

A SEVEN-WEEK CHALLENGE FOR THE BOOK OF ACTS WEEK FIVE

Chapter Seventeen of the Book of Acts – A Message for the Nations

Section One: Vocabulary Activities (including a crossword puzzle and a little story) for these words: prominent, worthless, rabble, uproar, assault, decree, claim, provoke, babblers, inscription, habitation, pursue, offspring, divinity, and mock.

Section Two: Questions to Investigate in Chapter Seventeen—

Why were mobs hunting Paul and Silas in Thessalonica and Berea?

What insights about Paul and Silas are in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians?

What are the four questions about life that Paul asked the philosophers in Athens?

What are the answers to these four basic questions?



Chapter Eighteen of the Book of Acts – Remaining Steadfast

Section One: Vocabulary Activities (including the Mean Meanings Game and the Odd Man Out Game) for these words: trade (noun), absorb, revile, obligation, misconduct, eject, vow, reason (verb), eloquent, proficient, fervent, accurately, vigorous, and refute.

Section Two: Questions to Investigate in Chapter Eighteen—

How did a godly couple help Christians wherever they lived?

What did God promise Paul in Corinth when he continued to face much opposition and danger?

What unexpected help came from the proconsul in Corinth?

How did Apollos' eloquence help the church at Corinth and how did it bring a problem?

Chapter Nineteen of the Book of Acts – A Battle

Section One: Vocabulary Activities (including an analogy game and a crossword puzzle) for these words: itinerant, exorcist, possessed, confess, disclose, prevail, shrine, associated, prosperity, depose, magnificence, venture, image, rash, blasphemer, and settle.

Section Two: Questions to Investigate in Chapter Nineteen—

Why were the seven sons of Sceva attacked by a possessed man?

Why was a silversmith in Ephesus very upset?

What happened when two Christians were seized by a mob?

How did the town clerk manage the riot?

Chapter Twenty of the Book of Acts – A Farewell Message

Section One: Vocabulary Activities (including an analogy game and a little story) for these words: prolong, embrace, distressed, lad, afflict, shrink, compel, course, flock overseer, spare, perverse, admonish, sanctify, and covet.

Section Two: Questions to Investigate in Chapter Twenty—

What happened to a young man who fell from a third-story window?

What did Paul say about finishing his course?

What example had Paul set for all Christians?

What counsel did Paul give the Ephesians since he would never see them again?



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I. **Hidden Treasure: In Acts 17, mark the fifteen vocabulary words listed in #2.** Also note the previous words: *devout, recruit, drag, sojourn, ignorance, inhabit, boundary, and ordain.*

Acts 17:1-10, ¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Paul, as was his custom, went in and reasoned with them for three Sabbath days. Using the scriptures, ³ he showed that it was necessary for the Christ [Messiah] to suffer and to rise again from the dead. He said, “This Jesus, whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ.” ⁴ Some of those in the synagogue were persuaded and associated with Paul and Silas, as did a large number of the devout Greeks and quite a few of the prominent women. ⁵ But the Jews, moved by jealousy, recruited some worthless fellows from the rabble, and gathering a crowd, set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring Paul and his companions out to face the people. ⁶ When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the rulers of the city, crying out, “These people who have turned the world upside down have come here also. ⁷ Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, namely Jesus.” ⁸ The crowd and the rulers of the city were troubled when they heard these things. ⁹ After they had taken security [bail bond] from Jason and the rest, they let them go. ¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.

Acts 17:10-15, ¹⁰ After they reached Berea, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these claims were true. ¹² Therefore, many of them believed, and quite a few of the prominent Greek women and men did also. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea too, they came there, stirring up and troubling the crowds. ¹⁴ Immediately the brothers sent Paul toward the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. ¹⁵ The men accompanying Paul brought him as far as Athens. Receiving Paul’s message to Silas and Timothy that they should come to him as soon as possible, they left.

Acts 17:16-23, ¹⁶ While Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked because he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout Gentiles, and in the marketplace every day with those who met him there. ¹⁸ Also Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were talking with him. Some of them said, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods” because Paul was proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ They brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are speaking about? ²⁰ You are bringing strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the foreigners sojourning there spent their time in nothing else than telling or hearing some new thing.)

²² Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “You men of Athens, in all things I see that you are very religious. ²³ For as I went around and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To an Unknown God.’ What, therefore, you worship in ignorance I will proclaim to you.”

Acts 17:24-31, ²⁴“The God who made the world and all things in it is Lord of heaven and earth. He does not live in temples made by hands. ²⁵Neither is he served by men’s hands as though he needed anything, seeing as how he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one man, he made every nation of men to inhabit the entire earth, having set their times and the boundaries of their habitation. ²⁷His purpose was that they should seek him and perhaps pursue him and find him, although he is not far from each of us, ²⁸for in him we live and move and exist. Some of even your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ ²⁹Being then the offspring of God, we should not think that divinity is similar to an object of gold, silver, or stone, made by man’s art and skill. ³⁰God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands that all men everywhere repent. ³¹For he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world with righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Acts 17:32-34, ³²When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³So Paul went out from among them. ³⁴But some stayed close to Paul and believed, among whom was Dionysius, who was a member of the Areopagus, and a woman named Damaris as well as others with them.

2. **Read Acts 17 in your own language. Then play this quick matching game.** Time yourself. Can you do it in three minutes?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. prominent | A. To attack physically |
| _____ 2. worthless | B. A loud noise cause by a group’s strong feelings |
| _____ 3. rabble | C. To disturb, cause an unwelcome reaction |
| _____ 4. uproar | D. A person whose words are foolish or incomprehensible |
| _____ 5. assault | E. An official order by someone with great authority |
| _____ 6. decree | F. Without any value |
| _____ 7. claim | G. To ridicule, to laugh at scornfully |
| _____ 8. provoke | H. Important, well-known |
| _____ 9. babbler | I. A place for living; the act of living in a place |
| _____ 10. inscription | J. A person’s child or children |
| _____ 11. habitation | K. A disorganized or unruly crowd; a low class of people |
| _____ 12. pursue | L. The statement that something is true |
| _____ 13. offspring | M. The quality of being God (or a divine being in other religions) |
| _____ 14. divinity | N. Words carved or written on an object |
| _____ 15. mock | O. To follow earnestly in order to get hold of the object or person |

