



Small Group Questions: It's Time to Get Up

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Read

Acts 14: 1—22, 1 John 4:4; 2 Corinthians 4:8—9; and Galatians 6:9

Reflect

In Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas embark on their first missionary journey, filled with zeal for the mission and the growing number of conversions taking place. But in the town of Iconium, unbelievers whose power is threatened, stir up the crowds against the apostles, causing them to flee to Lystra. There, Paul and Barnabas heal a lame man and the people start to view them as gods, which is not at all what the apostles want. Soon, the troublemakers from Iconium arrive to once again incite the crowd against them. Paul is stoned and dragged outside the city, left for dead. If you say yes to God, at some point, you will hit a wall. But how will you handle it?

Pastor Greg highlights three things to remember when you hit the wall:

1. God has trusted you with a powerful mission.
 - a. Have you ever received a prompting from God—a holy hunch—but when you acted on it in obedience, things went very wrong? Explain.
 - b. Do you ever doubt that you were created for significance? Why do you think God allows failure even when you are obediently responding to Him?
2. There will always be people who don't understand.
 - a. Some people will give you too much credit.
 - i. The crowd mistakenly tried to exalt Paul and Barnabas. What idols are taking God's place in your life?
 - ii. In what ways might you be taking the credit God deserves? Where do you tend to feed your ego? In the gifts, talents, or skills given by God? The situation you were born into? Or worked hard to earn?
 - iii. How willing are you to admit your struggles to others?
 - b. Some people will throw rocks at you.
 - i. Have you experienced someone throwing rocks? How did you deal with it? Have you ever been the one to throw rocks? In hindsight, what would you do differently? Why do people throw rocks?
 - ii. The Bible says we can expect opposition for our faith. We must predetermine how to respond. What is your plan?
3. If you want them to remember your story, you've got to get up.
 - a. After Paul was stoned and left for dead outside the city, why did he get up? What helped him get up?
 - b. Are you making use of the blessings God offers through others, or have you pulled away?
 - c. Who needs you to be there for them? Who is going through a difficult time and could use your faith—your prayers and support—at a time when theirs is faltering? How willing are you to recognize that they are God's chosen, too?

Failure will happen. Will you get up and keep trying in obedience to God? You are responsible for not quitting. God is responsible for the harvest.

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?