

What's Next? | Acts 28:11-28:31 2021 Fall #9

Tips: Some groups have found eating a full meal together to take too much time and have switched to light snacks. They have found keeping social time short on the front end and then returning to it at the end to be helpful in maximizing time together. Building in time at the end works for folks who might have to leave and for deeper conversation with those who have warmed up through the meeting.

Announcements: Be thinking and talking with your group about the Winter quarter. If you are not planning to offer your group again please let me know as soon as possible so we can transition the group well. "The end of a thing is more important than its beginning." Ecc. 7:8 Folks should be encouraged to stay in a group, whether yours or another. There are good reasons for making a switch, so do not take it personally. Now is a good time to ask your groups if they are open to adding new members next quarter and pray about who God might want to add. Make personal invitations.

Administration: We are coming to the end of the quarter. Most groups will end the week of Thanksgiving and have some sort of social or service meeting in December. Toolkits will not be sent during the month of December, but questions for study and discussion will still be printed in the bulletin. Groups will start back in January on the week of the 16th. See the groups calendar on the website.

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) What fall decorations are your favorite to display.
- 2) Have you been to any of the locations listed in the book of Acts? Describe what you remember.

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Acts 28:11-22

- 1) How did Paul respond to the brothers who came to meet him? What does this tell you about how he valued relationships? 2) Describe how relationships helped Paul persevere? How do they help you persevere?
- 3) What phrases show Paul's love for the Jews despite how they treat him. How is that like Jesus' attitude toward those who arrested him? What is your attitude toward those who are rejecting Jesus?

Read Acts 28:23-31

- 4) What did Paul use to try to convince those gathered of Jesus' identity?
- 5) Which passages would most convince you of Jesus' identity; Isaiah 53, Deuteronomy 18:15, or Joel 2:28?
- 6) How does Paul's approach challenge you to learn God's Word?
- 7) What does the name Hope of Israel reveal about Jesus? (26:6-8) Ask God, "How can I worship you with that name?"
- 8) Where do we see two distinct responses to the message?
- 9) What is the reason for a divided response according to Isaiah's prophecy?
- 10) Does the expectation that some will reject make it easier or harder for you to share the message? Explain.

Review Acts 28:11-28

- 11) How is the gospel reaching Rome a fulfillment of Acts 1:8?
- 12) Review verses that show the power behind the expansion (Acts 1:8, 2:4, 7:55, 8:29, 10:44, 13:9, 16:6)
- 13) List some of the opposition that was unable to hinder the gospel expansion?
- 14) In what ways is the Holy Spirit using you to advance the Kingdom?
- 15) What opposition do you face? How can we lean more on the Holy Spirit to overcome?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Dear God, "What relationships do I need to develop?" Take time to thank God for the people who strengthen you.
- 2) Dear God, "How can I lean more on the Holy Spirit to overcome when I am weary?"

For Further Study

- 1) Skim the book of Acts and ask God to show you one main truth that could transform your thinking.