

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 18, 2007

Passage: Acts 27

Memory Passage: 1 Timothy 1:12

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 27:1-8.** Who is allowed to travel with Paul to Rome (Acts 20:4; Colossians 4:10)? (Note: there are two people).
- (b) When the ship landed at Sidon, what does the centurion allow Paul to do and why (Proverbs 19:21; Proverbs 16:7)?
- (c) What pattern is Paul still following at each of his stops, even though he is a prisoner (Acts 21:4; Acts 21:7; Acts 28:13-14)? What does this tell us about the importance of our gathering together with other believers?
- (d) What should be the goal of every disciple (Colossians 1:10; Colossians 3:20; Hebrews 13:21)? What is God's promise to those who live this way (1 John 3:22)?
- (e) See if you can trace the travels of the boat on a map. What does this tell you about the boat they were on? When they switched to the Alexandrian ship, what sailing procedures did they continue (Acts 27:7; 27:4)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 27:1-8 and Proverbs 16:7. Talk about a person's reputation. How does a person get a good reputation? How valuable is it (Proverbs 22:1)? What do we do to have this kind of reputation? Pray that your life will be guided by a concern to please the Lord in everything you do this week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 27:9-20.** What warning did Paul give to the centurion? How would Paul have such knowledge (2 Corinthians 11:25)? Who did the centurion listen to? Why?
- (b) Once they began their journey to Phoenix, what happened to them? What efforts did the crew take to save the ship? How effective were these measures? Compare their efforts to the efforts on the ship where Jonah was (Jonah 1:5)?
- (c) How long was the ship battered by this storm (Acts 27:27)? What did the crew conclude (Acts 27:20)? Compare this to Paul's description of unbelievers in Ephesians 2:12. What is the situation of a person without Christ?
- (d) Read Psalm 33:16-20. What does this Psalm tell us about the efforts of men? Where should our confidence and joy rest?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 27:9-20 and Psalm 33:16-20. Have you ever given up hope? Why did these sailors do so? Were they right? What happens when we put our faith *only* in what man can do? What happens when we remember what God can do? Think of a difficult or impossible situation that you are facing. Lift that concern before the Lord in prayer together.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 27:21-23.** What reminder does Paul give to the men of the ship? What startling encouragement does he give (Acts 27:22)? Would this have been believable to these sailors after over 2 weeks of being in this storm?
- (b) Compare Paul's statement in Acts 27:22 with his statement in Acts 27:10. What is the difference in these two statements? What does this tell us about the difference between reason and revelation (Acts 27:23)?
- (c) Is an appearance of an angel always the most reliable type of revelation (2 Corinthians 11:14; Galatians 1:8)? Is a voice from heaven more reliable (2 Peter 1:15-21)? What is the most reliable ("sure" or "confirmed") revelation (2 Peter 1:19-21)?
- (d) How does Paul describe himself? What does he mean by "to whom I belong" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)? How is this an encouragement if you are a believer?
- (e) Paul also says, "whom I serve." What was the one thing Paul asked when he was converted (Acts 9:5-6)? How is asking this question a part of day by day faith?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 27:21-23 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Talk about the difference between reason and revelation. What are the advantages of reason? What is the advantage of revelation? Which was Paul relying on in Acts 27:23? Which should we rely on? Spend some time thanking God for giving us His Word.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 27:22-26.** What was Paul doing *during* the storm (Acts 27:24; James 5:16; "God has granted you all those who sail with you.")? Why did Paul do this if he knew God was sovereign?
- (b) What did Paul believe? What would all the evidence indicate?
- (c) Why would Paul believe this (Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18; 2 Timothy 1:12)?
- (d) What additional information did Paul give to them? How would this eventually confirm that God was in control (Isaiah 46:10-11; Isaiah 45:20-23)? What is the proof that God is God?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 27:22-26 and 2 Timothy 1:12. Discuss the believer's confidence in God's promises. Why do *you* believe God? Why should we pray if God is in control of all things? Does prayer really accomplish anything? Lift some of your difficulties and concerns to the Lord in prayer together.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 27:27-44.** Compare Acts 27:31 with the revelation from God in Acts 27:22. Why should they care what they did when Paul had promised there would be no loss of life? What does this teach us about the use of means?
- (b) Also, read Acts 27:33-34. What does Paul tell them to do for their “survival?” Isn’t resting God enough?
- (c) What did Paul tell Timothy about caring for his stomach in 1 Timothy 5:23? Should he have told him to trust God for healing?
- (d) What was the logical thing that the guards planned to do as the ship was breaking up (Acts 27:42)? How did God intervene (Acts 27:43-44)?
- (e) Summarize what you have learned in the last 3 chapters of Acts about God’s sovereignty and human responsibility.
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 27:27-44. Talk about what is needed for salvation. If someone is elect, is there anything they must do? Consider Acts 17:30-31; Ephesians 1:13-14. Pray for someone that needs to come to faith in Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 27. What did this chapter teach you about living by faith? How is pleasing the Lord an important aspect of living by faith? How does the question: “Lord, what will you have me do?” an act of faith? Pray that the Lord will use the teaching of His Word to bring some to faith and to help believers walk in faith.

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Living by Faith

“Take heart men, for I believe God...”