

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **February 14, 2021** sermon, "The Shoreline Send-off." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 20:32-38) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS BELIEVERS ARE BEING SHAPED BY THE WORD OF GRACE, BIBLICALLY BASED LEADERS . . .

1. Establish priorities that are pleasing to God. (32)
  - a. Even in the midst of uncertainty, Paul directs the elder's attention to the Word of God.
    - i. He commits them to God.
    - ii. He implores them to stand under the authority of God's Word.
  - b. God comes to us with grace. He takes the initiative and brings grace.
    - i. He builds us up by the grace of His Word.
    - ii. He provides resources that belong to us (inheritance) by the grace of His Word.
2. Model giving that is honoring to God. (33-35)
  - a. Our attitude toward money and hard work is a crucial spiritual barometer.
    - i. Paul did not other people's money for himself (covet).
    - ii. He worked hard to earn money, ultimately to give it away (grace).
  - b. It is a more blessed position to give than to receive gifts.
3. Cultivate fellowship that is blessed by God (36-38)
  - a. Paul is relational. He is motivated by his love for God, and for people to know God.
  - b. Paul prays with his friends.
  - c. His commitment to making disciples required that he leave them.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: When life is uncertain (dangerous) it's easy to focus on self-preservation (comfort). Paul re-focuses on the substance of his ministry (the Word of God). He is intentional. Then he calls the elders to make sure they are focused, too. How successful are you at remaining focused on God's Word when life is uncertain? How can you improve today?
2. Based on #1, above: God takes the initiative to come to us with the word of grace. This grace is seen from the very beginning (Adam and Eve, God comes to them with redemption promises). Is this how you begin conversations with unbelievers? Do you start with God's grace? Most of us tend to start with shame, pointing out people's sins and lectures. Paul doesn't. God doesn't. We shouldn't. Discuss.
3. Based on #2, above: It is a more blessed position to be a giver, rather than a receiver. God wants us to have this attitude: work really hard (35) in order to make money so that we can give. One of the greatest detriments to giving today is not laziness, but debt. Would you say that you are growing in the discipline of giving? What are your giving disciplines? DO you think your practice in this area honors God? How can you improve?
4. Based on #3, above: Christian fellowship involves partnership in life-and-death mission, and brief good-byes because of our commitment to this mission. How have you experienced tearful goodbyes? Was it because of Christian mission? How does God comfort you?