



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

ACTS



Acts #30 – 20:1-16 Know What You Need To Know, To Do What You Need To Do

Acts 20:1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Acts 29 Event – Exploring the Angles of God’s Mission in the West w/ Tony Merida**
 - May 31 Friday 7pm
- **Tri Church Summit weekend – No services**
- **By the Book Mini Course – An Introduction to the Bible and Its Big Story**
 - Monday Nights starting June 10 @ 7pm
 - Register on the website
 - \$10



#30 ACTS 20:1-16

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Acts 20:1-16

Paul in Macedonia and Greece

20 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

Eutychus Raised from the Dead

⁷On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹²And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

¹³But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had decided to



sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.



APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **ENCOURAGEMENT:** *Paul's major focus in this time is one of encouraging the churches.*
 - a. What do you think is the essential nature of encouragement? How would you define it?
 - b. How might you personally grow in your encouragement of others towards Christ? What about together as a small group? Get ultra practical!
3. **PAUL COULD KEEP GOING BECAUSE HE KNEW HIS CALLING:**
 - a. Read Acts 26:12-18. What was Paul's calling?
 - b. What is our primary calling given by Jesus?
 - c. How does having a firm grasp on our calling change our daily living?
4. **PAUL KNEW WHO HE WAS CALLED BY:**
 - a. Jesus himself called Paul into a life of purpose. Compare and contrast Paul's calling with your own. What's the same and what's different?
 - b. What are we called to specifically by Jesus?
5. **PAUL KNEW WHO WHOSE STRENGTH HE WORKED IN:**



- a. Acts 1:8 makes it clear where the power for Christian living originates. What is your experience with walking the power of the Holy Spirit? How might you grow in this?

PRAY

Pray that we would be a church filled with gospel shaped people who live out our faith by grace alone! Pray that we would grow in our missional living and discipling of one another.

NOTES

20:1–6 *Through Macedonia and Greece.* Paul travels north from Ephesus to Troas and then across to Macedonia (v. 1), finally coming to Corinth in Achaia (southern Greece). Paul provides the reason for this journey in more detail in 2 Cor 1–7. Paul has been in conflict with the Corinthian church and sent Titus with a letter to try to restore good relations (2 Cor 2:3–4). After missing Titus in Troas, he finally meets him in Macedonia (2 Cor 2:12–13), where Titus reports the good news that the church repented and has reconciled (2 Cor 2:5–11; 7:5–13). From Macedonia Paul writes 2 Corinthians as a letter of reconciliation. He then travels to Corinth, where he spends three months (vv. 2–3). From there he writes Romans, his greatest theological work, to prepare for his visit to the church at Rome (Rom 1:10–13; 15:23–29).

20:3 through Macedonia. Paul takes the land route north because some Jews had plotted against him. Paul is evidently concerned that his enemies would be watching for him at a key transportation hub like the port of Cenchreae and that the small confines of a ship would make him an easy target. He is especially vulnerable since he is carrying a large collection of money for the Jerusalem church (see note on 19:21).

20:4 Traveling with Paul is a delegation from the churches of Galatia (Gaius and Timothy from Derbe; Sopater from Berea), Asia (Tychicus and Trophimus) and Macedonia (Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica). These men are accompanying the collection (1 Cor 16:1–4; 2 Cor 8:18–19).

20:5–6 Another “we” section of Acts begins here (see note on 16:10). Since the previous “we” section ended in Philippi (16:16–17) and this one begins there, it is possible Luke remained in Philippi doing ministry during the intervening years. Since he is present with Paul on his journey to Jerusalem (vv. 5–16; 21:1–17) and again on his journey to Rome (27:1–28:16), Luke presumably stays with Paul through this whole period until the end of the book.

20:6 **Festival of Unleavened Bread.** Lasted for a week after Passover, which began on the 15th of Nisan in the Jewish calendar (March–April). This is the spring of AD 57.

20:7–12 *Eutychus Raised From the Dead at Troas.* Paul’s raising Eutychus parallels Peter’s raising Tabitha (9:40), and the miracles by the apostles in Acts parallel Jesus’ miracles in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 7:11–15; 8:49–56; cf. John 11:38–44). Paul’s throwing himself on the young man also echoes the similar actions of Elijah (1 Kgs 17:19–22) and Elisha (2 Kgs 4:34–35).



20:7 first day of the week. Sunday, the day of worship celebrating the resurrection. This is one of the earliest historical references to the church's meeting on Sunday instead of the Sabbath (i.e., Saturday; cf. 1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10). **break bread.** Likely celebrating the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19), perhaps followed by a communal meal (2:42, 46).

20:13–38 Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders. Paul's address to the Ephesian elders is the only speech in Acts given to believers. Luke provides three main examples of Paul's messages: (1) to Jews and God-fearers in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (13:16–41), (2) to pagan Gentiles on Mars Hill in Athens (17:22–31), and (3) to the church leaders of Ephesus (vv. 17–35). This is a classic exhortation on Christian leadership. Paul doesn't expect to see them again, so he gives a farewell discourse. The closest parallels are Paul's farewell comments in Phil 1:19–30 during his first Roman imprisonment and especially his comments in 2 Timothy during his second imprisonment, when he is facing almost certain execution. Paul's address contains an exhortation to the elders to faithfully shepherd God's flock (vv. 28–31), framed on either side with a description of his own ministry of integrity and faithfulness (vv. 18–27; vv. 32–35).

20:13 Assos. A port city about 20 miles (about 32 kilometers) southeast of Troas. Paul takes the shorter cross-country route across the peninsula while the ship sails around.¹

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- Holcomb, Justin S. *Acts*. Knowing the Bible. Eds J. I. Packer. Crossway: Illinois.
- Smith, Bryson. 2012. *Acts: Mission Unstoppable*. Interactive Bible Studies. Matthias Media: Sydney.
- Stott, John. 1998. *Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work*. John Stott Bible Studies.
- Wright, Tom. 2010. *Acts*. For Everyone Bible Study Guides. IVP: Downers Grove.

¹ Carson, D. A. (2015). [The Gospels and Acts](#). In D. A. Carson (Ed.), *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message* (pp. 2262–2263). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.