

God's Story Your Story

April 26, 2015

Faith 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith



Share:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Read:

 Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, "Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." Acts 13:14-15

Talk:

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What belief or action does your congregation cling to that might be challenged to change? What changes in understanding would need to happen to make those changes possible?
- If you could bring the message of God's love to any place in the world, where would you go? Why?

Pray:

God of wonder, your words and actions often perplex us. Open our minds so that we might see and receive more of you, for the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bless:

God who works through human hands, fill our lives with the words that point to you. Amen.

Some Background

It is easy to see how the crowds could misinterpret the actions of Barnabas and Paul. Their words and their healing miracles would have seemed foreign. The crowds made sense of what they saw and heard by placing Barnabas and Paul into the only boxes they knew for interpreting such odd behaviors; certainly these must be human representations of their Greek gods. But Paul urged them to open their minds and see the work not of gods, but of God, who can do far greater things. Perhaps we too, interpret what we see in the world within the limitations of the boxes we have raised. Where might we open our minds to see and receive the work of God that might not fit into our tightly crafted boxes?

Follow the stories of early believers and missionaries.

Sunday, Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18, *Paul's Mission*

Monday, Acts 13:4-12, *The Apostles Preach in Cyprus*

Tuesday, Acts 13:13-25, *Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia*

Wednesday, Acts 13:26-35, *Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia*

Thursday, Acts 13:36-52, *Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia*

Friday, Acts 14:1-7, *Paul and Barnabas in Iconium*

Saturday, Acts 14:8-20, *Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe*