



THE BOOK OF ACTS PART II

UBC Study Guide – Acts chapters 13 - 28



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Acts part two Overview

The Author: Doctor Luke

Audience: Theophilus (“one who loves God”), Gentiles, and people everywhere

Purpose of the book: To give an accurate account of the birth and growth of the Christian church. The outline of the entire book is documented in Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”¹

The first half of the book of Acts documents the origination of the church in Jerusalem and Judea. The second half of Acts chapters 13-28 introduces us to the expansion of the newly formed church into Samaria and the end of the earth. Luke also documents the difficulties the church faced with that expansion. Pastor Rivers, in our Next Level meeting said, “when the church grows the church has to change the way things are done”.

The first twelve chapters tell of the beginning of the church in Jerusalem, its spread into Judea and Samaria, and the establishment of the strong church at Antioch. The mission of the church was mainly to the Jews. However, all of this changes in the remainder of the book of Acts. The main push of the church turned to the Gentile world of the Roman Empire, and eventually even beyond the boundaries of the Roman Empire. Evangelism from this point on is more organized and focused on the spreading of the Gospel to the rest of the world. However, this thrust did present the Church with a different set of challenges. Acts is the only biblical book that chronicles the history of the church immediately after Jesus’ ascension.

¹ [*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ac 1:8.

Activities to watch for in the second half of Acts:

- A Successful Missionary Journey Completed
- The Jerusalem Conference
- Paul's Second Missionary Journey
- Through Macedonia and Into Greece
- Completing the Second Missionary Journey
- Paul's Ministry in Ephesus
- The Third Missionary Journey
- Jerusalem at Last
- Paul's Defense Before the Temple Mob
- In Jeopardy in Jerusalem
- On Trial in Caesarea
- On Trial Before Festus
- Paul's Defense Before Agrippa
- Heading for Rome
- Rome at Last²

The Learning process:

Doctor Luke is documenting the lessons learned by the Apostles and the actions of the early church. I believe that the learning process has five basic steps:

1. **Exposure** – one cannot learn what they have not been exposed to,
2. **Repetition** – one must be exposed to somethings more than once; however, it only takes getting burned once thus repeating that experience may not necessary.
3. **Understanding** – is the discernment of the intended meaning of something.
4. **Conviction** – one must be assured and confident that what he/she has been exposed to is true.
5. **Application** – One must put into practice what he/she has been exposed to. Education without application is just information. The main point of the book of Acts is the application of the principles and precepts that Jesus thought.

² John W. Wade, [Acts: Unlocking the Scriptures for You](#), Standard Bible Studies (Cincinnati, OH: Standard, 1987), 5.

Barnabas and Saul Sent Off - Acts 13:1-3

Think About It

1. What send-off or farewell stands out in your memory?
2. If you were going away on a long trip, what kind of send-off would you prefer?
3. If you and a coworker of your choice were transferred to jobs overseas, whom would you want to go along with you?

Examine It

4. Who made up the leadership of the church at Antioch? ([13:1](#))
5. What was the leadership like at the church in Antioch? ([13:1](#))
6. What was the background of the church leaders at Antioch? ([13:1](#))
7. How did the church at Antioch become so cosmopolitan? ([13:1](#))
8. Despite their various backgrounds, how did the leaders of the church at Antioch function? ([13:2](#))
9. While they were worshiping and fasting, what did the Holy Spirit say to the men? ([13:2](#))
10. What did God want the church to do with Barnabas and Saul? ([13:2](#))
11. Why did the Holy Spirit tell the leaders to "set apart" Barnabas and Saul? ([13:2](#))
12. What were Barnabas and Saul called to do? ([13:2](#))
13. What preceded the departure of the missionaries? ([13:3](#))
14. Why did the church leaders lay hands on Barnabas and Saul? ([13:3](#))
15. Where did the missionaries go? ([13:3](#))

Understand It

16. What variety of people attends your church?
17. How diverse is your church leadership?
18. Why should churches pray over and lay hands on missionaries and other ministers?
19. When should church leaders lay hands on members of the congregation?
20. How important is worship to the life of a church?
21. How can your church best serve missions?
22. What can you do to serve missions and missionaries?
23. What is the purpose of fasting?
24. Why should Christians fast?
25. When might a church want to fast as a congregation?
26. How can you show support for the leadership of your church?

Apply It

27. What time can you commit to prayer each day for the staff of your church?
28. When can you find time this week to write a letter of encouragement to a missionary?

On Cyprus - Acts 13:4-12

Think About It

1. When was the last time you were taken in by a particularly good sales pitch?
2. When you were in elementary school, what tricks did you play on others?
3. Who helped you get settled into your first full-time job? How?

Examine It

4. Who directed Barnabas and Saul on their journey? ([13:4](#))
5. Where did Barnabas and Saul go? ([13:4-5](#))
6. What did the missionaries do in Salamis? ([13:5](#))
7. Who helped Barnabas and Saul? ([13:5](#))
8. Whom did Barnabas and Saul meet at Paphos? ([13:6-7](#))
9. Why did the proconsul send for Barnabas and Saul? ([13:7](#))
10. What did Bar-Jesus (Elymas) do? ([13:8](#))
11. How did Saul (also called Paul) respond to Elymas? ([13:9-11](#))
12. Why did Elymas oppose the Word of God? ([13:10](#))
13. What was the judgment against the sorcerer? ([13:11](#))
14. When Sergius Paulus saw the miracle, what did he do? ([13:12](#))

Understand It

15. How often do missionaries speak at your church?
16. When missionaries visit your church, how can you benefit from their teaching and experience?
17. How can we be helpful to missionaries and other Christian workers?
18. What are some ways that people oppose the gospel?
19. How is Paul's aggressive approach to dealing with sin a helpful example for us to follow?
20. Given your background, training, and interests, to what group of people are you best suited to share the news about Christ?

Apply It

21. How can you be helpful to a missionary or Christian worker in your church this week?
22. In what situation do you need the Holy Spirit's guidance?

In Pisidian Antioch - [Acts 13:13-52](#)

Think About It

1. What are some of your favorite quotes?
2. Who is one of the best speakers you have ever heard?
3. When have you been moved to action by great preaching?
4. Who is one person who can affect whether you have a good or bad day? How?

Examine It

5. What happened at Perga? ([13:13-14](#))
6. Where did the missionaries go after leaving Perga? ([13:14](#))
7. What did the synagogue rulers say to Paul and Barnabas? ([13:14-15](#))
8. What were Paul and his companions invited to do in the synagogue? ([13:14-15](#))
9. In his initial response to the invitation to speak, what did Paul say? ([13:16](#))
10. In surveying the history of Israel, what key events did Paul mention? ([13:17-22](#))
11. How was the mention of David an easy transition to refer to Jesus in Paul's message? ([13:23-25](#))
12. To whom was the message of salvation sent? ([13:26](#))
13. How did Paul confirm the fact of Jesus' resurrection from the dead? ([13:33-37](#))
14. How is forgiveness of sins possible? ([13:38-39](#))
15. What did Paul say would happen to his hearers if they failed to recognize Jesus as Savior? ([13:40-41](#))
16. How did people respond to the message Paul preached? ([13:42-43](#))
17. What did the people do and say as Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue? ([13:42-43](#))
18. What happened on the Sabbath after Paul first spoke in Perga? ([13:44-45](#))
19. Why did Paul and Barnabas turn their attention to non-Jewish (Gentile) audiences? ([13:45-48](#))
20. How did Paul and Barnabas turn to the Gentiles? ([13:46-48](#))
21. How did the Gentiles respond to the Word of the Lord? ([13:48](#))
22. What happened to Paul and Barnabas as the church grew and became stronger? ([13:49-52](#))
23. What price did Paul and Barnabas pay for telling people about Christ? ([13:50](#))
24. What effect did the opposition have on Paul and Barnabas? ([13:51-52](#))
25. What gave Paul and Barnabas joy? ([13:52](#))

Understand It

26. How should Christians settle their differences?
27. If you had an opportunity to speak to a group of people about Christ, what would you say?
28. How did Barnabas feel when Paul assumed leadership in Pisidian Antioch?
29. How would it be hard for you to give up a position of leadership?
30. What is the importance of timing in telling people about Christ?
31. When have you been rejected because of your faith?

Apply It

32. What verse or principle will help you have joy in whatever circumstances you face?
33. In what settings can you be a witness for Christ this week?
34. How can you stand strong when your Christian identity leaves you alone or isolated in some way?

In Iconium - Acts 14:1-7

Think About It

1. What makes a person successful in your line of work?
2. When do you feel best about your work?
3. What are some issues that often cause disagreement among people?

Examine It

4. At Iconium, where did Paul and Barnabas go? ([14:1](#))
5. Where did the apostles begin telling others about Christ? ([14:1](#))
6. Who became believers at Iconium? Why? ([14:1](#))
7. How did unbelievers oppose what Paul and Barnabas were doing? ([14:2](#))
8. How did the apostles respond to the opposition? ([14:3](#))
9. What did the Lord enable Paul and Barnabas to do? Why? ([14:3](#))
10. How was the city divided? ([14:4](#))
11. What did certain people plot against the apostles? ([14:5](#))
12. When Paul and Barnabas discovered the plot against them, what did they do? ([14:6](#))
13. Despite the setback Paul and Barnabas suffered, what did they do in Lystra and Derbe? ([14:6-7](#))

Understand It

14. When faced with conflict and opposition, how did the apostles pull together?
15. Which pastoral task do you think your minister enjoys most?
16. When does your pastor speak most effectively?
17. What happens to the church when a congregation divides its loyalties among leaders?
18. How can you and others in your church support your ministerial staff?
19. What should you do when people oppose you for being a Christian?
20. When is it best to run from persecution or leave a situation that threatens your faith?
21. Why is it important for us to pray daily for the missionaries we support?

