

Week 2 Overview

Reconnect

Use the first 15–30 minutes to build relationships, catch up from the week and get to know the people in your group.

This is the time to ask people one-on-one, “*how was your week*” so this question is brought up but does not dominate breakout.

Gather

Plan on spending around 60 minutes in discussion and prayer. As you begin your group discussion, please remind everyone about the two ground rules for a sermon-based study:

- (1) **We want everyone to come prepared.** This means we want you to study the passage ahead of time, listen to the sermon and come ready to participate in the group discussion. This also means if you are a talker, you need to be careful to not talk too much. If you are quiet, you need to speak up. Ask everyone to come prepared with at least one thing they want to share so they are ready to contribute to the group.
- (2) **We want everyone to come with a question or takeaway.** One way a sermon-based study is unique, is the way it is structured (or rather unstructured). Rather than having everyone work through a predetermined list of questions, we want people to bring their own questions to small group. Not only does this increase ownership and participation, it will also help your group focus on specific areas of interest and curiosity, which are more prone to result in life-change.

Breakout

Start by saying we only have 30 minutes, to set expectations so individuals won’t hijack this time and take too long. Since this is the first breakout, keep this light but intentional and authentic.

Ask your group, “*What is one highlight from this summer and are you anticipating any transitions or changes this coming year?*”

Leader’s Guide

Acts 14

Preview Acts 14

As a people of God who are abiding in Christ, we are to go to the world, Spirit-dependent and looking for open doors of faith.

In Acts 13, Paul is in the city of Antioch with *religious* people, but in Lystra in Acts 14, the context has changed to *secular* people. Notice how Paul speaks to these two groups very differently. In Acts 13, Paul refers to the history of Moses, Abraham and David. But in Acts 14, Paul refers back to the creation story of God who made heaven and earth. Through the example of rain, this living God is the source of life and is the One who has control over all of creation, including the power to open up doors of faith.

Discuss Acts 14

Being Spirit-dependent, Paul was always intentional in thinking about his audience and specifically who he was ministering to. He lived with purpose and he lived peacefully, knowing the results of sharing the gospel are not up to him. Only God can open doors through the transforming power of the gospel.

Who are the secular people in your life you are ministering to?

Often unbelievers are angry with God and point to problems they cannot reconcile with an all-powerful and all-loving God. But what about the goodness of God? *What are some examples of good things the Lord does for us that we take for granted?*

How has God opened doors of faith to people around you?

Apply Acts 14

This week let’s live with purpose as we look for open doors of faith and opportunities to be a witness of the goodness of God. And let’s also live peacefully, knowing God is the One who opens the doors of faith so we can rest in His redeeming work.

Spend time praying as a group for this upcoming week.