



ACTS CHAPTER 20 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What's the greatest sacrifice someone has ever made for you outside of Jesus dying on the cross?
- What's the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for someone else?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 20:1-38)

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Acts 20:1-6

- All of the men listed in these verses were sent by their respective churches to be with Paul on his journey to take all of the churches contributions to Jerusalem for distribution. What does this indicate about the "different churches" still operating as "one church?" What lessons can we learn from this today?
 - The first century church was one in heart and mission and though there were different locations of the churches, they were clear on their mission and were absolutely willing to work together to accomplish that mission.
 - Some of the lessons that we can learn from the different churches (brothers and sisters working together) include the following.



- We aren't competing with other brothers and sisters in Jesus.
- The church isn't about us and making ourselves known but about making Jesus known.
- It doesn't matter what human being gets the credit because all the credit belongs to Jesus anyways. What matters is that we are privileged to be part of the mission of Christ.

Acts 20:7-12

- Reread verses 7-12 and consider the following about the setting.
 - There was no air conditioning.
 - The many lamps in the upper room made the space even hotter than it already was even though it was night and dark.
 - Paul didn't just speak for 20-25 minutes but for much much longer!
 - What lessons can and should we learn from these realities regarding how we view our comfort when it comes to fellowship with our brothers and sisters?
 - What lessons can and should we learn from these realities regarding how we view our preferences when it comes to fellowship with our brothers and sisters?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 20:17-25

- Notice the emotionally charged language that Luke uses in these verses and consider the following when viewing some of the below phrases.



- "...humility and tears..." (verse 19)
 - What types of things do you believe move the heart of God?
 - Is your heart moved to action on behalf of God because you care about the things that He cares about?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- "...did not shrink..."(verse 20)
 - What are you afraid of when it comes to sharing Jesus and your faith with others?
 - What do you do with those fears?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- "...testifying to both Jews and Greeks..." (verse 21)
 - Is there anyone that you avoid when it comes to the topics of sharing Jesus and your faith? Why?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- How would you rephrase verse 24 into your own words? Does what is said in this verse currently characterize your life? Why or why not?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 20:26-38

- How is Paul able to say that he is innocent of the blood of all men (verse 26) when he killed many Christians?
 - Paul wasn't focused on his past nor did he allow his past to control him. He certainly didn't forget from where God brought him and yet, Paul is able to



say what he does because he sought to take advantage of the opportunities that God gave him when he became a Christian. He lived with urgency and purpose in sharing about Jesus and His kingdom.

- What do verses 36-38 indicate about the type of relationship that Paul and the Ephesian elders had?
 - Their relationship was in no way superficial. They shared life and did life together and this was not just lip service. They loved each from the heart and they weren't afraid to demonstrate this love in action. They had strong emotional ties to each other because they all shared Jesus in common and He was the most important thing.
 - Who do you share and do life with? Is the world around you being drawn into the presence of Jesus because of how you share and do life with other brothers and sisters? How do you know?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.



- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Acts 21)



ACTS CHAPTER 20 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- What's the greatest sacrifice someone has ever made for you outside of Jesus dying on the cross?
- What's the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for someone else?
- **Opening Prayer**
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Read the Story (Acts 20:1-38)

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 - "...did not shrink..."(verse 20)
 - What are you afraid of when it comes to sharing Jesus and your faith with others?
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 - "...testifying to both Jews and Greeks..." (verse 21)



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- What do verses 36-38 indicate about the type of relationship that Paul and the Ephesian elders had?
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Final Application

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- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
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