Apply It

22. When you face a conflict this week, how can you rely on the Lord for help?
23. How can you support those whom God has called to lead your church?
24. For what missionary will you pray every day this week?

In Lystra and Derbe - [Acts 14:8-20](#)

Think About It

1. If you suddenly could have the ability to do something you had never done before, what skill would you like to have?
2. What would you do if you received an expensive gift that you didn't think you deserved?
3. When has someone unexpectedly turned against you?

Examine It

4. What did Paul do for the crippled man in Lystra? ([14:8-10](#))
5. How did the crowd respond to what Paul had done? ([14:11-13](#))
6. Why were the apostles horrified when they discovered what was happening? ([14:14](#))
7. Why did Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes? ([14:14](#))
8. What was the apostles' message to the crowd? ([14:15-17](#))
9. How did Paul tailor his message to the audience? ([14:15-17](#))
10. Despite the apostles' message, why was it difficult to restrain the crowd? ([14:18](#))
11. Who came from Antioch and Iconium to poison the minds of the people against the missionaries? ([14:19](#))
12. What did the crowd do to Paul? ([14:19](#))
13. Who helped Paul? ([14:20](#))
14. When did Paul return to Lystra? ([14:20](#))
15. After Paul and Barnabas left Lystra, where did they go? ([14:20](#))

Understand It

16. Paul knew when someone needed to be healed and what people needed to hear; why was he so perceptive?
17. How can you be sensitive to the needs of others?
18. When have you received credit or recognition you didn't deserve?
19. Why is it important to give glory to God?
20. The early missionaries had a demanding schedule and dangerous life-style; how might you have coped with the pressures they faced?
21. When are you typically in the company of people who are very different from you?
22. In talking about Christ with non-Christians, what can you do to speak their language?
23. Paul paid an enormous price for his testimony; what risks are there for you in living for Christ?

Apply It

24. How can you challenge yourself to serve the Lord completely each day?
25. What can you do to direct people's attention to Christ and away from you?
26. Where can you go to witness to an unbeliever this week?

The Return to Antioch in Syria - [Acts 14:21-28](#)

Think About It

1. What kind of vacation most appeals to you (trips to other cities, backwoods hiking, visits to the beach, etc.)?
2. How busy is your daily schedule?
3. What do you do to relax?

Examine It

4. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Derbe? ([14:21](#))
5. What was the result of the apostles' evangelism? ([14:21](#))
6. Why did Paul and Barnabas retrace their steps to Antioch? ([14:22](#))
7. What kind of warnings did the missionaries give the young converts? ([14:22](#))
8. How did the apostles establish leadership in the young churches? ([14:23](#))
9. What encouragement and help did the apostles give the new Christians? ([14:22-23](#))
10. Where did the return journey to Antioch take the apostles? ([14:24-26](#))
11. On their way to Antioch, where did the apostles preach? ([14:25](#))
12. When they returned to Antioch, what did Paul and Barnabas do? ([14:27](#))
13. Why was it important that Paul and Barnabas report on their activity to the church at Antioch? ([14:26](#))
14. How long did the apostles remain in Antioch? ([14:28](#))

Understand It

15. Why would you return to a church or community that had made you feel unwelcome before?
16. What does the apostles' ability to withstand rejection say about their faith and leadership?
17. What would your pastor do if faced with persecution?
18. How does your church disciple new Christians?
19. In your church, how does a person become a leader?
20. How should missionaries be accountable to the church?
21. How has your church been blessed by the work of missionaries?
22. How can you help younger Christians get established in the faith?

Apply It

23. In what ways can you benefit from the teaching of your church elders this week?
24. What younger Christian can you encourage this week? How?
25. What can you do this week to become a stronger Christian?

The Council at Jerusalem - Acts 15:1-21

Think About It

1. When faced with a problem, do you want someone else to solve it, or do you like to figure out for yourself what you should do? Why?
2. What is most challenging to you about enforcing rules?
3. When you think your opinion is right, how do you tend to express your view?

Examine It

4. Who came to Antioch? Why? ([15:1](#))
5. What were the men from Judea teaching the Christians? ([15:1](#))
6. On what did the men of Judea base their theology? ([15:1](#))
7. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the teaching problem at Antioch? ([15:2](#))
8. How did the apostles determine to resolve the problem in Antioch? ([15:2](#))
9. What were the apostles' experiences on their way to Jerusalem? ([15:3](#))
10. When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem, how did the church receive them? ([15:4](#))
11. What did the believing Pharisees say? ([15:5](#))
12. How did the church leaders respond to the Pharisees? ([15:6](#))
13. What did Peter say to the party of the Pharisees? ([15:7-11](#))
14. What did Paul and Barnabas add to Peter's testimony? ([15:12](#))
15. How did James summarize his views? ([15:13-21](#))
16. How did James deal with the circumcision question from a biblical standpoint? ([15:15-18](#))
17. What practical judgment did James make? ([15:19-21](#))
18. What did James mean by his concluding statement? ([15:21](#))

Understand It

19. What was wise about using a council to deal with the thorny issue of how non-Jews could be saved?
20. How was the problem of this council larger than the issue of circumcision?
21. When dealing with difficult issues, what do we need to include in the decision-making process?
22. Why were Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and James the right men to resolve the conflict?
23. How could your church follow the council's approach in dealing with issues that trouble the church?
24. What areas of your faith create conflict within you?
25. What beliefs or practices do Christians add to the gospel?
26. How can we remind ourselves to require new believers only what God requires?

Apply It

27. Where can you get help resolving an issue about which you are unsure?
28. This week, what change in your schedule can you make to allow enough time for studying God's Word?

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers - [Acts 15:22-35](#)

Think About It

1. How often do you write letters to friends?
2. What was the most important letter you ever received?
3. When was the last time you received a letter from your pastor?

Examine It

4. Who went to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas? ([15:22](#))
5. Why did the men go to Antioch? ([15:23](#))
6. In whose name was the letter to Gentile believers sent? ([15:23](#))
7. To whom was the letter addressed? ([15:23](#))
8. What was the letter to Gentile believers about? ([15:24-29](#))
9. What was the tone of the letter? ([15:24-29](#))
10. How did the letter confirm the findings of the council? ([15:24-29](#))
11. How was the letter delivered? ([15:30](#))
12. How did the Christians in Antioch respond to the message from Jerusalem? ([15:31](#))
13. How did Judas and Silas help the Christians in Antioch? ([15:32](#))
14. When Judas and Silas left for Jerusalem, what kind of send-off were they given? ([15:33](#))
15. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Antioch? ([15:35](#))

Understand It

16. What is the best way to solve disagreements among Christians?
17. How would you handle a difficult problem with another Christian?
18. What are the lines of division in your church?
19. If Paul were to pastor your church for a while, what thorny problems might he address?
20. If you were to design a model for unity among believers of different ethnic backgrounds, what would it look like?
21. Why should Christians work toward unity within diversity?

Apply It

22. What difficult relationship should you improve this week for the sake of Christ? How?
23. When can you spend time with other Christians who are ethnically different from you?

Disagreement Between Paul and Barnabas - [Acts 15:36-41](#)

Think About It

1. When you have a sharp disagreement with a friend, how do you usually handle it?
2. When have you held a grudge against someone?

Examine It

3. What did Paul suggest to Barnabas? ([15:36](#))
4. What did Barnabas want to do? ([15:37](#))
5. Why might Barnabas have wanted to take John Mark with him? ([15:37](#))
6. Why didn't Paul want Mark to accompany the apostles on their trip? ([15:38](#))
7. Whom did Barnabas take with him when he went to Cyprus? ([15:39](#))
8. What did the apostles do about their difference of opinion? ([15:39-40](#))
9. How did both men reach a solution? ([15:39-40](#))
10. Whom did Paul select as a traveling companion in ministry? ([15:40](#))
11. As a result of the separation between Barnabas and Paul, how many missionary expeditions set out? ([15:39-40](#))
12. What did Paul and Silas do on their journey? ([15:41](#))

Understand It

13. Why do you think Paul and Barnabas's difference of opinion turned into such a deep division?
14. How do you think differences in personality affected the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas?
15. When you disagree with someone, why is it important to try to see the issue from the other person's point of view?
16. How do you think the apostles' conflict-affected their ministry afterward?
17. When should you give up your rights, your position, or your point of view for the sake of peace with another person?
18. How can God use the strengths and weaknesses of your personality to get His work done?

Apply It

19. What step can you take toward resolving an old disagreement with another Christian? When?
20. Where can you channel your anger or hurt feelings when they become a problem? How?

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas - Acts 16:1-5

Think About It

1. As far as you know, what nationalities are included in your family tree?
2. What family traditions from the "old country" do you treasure?
3. What ethnic values do you want to pass on to future generations of your family?

Examine It

4. Who visited Derbe and then Lystra? ([16:1](#))
5. Where was Timothy from? ([16:1](#))
6. What was Timothy's parentage? ([16:1](#))
7. What was Timothy's reputation? ([16:2](#))
8. What reputation did Timothy have among Christians? ([16:2](#))
9. Why did Paul want to take Timothy along on the journey? ([16:2-3](#))
10. What did Timothy have to do to minister with Paul? ([16:3](#))
11. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised? ([16:3](#))
12. How is it safe to assume that Timothy was being treated as a Jew rather than a Gentile? ([16:3-4](#))
13. What did Paul and his companions do as they traveled from town to town? ([16:4](#))
14. What was the effect of the missionaries' visit? ([16:5](#))

Understand It

15. How could Timothy's mixed background help him in ministering to both Jews and Gentiles?
16. How did Timothy's heritage create a problem?
17. What type of pastor could best serve a multiethnic congregation?
18. How might a multiethnic background be both an advantage and a disadvantage?
19. How does God use us in spite of our imperfections and weaknesses?

