

Pastor Lance Ainsworth

Acts 20:1-12

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, July 16

Sunday, July 19

Introduction:

Acts 20: 1-12 NASB

After the uproar has ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted (*parakaleō*) them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation (*parakaleō*), he came to Greece. ³And there he spent three months,

parakaleō- to come alongside, encourage, and strengthen.

1 Corinthians 3:1

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to a spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

The Corinthian church was a mess: division, sexual immorality, lawsuits, religious baggage, abuse of spiritual gifts, confusing gatherings, and false teachings on the resurrection.

and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. ⁵But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. ⁶We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

Companions make detours bearable.

⁷On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day,

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and he prolonged his message until midnight.
⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. ⁹And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deeper sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." ¹¹When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. ¹²They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted (*parakaleō*).

notes

Lined area for notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

The Holy Spirit (Paraklētos) helps us encourage (*parakaleō*). (John 14:16)

- 3 ways to encourage one another.
#1 Share Biblical wisdom.
#2 Be present with a friend during a detour.
#3 Pray for God to work through His Word and His power.

Challenge for the Week - Choose one person and intentionally encourage them by doing one, two, or all three:

- 1. Share one truth from Scripture.
2. Spend intentional time with them (call, visit, coffee, or a meal).
3. Pray with them and for them, asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage them.

I am going to encourage _____.

Lined area for writing the name of the person to be encouraged, consisting of 10 horizontal lines.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Book of Acts: From Belief to Boldness
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 20:1-12, July 16th & 19th, 2026
The power of encouragement.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is the most important quality of a friend and why?

Read Aloud: Acts 20:1-12

1. Paul spent much of his ministry encouraging churches that were far from perfect. What does that teach us about how God works through imperfect people and churches? Why is biblical encouragement more than simply saying something positive?
2. Why do you think Luke includes the long list of Paul's traveling companions (vv. 4–6)? How does having companions make life's "detours" easier to navigate? Who do you know who is on a detour right now and needs encouragement?
3. Why do you think the believers were "greatly comforted" after Eutychus was restored? Was it only because of the miracle, or was there something deeper? How often do you intentionally pray for God to encourage others through you? What would change if you believed God wanted to use you as an encourager every day?
4. Did you take on the challenge for the week? How did it go?