused to give the harvest to the owner of the field. So the owner had to give the field to others.

Matthew 21:43:

the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it.

Think about this verse. What would happen to the message of salvation if the Jews refused it? \_\_\_\_\_

8. It would be given to the Gentiles. The messengers of God would take it to them. We remember how Ananias helped Paul when he received Christ. God told Ananias that Paul was chosen to go to the Gentiles. God had a plan for Paul's life.

Acts 13:2:

the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

To what work did God call Paul? \_\_\_\_\_

9. God called Paul to preach to the Gentiles. He preached to the Jews first. But many of them refused to listen. At Antioch Paul turned to the Gentiles. This is very important to us. This caused the good news to be offered to the rest of the world. Later Paul wrote about this.

Romans 11:11-12:

So I ask, have they (the Jews) stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles ... their trespass means riches for the world.

What did the Jews do with the message of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

10. The Jews refused it. So Paul went to other people. Later we will see how the Holy Spirit sent Paul to Europe. From Europe the good news went to America. It also came to Africa. This is important to us. We see that the gospel is not something which Europeans started. It came to them through the plan of God.

When the Jews refused the message of salvation, to whom did Paul go? \_\_\_\_\_

11. He went to Gentiles. The Gentiles received the message. Paul reported in Antioch that the church among the Gentiles was growing. But some of the Christian Jews began to argue with Paul. They said the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be saved. The Gentiles had not had this painful circumcision. This was the great problem which arose after the first missionary journey.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 15:1 to 5. How do you think the Gentiles felt when they heard that they must be circumcised? \_\_\_\_\_

12. I am sure they were sad. We have seen that many Gentiles had been added to the church. They were not circumcised. They did not follow the Jewish customs. Now the Jews were saying they must become Jews.

Think about yourself. You are a Christian. You believe that Jesus died for your sins. You are happy because you are saved. You did not try to follow all the customs of the missionary.

How would you feel if you were told you must be like the missionary before you can be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

13. We will talk about this together. The Jews said that believing in Jesus was not enough. These Jews also believed in Jesus. But they thought Gentiles had to become Jews before they could be saved. To be a Jew, a man had to be circumcised. God had commanded this in the Old Testament.

What did these Jews say Gentiles had to have done to them in order to be saved?  
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14. They said they had to be circumcised. They would have to become Jews. God had given the law of circumcision to Abraham when he chose him. The Jews had followed this law right up to the time of Christ. This is what God told Abraham.

Genesis 17:10:

This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

What people did the Jews say must be circumcised before they could be saved?  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. They said Gentiles must be circumcised. Many Jews refused the word of God through Paul. Some Jews received it but they did not receive the Gentiles. They said they must become Jews. They must be like Jews and follow their customs.

When the Jews refused the message of salvation, to whom did Paul go? \_\_\_\_\_  
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16. He went to the Gentiles. The Gentiles received the message. But this brought a great problem into the church. When Paul reported to the church at Antioch, the Jews argued with him.

What big problem arose in the church after the first missionary journey?  
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17. The problem was: The Jews said the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be saved. In your country, missionaries came with the good news. They came from countries where the church had been for a long time. They had certain customs which they brought with them.

Do you think you must accept all the customs of the missionary in order to be saved?  
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18. Be ready to talk about this in class.

When the Jews refused the message of salvation, to whom did Paul go? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What big problem arose in the church after the first missionary journey?  
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**WEEK 2: MORE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY**  
**DAY 5: DANGERS CAME TO THE YOUNG CHURCHES**

**Acts 15:1-5:**

1. We are learning from Acts that a problem came into the church. It was a very hard problem. If it was not taken care of it would harm the church.

When the Jews refused the message of salvation, to whom did Paul go? \_\_\_\_\_

What big problem arose in the church after the first missionary journey? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When the Jews refused, Paul went to the Gentiles. But the Jews said Gentiles must be circumcised in order to be saved. This became a very great problem. It brought dangers to the church. If the Jews kept saying this, two things might happen:

(1) People would think that faith in Christ is not enough.

(2) The church would be divided.