Apply It

20. How do you need to open your heart and home to Christians who are ethnically different from you?
21. What missionaries can you support in prayer this week?

Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia - Acts 16:6-10

Think About It

1. When was the last time you were disappointed?
2. How persistent are you in trying to get things to go your way?
3. If you arranged a long vacation and you were suddenly required to cancel it for business, what would you do?

Examine It

4. Where did the journey westward from Iconium take Paul and his companions? ([16:6](#))
5. Who directed the missionaries away from Asia? ([16:6](#))
6. How were the travelers hindered from entering Bithynia? ([16:7](#))
7. How did God guide the missionaries in their travels? ([16:6-7](#))
8. After leaving Mysia, where did the travelers go next? ([16:8](#))
9. When did Paul experience the vision? ([16:9](#))
10. What did Paul see in his vision? ([16:9](#))
11. How did Paul and his companions interpret this vision? ([16:10](#))
12. What did the missionaries do after they understood what God wanted them to do? ([16:10](#))
13. When did Paul and his companions respond to God's instructions? ([16:10](#))
14. How did the narrator of the story participate in Paul's travels? ([16:10](#))

Understand It

15. How do you think Paul, Silas, and Timothy recognized the Holy Spirit's directions as they traveled around Asia Minor?
16. How can we be receptive to the Holy Spirit's guidance?
17. What do you do when the Holy Spirit thwarts your plans?
18. Why do you think God has sometimes spoken to His people through visions and dreams?
19. How does God usually speak to His children?
20. How does God speak to you?
21. What does the example of Paul and his companions teach us about obedience to God?
22. With whom has God led you to share the gospel?

Apply It

23. How can you listen more closely to the Holy Spirit's direction in your life?
24. What is one thing you can do to make yourself responsive to God and His will?

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi - [Acts 16:11-15](#)

Think About It

1. If you had to make a living in sales, what would you most like to sell?
2. What is your idea of hospitality?

Examine It

3. How did Paul and his companions travel from Troas to Philippi? ([16:11-12](#))
4. Where did the travelers stop on their way from Troas to Philippi? ([16:11-12](#))
5. How did Luke describe Philippi? ([16:12](#))
6. Where did Paul and his friends go to pray on the Sabbath? ([16:13](#))
7. Why was there no synagogue at Philippi? ([16:13](#))
8. Whom did the travelers find at the place of prayer? ([16:13](#))
9. Who was Lydia? ([16:14](#))
10. How did Lydia respond to Paul's words? ([16:14](#))
11. Who opened Lydia's heart? ([16:14](#))
12. After Lydia became a believer, what did she and her household do? ([16:15](#))
13. What did Lydia offer Paul and his group after her baptism? ([16:15](#))

Understand It

14. How did Paul establish his mission as soon as he and his group arrived in Philippi?
15. Why should we extend hospitality to others?
16. How can we have fellowship with other Christians when we are away from home?
17. What responsibility do you feel to witness to others wherever you happen to be?
18. In what ways is Lydia's example one we should follow?
19. How should we treat Bible teachers?
20. How can you extend hospitality to a missionary?

Apply It

21. In what area of your life do you need to be more open to the Lord's teaching this week?
22. How can you share your home and possessions with those called to the ministry?
23. Following Lydia's example, how can you take the initiative in helping someone else today?

Paul and Silas in Prison - [Acts 16:16-40](#)

Think About It

1. How would you respond if your neighbor told you she had psychic powers and could tell you about your future?
2. If you were caring for someone with a mental disorder, what would you find most difficult about your work?

Examine It

3. Where were Paul and his companions going when they met the slave girl? ([16:16](#))
4. What was distinctive about the slave girl that Paul and his companions met? ([16:16](#))
5. How did Luke describe the slave girl? ([16:16](#))
6. How was the girl exploited? ([16:16](#))
7. How did the demon-possessed girl damage Paul's ministry? ([16:17-18](#))
8. How did Paul gain victory over the slave girl's demonic condition? ([16:18](#))
9. Why were the owners of the slave girl angry with Paul and Silas? ([16:19](#))
10. What did the girl's owners do with Paul and Silas? Why? ([16:19-20](#))
11. What happened to Paul and Silas after several accusations were made against them? ([16:20-24](#))
12. What happened while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns? ([16:25-26](#))
13. Why did the jailer turn to God? ([16:27-30](#))
14. What were the results of the talk Paul and Silas had with the jailer? ([16:31-34](#))
15. Why did the magistrates change their minds about Paul and Silas? ([16:35-36](#))
16. Why did Paul respond the way he did to the officers? ([16:37](#))
17. What did Paul and Silas do after their release from prison? ([16:40](#))

Understand It

18. Why were Paul and Silas so poorly treated?
19. How might Paul have been helping the cause of the Philippian church when he asserted his rights as a Roman citizen?
20. Why is it often difficult for a Christian leader to deal with someone involved in occult practices?
21. In our society, what are some ways people are in bondage to evil?
22. In what ways are some Christian victims of racism?
23. Although severely tested and persecuted, Paul and Silas held on to their faith and their joy; how do you think you would hold up under such extraordinary pressure? Why?
24. What can a Christian do to be prepared for persecution?
25. When in your experience has the Lord provided a happy ending to a bad turn of events?
26. When should Christians stand up for justice?
27. When should Christians give up their legal rights for the sake of Christ?
28. What can we learn from Paul and Silas to help us cope with difficult times ahead?

Apply It

29. What can you pray about this week to put a check on evil in your place of work or community?
30. What songs and prayers of praise can you offer God today?
31. How can you encourage someone else in his or her Christian walk this week?

In Thessalonica - [Acts 17:1-9](#)

Think About It

1. When is a time you remember being jealous of someone else?
2. When was the last time you missed church on Sunday?
3. If you were involved in a Bible study group, would you prefer to be the leader or one of the participants? Why?

Examine It

4. Why did Paul and his companions stop at Thessalonica? ([17:1](#))
5. What did Paul and his companions do in Thessalonica? ([17:1-3](#))
6. What was Paul's mission in the synagogue? ([17:2-3](#))
7. What resulted from Paul's teaching? ([17:4](#))
8. Why were some Jews jealous? ([17:5](#))
9. How did the Jews act against Paul and Silas? Why? ([17:5](#))
10. How did the plan of the Jews misfire? ([17:6](#))
11. What did the crowd do to Jason and some other Christians? ([17:6-7](#))
12. What were the accusations against the Christians? ([17:6-7](#))
13. How was Jason implicated in the charges? ([17:7](#))
14. How did the crowd and city officials react to the accusations? ([17:8](#))
15. Why were the Christians required to post bond? ([17:9](#))
16. What did the city officials do with the believers? ([17:9](#))

Understand It

17. Why were the Jews jealous of Paul and Silas?
18. What was Paul's evangelistic style?
19. How does your minister present the gospel?
20. In what settings are you most effective as a witness for Christ?
21. How can you share your faith with others?
22. As a missionary, would you be more effective telling others about Christ, or teaching them how to live a Christian life? Why?
23. How can rejection, abuse, and other kinds of opposition affect a believer's stand for Christ?
24. How should we cope with opposition to the message of Christ?
25. How should Christian brothers and sisters support one another in their work for Christ?

Apply It

26. When can you spend more time studying the Scriptures with other Christians?
27. In what setting can you be a verbal witness for Christ this week? How?

In Berea - Acts 17:10-15

Think About It

1. What do you typically look over closely before buying?
2. How open are you to new ideas?
3. If someone offered you a free college course of study, what subject would you study?

Examine It

4. When did Paul and Silas leave Thessalonica? ([17:10](#))
5. Why did Paul and Silas leave at night? ([17:10](#))
6. What town did the missionaries visit? ([17:10](#))
7. On arriving in Berea, where did Paul and Silas go? ([17:10](#))
8. How were the Bereans different from the Thessalonians? ([17:11](#))
9. How did the Bereans interact with Paul's message? ([17:11](#))
10. How did people respond to the gospel? ([17:12](#))
11. Who responded to the gospel? ([17:12](#))
12. What did the Jewish unbelievers from Thessalonica do? ([17:13](#))
13. Why did Paul leave Berea? ([17:14](#))
14. Why did Silas and Timothy remain in Berea? ([17:14](#))
15. Who went with Paul to Athens? ([17:15](#))
16. What instructions did Paul leave for Silas and Timothy? ([17:15](#))

Understand It

17. How interested is your congregation in Bible study?
18. If your church offered daily Bible studies, why might people go or not go to them?
19. What does it mean to welcome the message of Christ?
20. Why is it important to think about what we are taught?
21. How should all Christians interact with what they are taught about the Bible?
22. When might a Christian viewpoint stir up controversy?

Apply It

23. How can you make time to study the Bible every day this week?
24. How can you help younger Christians grow in their faith?

In Athens - Acts 17:16-34

Think About It

1. When do you tend to be skeptical of the news?
2. How many famous statues and sculptures can you name?
3. Would you describe yourself as more theoretical than practical, or more practical than theoretical? Why?
4. What kinds of discussions do you enjoy?

