

For Sunday 25th October 2026

Passage: Acts 14:19-28



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

- Paul has just faced serious opposition and suffering.
- Yet Paul and Barnabas continue preaching.
- They return to strengthen and encourage the new Christians.
- They tell them that following Jesus will sometimes involve hardship.
- They appoint elders in the churches.
- They return to Antioch and report what God has done.
- Key verse: “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” – Acts 14:22.
- Aim: To help the children see that following Jesus can be hard, but God strengthens his people and keeps his work going.
- Keep returning to: **Jesus is worth following, even when it is hard.**

Things to notice in the passage

The beginning of the reading gives important context. Paul has just been attacked and left for dead. That makes what follows remarkable. He does not conclude that God’s mission has failed. Paul and Barnabas continue preaching. They then return to the places where new Christians have begun following Jesus.

Verse 22 tells us what they do:

- strengthen the disciples;
- encourage them to continue in the faith;
- prepare them for hardship.

They also appoint elders in each church and entrust the believers to the Lord. Then they return to Antioch.

Verse 27 is another important verse: they report **all that God had done with them** and how God had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas have worked very hard. But it’s right that God gets the credit.

Possible approach for Seekers

Keep the main point simple: **Following Jesus can be hard, but God gives his people help and encouragement to keep going.**

You could begin by talking about things that are difficult but worth continuing with.

For example:

- learning to ride a bike;
- learning to swim;
- practising an instrument;
- finishing a difficult piece of work.

Ask:

- What helps you keep going when something is difficult?
- Who encourages you?

Then explain that following Jesus is sometimes difficult too.

Paul had been badly hurt because he was telling people about Jesus. But he kept going. And he went back to encourage other Christians.

You could repeat: **Jesus is worth following, even when it is hard.**

Help the children think about ways Christians encourage one another:

- praying;
- reminding each other what is true;
- helping when someone is sad;
- coming to church;
- reading the Bible together;
- saying, "Keep going."

Possible approach for Diggers

Ask the children to notice the sequence:

1. Paul suffers.
2. Paul keeps preaching.
3. Paul returns to strengthen other Christians.
4. Churches are given leaders.
5. Paul reports what God has done.

Questions:

- Why might Paul have been tempted not to go back?
- What does he tell the new Christians in verse 22?
- Does following Jesus mean life will always become easier?
- Why might new Christians need encouragement?
- Why appoint elders?
- What does Paul report when he returns to Antioch?
- Who gets the credit for what has happened?

Two particularly important applications:

1. Hardship does not mean God has abandoned us

Christians sometimes face difficulty precisely because they are following Jesus. That does not mean God has lost control.

2. Christians need one another

Paul does not simply make converts and move on. He returns to strengthen them. Following Jesus is not designed to be a solo activity.

Then look at verse 27. Paul and Barnabas report what God had done.

A useful question: **What is the difference between saying "Look what we achieved" and "Look what God has done"?**

Connecting it with St Peter's

We can strengthen other Christians too.

Children can:

- encourage somebody who is nervous;
- pray for somebody who is struggling;
- remind someone what the Bible says;
- welcome a child who is new;
- listen when someone is upset;
- help someone keep following Jesus.

We should also be thankful for Christian leaders.

God gives leaders to churches to teach, encourage and care for his people.

Possible activities

- **Keep going:** simple team challenge where children encourage one another.
- **Encouragement cards:** write a short Christian encouragement for somebody else.
- **What would help?** Discuss scenarios where somebody is finding following Jesus difficult.
- **God did it:** list things in Acts 14 and ask what God has been doing through Paul and Barnabas.
- **Prayer circle:** pray for Christians who are finding life difficult.

A note for leaders

Be careful not to turn this into: "If you are tough enough, you can cope with anything."

That is not the Christian message.

Paul and Barnabas strengthen the disciples because Christians need strengthening. They encourage them because Christians need encouragement. They appoint elders because Christians need leaders. And finally they report what God has done.

The hope is not our toughness.

The hope is that God is at work and will keep his people.

Prayer

- Thank God that he does not abandon his people when things are hard.
- Pray for Christians who are suffering because they follow Jesus.
- Ask God to help us encourage one another.
- Thank him for Christian leaders.
- Thank God for what he is doing through his church.