

Read Together

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: Acts 27-28

One of the most powerful, yet often painful forces in life, is that of expectations. So much of how we view our circumstances, process information, experience life, and communicate with others has to do with what we expect. If our expectations are unfulfilled, disappointment, frustration, anger, and sometimes fear result. If they are met, contentment, joy, and peace prevail.

As we reflect on our study of the life of Paul in the Book of Acts, we are reminded of Paul's many tribulations. Paul must have had positive expectations as he began each journey, but he often encountered hardship and pain. Despite his troubles he did not allow his unmet expectations to steer him from his loftiest purpose—to glorify the Lord and advance the Kingdom. As he went from town to town with the Gospel, Paul's ultimate goal was for Jesus' name to be lifted high and for many to believe. Even when his plans were temporarily diverted, his faith and attitude did not waiver. What about us? How do we respond when the waves toss our plans about, when our expectations seem to be thrown overboard, and the storm presses in on our plans? For the sake of Christ, our responses must show the faith, hope, and love of Jesus to the broken world in which we live as we "go there" with the Gospel for Him.

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- How do you respond to unmet expectations?
- How do your responses to unmet expectations display the Gospel to those around you?

Read Acts 27:1-8.

- Setting sail for Italy, Paul's itinerary was interrupted along the way. Where did his journey take him in these verses? What positive provision resulted in these stops? (See verse 3)
- When a believer chooses to live a life on mission he or she will often go places they had not planned. When you begin a journey and get "off course," how do you respond?



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- How have you seen God's provisions in such times?
- What have you learned during these times and how has God strengthened your faith? (See Psalms 32:8 & 37:23-24.)
- Think of missionaries that you know personally who are going places they had not planned. What traits do they possess that you should emulate? Pause now in your Life Group and pray for these missionaries and their families.

Read Acts 27:9-38.

- Describe the turn of events in this passage. What did Paul encounter? How did Paul and the other travelers handle the situation? What promises of God did Paul remember during this storm? What practical things did Paul do during this storm? What were the results?
- We often face experiences that provoke fear when we are on mission with God. How can encountering the storm indicate not only the presence of God in our situations but the power of God in them as well? (See Matthew 14:22-33)

Read Acts 27:39-28:6.

- What challenges did Paul face in this passage? What provisions did God supply? What miracle did the people witness?
- Just because we are living life on mission with God, does not make us exempt from crisis. This is a false expectation we have of God. What examples from the Scriptures can you recall that affirm this truth?

Read Acts 28:23-31.

- What happened when Paul spoke to the Jewish leaders in Rome? What was the result?
- When we live life on mission with God we often discover providences we could never have imagined. What did Paul experience while in Rome?
- The story or the life of Paul does not end here. Believers are the on-going story of his legacy of faith, as we continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world around us. What are you doing to "go there" with the Gospel in your neighborhood, workplace, and home?

Do Life Together

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader's responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.

What will you do this week to advance the Kingdom of God and "go there" with the Gospel?
How might God be using an unmet expectation in your life to help you "go there" so others can see Christ in you? How will you respond?



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