Examine It

5. What distressed Paul about Athens? ([17:16](#))
6. Where did Paul present his message to the diverse listeners? ([17:17](#))
7. How did the philosophers react to Paul's ideas? ([17:18](#))
8. Why did the Council of the Areopagus want to hear what Paul had to say? ([17:19-21](#))
9. How did Paul address the intellectual pagans? ([17:22-23](#))
10. Why did the Athenians have an altar dedicated to an "unknown god"? ([17:23](#))
11. How did Paul use his knowledge of the Athenians' "unknown god" to present the true God? ([17:23](#))
12. How did Paul describe God to his hearers? ([17:24-25](#))
13. Why was Paul's lesson in biblical history a blow to Athenian pride? ([17:26](#))
14. Why did God reveal Himself in creation and history? ([17:27-28](#))
15. How did Paul use Greek poetry to tell others about Christ? ([17:28](#))
16. How did Paul prove that God was not an idol? ([17:29](#))
17. What was Paul's concluding remarks? ([17:30-31](#))
18. How did the Greeks respond to Paul? ([17:32-34](#))
19. Who among Paul's hearers became believers? ([17:34](#))

Understand It

20. What made Paul well-suited to presenting the gospel to the Athenians?
21. How did Paul tailor his message to the Athenians?
22. What can we learn from Paul's example here?
23. How should we be flexible in our approach to evangelism?
24. How should we react when others don't take us or what we say seriously?
25. What did Paul emphasize about God that was different from what the Stoics and Epicureans believed?
26. What incorrect views of God are held in our society?
27. How would you judge Paul's ministry in Athens—as a success or failure? Why?
28. How can you deal with attitudes of pride and arrogance that surface in you from time to time?

Apply It

29. What will help you persevere in your witness when no one seems to care or listen?
30. What is one thing you can do to make the message of Christ understandable to your non-Christian friends and coworkers?

In Corinth - Acts 18:1-17

Think About It

1. What makes you most impatient?
2. How do you express your feelings when you are frustrated?
3. When you are disheartened, what usually encourages you?

Examine It

4. Where did Paul go after leaving Athens? ([18:1](#))
5. With what Jewish couple did Paul meet? ([18:2](#))
6. What did Paul have in common with Aquila and Priscilla? ([18:3](#))
7. What did Paul do every Sabbath in Corinth? ([18:4](#))
8. What did Paul spend his time doing when Silas and Timothy arrived? ([18:5](#))
9. Why was Paul able to stop tentmaking when his friends arrived from Macedonia? ([18:5](#))
10. When the Jews opposed Paul, how did he react? ([18:6](#))
11. In Corinth, why did Paul turn to the Gentiles? ([18:6-7](#))
12. Who believed in the Lord? ([18:8](#))
13. What prompted Paul's vision of the Lord? ([18:9-11](#))
14. Why was Paul brought to court? ([18:12-13](#))
15. What crucial decision did Gallio make? ([18:14-16](#))
16. Why did the crowd attack Sosthenes? ([18:17](#))
17. Why didn't Gallio intervene in the attack against Sosthenes? ([18:17](#))

Understand It

18. Why would Paul have welcomed an encouraging word from the Lord?
19. In what ways does your church support full-time missionaries?
20. What difference would it make if missionaries weren't given financial support?
21. What similarities do you see in the pattern of Jewish opposition to the gospel?
22. How should we respond when people reject the gospel?
23. What Christian issues create conflict in our legal system today?
24. How do Christians take for granted their freedom to practice their faith?
25. What encouraging encounters and experiences did Paul have while in Corinth?
26. What means has God given you to be an encouragement to others?
27. How has God brought encouragement to you recently?

Apply It

28. What missionary family can you encourage this week? How?
29. What new member of your congregation can you pray for this week?
30. How can you encourage a Christian friend today?

Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos - Acts 18:18-28

Think About It

1. What do you like best about getting letters?
2. If you were to go on a long trip overseas, what kind of preparations would you need to make to get ready?
3. After a lengthy trip abroad, what would be best about returning home?

Examine It

4. After Paul's extended stay in Corinth, where did he go next? ([18:18](#))
5. What did Paul do before he sailed for Syria? Why? ([18:18](#))
6. What did Paul do at Ephesus? ([18:19](#))
7. Whom did Paul leave behind in Ephesus? ([18:19](#))
8. What promise did Paul make to the Jews? ([18:19-21](#))
9. After greeting the church at Caesarea, what places did Paul visit? ([18:22-23](#))
10. Who was Apollos? ([18:24](#))
11. How did Apollos put his gifts and knowledge to good use? ([18:24-26](#))
12. How did Apollos serve God with his skills and abilities? ([18:24-26](#))
13. How did Priscilla and Aquila help Apollos become a more effective missionary? ([18:26](#))
14. How did Apollos serve God in Achaia? ([18:27-28](#))
15. How did God use Apollos in Achaia? ([18:27-28](#))
16. What approach did Apollos use in defending the Christian faith? ([18:28](#))

Understand It

17. Why might Paul have made a vow?
18. What kind of vows have you made?
19. Why was it okay, theologically and culturally speaking, for Paul to make a vow to the Lord?
20. Why is it that Christians today do not often make solemn promises to God?
21. How was Paul's trip to Ephesus encouraging for him?
22. What might Priscilla and Aquila do to help your church staff?
23. What methods did Apollos use to encourage and teach other Christians?
24. What means has God given us for communicating encouragement to one another?
25. How effective would Apollos be in your church evangelism ministry?

Apply It

26. Whom can you help grow in the faith this week? How?
27. How can you encourage another Christian through a letter or card?

Paul in Ephesus - Acts 19:1-22

Think About It

1. What is your idea of an adventure?
2. If you knew that traveling to a remote place would enrich your life, what kinds of hardships would you be willing to endure for the trip?
3. Why do you think some people read horoscopes or consult palm readers?

Examine It

4. While Apollos ministered at Corinth, where did Paul go? ([19:1](#))
5. What did Paul ask the disciples at Ephesus? ([19:2](#))
6. How did the group respond to Paul? ([19:2](#))
7. What was the significance of John's baptism? ([19:3-4](#))
8. Why were the disciples rebaptized? ([19:5](#))
9. How did the Spirit come on the disciples? ([19:6](#))
10. Who received the Holy Spirit? ([19:7](#))
11. How long did Paul speak at the synagogue before confronting trouble? ([19:8](#))
12. Why did Paul stop speaking at the synagogue? ([19:9](#))
13. From his new base of operations, how long did Paul spend spreading the Word of the Lord? ([19:10](#))
14. What extraordinary events happened during this time? ([19:11-16](#))
15. Why did people both fear and praise Jesus? ([19:17](#))
16. How did faith in Christ change the Ephesians? ([19:18-19](#))
17. What practices did the Ephesians give up? ([19:18-19](#))
18. What happened to the spread of Christianity? ([19:20](#))
19. After Ephesus, what was on Paul's itinerary? ([19:21-22](#))

Understand It

20. How long did it take you to become a Christian?
21. Who helped you understand God's plan of salvation?
22. When did you realize that the Holy Spirit was at work in your life?
23. How was Paul able to deal with people involved in occult practices?
24. What occult practices are popular today?
25. Why is it important for us to avoid occult practices?
26. What battles might Paul fight if he were a missionary to your community?
27. Why did those who practiced magic burn their books publicly?
28. What is the value of public confession?
29. When should we confess our sins publicly?
30. What do you need to confess and burn to be used by God?

Apply It

31. To whom do you want to confess a sin or desire to serve God more faithfully?
32. Whom can you invite to church to hear the message of salvation?
33. What is one practical way you can oppose Satan's efforts among the people you know?

The Riot in Ephesus - [Acts 19:23-41](#)

Think About It

1. Would you more likely go for a creative job with a low salary, or boring work that paid twice as much? Why?
2. If you were given a lot of money to spend at the mall, what would you buy?
3. If you were caught in a crowd, would you like to be at a funfair, a rally, or in a large department store?

Examine It

4. To whom does "the Way" refer? ([19:23](#))
5. Who was the ringleader against Paul and the Christians? ([19:24](#))
6. On what basis did Artemis make a case against those of the Way? ([19:25-27](#))
7. To what group did the silversmith present his case? ([19:24-25](#))
8. Why did the silversmith's talk create such an uproar? ([19:27-29](#))
9. Whom did the mob seize? ([19:29](#))
10. Where did the angry crowd take the two men? ([19:29](#))
11. Why did Paul want to appear before the crowd? ([19:30](#))
12. Why wouldn't the Christians and some officials let Paul appear before the crowd? ([19:30-31](#))
13. What was the mood of the mob? ([19:32](#))
14. Why wouldn't the people listen to Alexander? ([19:33-34](#))
15. How did the city clerk bring order to the crowd in the Ephesian theater? ([19:35-40](#))
16. What reasons did the city clerk give for dispersing the mob? ([19:35-41](#))

Understand It

17. What underlying motive did the silversmith have for his protest?
18. How do Christians sometimes compromise the kingdom of God for money?
19. How can a person make idols out of work, money, or success?
20. In what ways can money become more important to us than it should?
21. In a time of economic recession, why might Christians be tempted to act like the Ephesian mob?
22. How did Demetrius and the city clerk use reasoned arguments to support their twisted versions of the truth?
23. How can we show our trust in God as a provider?
24. How must we be on guard against speakers who defy the gospel in subtle ways?
25. What price did Paul and his friends pay for doing what was right?
26. From what types of work should Christians stay away?

Apply It

27. What is one way you can trust God with your money this week?
28. How can you honor the Lord without all the religious and cultural trappings that Christians have placed on Him?