Take your Bible now. Read Acts 15:1 to 5 again in order to understand the problem. Read verse 1 again. Jews said that if Gentiles were not circumcised they would not be what? \_\_\_\_\_

3. They would not be saved. This would make people believe that faith in Jesus is not enough. They would think they must also trust the law of Moses. The Jews said Gentiles must first obey the law of Moses.

Would thinking this be a help or a danger to the church? \_\_\_\_\_

4. It would be a danger. We are not saved by keeping laws. God gave the Jews the law of Moses. This was to prepare them for the coming of Jesus. But when Jesus came he fulfilled the law. This is what Jesus said about himself.

John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We remember that Paul also talked about this at Antioch. He said that God sent Jesus to save us. Jesus and Paul said the same thing.

Since Jesus came, how are we saved? \_\_\_\_\_

5. We are saved by believing in Jesus. Those who believe will be saved.

Mark 16:16:

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Paul also explained that those who believe will be set free. They will be free from the law of circumcision. But the Jews said that the Gentiles must be circumcised.

What would the problem of circumcision make people think about believing in Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. They would think that believing in Jesus is not enough. They would think that we save ourselves by doing certain things. But see what Paul later wrote to the Galatians.

Galatians 5:2-4:

if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage (or use) to you ... You are severed (or cut off) from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

The people would think that Jesus is not enough if they received what? \_\_\_\_\_

7. The problem of circumcision would make them think this. It would be a great danger to the church,

What is the first danger which the problem of circumcision brought to the church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) The church would be divided.

8. The first danger was: People would think that believing in Jesus is not enough. When you repented you believed in Jesus. You knew you were saved because the Bible says so. What if someone came and said you were not yet saved? You must learn all the commandments of the Jews. You must obey each one. Then you would be saved.

What would this make you think? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Perhaps you would not be deceived. You know that we are saved by faith. But many of these Gentiles were new Christians. They were still learning about Christ. It was a big problem for them when Jews said they must be circumcised. If this teaching continued, many people would be led away from Christ. The church would also be divided.

What is the first danger which the problem of circumcision brought to the church?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Some people would think that believing in Jesus is not enough. Others would think that it is enough. Some would trust in circumcision. Others would trust the work of Christ. In Antioch, Jews and Gentiles were living together as brothers. They were united by their faith in Jesus.

Galatians 3:28:

So there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

If people believe truly in Jesus, are they divided? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. They are not divided. They are one church. They are all in Jesus Christ. They are part of his body.

Ephesians 2:14:

For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility (or fighting), by abolishing (or ending) in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances.

If some Jews kept on saying that Gentiles had to be circumcised, what would be divided? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. The church would be divided. Some Gentiles did not want to be circumcised. They did not want to be Jews but Christians. Already we see the Christians arguing about the problem. When Christians are arguing, they are not telling the good news.

Acts 15:2:

And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them (about circumcision), Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

What problem was causing the church to be divided? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. It was the problem of circumcision. If this problem was not taken care of, it would bring danger to the church. There would be two groups in the church. There would be a Jewish group and a Gentile group. When the church is divided, the Holy Spirit is sad. He cannot work through the Christians.

What was the second danger which the problem of circumcision brought to the church?

(1) People would think that faith in Christ is not enough.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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14. The second problem was that the church would be divided. Paul and Barnabas saw the great danger from this problem. They said that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised. They tried to explain this to the Jews.

What was the first danger which the problem of circumcision brought to the church?  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. The first danger was: People would think that faith in Jesus is not enough. The problem of circumcision would lead people away from Christ. The church at Antioch decided to do something about the problem. They sent Paul and Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. Tomorrow we will see what happened.

What was the second danger which the problem of circumcision brought to the church?  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. The second danger was: The church would be divided. When a church is divided, it is weak. There is much trouble. People are thinking about the problem instead of loving each other. They are arguing instead of telling the good news to others.

Think of the two dangers from the problem of circumcision. Do you see any dangers like this in your church?

If you said Yes, write what the danger is.  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Your friends in class may be able to help you with this.

Write two dangers which the problem of circumcision brought to the church.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_