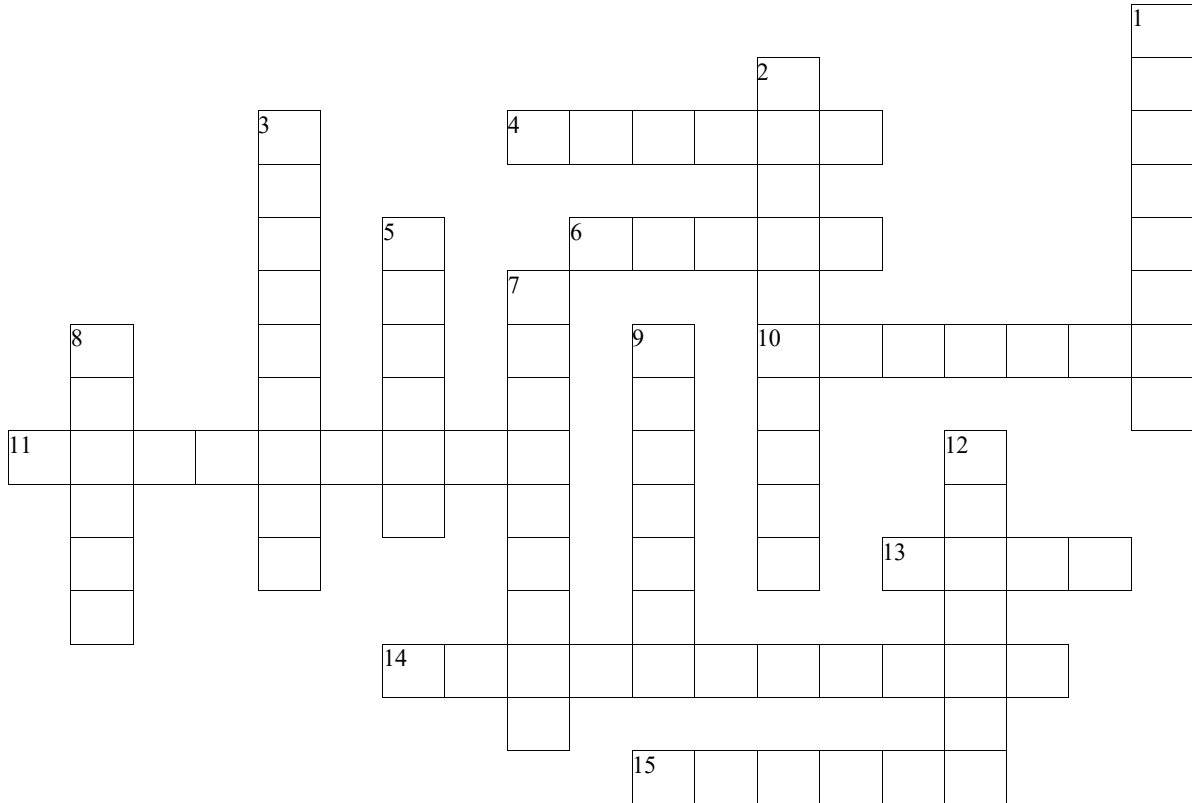
(Answers are at the end.)

3. **Try to use the new words to fill in the blanks without looking at #2 above.**

- In Thessalonica, Jewish and Gentile men as well as some _____ women believed.
- The opponents of the gospel recruited some _____ men to stir up the crowd.
- These men came from the town’s _____, who had thieves and scoundrels.
- The worthless men stirred up the people, resulting in an _____ of shouted complaints.
- The mob in Thessalonica _____ a new Christian’s house in search of Paul and Silas.
- The rulers were told that the Christians were acting against Caesar’s _____.
- The open-minded Bereans examined the Scriptures to see if Paul’s _____ were true.
- When Paul reached Athens, his spirit was _____ by the hundreds of idols in the city.
- Some of the philosophers called Paul a _____ because they couldn’t grasp his words.

- j. Paul found an old altar whose _____ said “To the Unknown God.”
 - k. God, who created the world, sets the boundaries of the nations’ _____.
 - l. God’s purpose for each person is to _____ him and find him.
 - m. A Greek poet had called people the _____ of God.
 - n. Paul said that true _____ could not be the same as an object made of gold or silver.
 - o. Some of Paul’s listeners _____ the idea of a resurrection, but some believed it.
- (Answers are at the end.)

4. **Now use the new vocabulary words in this crossword puzzle.**



Across

- 4. A group's loud noise
- 6. A statement that something is true
- 10. To attack physically
- 11. Important, well-known
- 13. To ridicule
- 14. Words carved or written on an object
- 15. A low class of people or a mob

Down

- 1. The quality of being god
- 2. The act of living in a place
- 3. A person's child or children
- 5. An official order
- 7. Without any value
- 8. To follow after earnestly
- 9. Someone whose words are foolish or incomprehensible
- 12. To cause an unwelcome reaction

Crossword Puzzle only: Copyright © 2021 WordMint LLC. All Rights Reserved. WordMint’s Terms of Service permits the creator to freely distribute his/her created materials for any purpose.

5. **Use each of the new words except *divinity* to complete this little tale.**

- a. Jade Bray decided to run for mayor in the town's next election. The current mayor, Betty Smith, had allowed an unemployed _____ to practically take over the downtown area. _____ fellows often _____ shoppers in order to steal their money. None of the robbers paid any attention to the mayor's _____ that lawbreakers would be booked into jail because almost no one was caught.
- b. When Jade posted an ad for herself, Mayor Smith called Jade a foolish _____, whose promise of "law and order" was ridiculous. She said, "Our town is the best place in the world to bring up one's _____. In fact," she continued, "even the area's pets and wildlife know there is no better _____ for them."
- c. Some _____ ladies agreed with Mayor Smith. However, one day one of these ladies named Karen Green was robbed at gunpoint, so she was sorry she had _____ Jade's promises. Karen was so _____ by the robbery that she went to the city council's next meeting. Her speech caused an _____ among the other people in the audience who complained angrily of having been robbed too. Many of the crowd decided to help Jade _____ the position of mayor.
- d. When Jade won by a landslide in the town's next election, she had an _____ carved in a large wooden plaque that she proudly hung in the city hall's lobby. It _____:

Do what's right!

Stay out of jail!

In our town, the law prevails!

Nobody thinks the plaque made any difference, but the arrests of the rabble's leaders did.

(Answers are at the end.)

Answers for the Matching Game: 1-H, 2-F, 3-K, 4-B, 5-A, 6-E, 7-L, 8-C, 9-D, 10-N, 11-I, 12-O, 13-J, 14-M, 15-G. (If you matched the words in three minutes, no one should mock your skill!) ☺

Answers for the first fill-in-the-blank exercise: a.) prominent b.) worthless c.) rabble d.) uproar e.) assaulted f.) decrees g.) claims h.) provoked i.) babbler j.) inscription k.) habitations l.) pursue m.) offspring n.) divinity o.) mocked

Answers for the little story: a.) rabble, Worthless, assaulted, decree. b.) babbler, offspring, habitation. c.) prominent, mocked, provoked, uproar, pursue. d.) inscription, claimed.

Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version, with the English updated to modern usage. The NET Bible® was consulted from time to time to confirm or adopt apt words or phrases.

**Investigating Acts 17
The Message for the Nations**

I. At Thessalonica

A. The message of Jesus caused another uproar!

Acts 17:1-10, ¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Paul, as was his custom, went in and reasoned with them for three Sabbath days. Using the scriptures, ³ he showed that it was necessary for the Christ [Messiah] to suffer and to rise again from the dead. He said, “This Jesus, whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ.” ⁴ Some of those in the synagogue were persuaded and associated with Paul and Silas, as did a large number of the devout Greeks and quite a few of the prominent women. ⁵ But the Jews, moved by jealousy, recruited some worthless fellows from the rabble, and gathering a crowd, set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring Paul and his companions out to face the people. ⁶ When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the rulers of the city, crying out, “These people who have turned the world upside down have come here also. ⁷ Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, namely Jesus.” ⁸ The crowd and the rulers of the city were troubled when they heard these things. ⁹ After they had taken security [bail bond] from Jason and the rest, they let them go. ¹⁰ The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.

1. What do the third-person pronouns tell us about Luke?
Bible scholars assume that Luke stayed in Philippi to help lead the new Christians until he rejoined Paul when Paul returned to Philippi on his third journey.
2. What did Paul tell the Jews about Jesus from the scriptures (verse 3)?
Three of the most powerful Old Testament passages about the Messiah’s suffering are Isaiah 53, Psalm 21, and Daniel 9:26. Today’s Jews are often surprised to find that these passages are in their own scriptures.

B. The letter Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica (in 51 A.D.) while he was at Corinth on this same missionary journey gives valuable insights.

I Thessalonians 1:1-10, ¹ Paul, Silas, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. . . ⁴ We are confident, brothers—beloved of God—that you were chosen, ⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit . . . You became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much hardship, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia [lower Greece] . . . ⁹ For they themselves report . . . how you turned from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1. When Paul and his companions preached the gospel in Thessalonica, what was the “much hardship” that the Thessalonians themselves experienced? (Acts 17:5-9)
2. What shows in I Thess. 1:9 that many of the believers in Thessalonica were Gentiles?

I Thessalonians 2:2-9, ² Even though we had previously suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we became bold in our God to tell you the gospel of God

while experiencing much opposition. ³ For our exhortation was not from error, impure purposes, or deceit. . . ⁸ we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives because you became very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and hard effort. We worked day and night so that we might not burden any of you while we preached to you the gospel of God . . .

1. How had Paul and Silas been shamefully treated at Philippi?
2. Paul was a tentmaker. What tells us that he and the team were making tents to support themselves?
3. What motivated Paul and those with him to give the gospel to the Thessalonians despite the persecution and the need to work day and night?

II. At Berea

Acts 17:10-15, ¹⁰After they reached Berea, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these claims were true. ¹² Therefore, many of them believed, and quite a few of the prominent Greek women and men did also. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea too, they came there, stirring up and troubling the crowds. ¹⁴ Immediately the brothers sent Paul toward the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. ¹⁵ The men accompanying Paul brought him as far as Athens. Receiving Paul's message to Silas and Timothy that they should come to him as soon as possible, they left.

“Therefore” is used in verse 12. What caused many of the Bereans to believe in Jesus?

III. At Athens

A. Paul and the Greek Philosophers

Acts 17:16-23, ¹⁶ While Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked because he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout Gentiles, and in the marketplace every day with those who met him there. ¹⁸ Also Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were talking with him. Some of them said, “What is this babbling trying to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods” because Paul was proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ They brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are speaking about? ²⁰ You are bringing strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the foreigners sojourning there spent their time in nothing else than telling or hearing some new thing.)

²² Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “You men of Athens, in all things I see that you are very religious. ²³ For as I went around and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To an Unknown God.’ What, therefore, you worship in ignorance I will proclaim to you.”

1. The Greek philosophers liked to debate and learn new ideas.
 - a. The Epicureans believed that pleasure was the greatest good, but not to the extreme.
 - b. The Stoics tried to avoid emotion and believed a person should rise above his troubles.
2. The Areopagus was the council of the city's respected elders, who often gave advice.
3. Paul connected his message to the city's history. According to Greek tradition, 600 years

before Paul came to Athens, people were dying of a plague. When the people built altars without an idol and sacrificed to an unknown God, the disease stopped immediately. The people had kept at least one of the altars to honor the powerful, unknown God. *

B. The Four Basic Questions

Acts 17:24-31, [Paul continued,] ²⁴ “The God who made the world and all things in it is Lord of heaven and earth. He does not live in temples made by hands. ²⁵ Neither is he served by men’s hands as though he needed anything, seeing as how he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one man, he made every nation of men to inhabit the entire earth, having set their times and the boundaries of their habitation. ²⁷ His purpose was that they should seek him and perhaps pursue him and find him, although he is not far from each of us, ²⁸ for in him we live and move and exist. Some of even your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ ²⁹ Being then the offspring of God, we should not think that divinity is similar to an object of gold, silver, or stone, made by man’s art and skill. ³⁰ God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands that all men everywhere repent. ³¹ For he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world with righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

1. What are the four basic questions about life that Paul talked about?
 - a. _____ did we come from? (verse 24)
 - b. _____ are we here? (verse 27)
 - c. What happens after we _____? (verse 31)
 - d. What is the proof the first three answers are true? (verse 31 again)
2. Why didn’t Paul refer to the prophets during this message to Gentiles? Besides Greek history, what cultural item did Paul talk about to build a bridge to his listeners’ thinking?
3. Although he didn’t argue about the Greek philosophies, he did use logic to show that the true God isn’t like gold, silver, or stone images and also doesn’t live in a temple.
4. What did he say that showed God’s power to be greater than any empire’s? (verse 26)

C. Acts 17:32-34, ³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from among them. ³⁴ But some stayed close to Paul and believed, among whom was Dionysius, who was a member of the Areopagus, and a woman named Damaris as well as others with them. Dionysius’ decision to believe, as an elder in the Areopagus, had to have gained attention in Athens. It helps show how Luke’s account was based on facts that could be checked.

D. Let’s think about how Christianity is different from philosophy. In I Corinthians 15, Paul gave a list of those who saw the resurrected Christ, including himself. The testimony about the resurrection is either a lie, a mistake, or the truth. Philosophy is a mental exercise. Christianity is based on solid facts and is a life experience. What an AWESOME truth! Jesus is alive!

IV. Making Memories: Choose a key truth and mark a verse to help you remember Acts 17.

Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version, with the English updated to modern usage. The NET Bible® was consulted from time to time to confirm or adopt apt words or phrases.

* See *Eternity in Their Hearts* by Don Richardson, Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1984, pp. 9-25.

1. **Hidden Treasure; In Acts 18, mark the fourteen vocabulary words listed in #2.** Also note the previous words: *testify, vision, assault, proconsul, wicked, consent and grace.*

Acts 18:1-4, ¹ After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² He found a Jew named Aquila there, a man from Pontus who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. Paul visited them; ³ and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers too. ⁴ Every Sabbath, Paul reasoned in the synagogue in order to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:5-8, ⁵ When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul became completely absorbed with giving out the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his clothes and said, “Your blood be on your own heads. I am released from my obligation. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ He left the synagogue and went into the house of a man named Titius Justus, who worshiped God and whose house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized.

Acts 18:9-11, ⁹ The Lord said to Paul in a vision at night, “Do not be afraid, but speak out and do not be quiet, ¹⁰ for I am with you. No one will assault you to harm you, for I have many people in this city. ¹¹ So Paul lived there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Acts 18:12-17, ¹² When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews attacked Paul together and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³ saying, “This man is persuading men to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio answered the Jews: “If indeed this were a matter of wrong or of wicked misconduct, it would be reasonable for me to accept your complaint. ¹⁵ But since these are questions about words and names and your own law, take care of it yourselves. I am not willing to be a judge of these matters.” ¹⁶ And he ejected them from the court. ¹⁷ Then they all seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat, but Gallio cared for none of these things.

Acts 18:18-23, ¹⁸ After Paul had remained many days longer in Corinth, he said farewell to the brothers and sailed to Syria. Priscilla and Aquila were with him. Paul had his hair cut in Cenchrea because of a vow he had made. ¹⁹ When they came to Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there. Now he himself entered the synagogue [in Ephesus] and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, ²¹ but said farewell to them and added, “I will return to you again if God wills,” and he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church [at Jerusalem], and then went down to Antioch. ²³ After spending some time there, he left and went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Acts 18:24-28, ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus, and he was proficient in the Scriptures. ²⁵ This man had been instructed

in the way of the Lord. Having a fervent spirit, he was accurately speaking and teaching things about Jesus, although knowing only the baptism of John.²⁶ He began speaking boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately to him.²⁷ Then when he wanted to go across to Achaia [Greece], the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews in public, showing from the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

2. Read Acts 18 in your own language. Then play this quick matching game. Time yourself.

Can you do it within three minutes?

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. trade (noun) | A. Bad behavior, wrongdoing, unlawfulness |
| _____ 2. absorb | B. A serious promise; an oath |
| _____ 3. revile | C. With much energy and strength |
| _____ 4. obligation | D. Able to speak or write with excellence and grace |
| _____ 5. misconduct | E. To have one's attention taken up; also, to soak up |
| _____ 6. eject | F. Skilled in doing something well |
| _____ 7. vow | G. Having a strong feeling; passionate; intense |
| _____ 8. reason (verb) | H. Correctly; without making mistakes |
| _____ 9. eloquent | I. A hands-on job requiring a skill |
| _____ 10. proficient | J. Disprove; show something to be wrong |
| _____ 11. fervent | K. Force out of a place; drive out |
| _____ 12. accurately | L. To use logic and clear thinking to persuade |
| _____ 13. vigorously | M. To speak against someone rudely; insult |
| _____ 14. refute | N. A duty, responsibility |

(Answers are at the end.)


3. Try to use the new words to fill in the blanks without looking at #2 above.

- Aquila and Priscilla made tents, which was the same _____ as Paul had.
- Once Silas and Timothy joined him, Paul was _____ with proclaiming the gospel.
- Although a number of Jews and Greeks believed in Jesus, some Jews _____ Paul.
- Paul had fulfilled his _____ to the Jews in Corinth by preaching in the synagogue.
- Gallio wouldn't listen to the attacks against Paul because they were not based on _____.
- Paul's opponents were _____ from the court.
- Paul had his hair cut because of a religious _____ he had taken.
- At Ephesus, Paul also _____ with the Jews to prove Jesus was the Messiah.
- Apollos had a _____ spirit.
- He was an _____ speaker.
- He was also _____ in using the scriptures.
- Priscilla and Aquila explained the gospel more _____ to Apollos since his knowledge had been incomplete.
- After Apollos traveled to Greece, he _____ spoke about the good news of Jesus.
- He greatly helped the Christians in _____ the Jews' objections to their beliefs.

(Answers are at the end.)

4. The Mean Meanings Route: See if you can recall the vocabulary word for each meaning.

Go step by step (square by square) from start to finish. Sounds simple, BUT each time you can't recall a word, you have to start over until you can do the whole route perfectly. That's why it's mean. *Scoring: 0-1 tries = Super; 2 tries = Excellent; 3 tries = Good; 4 or more = Hmm.*

START	a. Able to speak very well	b. Intense, passionate	c. To disprove	d. To speak rudely against someone
				e. To have one's attention taken up
j. Able to do something well	i. To force out	h. Wrongdoing	g. Duty	f. A hands-on job using a skill
k. With energy and strength				
l. A serious promise, an oath	m. Correctly; without errors	n. To use logic to persuade	YOU HAVE ARRIVED	

(Answers are at the end.)

5. Odd Man Out Game

Three words in each set have almost the same meaning. The Odd Man Out has a different meaning and does not belong to the particular set. Find all the words that are Odd Men Out without looking at the definitions in #2. You may use your dictionary if needed.

- Trade, job, exchange, work
- Obligation, burden, responsibility, duty
- Misconduct, wrongdoing, mistake, unlawfulness
- Eject, drive out, push, force out
- Fervent, passionate, intense, fanatical
- Proficient, specialist, skilled, competent
- Refute, disprove, argue, rebut
- Revile, insult, criticize, condemn

Answers for the Matching Game: 1-I, 2-E, 3-M, 4-N, 5-A, 6-K, 7-B, 8-L, 9-D, 10-F, 11-G, 12-H, 13-C, 14-J (If you matched the words within three minutes, you are becoming proficient!) ☺

Answers for the fill-in-the-blank exercise: a.) trade b.) absorbed c.) reviled d.) obligation e.) misconduct f.) ejected g.) vow h.) reasoned i.) fervent j.) eloquent k.) proficient l.) accurately m.) vigorously n.) refuting

Answers for the Mean Meanings Route: a.) eloquent b.) fervent c.) refute d.) revile e.) absorb f.) trade g.) obligation h.) misconduct i.) eject j.) proficient k.) vigorous l.) vow m.) accurately n.) reason

Answers for the Odd Man Out Game: a.) exchange b.) burden c.) mistake d.) push e.) fanatical f.) specialist g.) argue h.) condemn

Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version, with the English updated to modern usage. The NET Bible® was consulted from time to time to confirm or adopt apt words or phrases.

I. At Corinth, continuing the second missionary journey

A. An important two-person team

Acts 18:1-4, ¹ After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² He found a Jew named Aquila there, a man from Pontus who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. Paul visited them; ³ and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers too. ⁴ Every Sabbath, Paul reasoned in the synagogue in order to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

Aquila and Priscilla were forced out of Rome in 49 A.D. This chapter shows important ways they helped spread the good news about Jesus. In Acts 18:3, they gave Paul _____ support by having him stay with them and by joining with him in making tents. (The Roman army used tents on missions, so they had a good market in this Greek city between two seas.)

B. Special guidance and encouragement for Paul

Acts 18:5-8, ⁵ When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul became completely absorbed with giving out the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his clothes and said, “Your blood be on your own heads. I am released from my obligation. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ He left the synagogue and went into the house of a man named Titius Justus, who worshiped God and whose house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized.

Acts 18:9-11, ⁹ The Lord said to Paul in a vision at night, “Do not be afraid, but speak out and do not be quiet, ¹⁰ for I am with you. No one will assault you to harm you, for I have many people in this city. ¹¹ So Paul lived there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

1. Ezekiel 3:18-19 speaks of a “watchman’s” obligation to warn Israel to listen to God. If the watchman didn’t do so, the people’s “blood would be on his head.”
2. The unbelieving Jews were already upset by Paul’s preaching. After Paul stopped preaching in the synagogue, what event would have upset them even further?
3. When the danger became too big and the people’s hearts were against the message, Paul and his companions usually moved on to another city. However, this wasn’t God’s plan this time. In the vision Paul received, what promise and additional information from God strike you as having been especially encouraging for Paul?
4. What do the recovery of Paul after he was left for dead in Lystra, the earthquake in Philippi, and this vision in Corinth tell us about God’s support in difficult places?
5. In I Corinthians, Paul tells how he felt when he first arrived in Corinth. (Paul wrote at least three letters to the new Christians in Corinth. The first letter no longer exists. Our I Corinthians in the New Testament is Paul’s second letter to the Corinthian believers. It was written in about 55 A.D. while Paul was in Ephesus during his third journey.)

I Corinthians 2:1-5, ¹ Brothers, when I came to you, proclaiming the testimony of God, I did not come with eloquence in speech or brilliance in wisdom. ² For I decided not to care about anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and fear with much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power ⁵ so that your faith would not be based on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

- a. What past events could have made Paul fearful when he arrived in Corinth?
- b. What good result came from Paul's dependence on God's power instead of eloquence?

C. Unexpected help, fulfilling God's promise.

Acts 18:12-17, ¹² When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews attacked Paul together and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³ saying, "This man is persuading men to worship God contrary to the law." ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio answered the Jews: "If indeed this were a matter of wrong or of wicked misconduct, it would be reasonable for me to accept your complaint. ¹⁵ But since these are questions about words and names and your own law, take care of it yourselves. I am not willing to be a judge of these matters." ¹⁶ And he ejected them from the court. ¹⁷ Then they all seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat, but Gallio cared for none of these things.

1. Gallio's short time as the proconsul in Corinth is known from Roman history to have definitely been in 52 A.D. (while possibly beginning in 51 A.D.), so this is the date for the events in Acts 18. Gallio was the brother of Seneca, a famous Roman philosopher.
2. The name Sosthenes is in Paul's greeting in I Corinthians 1:1. This might refer to the replacement leader of the Corinthian synagogue (verse 17).

II. At Ephesus and the Rest of the Second Missionary Journey

Acts 18:18-23, ¹⁸ After Paul had remained many days longer in Corinth, he said farewell to the brothers and sailed to Syria. Priscilla and Aquila were with him. Paul had his hair cut in Cenchrea because of a vow he had made. ¹⁹ When they came to Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there. Now he himself entered the synagogue [in Ephesus] and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, ²¹ but said farewell to them and added, "I will return to you again if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church [at Jerusalem], and then went down to Antioch.

A. Aquila and Priscilla's support and hospitality continued in Ephesus. When Paul returned to Ephesus in the third missionary journey, he wrote in **I Corinthians 16:19, ¹⁶ The churches in the province of Asia [now part of Turkey] send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets in their house.**

B. When Paul was visiting Corinth again in 57 A.D., he wrote his letter to the church in Rome. (The couple had returned to Rome, their original home.) **Romans 16:3-5, ³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who endangered their own lives for mine. Not only I, but also all the churches of the Gentiles thank them, ⁵ and greet the church that meets in their house . . .** Acts 18 and 19 give an idea of how they risked their lives for Paul.

C. Acts 18:23 tells the beginning of Paul's third missionary journey, lasting from 53-57 A.D. **²³ After spending some time in Antioch, Paul left and went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.**

III. Apollos

Acts 18:24-28, ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus, and he was proficient in the Scriptures. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord. Having a fervent spirit, he was accurately speaking and teaching things about Jesus, although knowing only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began speaking boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately to him. ²⁷ Then when he wanted to go across to Achaia [Greece], the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews in public, showing from the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

A. Although Apollos knew that Jesus fulfilled prophecies and that John had prepared the way for Jesus, he might not have fully understood about the resurrection and the Holy Spirit. Priscilla and Aquila filled in the gaps in Apollos' knowledge, further expanding the work of the Lord.

B. Apollos was so effective that some Christians formed factions, which Paul had to correct: **I Corinthians 1:10-13, ¹⁰ Now I urge you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you but rather you be united in the same mind and purpose. ¹¹ For members of Chloe's household have told me, my brothers, that there are disagreements among you. ¹² Now I mean that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," and "I follow Apollos," and "I follow Cephas [Peter], and "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul?**

I Corinthians 3:5-6 ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, and each as the Lord gave him work to do. ⁶ I planted; Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

IV. Treasures in the Letter to the Believers at Corinth

A. Corinth was known for its immorality. The temple honoring Aphrodite, the goddess of love and war, employed a thousand prostitutes to serve in the temple. Paul emphasized the importance of sexual purity when he wrote his letters to the new Corinthian Christians.

B. Although Paul had to address many problems in the Corinthian church, I Corinthians also includes some of the most loved passages, such as **I Corinthians 13** about love and **I Corinthians 15**, which offers firm proof of the resurrection and our future hope!

C. Paul ends I Corinthians 15 with a firm declaration of God's power: **I Corinthians 15:57-58, ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

V. Making Memories: Choose a key truth and mark a verse to help you remember Acts 18.

Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version, with the English updated to modern usage. The NET Bible® was consulted from time to time to confirm or adopt apt words or phrases.

1. **Hidden Treasure: In Acts 19, mark the sixteen words listed in #2.** Also note: *reason, revile, considerable, trade, reputation, worthless, enraged, uproar, dispute, and proconsul.*

Acts 19:1-7, ¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul went through the upper country and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples there ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ Paul asked, “Then, into what were you baptized?” They replied, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, ⁶ and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Acts 19:8-10, ⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning with his listeners to persuade them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were hardened and refused to believe, reviling the Way before the crowd, he left them, withdrawing the disciples also, and reasoned with the people daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all who lived in the province of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Acts 19:11-20, ¹¹ Now God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that when even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried from him to the sick, their diseases left them and evil spirits also came out. ¹³ But some Jews who were itinerant exorcists began using the name of the Lord Jesus with people possessed by evil spirits, saying, “I command you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” ¹⁴ There were seven sons of a Jewish chief priest named Sceva who did this. ¹⁵ The evil spirit responded, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” ¹⁶ And the demon-possessed man jumped on them and overcame them, causing them to flee from that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ When this became known to all who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, fear came over them, and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. ¹⁸ Many of those who had believed came, confessing and disclosing their deeds. ¹⁹ Quite a few who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. When they counted up their books’ values, they found they had been worth 50,000 silver coins [drachmas]. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

Acts 19:21-22, ²¹ Now after these things had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, traveling through Macedonia and Achaia. He said, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” ²² Having sent two of his assistants, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he himself stayed in the province of Asia for a while longer.

Acts 19:21-41, ²³ About that time, considerable trouble took place concerning the Way. ²⁴ A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, had been bringing a large amount of business to craftsmen. ²⁵ He gathered these men together, along with the workmen of associated trades, and said, “Men, you know that this business is responsible for our prosperity. ²⁶ Now you see and hear that not just at Ephesus, but throughout almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people,

saying that the gods made by hands are not gods. ²⁷ Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its good reputation, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis, whom all Asia and the world worships, will be counted as worthless and the goddess even deposed from her magnificence.”

