

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 25, 2007

Passage: Acts 28

Memory Passage: Acts 1:8

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- Read Acts 28:1-3.** What island had the ship landed on? Locate this on a map. How far had the storm taken them?
- How did the natives respond to the people who were shipwrecked? How was this another evidence of God's provision for Paul? How was this also an evidence of the conscience that God puts in everyone's heart (Romans 2:14-15)?
- How are believers supposed to treat strangers (Hebrews 13:2)? What might be the impact of such actions (1 Peter 2:12)?
- What was Paul doing when the snake bit him (Acts 28:3)? What does this tell you about him (Mark 10:42-45; Matthew 23:11; 1 Corinthians 9:19)?
- Family:* Read Acts 28:1-3 and Mark 10:42-45. Talk about what it means to be the servant of all. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to serve others? How does our service affect our witness? How do you think it affected Paul's? Pray that you might be sensitive to the needs of others this week and meet those needs so that Jesus might be honored in your life.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- Read Acts 28: 4-10.** What was the first reaction of the natives when Paul was bitten by the snake? What was their theology of sin? Compare this with the disciples in John 9:1-3.
- What are some reasons that God allows His servants to suffer (Romans 5:1-3; John 9:3; Job 5:6-7)? Do we ever suffer because of our sin (Hebrews 12:5-11)?
- What was their reaction after Paul did not die? What can you conclude about people who have superstitious beliefs rather than biblically based ones?
- What was the result of the healing of the chief ruler's father? What did Paul do in healing the man?
- How did the people respond to Paul and his companions when they were ready to leave? What does Proverbs 16:7 remind us? How does this happen (Genesis 39:1-5; Genesis 30:27)? What other situations in Acts have we seen this?
- Family:* Read Acts 28:4-10 and Romans 5:1-3. Discuss suffering and difficulties that come to Christians and non-Christians alike. Is every suffering in our lives a judgment of God? What are some of the reasons that God allows His children to suffer? What was the reason here in Acts 28? Pray that you might learn to trust God even when suffering is part of His plan for your life.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- Read Acts 28:11-22.** See if you can find some of the places Luke mentions that they stopped at. What happens when they get to Puteoli? Compare this with Paul's experience in Judea (Acts 21:4; Acts 21:7-8).
- What did other Christians do when they heard about Paul's arrival? What impact did that have on Paul?
- Was Paul ever discouraged in his ministry (2 Corinthians 1:8)? How important is encouragement for believers? What does the encouragement of believers do for God's servants (1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Corinthians 7:13; 2 Timothy 1:16; Philemon 1:7)?
- Why do you think Paul took the initiative in calling the Jews to come and meet with him? What three things did he tell them?
- What did they say about what they had heard about Paul? What did they request of Paul?
- Family:* Read Acts 28:11-22 and Hebrews 10:25-26. Talk together about what causes discouragement. When was the last time you were discouraged? What helped you during that time? What are some ways other believers (especially Christian workers and missionaries) become discouraged? Pray for someone serving the Lord who might be having some discouragement. How can you personally be an encouragement to someone this week?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- Read Acts 28:23-29.** How long did Paul's meeting with the Jews last? What did he use to demonstrate that Jesus was the Messiah (Luke 24:27; Luke 24:44)?
- Did any believe? What happened to the others (Acts 13:48-50; Acts 17:4-5; Acts 18:6-8; Acts 19: 8-9)?
- Read Isaiah 6:1-7. In order for the prophet to speak for God, what three things must happen that happened to Isaiah?
- In Isaiah 6:8-10, what ominous promise does God make regarding the success of Isaiah's ministry?
- What logical question did Isaiah raise that every witness for Christ raises (Isaiah 6:11)? What hope or promise did God give to Isaiah in Isaiah 6:10-13? Will some always respond? Will some always reject? Compare this with Acts 28:24).
- Family:* Read Acts 28:23-29 and Isaiah 6. Talk about the impact of the gospel on people. How do most respond? Why (2 Corinthians 4:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:26)? Pray for someone that needs to hear the truth of the gospel.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 28:30-31.** How could you summarize the ministry and the life of Paul? Would you say this was because he was an apostle or a Christian (Acts 5:42; 8:1; 8:5; 8:35)?
- (b) What was Paul's constant prayer request for himself (Ephesians 6:19-20; Philippians 1:14; Colossians 4:3-4)?
- (c) We have spent much time looking at the life and ministry of Paul. Is Acts about his life and ministry? What is it about?
- (d) Why do you think Luke does not finish the story? What happens to Paul?
- (e) Some suggest that Paul did travel to Spain and later returned to Rome to be executed by the sword (as a Roman citizen) around 67 A.D. What in 2 Timothy 4:7 might indicate he was released?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 28:30-31 and Acts 1:8. Summarize the Book of Acts. What are the three major sections (Acts 1-8) of the book? What is the main message of the book? Do only apostles have the responsibility to share the gospel? Pray that you too might have opportunities and boldness to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 28. After the shipwreck, what was Paul doing? What do his actions teach us about being servants? What potentially tragic event strikes Paul while he is serving? What does this tell us about suffering for God's servants? How do other believers encourage Paul on his trip? What is Paul doing with his time while under house arrest in Rome? Pray that believers will be encouraged to keep on sharing the good news of the Gospel.

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Advancing the Gospel

"...preaching the kingdom of God...with all openness, unhindered."