

*For Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026*

*Passage: Acts 14:8-20*



## **St Peter's Kids Resources**

Welcome to the resources for St Peter's Kids.

Each Sunday, Seekers and Diggers will normally explore the same Bible passage or theme as the rest of the church, in ways that are right for their different ages.

Our hope is to help the children:

- engage seriously with the Bible;
- grasp one clear central truth;
- understand why it matters;
- respond appropriately to God;
- enjoy being together and build good relationships.

### **How to use these resources**

These are resources, not a script. Please use your knowledge of the children and your own strengths as a leader, and feel free to adapt what is here. You certainly do not need to use everything suggested.

A simple, engaging conversation about the Bible can be far more valuable than an elaborate activity. The aim is always to help the children understand, remember and respond to God's word.

### **Seekers and Diggers**

- Seekers – Reception to Year 2: keep things short, concrete and interactive, using repetition, movement, visual material and questions they can genuinely answer.
- Diggers – Years 3 to 6: give children real opportunities to read the Bible, notice things in the text, think, question, discuss and respond. Aim for material that stretches them without feeling childish.

### **What about craft?**

Craft can be a great way to reinforce the Bible teaching or help children respond, but it is entirely optional. If you enjoy using craft and it genuinely helps the session, please do. If it does not, there is absolutely no need to include it.

## Summary

- God heals a man in Lystra through Paul
- The crowd misunderstands what has happened and thinks Paul and Barnabas are gods.
- Paul and Barnabas are horrified and tell them to turn from false gods to the living God.
- They explain that God is the Creator and giver of good things.
- Soon afterwards the crowd turns against Paul and he is violently attacked.
- Key verse: "turn from these vain things to a living God" – Acts 14:15.
- Aim: To help the children see that only the living God deserves our worship.
- Keep returning to: **Thank God for his gifts – worship God himself.**

## Things to notice in the passage

- The man has been unable to walk from birth.
- Paul sees that he has faith to be made well and tells him to stand.
- The healing is extraordinary.
- But the crowd draws the wrong conclusion.
- Instead of worshipping God, they want to worship Paul and Barnabas.
- Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes and urgently try to stop them.
- They point away from themselves to the living God.
- God is described as Creator: he made heaven, earth, sea and everything in them.
- God is also generous: he gives rain, crops, food and gladness.
- Then Jews arrive from Antioch and Iconium and persuade the crowds against Paul. He is stoned and dragged outside the city.

The contrast is striking. Paul goes from being treated like a god to being treated like an enemy. Neither response tells us the truth about him.

Paul is not God. He is a servant pointing people to God.

## Possible approach for Seekers

Keep the main truth simple: **Only the living God deserves our worship.**

You could begin with something impressive. Perhaps build something, show a special object, or talk about someone who is very talented.

Ask:

- Is it good to enjoy what somebody has done?
- Is it good to thank people?
- Should we worship them?

Then tell the story.

- God did something amazing through Paul: a man who had never walked stood up and walked.
- The crowd thought Paul and Barnabas must be gods.
- But Paul and Barnabas said: **No! We are only people. Worship the living God.**

Talk about good things God gives us:

- food;

- rain;
- sunshine;
- family;
- friends;
- abilities;
- people who help us.

Then make the distinction: **We thank God for his gifts, but we worship God himself.**

## Possible approach for Diggers

Read verses 8–18 and ask:

- What happens to the man?
- What conclusion does the crowd reach?
- Why is their conclusion wrong?
- How do Paul and Barnabas react?
- What do they want the crowd to do?
- What does Paul tell them about God?
- What gifts from God does he mention?

Then ask: **Why might people worship created things rather than the Creator?**

Children may not be tempted to worship Zeus or Hermes, but they may put other things at the centre of life:

- popularity;
- sport;
- success;
- possessions;
- celebrities;
- approval;
- being clever;
- being talented.

You could ask:

- How can we tell when a good thing has become too important?
- What is the difference between enjoying something and worshipping it?
- Why does Paul describe God as “living”?

Then notice the extraordinary change by verse 19. The same place that wanted to worship Paul is soon attacking him. That is another reminder not to live for people’s approval.

## Connecting it with St Peter’s

There are plenty of people we can be thankful for:

- parents;
- teachers;
- church leaders;
- SPK leaders;
- friends;
- people whose gifts help us.

But no Christian leader is the hero of Christianity.

No preacher, musician, leader or helper should take the place that belongs to Jesus.

Good Christian ministry always points away from ourselves and towards God.

## Possible activities

- **Giver or gift?** Name good things and trace them back to God as giver.
- **Thank or worship?** Sort examples into appropriate gratitude and worship.
- **What matters most?** Talk through things that can become too important.
- **Creator list:** name things in the world God has made.
- **Thank-you prayer:** each child names one good gift from God and thanks him.

## A note for leaders

The point is not that created things are bad. Paul explicitly speaks of the good things God gives.

The problem is when we take something God made and give it the place that belongs to God.

So the pattern is:

1. God is the living Creator.
2. God gives good things.
3. We receive them thankfully.
4. We worship God rather than the gifts.

And ultimately, Christians know God's greatest gift is Jesus.

## Prayer

- Praise God as the living God and Creator.
- Thank him for the good things he gives.
- Ask him to forgive us when other things become more important to us than he is.
- Pray that we would enjoy his gifts without worshipping them.
- Thank God especially for Jesus.