

## Aim of lesson

To learn from the example of Paul and Barnabas to accept hardship and persecution patiently.

## Bible background

Acts 13:4 – 14:28.

## Outline of lesson

Encourage the class to hunt through the two chapters with the worksheet in front of them. They should fill in the place names and draw a line to represent the complete journey. The students could work in pairs or you could keep them as one group and accept suggestions from them all.

## What happened where

Divide the class into three groups. Give each group one of the following places: Paphos, Antioch (in Pisidia) and Lystra. Have each group find out what happened there, and prepare a short summary to read to the rest of the class.

Help the ‘Antioch’ group not to get too involved in the long speech Paul makes. Encourage them to see that he was telling the Jews that Jesus was the one that God had promised he would send – their Messiah; that he had been killed and raised to life again as had been prophesied. Have the three groups report back to the class so that all can write a brief account on the space around the three cities, or draw an illustration of what happened at each place.

## Hardship

Read together Acts 14:21-28. Ask the class about v22. Why did they need strengthening and encouraging? Why do Paul and Barnabas talk about hardship or tribulation? Ask the class to put a mark against the cities where Paul and Barnabas had been persecuted, or ill treated, and discuss how they (the class) would feel if they were treated like that. Their comments can be recorded in the space provided. Ensure the class appreciate that accepting hardship or persecution patiently is a command of the Lord Jesus, and something all who follow him must accept (Matthew 5:10-12; James 5:10).

Encourage the class to write what they think Paul and Barnabas might have said to the members of the church at Antioch when they returned. The space on the right hand corner is for the class to record what they think might have been John Mark’s thoughts. Had he been afraid? Did he now regret going back?

## Digging deeper

### Cyprus and Galatia

This section looks at the present-day area that Paul visited in his first missionary journey, and a little of what he later wrote to the Galatians.

## Relevance to our lives

Ask the class for examples of ‘hardship’ they could meet this week and accept patiently.

## Prayer

The class could compose a prayer about patience under hardship, which could be added to the class prayer sheet.

## Other suggestions for activities

- The class could prepare a mimed presentation of the visit to Lystra. One member of the class could read the narrative while the others act their parts.
- The large class map could be brought up to date showing how the gospel had spread further.