## Acts 14:21-28 (ESV)

<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.
<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.

## Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

<sup>24</sup> Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. <sup>25</sup> And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, <sup>26</sup> and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. <sup>27</sup> And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup> And they remained no little time with the disciples.

1. Think about a time when you or someone close to you experienced tribulation. What was your/their response?

2. Verse 22 says that "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. Consider this statement: "Hard times and persecution do not mean something is wrong with your Christian life. It means you are on track." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

3. When turning towards home from their lengthy journey, instead of taking the quick route, the apostles pass back through the cities they had fled. What was their purpose in this?

4. Looking at verse 23 how did the apostles establish leadership in the young churches?

5. What encouragement and help did the apostles give the new followers of Jesus? How can you help younger Christians establish their faith?

6. In verse 27 Paul and Barnabas report back to the church in Antioch everything that God had done. Why is this significant?

7. There is a sense of completion in verses 24-28. At least for now, Paul and Barnabas have accomplished their kingdom mission and are enjoying a time of rest. When have you had a similar feeling after an intense period of giving yourself to others?