

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, June 17, 2018**

**Inspiration Leads to Perspiration  
Week 4 in the series "Leave Your Mark"  
A Study of Acts 14:21-28**

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The military spends a lot of money recruiting men and women for service. Name some slogans you've heard in their advertising and some advantages of military service that recruiters promote.

After men and women are recruited, they are put through boot camp where it sometimes seems they aren't actually wanted after all. How does boot camp prepare civilians for the life of a soldier?

To return home from his first missionary journey, Paul doubled back through the cities he had visited to reinforce the new believers. Why is this work of *strengthening* believers as important as *making* believers?

Paul and Barnabas wanted to provide three things vital to the growth and health of Christians. Use your sermon notes to fill in the blanks as you come to them.

E \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 14:21-22.

In verse 22, he encourages them "to remain true to the faith." Sometimes the Bible talks about "faith" and sometimes the Bible talks about "the faith." What is the difference?

What is the content of "the faith"? What are some of the beliefs and behaviors that are included in that term?

Because they were loyal to "the faith," Paul expected these Christians to face difficult life experiences. What kind of things do you think Paul expected these Christians to face?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ What towns does Paul list in these verses?
- ❖ Are they the same towns listed in Acts 14:21-22?
- ❖ According to Paul's words to Timothy, should we expect hardship or is that only something that happened long ago and far away? (Hint: See 2 Timothy 3:12)
- ❖ What resource does Paul tell Timothy to cling to in order to endure hardship? (Hint: See 2 Timothy 3:14-17)

What kind of difficult life experiences do Christians today face because of their faith?

How can we prepare each other to face these difficulties?

How can we support others who are in the middle of these difficulties?

C \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 14:23.

Paul believed their spiritual progress could not happen without connecting them together in a church community. Do you agree?

In Austin, millions of bats leave the Congress Avenue Bridge each evening to find food. When was the last time you witnessed this? The bats fly out together as a defense against predators. How does flying out together help them against predators? How does this apply to our need to be in Christian community?

Someone said “We’re in a generation that loves choice and hates choosing.” What does that mean and do you agree? How could this quote help us understand why many Christians never commit in membership to a specific church? (The quote is from *The Choice Effect: Love and Commitment in an Age of Too Many Options*, by Amalia McGibbon, Lara Vogel, Claire A. Williams)

Why is it significant that the Bible uses analogies for a church like a building, a body, a family, and a vine?

Why is “doing life together” important in your life?

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 13:3 and 14:23. What was the purpose of this prayer?

Read Romans 12:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. What do these verses tell you about Paul’s prayer teachings?

How and why is prayer important to our group?

Are you praying for our search for a Children’s Minister and a Youth Minister?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests