

BGCC Community Group Guide



Acts: Without Hindrance

July 19th, 2026

Rome At Last

Acts 28

Main Idea

The book of Acts ends, but the mission of the church does not. Empowered by the same Holy Spirit, believers today continue the work of proclaiming Jesus boldly and without hindrance.

Key Verse: *"He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!" (Acts 28:31)*

Icebreaker: What is a touchy subject in your family? Something you avoid because it's unpleasant?

Section 1 – The Mission Always Begins with Those Who Need Jesus

Acts 28:17–24

"It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." (Acts 28:20)

Summary

After storms, shipwreck, imprisonment, and even surviving a venomous snake bite, Paul finally arrives to Rome. If anyone deserved rest and encouragement, it was him. Yet Paul's first priority surprises us.

Instead of gathering with the thriving Christian church already in Rome, he immediately asks to meet with the Jewish leaders. Though under house arrest and awaiting trial before Caesar, Paul's heart remains fixed on those who have not yet believed. He explains that he has committed no crime against his people, but that he is in chains because of **"the hope of Israel."** That hope is not merely a future promise—it is Jesus, the Messiah Israel had long awaited.

From morning until evening Paul patiently walks through the Law and the Prophets, showing how all of Scripture points to Christ. He does not rely on clever arguments or emotional manipulation. He opens God's Word, testifies to what he has personally witnessed, and invites people to believe.

Some are convinced. Others refuse. The results are mixed, but Paul's faithfulness stays steady. His example reminds us that success in ministry is measured by faithfulness, not by human outcomes. We cannot change hearts—that is the work of the Holy Spirit (God's jurisdiction). Our responsibility is simply to bear witness to Jesus.

"The great need is not to do things, but to believe God." - Oswald Chambers

Group Question: What stands out to you about Paul's priorities when he first arrives in Rome?

Personal Relevance

When life becomes difficult, our natural instinct is often to focus inward. Paul certainly needed encouragement himself, but his concern remained fixed on people who had not yet heard—or accepted—the gospel. His suffering did not shrink his mission.

Flow Question: When life becomes stressful, do you naturally become more inward-focused or more outward-focused?

Reflection Question: Who has God placed in your life that may be waiting to hear about the hope you have in Christ?

Section 2 – The Gospel Continues Even When People Reject It

Acts 28:25–28

"God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" (Acts 28:28)

Summary

Not everyone believed Paul's message. Just as throughout the book of Acts, some accepted Christ while others hardened their hearts. Paul quotes Isaiah 6, where God told the prophet that many people would hear His words without truly listening and see His works without understanding. The problem was never that God had stopped speaking. The problem was that many people had stopped listening.

Jesus quoted this same passage during His earthly ministry. Now Paul uses it one final time. The rejection of some does not stop the advance of the gospel. Instead, it demonstrates that God's mission continues to move outward to all nations.

This has been one of the major themes throughout Acts. The gospel continually crossed barriers—ethnic, cultural, religious, and geographical. Whenever one door closed, another opened. God's mission could not be hindered. As John Stott observed, *"The chief obstacle to evangelism is not opposition but our own reluctance."*

Group Question: Why do you think rejection can so easily discourage us from sharing our faith?

Personal Relevance

Many Christians fear rejection more than almost anything else. Yet rejection has never meant failure. Paul experienced ridicule, imprisonment, beatings, and rejection throughout Acts, but he never concluded that God's work had stopped. Faithfulness means sharing the gospel. God is responsible for the results.

Rejection doesn't just mean the message. Many people fear personal rejection more than that of the Gospel. "I don't want to talk to *you* anymore." No one likes to be rejected. In fact, the acceptance of Christ is what makes us feel so overjoyed with Him!

Flow Question: Have you ever hesitated to talk about Jesus because you feared how someone might respond?

Reflection Question How would your willingness to share Christ change if success was measured by your faithfulness rather than outcomes?

Section 3 – Acts Ends, But the Mission Doesn't

Acts 28:30–31

"He proclaimed the kingdom of God... with all boldness and without hindrance!"
(Acts 28:31)

Summary

Luke ends Acts in an unexpected way. There is no description of Paul's trial. No account of his eventual release. No record of his later arrest or martyrdom. Instead, Luke closes with Paul faithfully proclaiming Christ "with all boldness and without hindrance." The ending feels unfinished because, in many ways, it is.

The story of God's church did not end with Paul. The same Holy Spirit who empowered Peter at Pentecost, Stephen before the Sanhedrin, Philip in Samaria, Barnabas in Antioch, and Paul throughout the Roman Empire continues His work today.

Acts has never simply been the story of extraordinary people. It has always been the story of an extraordinary God working through ordinary people. The final chapter is still being written. Now it is our turn to bear witness to Christ in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities.

"Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work." - Henry Blackaby

Group Question: What does it mean for you personally to think of yourself as continuing the story of Acts today?

Personal Relevance

Many believers assume God only uses people with extraordinary gifts or dramatic testimonies. Acts tells a different story. God repeatedly uses ordinary, imperfect people who are simply available and obedient. He isn't asking us to become Peter. Or Paul. Or Stephen. He's asking us to faithfully live the story He is writing through us.

Flow Question: Where has God uniquely positioned you to be His witness this week?

Reflection Question: If Acts 29 represented your life, what chapter would be written through your faithfulness today?

Conclusion

The book of Acts ends with Paul under house arrest. He is chained, awaiting trial, and parked in front of an uncertain future. But, **"With all boldness and without hindrance."** He continues forward. That is the true meaning of the story of Acts.

Governments could imprison believers. Crowds could oppose them. Storms could delay them. Shipwrecks could threaten them. But nothing could stop the advance of the gospel because nothing could stop the work of the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit lives in every believer today. The mission has not changed.

Jesus still calls His followers to be His witnesses. The gospel is still the hope of the world. And there are still people who need to hear the good news of Christ.

Near the end of the sermon, Matthew summarized the message with a simple challenge:

"It's our turn. Acts 29."

As you leave today, consider these questions:

- Am I more focused on my comfort or on Christ's mission?
- Who has God placed in my life that needs to hear the gospel?
- Am I trusting the Holy Spirit to work through me, even when I feel inadequate?
- What would it look like for me to faithfully continue the story of Acts this week?

The book may end at chapter 28. But God's mission continues. The Holy Spirit still empowers His people. Christ is still building His Church. **It's our turn.**