

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## Acts Series

These questions are for the **August 22, 2021** sermon, "The Hope of Israel." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 28:17-22) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

WHILE FULFILLING THE PURPOSES OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE FOR DISCIPLE-MAKING, . . .

1. Minister to those in front of you, even as your prayers are answered. (17a)
  - a. Even as God keeps his promise to get Paul to Rome safely, Paul stays focused.
  - b. He takes initiative in reaching out to those who do not yet believe Jesus.
    - i. He calls together the leaders of the Jews in Rome.
    - ii. Answered prayer is not the end, but the launching point for ministry.
2. Find gracious and engaging on-ramps, starting with your testimony. (17b-19)
  - a. Note the inclusive language Paul uses with those who do not yet know Jesus:
    - i. "Brothers," "Our people," "Our fathers . . ."
    - ii. We should look for points of commonality with our listeners.
  - b. Paul tells his story in such a way as to respect Jewish ancestry and tradition (and also explain why he was a prisoner).
3. Identify Jesus clearly. He is the "Hope of Israel!" (20)
  - a. The phrase "Hope of Israel" is one that would have been familiar to his listeners.
    - i. In the OT: promises are given for one offspring from God who is Messiah—the ultimate Ruler of the nations. (Gen 3:15, 12:1-3, Jeremiah 14:8, for instance)
    - ii. Paul's responses to all the allegations were consistent! The resurrection of Jesus from the dead has proven that he—and he alone—is this long hoped-for Messiah. (Acts 23:6, 26:6, for instance) True Jews must embrace Jesus.
  - b. We must find phrases and ways to clearly communicate this main thing about Jesus. God's kingdom is here and certain because Jesus, his servant, is risen from the dead.
    - i. We don't need to argue or point out differences but speak clearly of Jesus.
    - ii. Until one knows and loves Jesus, he will not submit to him.
4. Wisely consider your listener's response. (21-22)
  - a. Some might shut you down. If so, respect them and gladly display your joy in Jesus.
  - b. Some might ask to hear more. If so, be prepared to bear witness about Jesus!

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Who are the people in front of you who are not yet believers in Jesus? This is a crucial starting point for being salt and light in this world. Think and pray this through.
2. Based on #2, above: How can you tell the story of your life in such a way as to not immediately "lose" an unbeliever? What are your points of commonality with unbelievers? What is every unbeliever searching for that you were once searching for?
3. Based on #3, above: It is not enough to speak in vague ways about morality or church attendance. We must clearly identify that Jesus is our Hope. But how? What words or phrases will help your listeners understand that you are speaking about Jesus, the risen Savior?
4. Based on #4, above: A clear presentation about Jesus coupled with integrity, Christian character and contentment/joy in Jesus will evoke responses. How have you handled it when you have been shut-down? How have you handled it when people have asked to hear more?