

Transition:

The word of God is being proclaimed throughout Antioch and Paul and Barnabas are persecuted. Instead of hiding and running, they shake the dust off their feet and come into Iconium where the disciples are filled with joy and the Holy Ghost. But their troubles and persecution are not over yet...

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the Jewish leaders continually persecuting Paul and the other disciples? Should we expect persecution today for proclaiming the gospel?
2. What does “we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God,” mean?
3. Why did they appoint elders? Why not just stick around and “pastor” this church themselves?

Fundamental:

Eldership – Biblical eldership happens when trust is bestowed upon disciples to take care of the needs of the church. They are appointed, prayed over and commended unto the Lord so that the apostle can continue proclaiming the word of God. If a church operates in such a way where one man is the sole person in charge, where he goes, so does the church. Pastors must learn this lesson of commending others unto the Lord, appointing elders to watch and take care of the flock so that God's word can continue to be taught to the nations.

After reading 1 Tim 3, Titus 1 and 1 Pet 5, discuss the following questions:

1. Who are the Elders?
2. Is it for everyone? What qualifications must be met?
3. Why are they needed?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Study why the Protestant Reformation happened. Understand why biblical eldership is necessary for the health of the Church.
2. Please read Acts 15 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

You will have some people in your small group who desire to be an elder, that's wonderful! The Bible says it is! However, they must meet the qualifications.

Prayer:

Pray that men will take responsibility in God's church and that others would believe and delegate.

Extras:

Biblical Eldership by Alexander Strauch