

Small Group Study Guide: *To the End of the Earth.*
Acts 14:1-7

Opening Question: How do we see culture and/or opposition of any type potentially poisoning the minds of Christians?

1. The Situation: Believing and unbelieving. (14:1-2)

- Luke says that Paul spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. How can we communicate the gospel in such a way that it reaches lives and people believe? What do you think Paul said and/or shared that convinced both Jews AND Greeks to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Have you ever had people slander your name and/or hurtfully contradict your words? How did it feel? How did you respond? (Matthew 5:43-48)

2. Response: Bold words and wonderful deeds. (Acts 14:3)

- Paul responded to attacks by remaining, speaking boldly and being a witness for the Lord. In our own lives how might we duplicate this pattern?
 1. *Remained for a long time:* What does it look like to “dig in” and fight the fight of discipleship?
 2. *Spoke boldly:* What does it look like to speak boldly for our Lord?
 3. *A witness to the Word of Grace:* How can we allow God to use our hands/actions as a conduit of the Holy Spirit so our lives give witness to the word of grace?

3. Continue in the gospel or contradict it. (Acts 14:4-7)

- How does a clearly communicated gospel create division? Why? How do we speak the truth in love in such a way that ambiguity is removed?
- See Matthew 10:34-39. What do we learn about the message of Jesus Christ? Discuss the paradox of why the “good news” brings division. Why is this so?
- In Acts 14:7 we read that in spite of tough opposition, the Apostles “*continued to preach the gospel.*” What should this gospel tenacity look like in our own lives?