

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday September 20, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02

Introduction

03

Discussion Questions

04

Application Questions

05

Questions for Families | Bible Reading Plan

06

Commentary

INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 20:22–35**, Paul shows us what it looks like to live with the end in mind. God is not inviting us to build a comfortable life, depend on someone else's faith, or simply consume what others can give us; He is inviting us to know His truth, guard our faith, give our lives away, and faithfully follow Jesus. The tension is that distractions, discouragement, competing voices, and our own desire for comfort can slowly pull us off course. Faithfulness is not mainly about how strongly we start, but about continuing to trust and obey Jesus over time. As we talk together, consider where Jesus may be inviting you to take another faithful step.

Main Passage:

Acts 20:22–35

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Finish Faithful

READ ALOUD

Acts 20:22–35

Opening Question: What is something in life that is easy to start but much harder to stick with over time?

- What words or phrases stand out to you in Paul’s description of his life and ministry?
- What do you notice about what Paul values compared with what he is willing to give up?
- What do you think Paul means when he says his goal is to “finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus”?
- Where does Paul’s example challenge the way we normally think about following Jesus?

APPLY

- What voices or influences have the greatest effect on what you believe, and how are you learning to test those to God’s Word?
- Where do you most need to guard your faith right now—your thoughts, habits, relationships, priorities, or something else?
- Where might God be calling you to move from asking, “What can I get?” to asking, “How can God use me to serve someone else?”

RESPOND

- What is one specific step of faithfulness you will take this week?
- Who is one person you can intentionally encourage, serve, pray for, or point toward Jesus this week?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 20:17–38

- What do you learn about Paul from the way he describes his life among the Ephesian believers?
- Why do you think Paul places such a strong emphasis on both knowing the truth and guarding your faith?
- What does the emotional goodbye in verses 36–38 reveal about the kind of life Paul had lived among these people?

PRAY

Invite everyone to quietly consider where God may be calling them to greater faithfulness. Ask God to help you know His truth and recognize voices that pull you away from Jesus. Pray for strength to guard your faith, courage to obey when following Jesus is difficult, and eyes to notice people you can serve. Ask God to reveal any attitudes or habits that need repentance or change. Thank Jesus for His grace, His sacrifice, and His work of transforming us as we continue following Him.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 20:22–35

- What do you think it means to be faithful to Jesus?
- What helped Paul keep following Jesus even when he knew difficult things were ahead?
- What is one way our family can help each other keep following Jesus?
- Who could our family encourage or serve this week?

For younger children: Help your child choose one simple way they can listen to and obey Jesus this week.

For older kids or students: What is one area where following Jesus may require you to make a different choice than the people around you?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 21:1–6
- **Day 2:** Acts 21:7–14
- **Day 3:** Acts 21:15–26
- **Day 4:** Acts 21:27–36
- **Day 5:** Acts 21:37–40

What's Going On?

Acts 20 records part of Paul's journey toward Jerusalem. Before continuing, he calls the elders of the church in Ephesus to meet him in Miletus. Paul had spent years serving and teaching among them, and he knows this may be the last time they see one another.

His message is deeply personal. Paul looks back at how he lived among them, warns them about challenges that will come, and points them toward God and His Word rather than toward himself. He also makes his own purpose clear: his life belongs to Jesus, and his goal is to finish the work Jesus entrusted to him.

That same direction matters for every follower of Jesus. Faithfulness grows as we know God's truth, take responsibility for our own walk with Jesus, use what God has given us to serve others, and continue following Christ through every season of life.

A Bit of Background

Paul is speaking specifically to the elders who led the churches in Ephesus. He describes them as overseers who are responsible to shepherd God's people, which helps explain the seriousness of his warnings about truth and spiritual danger.

But Paul does not simply give them leadership instructions—he points to his own life as an example. He had taught publicly and personally, worked with his own hands, served people without seeking personal gain, and continued obeying Jesus even when suffering was ahead. His life reinforces the message he gives them: faithful disciples keep their eyes on Jesus and faithfully use whatever God has entrusted to them.