²⁸ Now when they heard this, they were enraged and cried out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians.” ²⁹ The city was filled with the uproar. The people rushed into the theater together, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia. ³⁰ When Paul himself started to face the people, the disciples kept him from doing so. ³¹ Also some of the provincial officials, being his friends, sent a message to Paul, urging him not to venture into the theater. ³² Because the assembly was in confusion, some people were crying one thing, and some another. Most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Then some of the crowd looked to Alexander when the Jews pushed him forward. Alexander beckoned with his hand and intended to make a defense to the people. ³⁴ But when they realized that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” for about two hours.

³⁵ When the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “You men of Ephesus, what person is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the keeper of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image that fell from heaven? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be disputed, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against any man, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another there. ³⁹ But if you seek anything about other matters, it will have to be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For indeed, we are in danger of being accused [by Rome] about this day’s riot since there is no cause for it. Further, we will not be able to give a good account of this disorderly situation.” ⁴¹ After he said this, he dismissed the assembly.

2. **Read Acts 19 in your own language. Then play this quick matching game.** Time yourself. Can you do it in three minutes?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. itinerant | A. Admit to a wrongdoing or crime |
| _____ 2. exorcist | B. A place or thing connected to a divinity and considered holy |
| _____ 3. possessed | C. To remove from power, overthrow, bring down |
| _____ 4. confess | D. A person who claims to cast out evil spirits |
| _____ 5. disclose | E. To dare to take a risk, to take on an adventure |
| _____ 6. prevail | F. Wealth; success, especially financially |
| _____ 7. shrine | G. To gain a victory; to have the most influence |
| _____ 8. associated (adj.) | H. An object representing the form of someone or something |
| _____ 9. prosperity | I. One who speaks or acts against God, gods, or holy things |
| _____ 10. depose | J. To be connected to another thing or person |
| _____ 11. magnificence | K. Not wise, reckless |
| _____ 12. venture (verb) | L. To reach an agreement or solve an argument or problem |
| _____ 13. image | M. To be under the control of something such as an evil spirit |
| _____ 14. rash | N. Splendor, glory |
| _____ 15. blasphemer | O. Traveling from place to place |
| _____ 16. settle | P. To tell new information; to make known; to reveal |

(Answers are between the Analogy Game and the crossword puzzle.)

3. Try to use the new words to fill in the blanks without looking at #2 above.

- a. Seven brothers were _____ exorcists, claiming to have authority over evil spirits.
 - b. A demon challenged their power to be _____.
 - c. A man _____ by an evil spirit attacked the brothers and wounded them.
 - d. Some of the new Christians in Ephesus _____ their participation in sorcery.
 - e. They publicly _____ their wrong deeds.
 - f. The gospel message _____ over the dark forces in Ephesus.
 - g. Demetrius earned money by making silver _____ for the goddess Artemis.
 - h. Other workmen _____ with the silversmith's trade joined him in shouting objections.
 - i. These men were upset about the Christians' threat to their _____.
 - j. They claimed that Artemis might be _____ from her glory because of Paul.
 - k. They feared Artemis could lose her position of _____.
 - l. Paul was urged not to _____ into the theater where a mob had assembled.
 - m. The town clerk said that everyone knew Ephesus took care of Artemis's _____.
 - n. He told the crowd not to do anything _____ since Rome did not allow riots.
 - o. The clerk also said that Gaius and Aristarchus were not _____ or robbers.
 - p. He reminded the crowd that the craftsmen could _____ their complaints in the courts.
- (Answers are between the Analogy Game and the crossword puzzle.)*

4. An Analogy Game: Use ten of the vocabulary words to fill in the blanks.

- a. Alcohol is to an alcoholic as an evil spirit is to a _____ person.
 - b. Driving carefully is to wise as speeding is to _____.
 - c. Laziness is to poverty as diligence is to _____.
 - d. A loser is to suffer defeat as a victor is to _____.
 - e. An employee is to get fired as a king is to get _____.
 - f. Wash is to dirty laundry as _____ is to sin.
 - g. Boat is to sink as secret is to _____.
 - h. Decide is to a choice as _____ is to a complaint.
 - i. Gamble is to play the lottery as _____ is to leave one's comfort zone.
 - j. Attractiveness is to beauty as elegance is to _____.
- (Answers are below before the crossword puzzle.)*

A crossword puzzle is on the next page.

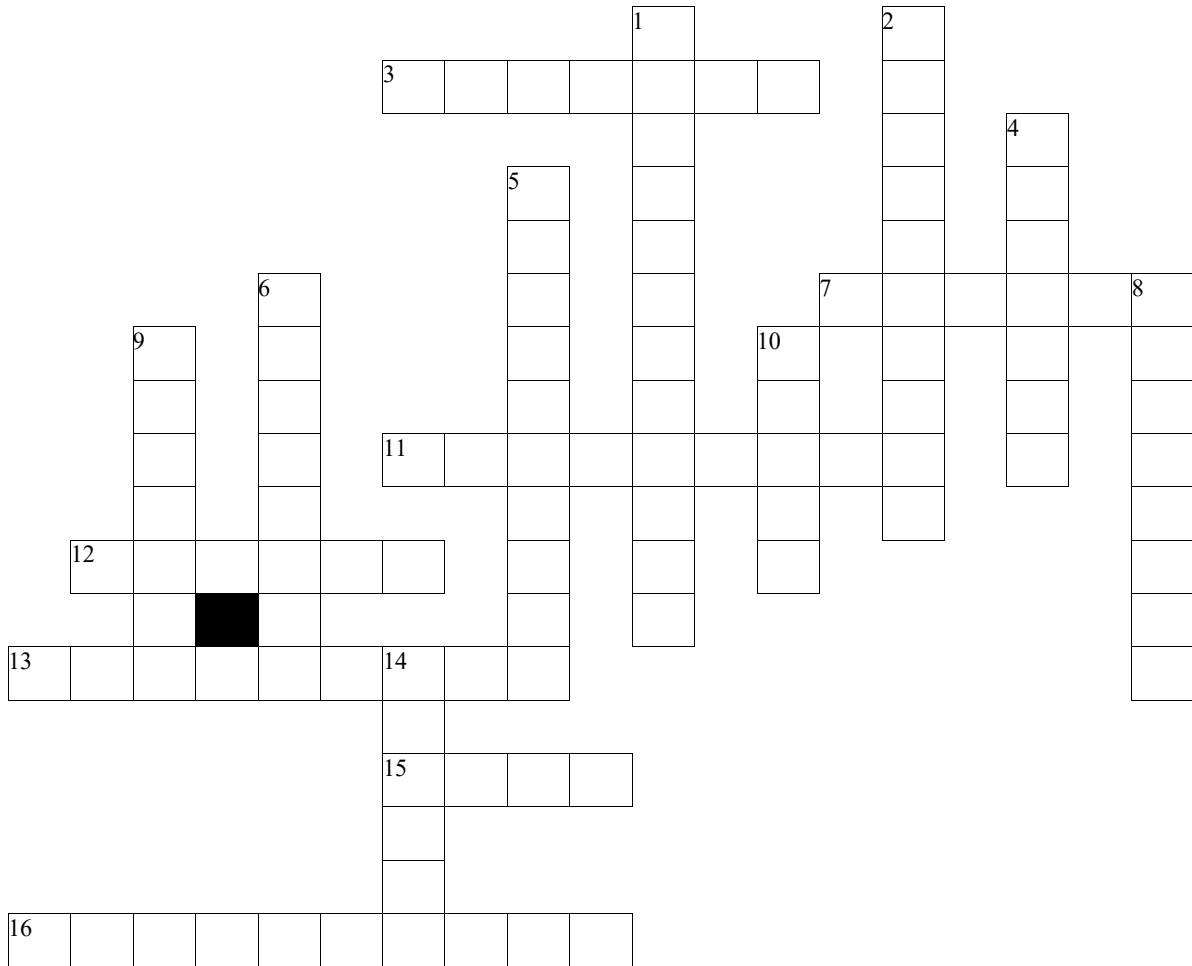
Answers for the Matching Game: 1-O, 2-D, 3-M, 4-A, 5-P, 6-G, 7-B, 8-J, 9-F, 10-C, 11-N, 12-E, 13-H, 14-K, 15-I, 16-L (If you matched the words in three minutes, you have prevailed!) ☺

