



Popular Opinion | Week of October 24-30, 2021

Welcome (5-10 minutes):

Take some time to hear how each other's week has been going. Use the "F.O.R.D." method if needed (ask about each other's **F**amily, **O**ccupation, **R**ecreation Activities, or **D**reams and Goals).

Ice-Breaker Questions (5-10 minutes):

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream or snowball? Has that favorite ever changed over the years?

Opening Questions (5-10 minutes):

Today, we're going to talk about being rooted in God's truth rather than trends that are constantly changing. **What are some things that are common in our society that change with the times (e.g. fashion, art, etc.)?**

Read This Week's Passage

Acts 14:1-20

Paul's Travels from this Week's Passage



Truth 1:

In this week's sermon, we saw that the "trap of following popular opinion rather than God's truth" is **conformity**. In Acts 14:2, we saw that the Jews from Iconium stirred up the Gentiles and "poisoned their minds" so that they opposed Paul and Barnabas' message of the Gospel.

In what ways are you and I tempted to live our lives by popular opinion rather than God's word? These Jews were men and women who had deep religious roots. In what ways can present-day religious practices cloud our judgment and prevent us from following God's ways?

Truth 2:

In this week's sermon, we saw that the "trap of following popular opinion rather than God's truth" is **confusion**. In Acts 14:11, the Gentiles living in Lystra mistook God's miracle as a supernatural event of pagan/mythological origin.

How were the people living in Lystra confused by the miracle that they saw? Like them, in what ways do our backgrounds, rather than God's word, shape our worldview? The people of Lystra saw Paul and Barnabas as something that they weren't. How are we sometimes tempted to put people on a pedestal rather than God?

Truth 3:

In this week's sermon, we saw that the "trap of following popular opinion rather than God's truth" is **capriciousness** (sudden changes in mood or behavior; fickleness). In Acts 14:19, the people of Lystra went from wanting to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods to killing them in the streets.

In what ways are we tempted to swing from one opinion to another based on other people's beliefs? How can we look at situations in our lives objectively rather than impulsively? Are we careful to influence others only in ways that are grounded in God's Truth?