

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **August 1, 2021** sermon, "God's Interventions." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 27:39-28:6) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS THE TRIALS OF LIFE INTENSIFY, KEEP TRUSTING GOD . . .

1. Whenever unfamiliar settings are being encountered. (27:39-41)
  - a. They had to abandon ship and swim for their lives to an unknown shoreline.
    - i. Damage control: losing everything in order to preserve their lives.
    - ii. There are times when we must let go of things which once provided security.
  - b. "If we are trusting in the Lord, the responsibility for life rests with him, not with us." - Hudson Taylor.
  - c. God does not owe us explanations, but we owe him our trust.
2. Whenever threatening plans are being considered. (27:42-44)
  - a. The soldiers want to kill the prisoners, but Julius, the centurion, steps in.
    - i. God may use unbelievers to spare our lives.
    - ii. Stay engaged, respectful and wise with the people God brings into your storm.
  - b. God's promises are tied to protection, even when bad (storms) goes to worse (shipwreck).
3. Whenever false assumptions are being developed (28:1-6)
  - a. The people of Malta have wide-ranging conclusions about Paul . . .
    - i. Viper bite: "He must be a murderer."
    - ii. After safely enduring the viper bite: "He must be a god."
  - b. God has provided the fortitude and stamina for Paul to endure still more.
    - i. The people of Malta are watching Paul's reaction to ongoing trials.
    - ii. Paul is faithful to give God the glory.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Trials have a way of putting us in very unfamiliar and uncomfortable settings. Describe a situation like that in your life. Interact with this: "God does not owe us explanations, but we owe him our trust."
2. Based on #2, above: We sometimes become aware of plots or gossip or negative talk about us or our decisions or our loved ones. But God has placed an influential unbeliever as a friend of Paul, who defends him. How has God used influential unbelievers to protect your life, heal you, defend you in court, or sustain your safety? How has this changed the way you interact with people?
3. Based on #3, above: At first they thought too little of Paul, then far too much. But all the while, Paul remains focused on trusting God and honoring him while these people of Malta observe his reaction to the ongoing trials. Do you think that unbelievers who think little of you still see Jesus in the way you endure ongoing trials? Do you think unbelievers who think too much of you still see Jesus in the way you endure ongoing trials?