



## **ACTS CHAPTER 21 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- Describe a time when you have chosen to compromise, and things ended well.
- Describe a time when you have chosen to compromise, and things ended badly.

- **Opening Prayer**

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Tell the Story**

#### **Read the Story (Acts 21:1-40)**

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 21:1-16**

- Notice in verse 4 that Paul was warned by the disciples (through the Holy Spirit) about going to Jerusalem and again in verses 10-11, Paul is warned by Agabus the prophet of what will happen to him if he enters Jerusalem. Another group of disciples also plead with him not to go to Jerusalem. In light of these things, why do you think Paul made the decision to go to Jerusalem?

- Paul wasn't concerned about his physical life when it came to following God and what he knew what God wanted him to do. Preserving his physical life was never his first priority. Proclaiming Jesus and His truth were his first priorities.

- What do you think Paul's actions and decisions should teach us about how to live as disciples today, especially considering that we



probably are never going to have to be concerned about losing our physical lives for Jesus in the United States?

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How can proclaiming Jesus and His truth become someone's first priority?
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### Acts 21:17-26

- When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he shared with the church all of the work that God had been doing in and through him and although the church including the elders did glorify God, Paul still encountered opposition. What was that opposition and was it true?
  - The opposition was rooted in the belief that Paul had been teaching people to completely forsake the Law of Moses. This in fact was not true. In Paul's teaching and preaching about Jesus, he was teaching people that the Law of Moses did not and could never offer salvation. Rather, it was the sacrifice of Jesus and His blood that allowed people to be forgiven and saved.
  - What do you think the opposition and rumors that Paul dealt with when he really didn't do anything wrong should teach us today in living as disciples?
    - As disciples of Jesus, we should always be focused on sharing the love and truth of God. But even when we love well and tell the truth, there are going to be times when this simply isn't enough for people and/or when people will still try and twist what is good and pure into something bad.
- Why is what Paul chooses to do in verse 26 so incredible?



- Paul hadn't done anything wrong and yet, he was willing to move himself out of the way and demonstrate this incredible humility. He chose to compromise and do something that he didn't have to do and probably didn't want to do so that the Gospel would not be hindered. He was willing to meet people where they were at in the midst of being accused of something he never did.
  - Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. How does this passage further explain what may have been taking place in Paul's heart?
    - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
    - How do you need to more fully "become all things to all people" in your life?
      - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Acts 21:27-40**

- Even after compromising, notice the situation that Paul finds himself. Why is this significant?
  - Paul again had done nothing wrong. Rather, he exhibited a great deal of humility in seeking to meet people where they were at. Even in the midst of doing this, the people still found things to make up about him and his ministry that simply were not true. Trophimus was a Gentile and Gentiles were only allowed in certain parts of the temple. Because Paul was seen with Trophimus in the city, people assumed and made up that Paul had taken him into restricted parts of the temple, which was punishable by death but this was not in fact the case.
    - How do you think Paul felt in this situation? How would you have felt?



- These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Who would you say that you are more similar to in this story? Are you more similar to Paul who is relentless in meeting people where they are at and relentless in proclaiming God's truth and love? Or, are you more similar to the people that accused Paul of things that weren't true? In other words, it's easy for you to be a critic of others and assume the worst about them?
  - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- How did Paul demonstrate both wisdom and courage in verses 37-40?
  - Paul knew full well that when he stated who he was and where he was from to the commander, this would give the commander pause because he would realize that Paul wasn't some common and violent criminal. He was using his status and credentials as "platforms" to continue to preach Jesus. He demonstrated incredible courage because he was willing to continue to preach to the very people who wanted to kill him.
    - What platforms has God given you so that you can share about Him? Do you use them and if so, how?
      - These are opinion and perspective 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 22)



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