

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. We hope you are well and discovering new ways to relate to God and His Word.*

## **"LUCKY" | ACTS 20: 1-16 | PASTOR BRIAN**

### **WARM-UP QUESTION:**

Where's the most unique place you've ever fallen asleep?

### **"Next Battle" - (Acts 20:1-6)**

In Paul's journey, we see him face threats and struggles constantly. How do Christ followers today handle constant struggle? How can they be better prepared?

### **"Sleepy Saints" - (Acts 20:7-12)**

When Paul restores Eutychus to life, this shows ministry is about people, not goals or programs. What are ways Christ followers today can be more people focused?

### **"Hurrying to Jerusalem" - (Acts 20:13-16)**

Paul journeyed alone for part of his trip. What are benefits of being alone for extended time? Challenges of being alone?

### **REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Pastor Brian points out that on this particular journey, Paul is organizing, visiting and speaking with the purpose of encouraging other believers. How much effort lately have you been putting into encouraging others? What in your life would need to change for you to be more effective at encouraging other believers?

## Lucky

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-5 Dan/Al: Thanksgiving. Ladies Xmas. C@R. Missions Prayer.  
 B. \*We are staying outside a few more weeks. Let's pray.

### II. Slide6 **Intro:** *Lucky*

- A. Years ago Kelly's aunt Barbara, who lived up in Rowland Heights, *had a cat*.
1. It had been hit by a car. Then pinned under the garage door all day, from when she left in the morning til the time she returned home from work. & many more stories I can't remember. **But** best of all its name was "*Lucky!*"
  2. Today we meet a guy named **Lucky** who fell asleep during Pauls prolonged speech, falling 3 stories to his death, pronounced dead by Dr. Luke then raised by Paul...who of course went back to speaking *a long while* even after all that :)
- B. **2 weeks ago** we had 7 guys in a fight & all of them *lost their pants*. **Last week** a protest turned into a **big riot** in Ephesus. **This week** we have a guy who falls asleep, falls out a window, dies, **then** comes back to life. [*only thing worse?* falling out a window w/no pants]
- C. **Read 1-6.**

### III. Slide7 **NEXT BATTLE (1-6)**

- A. **Uproars** usually cease, so be patient, **but** *be sure to get ready for the next battle*.
- B. Slide8 After **Greece**, Paul wintered in **Corinth** (ad 56-57) where he penned the **letter to the Romans** (in Italy), preparing the way for what he hoped would be a *pastoral visit* to the capitol city of **the Roman Empire**.
1. He also coordinated the **offerings** to bring to **Jerusalem**.
- C. (3) Paul & his friends *uncovered a plot* on Paul's life. Once at sea probably changes his plans.
1. He journeys by land to **Macedonia** & sailed from there to **Jerusalem**.

D. (6) He is joined again by **Luke** (we) and they remain in **Philippi** until after the **Passover**.

#### IV. Slide9a **SLEEPY SAINTS (7-12)** Read 7-12

- A. Slide9b “Some people *come into* our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, *leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.*” Flavia Weedn (artist/greeting cards)
1. That seems to be a good description of...brother Paul.
- B. Long because, this was a *I'll never see you again goodbye*. [not sermon, talk/share]
1. 1 day together so they stay up late. [I did this in **Bulgaria**. Up till 2am worship talking answering questions. A great memory]
- C. Every pastor is excited to hear that *even the apostle Paul* put people to sleep :)
- D. Slide9c We can all identify with *a slow drift*. And what is called the *Hypnic Jerk*.
1. **Hypnic Jerk** - happens when you're about to fall asleep, when your body jerks suddenly. [Mike Sasso, circa 1986, men's prayer mtg, in a circle, Mike face down, we finished, we left Mike there, then we heard *yes Lord*]
  2. **Poor Eutychus trying his best to stay awake**. A young man, after a hard days work. Light dancing off Paul's bald head. Warm in upper room from lamps. Sat in window to stay awake...*then it happened*.
    - a) I guess he didn't understand **the gravity** of the situation...bwahaha!
    - b) **Saving Eutychus**, is actually a title of a book on *Preaching! How to preach God's word & keep people awake*.
- E. Slide9d Maybe this random story is here to remind us ministry is about **people**. **That**, the bible *slows down* to point out, that even though Paul is a *hard charging, bigger than life, save the world, missions guy*...he also believes/shows *this 1 young teen's life is important too!* [in ministry don't only focus on the group, remember *the individual*]
1. Just happened this afternoon. Got a mid-afternoon coffee, said hi to **Steve** who sits in front fo SB, as I was walking in. I said, *hey Steve*, but this time he sounded depressed (usually up). **So** when I came out I asked him why...we talked I gave him a few \$, and look forward to figuring out

how I can **love** him & **help** him right where he's at.

