

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great in Power, This is Amazing Grace, Lion and the Lamb, Your Great Name, Alive in You

WELCOME

Have you missed out on something important to you during the past week? (e.g. your favorite TV show, work deadline, quiet time, family activity, Dgroup meeting, etc.). How did you feel about it? Did you make time or found ways to make up for what you've missed? How?

WORD

ACTS 20:1-3

¹ After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. ² When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. ³ And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. ⁵ But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. ⁶ We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

Continue reading until **verse 16**.

As we learned in the previous chapter of Acts, Paul was the epicenter of a riot in Ephesus, so he left and moved on to visit and encourage other churches he previously planted. Paul has taken the gospel, made disciples and planted churches in key cities from Turkey to Greece. Those churches in turn have sent people out who did the same in all the surrounding areas. Now the apostle returns to encourage them, knowing that he may never see them again. We can learn four principles from Paul that we can apply in our lives as we fulfill the mission God has given each one of us: **discipling the nations**.

FOLLOW GOD'S MISSION

From the beginning, God had a clear plan for Paul's life. We see this in **Acts 9:15-16** when God instructed Ananias to visit Paul, "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." Paul was called to pioneer, to take the gospel where people had never heard it (**Romans 15:20**). By the end of the 2nd century, almost all of the Roman Empire had heard the gospel because of the faithfulness of Paul to the challenge and mission God had given him. (**Acts 26:19**).

Likewise, our real ambition as a church is to reach out to people who don't know Jesus, to take the gospel where it hasn't been preached. We all know somebody who doesn't know Jesus yet – our loved ones, friends,

officemates, classmates, neighbors. But we should also realize that all over the world, there are people who literally have **never heard** the Name of Jesus.

What has God called us to do? Our mission is to glorify God and make Christ-Committed Followers who make Christ-Committed Followers. Our vision is to see a movement of millions of committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ meeting in small groups and transforming lives, families, communities and nations, for the glory of God. This is what God has called us to do as a church and this is something worth living and dying for.

OVERCOME OBSTACLES

The journey of Paul was not easy – he needed to overcome a lot of challenges. Because of the gospel, he was driven out by the Jews in Pisidian Antioch, faced a plot to stone him in Iconium, stoned and left for dead in Lystra, beaten and jailed in Philippi, driven out of Thessalonica and Berea, attacked in Corinth, and escaped from a riot in Ephesus! Yet he went back to these very places where he was mistreated so he can encourage the believers there and build them up in the faith.

Like Paul, we also have to overcome challenges in order to do what God has called us to do.

MAKE DISCIPLES

The names listed in **Acts 20:4-6** were people from different places and they were all disciples of Paul,

WORD (cont'd)

representing the different churches. We usually think of discipleship as a weekly meeting where we study the Bible, fellowship, and eat a lot of food. But for Paul, discipleship was much more than this. He travelled with these people for days and weeks and months – he knew their family issues, weaknesses, strengths, and how to develop them. Paul made disciples by spending time with people through life on life discipleship.

The great need of Christianity today is to rediscover our disciple-making mission (**Matthew 28:18-20**) to become **True Disciplers**. Sadly, many Christians are not disciplers. Many are not Christ-like to model transformed lives that appeal to others. A **discipler** is a follower of Christ who makes disciples intentionally by sharing the gospel (Salvation) and modeling obedience to all (Transformation) to their family and friends, resulting in transformation unto Christ-like maturity (Character) that ushers in God's presence

(Filled with the Holy Spirit) and therefore, spiritual multiplication (Credibility) for the glory of God.

OBEY GOD'S DIRECTION

Paul had been given clear instructions from God to go to Jerusalem. He was sensitive to the Holy Spirit to obey His direction. He was told many times that going to Jerusalem was dangerous – he was sure to be arrested. But he knew that that was exactly what God wanted him to do. So he obeyed. He never hesitated. Likewise, when God speaks to us, we should **immediately obey** what He tells us to do.

Discipling the nations is everyone's mission. This means to disciple people from all cultures, of various family backgrounds. God has called us to do something incredible – to expand His Kingdom. He takes very ordinary people like us to be able to make an eternal impact for Him around the world. This is a privilege that we don't ever want to miss. So take part in the challenge to make disciples of all the nations!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Are you obeying God's commission to disciple? Why or why not?
2. What has been the price you paid for making disciples? What were your difficulties and challenges?
3. Based on the definition of a Discipler, in what areas do you need to improve on? What steps will you take so you can help in discipling the nations?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

As Missions Month comes to a close, let's bring our focus to our Missionary endeavors.

Pray for the gospel to reach those who have never heard of it. You may use CCF Beyond's Prayer Calendar to guide you in praying.

*"Every heart with Christ is a missionary,
every heart without Christ is a mission field."
- Count Zinzendorf (1700-1760)*

Care for those in your mission field. It could be someone in your family, neighborhood, school, or workplace. Show care for our missionaries, too.

Share. Help proclaim the gospel here and abroad through your time, talent, and treasure.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends