

## Bible background

Acts 14

## Aim of lesson

To help the children appreciate the power of God to heal and save.

## Preparation required

Collect/draw a set of pictures of people 'doing' lots of different things. Mount on a set of equal-sized cards of a size the children will be able to handle easily. Make two large card circles (one green and one red).

Remember the game 'Simon says...'

Make two large footsteps for Jesus with 'Jesus said, follow me' already written in.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Play 'Simon says' for a while. Now get the children to sit on the floor, cross-legged, and pretend to be lame. Play 'Simon says' again, with the rule that nobody may get up during the game, even to do what Simon says. Ask the children to talk about what it feels like not be able to do anything where you need to move legs and feet. Do they like it? Does it make them sad, cross, frustrated, etc.?
2. Give the children sets of 'action pictures' between twos. Put out the big circles. Have them sort the pictures into the green circle for things you can do, if you are lame, and the red circle for things you cannot do if you are lame. When all the pictures are sorted talk together about the 'go' actions and the 'stop' actions.
3. Tell the story of the man Paul and Barnabas met at Lystra who had never been able to walk. Ask the children if they think the apostles were able to help him and explain the story. Talk about how it was that he became able to use his legs - about God's power given to Paul and Barnabas combined with the man's faith that they could heal him. Was this magic?
4. Talk about the kinds of gods the people of Lystra worshipped - the Greek pantheon - and complete the story of Paul's and Barnabas' experiences emphasising the message of the gospel which they taught the people. Ask the children if they think Paul and Barnabas were doing their special job for God well.
5. Explain what happened when the Jews from Iconium came and how God saved Paul from dying. Briefly describe Paul's and Barnabas' return to Syria and Antioch.

## Alternative activities

1. If you have room, paint the soles of the children's feet and make footprints on a large sheet of paper/roll of wallpaper. Have a bowl of water, soap and towel at the ready and remember to protect the floor!
2. Do some ring/action games e.g. hokey cokey, looby loo, ring a roses etc. Talk about how the children needed to use their legs and feet to join in.
3. Draw pictures under the heading, 'Thank you God for legs so that I can....'

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children to draw round their feet. Help them to write in the outlines what we should be doing with our feet, e.g. 'walk in God's way', 'be kind', 'be like Jesus', 'say thank you', 'talk to God'. They could cut out the feet and make a set of footsteps up the wall, 'following' Jesus' footsteps. Alternatively they could make a track across the floor and then walk along it. While they are doing this, discuss with them about the enjoyable things and the difficulties of following Jesus - compare with the problems Paul and Barnabas had - but being positive about the value and real happiness of being a follower of Jesus.

## Prayer

Psalm 25:4-7, a prayer of David.

## Verse

'Turn ... to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea, and everything in them.' Acts 14:15.