Through Macedonia and Greece - [Acts 20:1-6](#)

Think About It

1. If you kept a diary or journal, what kinds of details would you tend to include?
2. What might someone learn about you from reading your diary?
3. What do you do or take with you to make long road trips more bearable?

Examine It

4. Why did Paul travel so much? ([20:1-6](#))
5. What did Paul do after the uproar in Ephesus was over? ([20:1](#))
6. Where did Paul go after he left Ephesus? ([20:1](#))
7. What did Paul do while he was in Macedonia? ([20:2](#))
8. Where did Paul stay for three months? ([20:2-3](#))
9. How was Paul's plan to sail for Syria frustrated? ([20:3](#))
10. Where did Paul go to avoid his enemies? ([20:3](#))
11. Who was appointed to go with Paul? ([20:4](#))
12. Who were Paul's traveling companions on his journey? ([20:4-5](#))
13. What was Paul's group's rendezvous point? ([20:5](#))
14. At what point did the author of Acts rejoin Paul and his party? ([20:5-6](#))
15. Where did Paul's group celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread? ([20:6](#))
16. How long did it take to make the trip from Philippi to Troas? ([20:6](#))

Understand It

17. How could Paul teach and encourage Christians when his own life was in danger?
18. When you experience trouble, how does it affect your Christian witness?
19. What made Paul effective in dealing with his enemies?
20. Why was it important to collect money from the Gentile churches to help the church in Jerusalem?
21. How much of a church's budget should be set aside to help the poor?
22. How can you be involved in ministry with other Christians?
23. How could keeping a daily journal of your experiences help you keep track of your walk with the Lord?

Apply It

24. What amount of money can you give regularly to help the poor?
25. What can you do this week to encourage someone else?
26. Where and when could you write down your thoughts as you reflect on God's Word each day this week?

Eutychus Raised From the Dead at Troas - [Acts 20:7-12](#)

Think About It

1. What was the longest talk you ever listened to?
2. When was the last time you had difficulty staying awake?
3. What would you do if someone sitting next to you fell asleep during a worship service?

Examine It

4. When did the Christians meet to break bread? ([20:7](#))
5. At what time of day did the church probably meet? ([20:7-8](#))
6. Who was sitting in a window? ([20:9](#))
7. What made it hard for Eutychus to stay awake? ([20:8-9](#))
8. What happened when Eutychus fell sound asleep? ([20:9](#))
9. What was the boy's condition when he was picked up? ([20:9](#))
10. What did Paul say to the group when he embraced Eutychus? ([20:10](#))
11. How did Paul care for the young man? ([20:10](#))
12. After the interruption to the meeting, what did Paul do? ([20:11](#))
13. After the meal, what did Paul do? ([20:11](#))
14. Why were the people comforted when they took young Eutychus home? ([20:12](#))

Understand It

15. What does it mean for Christians to "break bread"?
16. Why do you think Paul talked on and on to the Ephesian Christians?
17. If your worship service lasted longer than usual, what complaints would the pastor probably get?
18. How often do you celebrate Communion at your church?
19. When do you tend to be inattentive or sleepy during a church service?
20. How did Eutychus, whose name means "fortunate," prove true to his name?

Apply It

21. What are some steps you can take to be alert and thoughtful in church each Sunday?
22. How can you keep from being inattentive or careless during prayer and quiet times?

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders - [Acts 20:13-38](#)

Think About It

1. Who is one person you have trained or taught a skill in the last few years?
2. What is one of the hardest things about leaving home?
3. If you knew that this would be your last day with your loved ones, what would you want to say to them?
4. How do you usually say good-bye?

Examine It

5. What did Paul do when the rest of his party sailed for Assos? ([20:13](#))
6. After meeting at Assos, where did the journey take Paul and his companions? ([20:14-15](#))
7. Why did the group bypass Ephesus? ([20:16](#))
8. At Miletus, for whom did Paul send? ([20:17](#))
9. What was the gist of Paul's talk to the Ephesian elders? ([20:18-35](#))
10. What did Paul say in the review of his ministry in Ephesus? ([20:18-21](#))
11. How did the apostle describe the present situation? ([20:22-27](#))
12. Why did Paul expect trouble in Jerusalem? ([20:22-23](#))
13. How did Paul describe his life and mission? ([20:24](#))
14. What made Paul "innocent of the blood of all men"? ([20:26-27](#))
15. What were the future responsibilities of the Ephesian elders? ([20:28-35](#))
16. How did the elders display their deep love for Paul? ([20:36-38](#))
17. How did Paul and the elders say their good-byes? ([20:36-38](#))
18. What saddened the group most? ([20:38](#))

Understand It

19. What kind of send-off does your church give someone on his or her way to the mission field?
20. When your church loses a member, how do people tend to grieve over the loss?
21. How does Paul's life and work challenge you?
22. How is your pastor's work in the church like Paul's ministry among the Ephesians?
23. How did the Holy Spirit help Paul?
24. How does the Holy Spirit lead and guide us?
25. Why do mature Christians need to "be on guard" and "watch over" younger believers in their congregation?
26. How would you describe your work for God's kingdom?
27. What does it mean to commit someone else to God?
28. Why did Paul support himself financially?
29. How can we stay blameless in the way we support ourselves and our church's work?

Apply It

30. How can you give to others this week?
31. How can you draw guidance and comfort from the Holy Spirit today?
32. Who is one other believer for whom you can be a "shepherd" or guide this week? How?

On to Jerusalem - Acts 21:1-16

Think About It

1. About what do you tend to worry about?
2. Do you tend to avoid conflict, resolve it as soon as possible, or go looking for it?
3. When was a time you rejected the advice or counsel of virtually everyone who cared about you?

Examine It

4. How did Paul and his companions leave their friends at Miletus? ([21:1](#))
5. Between Cos and Tyre, what stops did the party make? ([21:1-3](#))
6. At Tyre, what did the Christians advise Paul to do? ([21:4](#))
7. What warning did Paul ignore? Why? ([21:5-6](#))
8. Why did Paul ignore the believers' warning? ([21:5-6](#))
9. How was the departure scene at Tyre meaningful? ([21:5-6](#))
10. What did the group do on their one-day stop in Ptolemais? ([21:7](#))
11. Who was Paul's host in Caesarea? ([21:8](#))
12. What role did Philip have in the early church? ([21:8](#))
13. What gift did Philip's four daughters have? ([21:9](#))
14. Who was Agabus? ([21:10](#))
15. Where did Agabus come from? ([21:10](#))
16. How did Agabus dramatize what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem? ([21:11](#))
17. After the people heard the prophecy about Paul, how did they respond? ([21:12](#))
18. What did Paul say to the Christians at Caesarea? ([21:13-14](#))
19. When they realized that Paul would not be dissuaded, what did the believers say to him? ([21:14](#))
20. What did Paul and his companions do on the final stage of their journey? ([21:15-16](#))

Understand It

21. How do you think Paul felt about going to Jerusalem?
22. Why did Paul ignore all the warnings against going to Jerusalem?
23. When might doing God's will involve pain, suffering, or risk?
24. How can we build our courage when we are afraid to do what God wants?
25. What support does your church make available to Christians (perhaps missionaries) in dangerous or difficult settings?
26. If you had been one of Paul's traveling companions, how would you have advised him?

Apply It

27. How can you support a Christian brother or sister on the mission field?
28. What decision do you stand by even though some others don't approve of your choice?
29. What fears or misgivings can you hand over to the Holy Spirit?

Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem - Acts 21:17-26

Think About It

1. What are some ways your lifestyle or way of life is different from that of your parents?
2. If most people in your community shaved their heads because it was the fashion, how long (if ever) would it take you to follow suit?

Examine It

3. How were Paul and his companions received in Jerusalem? ([21:17](#))
4. After a day in Jerusalem, with whom did the missionaries meet? ([21:18](#))
5. What did Paul report? To whom? ([21:18-19](#))
6. How did the leaders of the Jerusalem church respond to Paul's report? ([21:20](#))
7. What concern did the church leaders voice? ([21:20](#))
8. What false report had gone out concerning Paul? ([21:21](#))
9. What did the leaders of the church suggest that Paul do? Why? ([21:22-24](#))
10. Why did the leaders suggest that Paul join in the purification rites of four men and pay for their expenses? ([21:22-24](#))
11. What decision of the Jerusalem Council was repeated? ([21:25](#))
12. Why did the leaders bring up the Jerusalem decree? ([21:25](#))
13. What did Paul and the young men do the next day? ([21:26](#))

Understand It

14. What was at the heart of the controversy between the Jews and the Gentiles?
15. What causes divisions among Christians?
16. What divisions do we see in the Christian church today?
17. Why did Paul support the Jewish leaders?
18. What rules or traditions should you support for the sake of peace?
19. What is the difference between compromising God's will and doing something to avoid offending someone?
20. How can we decide when we should stand up for our beliefs and when we should give in for the sake of others?
21. When are Christians often tempted to make a rule or tradition as important as God's written Word?

Apply It

22. How can you live more by God's grace and less by self-imposed dos and don'ts?
23. In what situations will you need to adjust your behavior for the sake of others? How?

Paul Arrested - Acts 21:27-36

Think About It

1. How does it make you feel when someone is treated unfairly?
2. If you were challenged to take part in a peaceful demonstration for a good cause, what would you do?

