

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **October 18, 2020** sermon, "A very strategic setting." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 18:1-17) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF UNREST, NOTE . . .

1. The strategic relationships God forges. (1-4)
 - a. Paul arrives in the leading city in Greece and meets new friends Aquila and Priscilla.
 - b. In all the unrest, God is still God. He's still at work. He's still sovereign.
 - i. The relationship is built on commonalities: tent-making, new-to-town & values.
 - ii. Paul teaches them about Jesus and they believe!
 - c. Relationships are not merely to make us feel good, they are partnerships for the gospel.
2. The significant promise God provides. (5-11)
 - a. If you share the good news of Jesus, you will experience opposition.
 - b. Paul did not allow threats and opposition stop him. He moved the operation next-door.
 - i. Sometimes we must break a tradition ("teach in the synagogue") in order to introduce innovation ("teach at Titius Justus' house").
 - ii. The promise: Do not be afraid, Paul, because "I am with you."
3. The surprising interruptions God uses. (12-17)
 - a. The promise of God is not offset by the presence of challenges and threats.
 - b. Even in times of unrest, God is still God. He's still at work. He's always faithful.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Many of our friendships begin because of things we have in common with people (a hobby, kids the same age, neighbors or shared background). Paul loved his new friends so much that he taught them about Jesus Christ. Why is it so crucial to have friends who started with similar interests (outside of Jesus)? Who are your dearest friends? What methods have you employed to share Christ with them? How can we pray for you?
2. Based on #1, above: All of our friends will not convert to Christianity, but there's no question that our deepest relationships in this world will be marked by a shared mission to glorify God. Talk about the tension between great friends who have rejected Jesus and the desire to see them come to know Jesus. How much time do you spend/invest with unbelieving friends? How much effort do you exert in sharing Christ? What does your prayer life look like?
3. Based on #2, above: Here's a rare case where Paul gets a promise from God (10) that he will not be attacked for standing firm in the faith. But Sosthenes DOES get attacked (17). The crux of the promise is that "I will be with you," so "do not be afraid." You and I have a similar promise (Matthew 28:18-20). Are you willing to suffer? How does the presence of Christ embolden you?
4. Based on #3, above: The evil one works to disrupt everything. Sometimes the presence of disruption is proof that God is at work. Discuss this: "Even in the unrest, God is still God."