Answers for the fill-in-the-blank exercise: a.) itinerant b.) exorcists c.) possessed d.) confessed or disclosed e.) disclosed or confessed f.) prevailed g.) shrines h.) associated i.) prosperity j.) deposed k.) magnificence l.) venture m.) image n.) rash o.) blasphemers p.) settle

Answers for the Analogy Game

a.) possessed b.) rash c.) prosperity d.) prevail e.) deposed f.) confess g.) disclose h.) settle i.) venture j.) magnificence

5. Use the vocabulary words in this crossword puzzle. Try not to look at the list in #2 above.



Across

- 3. To gain a victory
- 7. To reach an agreement or resolution
- 11. To travel from place to place
- 12. To remove from power
- 13. Being controlled by something
- 15. Not wise
- 16. One who speaks against God or holy things

Down

- 1. Splendor, glory
- 2. Wealth
- 4. To dare to take a risk
- 5. To be connected to something else
- 6. To make new information known
- 8. One who claims to cast out evil spirits
- 9. To admit wrongdoing
- 10. An object representing the form of something
- 14. A place or thing connected to a divinity

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Investigating Acts 19 The Spiritual Battle and Armor

Acts 18:23 says that Paul began his third missionary journey by traveling through the regions of Galatia and Phrygia. Then Acts 19 resumes the account of this third journey.

I. Paul's Stay at Ephesus, 53-55 A.D.

A. Acts 19:1-7, ¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul went through the upper country and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples there ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ Paul asked, "Then, into what were you baptized?" They replied, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, ⁶ and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

These men, like Apollos in Acts 18, had believed John's prediction of a coming Messiah, but needed to learn more about Jesus, accept him as their Savior, and receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:8-10, ⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning with his listeners to persuade them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were hardened and refused to believe, reviling the Way before the crowd, he left them, withdrawing the disciples also, and reasoned with the people daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all who lived in the province of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia, known also as Asia Minor and now part of Turkey. This was a key city for reaching out to the whole area. Ephesus also had a large number of people practicing sorcery by means of evil spirits.

B. Acts 19:11-20, ¹¹ Now God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that when even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried from him to the sick, their diseases left them and evil spirits also came out. ¹³ But some Jews who were itinerant exorcists began using the name of the Lord Jesus with people possessed by evil spirits, saying, "I command you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴ There were seven sons of a Jewish chief priest named Sceva who did this. ¹⁵ The evil spirit responded, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the demon-possessed man jumped on them and overcame them, causing them to flee from that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ When this became known to all who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, fear came over them, and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. ¹⁸ Many of those who had believed came, confessing and disclosing their deeds. ¹⁹ Quite a few who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. When they counted up their books' values, they found they had been worth 50,000 silver coins [drachmas]. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

1. God may have worked these miracles to counterbalance Satan's stronghold in Ephesus.
2. One drachma was the average payment for a day's work. If a drachma were equal to only \$20 in our time, 50,000 drachmas would equal \$1,000,000. What does this amount of

money tell us about Ephesus, and what does it tell us about these new Christians?
Would it have been okay for the Christians to sell their books (scrolls) of sorcery in order to get rid of them instead of burning them?

Financial loss because of doing the right thing is a strong test of a Christian's faith.

C. Acts 19:21-22, ²¹ Now after these things had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, traveling through Macedonia and Achaia. He said, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²² Having sent two of his assistants, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he himself stayed in the province of Asia for a while longer.

II. Another riot by a mob

Acts 19:21-41 ²³ About that time, considerable trouble took place concerning the Way. ²⁴ A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, had been bringing a large amount of business to craftsmen. ²⁵ He gathered these men together, along with the workmen of associated trades, and said, "Men, you know that this business is responsible for our prosperity. ²⁶ Now you see and hear that not just at Ephesus, but throughout almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that the gods made by hands are not gods. ²⁷ Not only is there danger that our trade will lose its good reputation, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis, whom all Asia and the world worships, will be counted as worthless and the goddess even deposed from her magnificence."

²⁸ Now when they heard this, they were enraged and cried out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." ²⁹ The city was filled with the uproar. The people rushed into the theater together, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. ³⁰ When Paul himself started to face the people, the disciples kept him from doing so. ³¹ Also some of the provincial officials, being his friends, sent a message to Paul, urging him not to venture into the theater. ³² Because the assembly was in confusion, some people were crying one thing, and some another. Most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Then some of the crowd looked to Alexander when the Jews pushed him forward. Alexander beckoned with his hand and intended to make a defense to the people. ³⁴ But when they realized that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" for about two hours.

³⁵ When the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what person is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the keeper of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image that fell from heaven? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be disputed, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against any man, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another there. ³⁹ But if you seek anything about other matters, it will have to be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For indeed, we are in danger of being accused [by Rome] about this day's riot since there is no cause for it. Further, we will not be able to give a good account of this disorderly situation." ⁴¹ After he said this, he dismissed the assembly.

A. The huge, artistic temple of the goddess Artemis was one of the Seven Wonders of the World and attracted many pilgrims. (Artemis was called Diana by the Romans.)

B. Aristarchus most likely became a Christian when Paul preached in Thessalonica (Acts 17:4).

In spite of the mobs' actions in Thessalonica and in Ephesus, he was still with Paul several years later when Paul was taken as a captive to Rome (Acts 27:2). In Colossians 4:10, Paul refers to him as his fellow prisoner in Rome. His name may not be well-known to us, but it is to God!

III. Paul's Instructions about Spiritual Warfare

A. While a prisoner in Rome, Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus in about 60 A.D. He emphasized how Christians have the Holy Spirit and have been transferred from death to life. He also explained the battle that begins when Christians start serving God. He could use his prison guards as a model for an analogy of armor that enables Christians to win the spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:10-12, ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the [unseen] rulers, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavens.

B. The armor's description.

Ephesians 6:14, Stand therefore, having fastened the belt of truth around your waist and by putting on the breastplate of righteousness,

1. The belt held the other pieces of the armor in place. How would seeing God's truth about a matter help us resist Satan and sin? What is the main way to learn the truth?
2. What does the armor's breastplate protect? Christians have been made righteous in God's sight through Jesus' death. Everything we do should fit with this righteousness.