Examine It

3. What happened when Paul went to the temple? ([21:27](#))
4. Who stirred up the crowd and seized Paul? Why? ([21:27-29](#))
5. What did the Jews from Ephesus say? ([21:28](#))
6. What were the false charges against Paul? ([21:28-29](#))
7. How did the city respond to the furor over Paul? ([21:30](#))
8. What did the people do to Paul? ([21:30-31](#))
9. Why were the temple gates shut? ([21:30-31](#))
10. How did the commander of the Roman troops and his men intervene while Paul was under attack? ([21:31-32](#))
11. How did the commander and his soldiers save Paul's life? ([21:32](#))
12. What did the commander do to Paul? ([21:33](#))
13. How was Paul arrested? ([21:33](#))
14. When the Roman commander asked what Paul had done, why couldn't he get at the truth? ([21:33-34](#))
15. Why was Paul taken to the barracks? ([21:34](#))
16. Why was Paul carried away by the soldiers? ([21:35-36](#))

Understand It

17. Why were the Jews from Asia so angry at Paul?
18. What groups in our society infuriate each other?
19. Why are people so protective of their ethnic heritage?
20. How can Christians help bridge ethnic and racial barriers?
21. Why was there so much animosity between Jews and Christians at the time of Paul's arrest?
22. What groups are particularly anti-Christian today?
23. What are some ways we can and should defend the truth about our faith?
24. Why do crowds of people often behave in unpredictable and unreasonable ways?

Apply It

25. What "false reports" about Christianity can you help dispel? How?
26. How can you be a peacemaker this week at work, at home, or in your neighborhood?

Paul Speaks to the Crowd - Acts 21:37-22:21

Think About It

1. What personal accomplishment has been most satisfying to you?
2. What do you have in common with a friend, a coworker, or a neighbor?
3. If you told your life story to a group of friends, what would surprise them most?

Examine It

4. What did Paul ask as he was about to be taken away? ([21:37](#))
5. Why was the tribune surprised that Paul could speak Greek? ([21:38](#))
6. In establishing his background, what did Paul say? ([21:39](#))
7. What did Paul request? ([21:39](#))
8. What language did the apostle use in speaking to the crowd? ([21:40](#))
9. How did Paul address his audience? ([22:1](#))
10. What made the crowd quiet down? ([22:2](#))
11. What did Paul say about his rearing and training? ([22:3](#))
12. What was Paul like before his conversion? ([22:4-5](#))
13. How was Paul converted to Christ? ([22:6-9](#))
14. How did Paul learn about the nature of his future ministry? ([22:10-16](#))
15. Who was Ananias? ([22:12](#))
16. Why did Paul leave Jerusalem? ([22:17-18](#))
17. What did Paul's reply to the Lord show? ([22:19-20](#))
18. What did the Lord tell Paul to do? ([22:21](#))

Understand It

19. Why do you think Paul told his own story instead of preaching a sermon?
20. When is it useful to share your personal experiences with others?
21. How did Paul show respect to his audience?
22. Why is it important to be kind toward and respectful of others?
23. How can we show respect to the people around us?
24. What gave Paul credibility to his audience?
25. How can a Christian gain credibility with non-Christians?
26. What are some things you can do to build credibility with your friends and coworkers?
27. How did Paul rebel against the Lord?
28. When have you rebelled against the Lord?
29. How has the Lord's activity in your life surprised you recently?
30. To what kind of service has God called you?
31. How does God direct us?
32. How might you have to endure hardship for the sake of Christ?

Apply It

33. What words, gestures, or practices can you use to show respect in how you speak to others?
34. With whom can you share your personal story of faith this week?

Paul the Roman Citizen - Acts 22:22-29

Think About It

1. How do you tend to react under pressure?
2. What might make you consider giving up your citizenship?
3. If you could become a citizen of another country, which country would you choose?
4. What rights does your citizenship give you that people from other countries don't have?

Examine It

5. How did Paul anger the crowd? ([22:22](#))
6. How did the mob express their intense anger? ([22:23](#))
7. Why did the commander order Paul be taken away and beaten? ([22:24](#))
8. Why was the commander confused by what was happening? ([22:24](#))
9. To what fact did Paul call the centurion's attention? ([22:25](#))
10. What was reported to the commander? ([22:26](#))
11. What did the commander ask Paul? ([22:27](#))
12. Why did the commander tell Paul that his citizenship had been bought? ([22:28](#))
13. How did Paul cap the commander's comment? ([22:28](#))
14. Why did the commander become alarmed? ([22:29](#))

Understand It

15. What was hard for the Jews to accept?
16. What was wrong with the Jewish unwillingness to lead Gentiles to God?
17. What people do we tend to exclude from the message of God's grace?
18. How do we sometimes compromise the Christian faith by clinging to cultural or racial biases?
19. Why was Paul's Roman citizenship an asset?
20. How did Paul show good judgment in the middle of an extremely stressful situation?
21. What about you gives you unique opportunities to talk with others about Christ?
22. In what ways can we show respect to others even when they treat us disrespectfully?

Apply It

23. For whose salvation will you pray each day this week?
24. What do you want to remember the next time you have to deal with a difficult person?

Before the Sanhedrin - Acts 22:30-23:11

Think About It

1. When was the last time you had to deal with an overbearing person?
2. When you've just about had it, how do you express your anger?
3. When was the last time you said something that caused misunderstanding or conflict?

Examine It

4. Why did the commander order the Sanhedrin to assemble? ([22:30](#))
5. What bold claims did Paul make? ([23:1](#))
6. What order did Ananias give? ([23:2](#))
7. What did Paul say in reaction to the high priest's illegal command? ([23:3](#))
8. How did those standing nearby challenge, Paul? ([23:4](#))
9. Why did Paul respond the way he did to the challenge? ([23:5](#))
10. How did Paul disrupt the proceedings? ([23:6-9](#))
11. How did Paul divide his enemies? ([23:6-9](#))
12. Why did the Pharisees side with Paul? ([23:9](#))
13. Why was Paul in extreme danger? ([23:10](#))
14. Where was Paul taken? ([23:10](#))
15. How was Paul comforted and encouraged? When? ([23:11](#))
16. How did the Lord confirm Paul's plans to go to Rome? ([23:11](#))

Understand It

17. Why did the high priest react so strongly to Paul's statement about fulfilling his duty to God?
18. When do we tend to get ourselves in trouble with our words?
19. How can our words get us in trouble?
20. In what situations do you need to be careful with what you say?
21. What is every Christian's duty to God?
22. What is your duty to God?
23. Why was it shrewd for Paul to get the Pharisees and Sadducees to fight among themselves?
24. How do the members of your congregation handle disagreements in church business meetings?
25. Why would Paul have needed the Lord's support and comfort?
26. When do you often need the Lord's support?
27. When you feel attacked or discouraged, how can you draw encouragement from the Lord?

Apply It

28. How can you prepare for the next difficult step in your spiritual journey?
29. In what trying situations will you need to show patience and perseverance this week?
30. What reminder can you use to help you be wise with your words this week?

The Plot to Kill Paul - [Acts 23:12-22](#)

Think About It

1. If your job was to watch others closely and secretly, how well would you do?
2. What kinds of secrets did kids like to keep when you were growing up?
3. How well do you keep secrets?

Examine It

4. Why did the Jews form a conspiracy? ([23:12](#))
5. Who took an oath? Why? ([23:12](#))
6. How many men were involved in the plot against Paul? ([23:13](#))
7. How were the chief priests and elders accomplices in the plot against Paul? ([23:14-15](#))
8. What did the plotters want the Jewish elders to do? ([23:15](#))
9. When Paul's nephew heard about the plot, what did he do? ([23:16](#))
10. How was the young man able to go before the commander? ([23:17-18](#))
11. What did the commander ask Paul's nephew? ([23:19](#))
12. What did the young man tell the commander? ([23:20-21](#))
13. How did the commander respond to the informant? ([23:22](#))

Understand It

14. Why would the conspirators risk their own lives to kill Paul?
15. What groups are fervently anti-Christian today?
16. When have Christians been overzealous in rejecting others?
17. What does their complicity in the plot tell you about the chief priests and elders?
18. When have Christian leaders in your community compromised their faith and position?
19. How did Paul's nephew demonstrate courage and honesty?
20. How did Paul's family help him?
21. When might helping someone require courage or sacrifice today?
22. When might expose a wrong require courage or sacrifice today?
23. What kind of person exposed the plot against Paul?
24. How did God use a young person in this situation?
25. When is it right for you to play the role of an informant in correcting a wrong?
26. Why is it important to stand up for the truth?

Apply It

27. In what setting this week will you need to be prepared to stand up for the truth?
28. How can you prepare to face hardships this week?
29. How can you rely on the Holy Spirit to protect you from the attacks of others?
30. What kind of practical support can you give someone facing difficulty right now?

Paul Transferred to Caesarea - Acts 23:23-35

Think About It

1. If you could select only one form of protection for your home, what kind would you want?
2. What safety precautions do you take when you go out at night?
3. When or where do you feel most safe and protected?

Examine It

4. Why was Paul sent to Caesarea? ([23:23](#))
5. Why was the apostle escorted from Jerusalem at night? ([23:23](#))
6. What orders did the commander give to get Paul away from danger? ([23:23-24](#))
7. How did the commander protect Paul? ([23:23-24](#))
8. To whom did the tribune write a letter? ([23:26](#))
9. Who wrote a letter to whom? Why? ([23:25-30](#))
10. Why did Claudius Lysias send a letter along with Paul? ([23:25-30](#))
11. What did the tribune say in his letter to Governor Felix? ([23:25-30](#))
12. In his letter, how did the commander bend the truth? ([23:27](#))
13. What important fact did Claudius omit from the record? ([23:25-30](#))
14. What important declaration did the commander make concerning Paul? ([23:29](#))
15. Where did the soldiers take Paul the first night? ([23:31](#))
16. Who escorted Paul the rest of the journey? ([23:32](#))
17. When the cavalry and Paul arrived, what did the governor do? ([23:33-35](#))
18. After Felix learned that Paul was from Cilicia, what did the governor determine to do? ([23:34-35](#))

Understand It

19. What kind of reputation did Paul have?
20. Why did the commander provide such elaborate protection for Paul?
21. What did Paul's citizenship have to do with the just treatment he received?
22. Why is it that the legal system protects some people but not all?
23. How do you think the conspirators felt once they discovered that Paul was gone from Jerusalem?
24. How protected would you feel in a court of law?
25. What is your attitude toward civil authority?
26. How did God protect Paul?
27. What "human means" does God use to protect His people?
28. How can we show support for the government's civil authority?
29. What injustices in our legal system should Christians challenge? How?

