



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe-
Keeping Your Ego in Check*

Text: Acts 14:1-20

Service Date: September 21, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Embarrassment has a way of keeping us humble. What's one of the most embarrassing things that happened to you recently (or perhaps ever)?

Sermon Discussion

- Take a moment to read Acts 14:1-20. From the text or sermon, what things stuck out to you?
- How do Paul and Barnabas' reactions in Acts 14 serve as a model for how to handle praise and success? Why is it so difficult to respond with humility when others try to elevate us?
- (*If you don't use social media, feel free to skip this question.*) Social media and ego can be a tricky combination—maybe you've struggled with this yourself. People often share only the highlights of their lives, which can come across as bragging or presenting a picture-perfect image. Others may interpret this as prideful, or it may even stir up feelings of bitterness or comparison. If you use social media:
 - >How do you find a healthy balance between sharing your life and not making it all about you?
 - >Have you ever struggled with something a fellow Christian posted online—such as promoting entertainment choices, language, modest clothing, or other content that didn't seem to reflect Christ or align with your values?
 - >How do you think Jesus would have approached social media in terms of posting?
- Has there ever been a time in your life where you let your ego get out of control? How did that turn out for you? What did you learn from that experience?
- What are some warning signs that pride or ego may be getting out of control in your life? How can we recognize subtle ways pride shows up in our thoughts, words, or decisions?
- How do you balance being confident in your God-given abilities without bragging about them?

- We live in a world where people often need to be noticed in order to move up—whether it’s earning a promotion or getting recognized by a boss. How should a Christian navigate this reality—being assertive without appearing prideful or driven by ego?
- Why are humility and empathy such great attributes in a leader?
- In Acts 14, there is a great opportunity for Paul’s pride to take over. Luke says the Apostle Paul is winning Jews and Greeks to Christ with his powerful preaching. He also describes the healing of a man paralyzed from birth. As a result, the people begin to believe that Paul and Barnabas are gods. Have you ever had a time where people thought you were something you aren’t, but you struggled to correct them?
- Feelings of pride and entitlement can trip up anyone. Why is it so easy to believe that we deserve special treatment?
- God gave the Apostle Paul a handicap to keep him in constant touch with his limitations. Is there something in your life that God is using to keep your ego in check?
- In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul tells us to take up the same attitude as Christ Jesus, which is humility. What are some ways that Jesus showed His humility while here on Earth, and why is it so important for us to share that attitude?
- Reflecting on Proverbs 16:18 and 2 Corinthians 12:9, how do these Scriptures challenge our culture’s obsession with self-promotion and image management? How can we “boast in weakness” rather than pretend we have it all together?

This Week’s Action Response

- What is one area of your life where you need to “check the mirror” and ask God to help you surrender pride and/or control? How can your group support you in taking a next step toward humility?

Impact Opportunity

The African Children’s Choir is going to be performing at Tri-Village on Monday evening, Oct. 27. We’re looking for individuals/families who would be open to hosting children in their homes for Sunday-Tuesday night. If you’d be available or would like more information, visit tri-village.org/choir to sign-up. (Note: Children can share beds and prefer to sleep in the same room so host homes do not need a lot of space.)