

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **July 18, 2021** sermon, "Restoring Hope." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 27:13-26) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY, KEEP APPLYING GOD'S WORD . . .

1. Even in the midst of sudden reversals. (13-16)
 - a. Gentle breezes can turn to typhoons very suddenly.
 - i. The presence of typhoons is not the absence of God's grace.
 - ii. God often uses storms to fulfill his promises.
 - b. God sometimes removes the option of hugging the shoreline.
2. Even in the midst of mounting losses. (17-19)
 - a. When things go from bad to worse, God helps us clarify our priorities.
 - i. He brings us to unwanted situations which identify what is essential.
 - ii. We lack the ability to let go of unessential things until the storms come.
 - b. In the most difficult losses, God remains.
3. Even in the midst of abandoned hopes. (20)
 - a. We live in a world that has lost all hope of being saved.
 - b. Great influence comes when you continue to trust God (and his Word) in the dark.
4. Even in the midst of troubled hearts. (21-26)
 - a. Paul holds (in the storm) to what God had taught him before the storm.
 - i. The storm did not convince Paul that God was wrong, or distant or weak,
 - ii. Paul says, "No matter what happens here, I trust God and his Word."
 - b. The sailors, believers or not, were greatly encouraged by Paul's confidence in the Lord.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The hardest storms of life often blow in suddenly. Gentle winds become typhoons which challenge everything about our present and future. How has your life been impacted by sudden reversals? How did God's Word prepare you for that reversal?
2. Based on #2, above: When it rains, it pours. We can lose relationships, people, health or financial stability. But sometimes, we lose it all at once. How have recent storms taught you to let go of unessential things? or hold to an essential thing?
3. Based on #3, above: The darkest place to go is the place of abandoned hope. Hope is the confidence that God will work for good in my future according to his Word. Paul held to that hope even in the midst of life-threatening challenges. What has helped you move from "abandoned" hope to living hope? How do we get there?
4. Based on #4, above: We live in a world adrift at sea that will be greatly impacted by the believer's persistence in believing God's Word even while the storms rage. Your kids see how you handle storms. Your best friends see what is most important to you. Do you think they are encouraged to trust God's Word because of your confidence in God's Word?