Apply It

30. As a Christian, what is one way you can protect the rights of the poor and weak?
31. How can you show your support for the government's civil authority?

The Trial Before Felix - Acts 24:1-27

Think About It

1. What do you admire most about your favorite political figure?
2. Why do you think most people do not trust or like public officials?
3. If you were sued or taken to court, why might you hire a lawyer rather than defend yourself?

Examine It

4. Why did the religious leaders hire Tertullus? ([24:1](#))
5. Who went to Caesarea? Why? ([24:1-8](#))
6. Why did Tertullus flatter Felix? ([24:2-4](#))
7. What three accusations did Tertullus make against Paul? ([24:5-8](#))
8. Who supported Tertullus in his accusations? ([24:9](#))
9. Speaking in his defense, how was Paul's introduction different from the lawyer's? ([24:10](#))
10. What points did Paul make in his defense before the governor? ([24:11-16](#))
11. What was Paul's objective in visiting Jerusalem? ([24:17](#))
12. What did Paul say about the charges brought against him? ([24:11-18](#))
13. How did the apostle show that Tertullus did not have any legitimate charges against him? ([24:18-21](#))
14. What did Felix do about Paul's case? ([24:22-23](#))
15. How did the governor provide Paul with limited freedom? ([24:23](#))
16. How did Paul's speaking affect Felix? ([24:24-25](#))
17. What motivated Felix to send for Paul? ([24:26](#))
18. Why did Paul languish in prison for over two years? ([24:26-27](#))
19. Before leaving his position as governor, what did Felix do to placate the Jews? ([24:27](#))

Understand It

20. Why would Felix, known as a mean-spirited and selfish leader, show restraint in dealing with Paul?
21. How was Paul "caught in the system"?
22. How did Tertullus show contempt in dealing with the early believers?
23. With what terms do people deride Christianity today?
24. Paul was misread by the Jewish religious leaders; how are some Christian leaders misunderstood and maligned by other religious leaders today?
25. How might you be misunderstood by others when your faith in Christ shows in how you live or act?
26. How can we use misunderstanding as an opportunity to explain our faith?
27. Why do you think Felix rejected Christ even though he showed interest in Paul's teaching?
28. For what reasons do people reject Christ today?
29. In what way is the gospel difficult to accept?
30. When in the past have you had to wait for justice?
31. In what areas of your life do you need to wait for the Lord's timing?

Apply It

32. How do you want to be ready for the next time you are misunderstood?
33. For what public officials can you pray this week?

The Trial Before Festus - [Acts 25:1-12](#)

Think About It

1. How did you and your siblings settle most of your disputes while you were growing up?
2. When was the last time someone did a favor for you? What was it?

Examine It

3. How did the procurator's visit to Jerusalem show that he wanted to rule justly? ([25:1](#))
4. Who appeared before Festus in Jerusalem? ([25:2](#))
5. What did the Jewish leaders want? ([25:2](#))
6. Why did the leaders want Paul transferred from Caesarea to Jerusalem? ([25:3](#))
7. How did Festus reply to the request to transfer Paul? ([25:4-5](#))
8. How did the scene of previous trials repeat itself when Paul was brought before Festus? ([25:6-7](#))
9. What did Paul say to the court? ([25:8](#))
10. Why did Festus ask Paul if he was willing to go to Jerusalem? ([25:9](#))
11. Why did Paul want nothing to do with standing on trial in Jerusalem? ([25:10-11](#))
12. Why did Festus send Paul's case to Caesar? ([25:11-12](#))

Understand It

13. Why was opposition to Paul by the Jewish leaders still strong, even though Paul had been under house arrest for two years?
14. Why do we tend to hold on to past grievances?
15. What should we do with old grudges? How?
16. In what way did Paul's enemies try to manipulate circumstances to serve their ends?
17. What made Festus appear to be a fair ruler?
18. In what way was Paul mistreated?
19. When have you felt mistreated?
20. What does Paul's example of self-defense have to teach us?
21. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?
22. Why was Paul able to be confident in his appeal to a higher court?
23. How did Paul's innocence help him in this situation?
24. When have you been called on to defend yourself?
25. What was Paul's style in communicating with the court?
26. How do you express yourself when you are on the defensive?
27. How did Paul hold to his civil rights?

Apply It

28. What or whom should you avoid to protect your spiritual well-being?
29. What rights of yours should you stand up for this week? How?
30. What person or situation can you place in God's hands this week as a discipline against turning events to your ends?

Festus Consults King Agrippa - [Acts 25:13-22](#)

Think About It

1. When you want sound advice, to whom do you often turn?
2. When you don't feel up to a job you've been asked to do, what do you often feel inside?

Examine It

3. Why did King Agrippa and his sister visit Festus? ([25:13](#))
4. What motivated Festus to bring up Paul's case to King Agrippa? ([25:14-21](#))
5. Why would Agrippa's insight and advice be helpful to Festus? ([25:14-21](#))
6. How did Festus tell the story from a Roman point of view? ([25:14-21](#))
7. How did Festus handle this long-standing case? ([25:17](#))
8. In reviewing the case with Agrippa, what did Festus say was the main charge against Paul? ([25:17-19](#))
9. Why was Festus, in a sense, paralyzed by Paul's case? ([25:19](#))
10. Why did Festus feel incapable of handling Paul's case? ([25:19-20](#))
11. Why had Paul wanted to remain in Roman custody? ([25:21](#))
12. How did Agrippa respond to the governor's story? ([25:22](#))

Understand It

13. Why was Paul's case difficult for Festus?
14. How were Roman legal proceedings different from the way the Jews approached the law?
15. Why didn't Festus release Paul when there were no clear charges against him?
16. If you were Paul's lawyer, what would you say to Festus to clear up his misunderstandings about the case?
17. How did God use Paul's arrest and imprisonment?
18. In what way did Paul's arrest help him spread the news about Christ?
19. Why might God allow us to suffer for no apparent reason?

Apply It

20. In what difficult situation do you want to remember that God is sovereignly in control?
21. Over the next few weeks, how can you gather practical wisdom from your Bible study?

Paul Before Agrippa - Acts 25:23-26:32

Think About It

1. What is one story from your past that you enjoy telling?
2. What sorts of ceremonial events have you attended?
3. If you could spend an evening with any president, prime minister, or another national leader, whom would you choose?

Examine It

4. How did Agrippa and Bernice use the occasion of their meeting with Paul to display their position and power? ([25:23](#))
5. Who commanded Paul to be brought in? ([25:23](#))
6. How was this meeting a fulfillment of the prophecy in [Luke 21:12](#)? ([25:23](#))
7. How did Festus open the proceedings? ([25:24-26](#))
8. In opening the proceedings, what did Festus say to his royal guests? ([25:24-26](#))
9. Why did Festus bring Paul before this group? ([25:26-27](#))
10. How had Festus become tangled in the difficulty of his own making? ([25:25-27](#))
11. How did Paul begin his address to Agrippa? ([26:1-3](#))
12. What did Paul say about his early years in Judaism? ([26:4-8](#))
13. What was Paul's obsession before his conversion? ([26:9-11](#))
14. How did Paul describe his conversion and new life? ([26:12-18](#))
15. How did Paul fulfill his commission? ([26:19-23](#))
16. How did Paul deal with Festus and Agrippa during his speech? ([26:24-29](#))
17. How did Paul conclude his defense? ([26:29](#))
18. What did Agrippa—a man well-trained in Judaism—conclude about Paul? ([26:31-32](#))

Understand It

19. How are some Christians like Agrippa and Bernice?
20. How did Festus use Paul to placate the Jews?
21. How did Agrippa's background and experience help Festus deal with Paul?
22. When you need the right kind of help, how do you go about getting it?
23. Why do you think Festus brought Paul's case before Agrippa and Bernice?
24. What was Paul's primary goal in his speech?
25. How did Paul tailor his message to the audience and situation he faced?
26. How did Paul take advantage of his wretched, unjust situation?
27. What should be our objective when we tell others about the way we came to believe?
28. How can we use stories of our own experience to share the message of Christ?
29. How do you think you would have reacted to Paul's testimony if you had been in the audience?

Apply It

30. Why is it important to pray for your political leaders?
31. What story of God's working in your life can you rehearse for sharing with others?
32. This week, how can you support a minister of the gospel who is in trying circumstances?

Paul Sails for Rome - Acts 27:1-12

Think About It

1. If you had a chance to visit Turkey, Greece, or Italy, which country would you choose? Why?
2. What stops would you want to make on a Mediterranean cruise?
3. On a journey overseas, would you feel safer going by airplane or ship to your destination?

