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Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encouraged you, challenged or convicted you.

1. Before reading, pray for the spirit's leading, for insight that leads to understanding, and courage that turns knowledge into action. Read all of chapter 14.
2. Take a closer look now, at verses 1. Consider the phrase, "and spoke in such a way that both Jews and Greeks believed." Think on the language that is commonly found in religious contexts versus the language that is found in the world. Do our words help or hinder those around us from seeing Christ? Pray for words that point to him.
3. Look at verses 2-7. Notice the divisions that form amidst the young believers. Notice the backlash aimed at the apostles. Consider the divisions that exist in our time. Consider the burden church leaders bear. Let these thoughts lead you to prayer for our local churches to unite as The Church and for church leaders to be encouraged and sustained as they labor for the gospel.
4. Spend time in verses 8-10. See the man in need. Notice his attentive listening. Recognize Paul's recognition of the man's faith and nearness to healing. Bring to the Lord your needs or another's need in prayer today. Pray that those would hear the Gospel, in a fresh way, in need. Pray for eyes to see the hurting and for faith that heals.
5. Read verses 11-13. The crowd misunderstands where Paul and Barnabas' power comes from. Consider the ways we are inclined to misunderstand power—other's or our own. Re-consider power as the "dominion" God commanded in Genesis 1 and 2, power exercised in right relationship with God. Consider the way Jesus, exercised, set down, and picked up power. Pray for a renewed and sanctified understanding of power today.
6. Take time in verses 14-18. If we are honest, we have all made sacrifices (time, talent, treasure) to vain things. Confess these things to the Lord today. Walk in His truth and His life. Notice also how God makes himself known and blesses to those who don't yet know him (maybe you before you knew Him). Thank God for his tender mercies.
7. Read and consider verses 19-28. Paul faces more than a small setback. His friends gather round, together they carry on. Meditate on verse 22. See how the spread of the Gospel cannot be stopped. Pray for perseverance in trial, the strength of the fellowship and for the effective movement of the Gospel.