

The Adventure's Call

Series: The End of the Beginning (message 1) **Date:** June 6/7, 2020

Intro

Acts 20:1-38

The gospel will lead you to people unlike you (1-6).

- Where is the gospel taking you? Where are you resisting?
- Who is it in your life that is unlike you?

It takes serious time to disciple and teach (12-17).

The gospel calls us to be humble, determined, and bold (18-27).

- We are to be bold with the message

The gospel adventure may lead you to leadership (28-31).

- Romans 16:17–18

The gospel calls us to meet needs (32-38).

sermon discussion

OPENING DISCUSSION

As you start your group time today, take a few moments to share two or three things you are grateful for from this past week. Challenge your group members to take time every day to write down 3-5 things they are thankful for and then thank God, the giver of all good things.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Who is someone you've had as a friend that was most unlike you? How did that friendship begin and what did you learn from it?
2. Just as Paul crossed cultures to share the gospel and help establish the church, we must be willing to do the same. When have you tried to build a bridge with someone unlike you (ethnically, culturally, etc.)? How often do you try to do that? Why?
3. **Read Acts 20:1-2.** Twice in these verses we read that Paul "encouraged" the people. Based on our study of Acts, why would these Christians have needed encouragement? What does encouragement look like day in and day out in your relationships? Who could you encourage this week?
4. **Read Acts 20:28-38.** What warnings did Paul give to the leaders at Ephesus? What aspects of Paul's leadership strike you as relevant for the church today? Why?
5. Why is leadership different in the church? How can the leadership in our church be an example for our community?
6. **Read John 10:11-14.** Why is the imagery of shepherd and sheep appropriate for godly leadership? What can we learn from Jesus' example as our Good Shepherd?
7. How have leaders of our church been an encouragement to you in your Christian growth? How have you encouraged them?

PRAYER

Spend some time as a group praying for the leadership at Olive Branch, such as Pastor Greg and the elders.

MEMORIZE

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 ESV