



# EKKLESIA

*Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide*



**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 14:19-23

**SERIES:** Ekklesia

**TITLE:** Spiritual Leadership in the Church

**BIG IDEA:** God has provided spiritual leadership for His church to strengthen their souls, encouragement their faith, and prepare them for suffering.

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## **SUMMARY**

*Paul and Barnabas are seen for as kings then as villains. They are the victims of theological disagreement getting out of control and turning violent. Paul could have used this opportunity to say something ill of these people or even leave. He doesn't do that. He goes back. He knows that his purpose is the spiritual health of these people and he doesn't give up on them. He shares the Gospel, leads them to Christ, disciples leaders, and places elders in the churches to strengthen their souls, encourage them in their faith, and prepare them for suffering*

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## **TEXT**

Acts 14:19-23

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed

<sup>19</sup> But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

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## **1. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP COMES WITH A COST.**

- In what ways is each believer a spiritual leader?
- What is the cost of this leadership?
- What was the cost associated with Paul's calling?
- How did this cost refine him into a stronger leader?

<sup>20</sup>But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup>When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

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## **2. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IS GOD'S PROVIDENCE FOR ENCOURAGING THE CHURCH.**

- What is remarkable about Paul's response?
- What does it mean for someone to strengthen the souls of others?
- How would a believer encourage others to continue in their faith?
- Why is preparation for suffering a necessity for the church?

<sup>23</sup> And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

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### **3. GOD'S DESIGN FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IS A PLURALITY OF ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH.**

- Why would they appoint multiple elders in every church?
- What does prayer and fasting show us about the importance of this office?
- How does eldership with multiple shepherds help the church?
- Since eldership and plurality of leadership is the biblical model, what should our church's response be?

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### **Head / Heart / Hands**

- What does this text teach me?
- What does it tell me to feel?
- What does it tell me to do?