

Discussion Guide for Acts 27-28 on Wednesday, April 28

Bottom Line // God's persistent faithfulness fuels Paul's persistent faith.

Suggested Road Map -

- You kick it off by giving students context that brings them up to Acts 27. I supply you with this info in the leader audio file in the google drive folder.
- Watch the first few minutes of the teaching video.
- Pause where it asks you to stop and read the scripture together. Below I'll give you a couple of questions you can ask for each chunk of scripture. You can ask those questions before or after reading each section. This might help to break up the passage and make sure everyone is tracking with what's happening.
- Then, watch the remainder of the video. And dive into questions and application with your students.

Scripture Chunks & Questions -

- Acts 27:21-26 (Paul and his crew mates in the midst of the storm)
 - In what ways do you see Paul's words offering hope to those on the ship?
 - Why was Paul able to remain calm in the midst of calamity?
- Acts 27:39-28:10 (the shipwreck)
 - What surprises you about how God saves this ship full of people?
 - What sticks out to you or interests you about the way that the natives from the island of Malta treat and live with Paul and his crew mates?
- Acts 28:11-16 & 30-31 (Paul makes it to ROME!)
 - How does this passage encourage you and what does it tell you about God?
 - Where do you feel confused or not sure about what's happening in this entire passage? (leaders you can do some "clean up" here if you need to)

Questions -

1. Can you think of a time when you had one of those days where it felt like everything went wrong? What did that day look like? What did it entail?
2. What about Paul? What were some things that came up against him?
3. How did Paul respond to these "everything is going wrong" moments?
 - a. Good time to talk about the ways we see Paul persisting in faith. Trusting God to fulfill his promises.
4. What about you, when things go awry how do you typically respond?
 - a. Do you trust God's faithfulness? Do you persist in faith? Do you curl up into a ball? Do you put your head down and try to work harder to "fix" things?

5. When things go awry what do you actually think God is doing? How would it shift or change things if you remembered and trusted that in the midst of things going awry God is faithful to fulfill his promises?
6. When is it hard for you to remember God's promises and faithfulness?
 - a. Get your students to be specific and pinpoint something. Once they have you could ask, "What's a promise of God you need to remember in that moment?" This might be a good time to look at the list of promises if students are having a hard time naming something.

Promises that God has given to us -

Ask your students to come up with additional promises they would add. Which ones from the list below resonate with them? Look up the passage reference together and talk about the promise God is making to us in it. Let each person name one promise they want to hold onto this week. Something that will help them to remember God's persistent faithfulness which fuels their persistent faith.

Or brainstorm additional/more promises together. There will be extra copies of these promises in your leader boxes to give your students.

Promises that God has given to us -

1. A promise for friends or family **who do not know the Lord.**
 - a. 2 Peter 3:9
2. A promise for when I am **tempted to disobey** God.
 - a. Hebrews 4:15
3. A promise for those **suffering.**
 - a. John 16:33 and Psalm 145:14
4. A promise for when you **feel weak.**
 - a. Isaiah 40:31, Deuteronomy 33:27 and Psalm 119:28
5. A promise for **hardships.**
 - a. Psalm 46:1-2, Psalm 9:9 and Psalm 138:7
6. A promise for **sorrow.**
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, John 11:25-26 and Psalm 23:4
7. A promise for when I don't feel **safe or secure.**
 - a. Hebrews 13:6, Romans 8:31 and Psalm 94:18

8. A promise for when I need to remember my **salvation**.
 - a. Romans 6:23
9. A promise for when I feel **sad**.
 - a. Matthew 5:4, John 14:1 and 1 Corinthians 2:9
10. A promise for when I need to remember the **resurrection**.
 - a. Philippians 3:21
11. A promise when I feel **lonely**.
 - a. Psalm 9:10 and John 14:18
12. A promise for when I am **anxious**.
 - a. 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:4-7
13. A promise for **peace**.
 - a. Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 119:165 and Isaiah 26:12
14. A promise for when I am **sick**.
 - a. Psalm 41:3
15. A promise when I feel **guilty or ashamed**.
 - a. Isaiah 44:22 and Romans 8:1
16. A promise when you need **guidance or wisdom**.
 - a. Psalm 73:24, Proverbs 3:6, Psalm 107:19 and James 1:5
17. A promise for when I am **frustrated**.
 - a. Isaiah 43:2, Psalm 37:7 and Psalm 55:22
18. A promise for when I am **afraid**.
 - a. Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:6 and Hebrews 13:6
19. A promise for when I am **discouraged**.
 - a. Galatians 6:9, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 and Psalm 138:7
20. A promise when I am **depressed**.
 - a. Psalm 34:15, 17, Psalm 147:3 and Revelation 21:4
21. A promise when I am **busy**.
 - a. Proverbs 16:3
22. A promise for when I feel **worthless**.
 - a. Ephesians 2:5 – 10