## V. Slide10 **HURRYING TO JERUSALEM (13-16)** Read 13-16.

- A. (13) **On foot** - probably to gain opportunity for *quiet fellowship w/God*.
- B. (14) Paul boarded *the coastal ship* that skirted the rugged shoreline, a sort of *commuter boat*.
- C. (16) Sometimes God's servants just need to be **alone** to *think, meditate, pray*.
  1. Paul knew he was facing **danger** in **Jerusalem**.
- D. **Why is this story here? What do we do with this?** You & I probably aren't going to raise someone from the dead, or rack up as many *Frequent Flyer Miles* as Paul. *I have 2 things to hone in on:*

## VI. Slide11a **ENCOURAGEMENT**

- A. Note that **Encouragement brackets this section** (vs.1 & 12, also 2).
  1. **Encouragement** (*paraclete*), *comforter, advocate, call along side of*.
  2. This was a reminder of the ministry of **encouragement**, which every believer is **called to and privileged with**.
  3. **Slide11b** George Adams, *encouragement is the oxygen of the soul*. It is a very important ministry, **and** still so needed today.
- B. **So why don't we usually encourage one another?**
  1. **Slide11c** Are we too busy? Or are we too self-absorbed? (Which both of those come down to just *a lack of love*) We love our plans and we love ourselves. What we're seeing here is Paul's love for people, shown **practically in encouragement**.
- C. There are a lot of *one-another's* in the Bible. **Encourage one another** is a big one.
  1. **Note:** the one another's **do not** include these: *Be critical towards one another. Be harsh with one another. Be angry with one another. Envy one another. Disrespect one another. Avoid one another. Be too busy for one another. Puff yourself up in front of one another. Squeeze the*

**life out of one another. Show no patience with one another. Talk about one another.**

2. Slide11d No! 1 Thes.5:11 **Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.**

a) Do not minimize the ministry of **encouragement** to one another. (111 x's in NT)

## VII.Slide12a **HOW DO WE WORSHIP AS CHRISTIANS?** [not all the answers here, **but a few**]

A. Why is it different when we worship **alone** than when we **come together** as a community?

B. First, gather **weekly** to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.

1. F.F.Bruce, *the first day of the week, i.e. Sunday, is the earliest unambiguous evidence we have for the Christian practice of gathering together for worship on that day.*

a) So here's *the oldest document* we have of the church coming together for worship on Sunday. [yes many more times in other early writings]

2. This is not only taught here, **but** affirmed in other scriptures.

3. Here they met in the **evening**, after a long days work. **Later this moved to the daytime** in the 4th century when Constantine allowed it.

4. It would be good to **remind ourselves** *the tomb is empty* while driving to our place of worship. **We serve a living God!**

C. Slide12b So yes of course you can worship alone...and God loves your worship... **but** there are **4 things** that **you cannot do** when we're worshipping alone.

1. **You Can't Assemble with the Saints** (if you are alone)

a) When we assemble together, we are doing *more than meets the eye*.

b) We are experiencing, as *the Apostles creed* says, *the communion of the saints*.

(1) Slide13 Hebrews 12:22-24 [**Sinai/Zion**] (twin peaks) [explain **Sinai** mtg, smoke, fire, quake, trumpet louder & louder, terrifying even to Moses] ...  
22 *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and*

to the **assembly** of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

(2) We will experience **more than** on **Sinai!** He is saying, when we assemble together, there's **more than our assembly** that is taking place.

We also are assembling with **angels**, **saints** that went before us, and with **Jesus**, and **His blood**.

(a) **Not Able's blood** that cries out **in vengeance**.

(b) **But Jesus' blood** that cries out **with forgiveness**.

(c) Listen: *we the redeemed are gathering with people covered by His blood right now...with the whole assembly.*

c) **\*Folks at Home:** Covid reasons, I get it. Cold outside reasons, I get it. Just got out of the habit of coming, **COME BACK!** *We need you. We miss you.*

2. **Slide14a** We are also getting a Taste of what's to come.

a) Rev. ch.'s 4,5 we are getting **assembly practice** every Lord's day.

3. **Slide14b** We should meet together cuz we never know whats going to happen

a) Just ask *the saints in Troas* were they glad they came that day? It's always unpredictable when we gather what the Holy Spirit will **do or say**.

4. **Slide14c** We should meet regularly for worship to Encourage one another.

a) **Slide15** Hebrews 10:24, 25 *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love & good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, & all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

b) And when you come you are **not** a **spectator** **but** a **minister**.

c) **You** have a job to do every Lords day, *encourage your brothers and sisters.*

(1) **Come to church:** Thinking of Jesus' **resurrection**. Reminding yourself that you serve a God that is **Alive**. **Anticipate** that you've come to be an **Encouragement** to someone, each week.

D. **End:** I hope you'll join Kel & I tomorrow at **5pm** for our *interactive AIM Tour*.  
**And/or** at **6:30pm** for *Missions Prayer* [5 pages of prayer requests]. **They need us.**