

# ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 20:1-16

April 28, 2024

## BELONG

Get to Know One Another

If you could pick one member in the group to take to a deserted island, who would it be and why?

## BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Today, we're going to be in **Acts 20:1-16**. Our lesson is going to focus on the word "**encouragement**," long sermons, and the beauty of community. Paul's letters always had a section of encouragement – even the Corinthians! In the Greek, this word for "encouragement" is **parakaleó** – to mean "**comfort, encourage, console.**" And in today's passage Luke uses the word three times [see verses 1, 2, 12] to demonstrate ways that the church/ believers can be an encouragement to others. In section 2, we're going to see the results of a long sermon – spoiler alert – the results were "unlucky" for young man. Paul took care of it and kept on preaching. They just made people different in the first century church! And last, we will see the beauty of community, as a group – including Luke [we] – continued to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth.

## BUILD

Engage the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Acts 20:1-6**

**Question 1:** What is Luke referring to in **Acts 20:1** when he mentions, "After the uproar ceased..." [the uproar in Ephesus from the idol makers against Paul and Christians]

- What does it tell us about Paul, that his first action after the uproar, was to send for the disciples?

**Question 2:** What is encouragement and what is not encouragement?

- Why is it that we should encourage one another?

**Question 3:** How can we encourage other Christian's based on this passage? [with our presence, with our discipleship, with our commitment - in Paul's case to the gospel.]

**Question 4:** **Acts 20:4** mentions many of Paul's colleagues in the ministry. How is this verse a reminder that we cannot walk the Christian life alone?

- Why is it that we need community with one another?
- What are the benefits of gathering together in community groups to pursue knowing and following Jesus together by the Word, prayer, fellowship, mission, etc.?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 20:7-12**

**Question 5:** For the Jewish people, what was the first day of the week considered? *[Sunday]*

- What day of the week did the Jewish people often meet? *[Saturday - because it was the 7th day and this was the day that God rested - the Sabbath]*
- Why then is the church meeting on the first day of the week in **Acts 20** - what has changed? *[Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Sunday.]*
- What does **verse 7** reveal to us about the importance of the day we meet corporately?

**Question 6:** Why is hearing the Word preached corporately important? *[Paul instructed the church in **Romans 10:17** that, "...faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ". This instruction is for the church and for the unbeliever. Gathering corporately - for the express purpose of hearing and submitting to God's Word proclaimed - reveals obedience **[Hebrews 10:25]** and growth in sanctification through His Word.]*

- In **Luke 20:7-12**, Luke includes one of the strangest healing accounts in Acts. Why do you think Luke includes the death and the resurrection of Eutychus for us?

**Question 7:** Looking at the context in Scripture, how long do you think that Paul preached?

- What does this reveal about Paul?
- About the 1st Century Church?
- About the church today?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 20:13-16**

**Question 8:** How many **total** times are the pronouns us/ we used in our verses today? *[12]*

- How many times in **verses 13-16**? *[6]*
- What does this continue to reveal about Paul's discipleship? Paul's longing for community?
- Who have you had the opportunity to have gospel conversations with over the past month?
- Who has God placed in front of you to invite them to live life with you?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

**What has today's passage revealed to you about God? Was there an "a-ha" moment?**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Blue Letter Bible:** [Acts 20](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin:** [Acts 20](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

