

ACTS 28:17-31

GETTING STARTED...

The ending to a good story always feels a bit sad. You have invested yourself into the story, into the lives of the people in it, and when it comes to an end, it feels like a loss. In many ways, it is similar as we read the book of Acts, yet the ending to the book of Acts doesn't come to an end the way we would expect. Acts doesn't end with a firm conclusion, rather it leaves the door quite wide open to see that God isn't finished with the church. Paul is waiting in Rome for his hearing, and we are told that the door for the gospel is wide open. And that is where we enter into the story. We pick up where Paul left off, sharing the good news of Jesus to the very ends of the earth. God did not finish with the church at the end of Acts, rather we are called into the story to carry on God's mission to make disciples of all nations. Let us joyfully enter into the mission field that God has laid before us.

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 28:17-31

¹⁷ After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. ¹⁹ But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. ²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain." ²¹ And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil

about you. ²² But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.” ²³ When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. ²⁴ And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. ²⁵ And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

²⁶ ““Go to this people, and say,
“You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

²⁷ For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed;
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’

²⁸ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Why does Paul call the Jewish leaders together in Rome? How does this reflect his usual pattern when he arrives in a new city? (see Acts 18:4 for example)
2. Paul quotes from Isaiah 6:8-10, how does the context of Isaiah help give us an understanding of Paul’s use of it in his speech?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz & Lake Errock Why do you think Luke does not tell us what happened at the end of the ‘two whole years’ of Acts 28:30? What current opportunities lie before you to share the gospel?

What can you do to embrace those opportunities? What are the essential components of the gospel from our passage, and from the book of Acts in general?

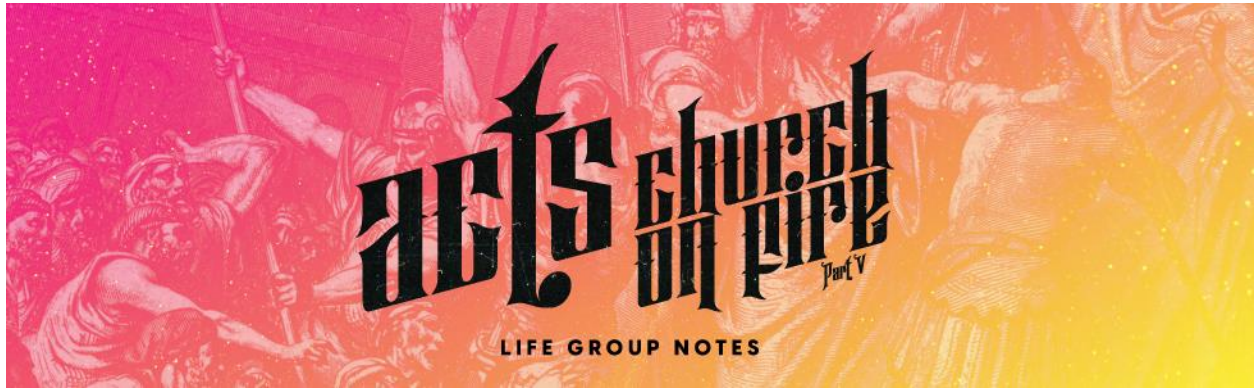
Chilliwack What unexpected opportunities is the Lord presenting you to share about Christ? Can you remember a time when God's agenda has been more important than your hurt, resentment, or vengeance? How does knowing you cannot fail in God's calling make you feel? How will you react to this?

Harrison What is the biggest thing holding you back from proclaiming the Gospel to those who don't know Jesus? Who is one person the Holy Spirit might be leading you to share your faith with?

Promontory How can we as a church participate in the mission that God has given to the church? How do we participate in the mission as individuals? What does your specific role look like in God's kingdom look like?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*