

Small Group
Focus Passage: Acts 21:1-15

Getting Started

Read Acts 21:1-15

1. Describe Paul's encounters with fellow disciples. What kind of relationship do you think Paul had with them?
2. Compare what the disciples said to Paul in verses 4, 10-12 and what Paul said in Acts 20:22-23. Paul told the Ephesians that he was going to Jerusalem "compelled by the Spirit" (NIV). However, the other disciples made it seem as though the Holy Spirit didn't want Paul to go to Jerusalem. Why do you think the disciples interpreted the Spirit's message differently than Paul?
3. Read Acts 20:22-24 and 21:11-13. When the other disciples urged Paul not to go to Jerusalem, how did Paul respond and why?
4. What does Paul's response reveal about his priorities?

Digging Deeper

5. When have you felt the encouragement of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? How have you been the source of such encouragement? How can you be a source?
6. Paul's priority was to proclaim the gospel of Christ to as many people as possible at the cost of his personal safety and comfort. Reflecting on your own life, do you think that you have counted the cost and made it your highest priority to proclaim Christ? Explain why or why not.

7. Two key factors that drove Paul in his ministry were his love for Christ and his love for God's people. What drives you in your life? Is it love for Christ and His people or something else? Explain.

8. What do you think needs to happen in your life to increase your love for Christ and His people? What needs to happen in order for you to make Christ your highest priority?

Prayer

- How is the Holy Spirit challenging you through this passage? Name one way you can apply this week's passage.

- Are there any sins you need to confess or attitudes and behaviors that need to be changed? Surrender all these things to God and trust Him to change you.

Additional topics:

- ***Increase in love for God and His people:*** to love God and fellow Christians more and make them your highest priority.
- ***Obedience to God's will:*** to follow God's will no matter what it costs you.
- ***Encourage others to grow in Christ:*** to actively seek the good of Christian brothers and sisters, so help them grow in their walk with God.