Examine It

4. Who accompanied Paul to Italy? ([27:1](#))
5. Why did Luke use the term "we"? ([27:1](#))
6. Who was in charge of the group? ([27:1](#))
7. When Paul and Luke boarded the ship, who joined them? ([27:2](#))
8. How did Paul's friends support him along the way? ([27:3](#))
9. Why was it difficult for Paul's ship to sail? ([27:4](#))
10. Where did the group change ships? ([27:5-6](#))
11. On the second ship, where did the journey take Paul and the others? ([27:7-8](#))
12. Why was sailing difficult after the Day of Atonement? ([27:9](#))
13. Why did Paul have the opportunity to offer advice? ([27:9-10](#))
14. How were Paul's warnings ignored? ([27:11](#))
15. Why did the crew decide to sail on? ([27:12](#))

Understand It

16. Who helped make Paul's difficult journey easier?
17. Why was Paul's advice ignored even though he had traveled by sea many times?
18. How would you have liked sharing in Paul's sea adventures?
19. When do you count on the support of Christian friends?
20. How do you feel when your wise counsel is bypassed?
21. What can a person do to make his or her counsel likely to be heard?

Apply It

22. How can you prepare yourself to handle difficult circumstances this week?
23. How could relying on Christian friends help you cope with a tough situation?
24. To whom should you offer sound advice this week? When?

The Storm - [Acts 27:13-26](#)

Think About It

1. What was the most frightening experience you ever had?
2. If a severe storm was approaching your area, what might you do to get ready for it?
3. How well do you function in a crisis?

Examine It

4. How was the ship's crew deceived by "a gentle south wind"? ([27:13](#))
5. How was the ship forced away from safety? ([27:14-15](#))
6. What did the Northeaster do to the ship? ([27:15](#))
7. How did Cauda provide a break from the storm? ([27:16](#))
8. What efforts did the men onboard make to battle the storm? ([27:16-19](#))
9. At what point did those on board ship give up hope? ([27:20](#))
10. When did Paul speak to the others? ([27:21](#))
11. How did Paul reprimand the crew? ([27:21](#))
12. What message from God did Paul give the crew? ([27:22-26](#))
13. How did Paul prepare the crew for bad news? ([27:22-26](#))
14. What did Paul say to encourage everyone on board despite the hardships ahead? ([27:22-26](#))

Understand It

15. Once they lost control of the ship and their situation, how do you think the men on board felt?
16. What do you do when circumstances get beyond your control?
17. How could Paul offer an upbeat message when life on board seemed hopeless?
18. If you had been on board with Paul, what kind of Christian witness would you have had to offer during the storm?
19. What does this account tell us about God?
20. What does this story tell us about times when our lives are in danger?
21. How can you be joyful in spite of your circumstances?

Apply It

22. When can you encourage someone this week? How?
23. How can you remember—each day this week—to trust in God's sovereign control of your life?

The Shipwreck - Acts 27:27-44

Think About It

1. If you had to be stuck on an island somewhere, what island would you choose? Why?
2. What are some responsibilities that adults often try to escape?
3. If you were on a ship that was sinking fast, what one treasured item would you take with you on the lifeboat?

Examine It

4. How long was the ship at the mercy of the storm? ([27:27](#))
5. How did the sailors sense that they were approaching land? ([27:27-28](#))
6. Why did the sailors drop four anchors? ([27:29](#))
7. Who tried to escape? ([27:30](#))
8. How did Paul thwart the sailors' plan to escape? ([27:31-32](#))
9. How did the group resolve their problems of tension and hunger? ([27:33](#), [36](#))
10. Why did Paul urge those on board to eat? ([27:33-34](#))
11. What did Paul do to give public testimony to his faith? ([27:35](#))
12. How many people were on board the ship? ([27:37](#))
13. What did the men do after they ate? ([27:38](#))
14. What did the crew decide to do when daylight came? ([27:39-40](#))
15. What unexpectedly happened to the ship? ([27:41](#))
16. Why did the centurion save the lives of the prisoners? ([27:42-43](#))
17. How did Paul's predictions prove to be true? ([27:44](#))

Understand It

18. How did the sailors show that they knew how to weather a storm?
19. How can we prepare to handle bad times?
20. Why did the sailors try to jump ship?
21. If you had been on board, why would you or wouldn't you have been tempted to leave the ship along with the sailors?
22. How can we know when to get out of a bad situation and when to face it?
23. How did Paul take charge of the situation onboard?
24. What qualities in Paul do you admire?
25. Why did the soldiers plan to kill the prisoners?
26. In what ways do you look out for your interests before considering the needs of others?
27. How was God at work in the details of the shipwreck?
28. How can we benefit from frustrations and problems?

Apply It

29. To what "storms" that you are now facing do you need to respond with faith in God?
30. What do you need to request from God to endure the rough passages of life?
31. How can you provide encouragement and practical help to someone who is in the middle of a personal storm?

Ashore on Malta - Acts 28:1-10

Think About It

1. How might you show hospitality to a new family in the neighborhood?
2. If you moved to a new neighborhood, how would you want the neighbors to welcome you?

Examine It

3. Where were the people shipwrecked? ([28:1](#))
4. How did the islanders treat Paul and the others? ([28:2](#))
5. What did the islanders do to welcome the victims of the shipwreck? ([28:2](#))
6. What happened to Paul when he was building the fire? ([28:3](#))
7. Seeing that Paul was bitten by the snake, what did the islanders conclude? ([28:4](#))
8. When Paul was unaffected by the snake's bite, how did the people of Malta show their superstition? ([28:5-6](#))
9. What was distinctive about the home Paul and the others were near? ([28:7](#))
10. What was Publius's title? ([28:7](#))
11. What did the governor do for Paul and his companions? ([28:7](#))
12. How did Paul help Publius's father? ([28:8](#))
13. What happened when word of a healing spread? ([28:9](#))
14. What was the effect of what Paul did for Publius's father? ([28:10](#))

Understand It

15. Why did the islanders show unusual kindness to the victims of the shipwreck?
16. Even in this terrible mishap, how did God provide for Paul and the crew?
17. When you are in a predicament, whom do you trust to get you out of it? How?
18. What was the nature of Paul's ministry on the island?
19. What effect did Paul's acts of service have on the islanders?
20. How can you help those who are ill?

Apply It

21. What act of service or help can you do for people in your neighborhood this week?
22. What act of kindness can you do for a sick friend, church member, or coworker today?

Arrival at Rome - Acts 28:11-16

1. If you could have your way, where would you spend next winter?
2. After a three-month stay overseas, whom would you most look forward to seeing on your return home?
3. When was the last time you were on a boat?

Examine It

4. For how long did the crew stay in Malta? Why? ([28:11](#))
5. When Paul and the others finally set sail, what kind of ship did they use? ([28:11](#))
6. What were the first stop for Paul and the others along their continued journey to Rome? How long did the stop last? ([28:12](#))
7. How long did the group stay at Syracuse? ([28:12](#))
8. What port along the Italian coastline marked the next step? ([28:13](#))
9. When the group arrived at Puteoli, what did they do? ([28:13-14](#))
10. After the week-long visit with Christians, what were the next destination for Paul and his group? ([28:14](#))
11. What did the Christians at Rome do when they heard of Paul's coming? ([28:15](#))
12. How did Paul feel when he saw his Christian brothers? ([28:15](#))
13. Because Paul was a trusted prisoner, what was he allowed to do in Rome? ([28:16](#))

Understand It

14. The mariners believed that the ship's figurehead would bring them good luck; on what things do Christians tend to rely on?
15. Why would Paul have been encouraged to find Christians at Puteoli?
16. How does the evangelistic work of your church encourage you?
17. How do you think the Christians of Rome felt when they first saw Paul?
18. What fellow Christian has come to mean a lot to you?
19. How do you greet your pastor when he returns after being away for a while?
20. How were Paul's living conditions in Rome quite different from his housing in Jerusalem?

Apply It

21. For what can you thank God today?
22. How can you affirm a diligent Christian servant this week?

Paul Preaches at Rome Under Guard - [Acts 28:17-31](#)

Think About It

1. What are some ways in which you have grown callous over the years?
2. If you had a career in sales, what do you think you could sell with a heartfelt conviction? Why?

Examine It

3. With whom did Paul first speak in Rome? ([28:17](#))
4. In his presentation to the Jewish leaders, what significant points did Paul make? ([28:17-20](#))
5. What did Paul mean by "the hope of Israel"? ([28:20](#))
6. What kind of response did Paul get from the leaders? ([28:21-22](#))
7. How did the Jewish leaders in Rome show increasing interest in the apostle and his message? ([28:23-24](#))
8. What did Paul do all day long while meeting with the Jewish leaders? ([28:23](#))
9. How did the Jews in Rome respond to Paul's teaching? ([28:24-25](#))
10. To whom did Paul ascribe Isaiah's words? ([28:25](#))
11. How did Paul apply the words of Isaiah to his audience? ([28:26-27](#))
12. What prediction did Paul make about the future? ([28:28](#))
13. Though the Jews had turned away from Christ, what group had God promised to tell of His salvation? ([28:28](#))
14. What did Paul do for two years in Rome? ([28:30-31](#))

Understand It

15. Why do you think Paul's teaching was hard for some followers of Judaism to accept?
16. Why do you think the attitude of the Jewish leaders in Rome was less hostile than that of the Jews in Jerusalem?
17. What made Paul and the gospel he represented less of a threat to unbelievers than in the past?
18. Why do many people dismiss the message of salvation in Christ?
19. In what way do we become hardened to God?
20. When have you observed hardheartedness in your own life?
21. When do you need to guard against hardheartedness?

Apply It

22. How can you go beyond the boundaries of your neighborhood in telling others about the Lord?
23. What is one way you can maintain sensitivity to the Holy Spirit each day this week?