Ephesians 6:15, and by fitting your feet with the preparation given by the gospel of peace. The Roman soldiers' sandals had grooves that helped the men stand and also move. The gospel of peace, not war, should fully motivate us to go and share the good news.

Ephesians 6:16, In addition to this, take up the shield of faith, by which you can put out all the fiery arrows of the evil one. What are some examples of these arrows?

Ephesians 6:17, Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1. Paul placed salvation as the head's armor because it is a matter of life and death!
2. How did Jesus answer Satan when he was tempted in the desert? (**Matthew 4:1-11**) Satan gave up when God's word in the scriptures was used against him.
In **Isaiah 55:1,** God says, ". . . my word will accomplish what I please . . ."

Ephesians 6:18, With all prayer and petition, pray in the Spirit at all times . . . Prayer is how we get help from the all-powerful General, who sees the whole battlefield.

A tremendous word of victory is given in **Romans 8:38, 39:** ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation, can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

IV. Making Memories: Choose a key truth, and mark a verse to help you remember Acts 19.

Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version, with the English updated to modern usage. The NET Bible® was consulted from time to time to confirm or adopt apt words or phrases.

Section One:

**Vocabulary Activities for Acts 20
A Farewell Message**

1. **Hidden Treasure: In Acts 20, mark the fifteen vocabulary words listed in #2.** Also note: *uproar, accompany, unleavened, proclaim, ministry, draw away, inheritance, and apparel.*

Acts 20:1-5, ¹ After the uproar ended [in Ephesus], Paul sent for the disciples and encouraged them. Then he said farewell and left for Macedonia. ² After he had gone through those regions and had greatly encouraged the Christians, he came to Greece. ³ He spent three months there. When he was about to set sail for Syria, the Jews made a plot against him, so he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ He was accompanied by Sopater, the son of Pyrrhus, from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, and Timothy, as well as by Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. ⁵ These went before us, and were waiting for us at Troas.

Acts 20:6-12, ⁶ We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. ⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered to break bread, Paul spoke to the group. Intending to leave the next day, he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸ There were many lights in the upstairs room where we were gathered. ⁹ A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, fell into a deep sleep. As Paul talked yet longer, being overpowered by sleep, Eutychus fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ Paul went down and fell on him. Embracing him, he said, “Don’t be distressed, for his life is in him.” ¹¹ When he had gone back up and had broken bread and eaten, he continued to speak for a long while, even until daybreak. Then he left. ¹² And they took the lad away alive and were greatly comforted.

Acts 20:17- 21, ¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church to come. ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said, “You yourselves know how I always behaved with you, from the first day that I set foot in the province of Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with humility and with tears amid the trials which afflicted me because of the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ I did not shrink from declaring anything that was helpful for you, teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ proclaiming to both Jews and Greeks their need for repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 20:22–27, ²² “Now I am going to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing the things that will happen to me there ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and suffering are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I do not hold my life in any way as precious to myself, so that I may complete my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to proclaim the good news of God’s grace. ²⁵ And now I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will not see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring the whole counsel [purpose, will, and guidance] of God to you.”

Acts 20:28-35, ²⁸ “Be on guard for yourselves and all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers in order to care for the church of the Lord, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure, fierce wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ From among yourselves, men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore, keep watch, remembering that for three years I did not stop admonishing everyone night and day with tears. ³² Now I commit you

to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no man's silver, gold, or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that my hands took care of my needs as well as the needs of those who were with me. ³⁵ In all these things, I gave you an example so that in the same way you should help the weak, remembering the words spoken by the Lord Jesus himself: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20:36–38, ³⁶ After Paul had finished these words, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. ³⁷ They all wept greatly and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all about his words that they would not see his face again. Then they went with him to the ship.

2. **Read Acts 20 in your own language. Then play this quick matching game.** Time yourself. Can you do it within three minutes?

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. prolong | A. Troubled, upset |
| _____ 2. embrace | B. A group of birds, sheep, etc., or people under a leader |
| _____ 3. distressed | C. To hold back or shy away because of fear (in context) |
| _____ 4. lad | D. To correct firmly, to warn |
| _____ 5. afflict | E. The route set for a race (in context); pathway |
| _____ 6. shrink | F. To stop from killing or causing injury to someone or something |
| _____ 7. compel | G. To set apart as holy; to commit something to God |
| _____ 8. course | H. To make something continue for a longer period |
| _____ 9. flock | I. Being unreasonable, mistaken, or unhelpful on purpose |
| _____ 10. overseer | J. To hug; to hold in one's arms |
| _____ 11. spare | K. To desire to have something that someone else owns |
| _____ 12. perverse | L. A supervisor, manager, leader |
| _____ 13. admonish | M. To force or drive someone to do something |
| _____ 14. sanctify | N. A young man or boy |
| _____ 15. covet | O. To cause trouble, pain, or distress |

(Answers are at the end.)

3. **Try to use the new words to fill in the blanks without looking at #2 above.**

- Eutychus fell asleep because Paul _____ his message in a warm room.
- The church members were _____ when the boy fell from the third floor.
- Paul _____ Eutychus and then told the group that he was alive.
- The _____ was taken home alive.
- In Ephesus, Paul and his companions had been _____ with trials because of plots.
- In spite of the opposition, Paul had not _____ from proclaiming the gospel.
- He wanted to finish the _____ God had laid out for him.
- Paul told the elders that he was _____ by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem.
- God expected the elders to be _____ of the church, caring for it.
- Paul urged the elders to guard their _____ from false teachers.
- He warned them that false teachers would be like wolves, not _____ their victims.
- He also warned them that even some of their own members would teach _____ things.
- For three years, Paul had lovingly _____ and taught the new Christians in Ephesus.
- He had never _____ other people's money or clothing, and he had worked hard.
- Christians, who are the _____ people, can be strengthened by God and his Word.

(Answers are at the end.)

4. **Odd Man Out Game:** Three words in each set have almost the same meaning. The Odd Man Out has a different meaning and does not belong to the set. Try not to look at #2, but you can use a dictionary if needed.

- a. Prolong, extend, longhand, elongate
- b. Distressed, upset, troubled, disjointed
- c. Lad, boy, young man, brother
- d. Afflict, affect, trouble, harass
- e. Shrink, hold back, shy away, shorten
- f. Compel, force, warn, drive
- g. Overseer, manager, dictator, supervisor
- h. Covet, desire, yearn for, hope for
- i. Course, circle, way, path
- j. Admonish, correct, warn, discipline

(Answers are at the end.)

5. **Use each of the new words to complete this little tale except sanctify.**

- a. The _____ who took care of a _____ of sheep would have liked his job if his _____ hadn't been mean. The boy was _____ with a lame leg, but the overseer said that lameness was no excuse. He _____ him to do a better job of keeping his eyes on every sheep. Even when the boy was sick with the flu, the man didn't _____ the boy from working in the fields. During the shearing season, the lad's hours of work were _____ an extra three hours, but he wasn't paid more.
- b. The young shepherd's widowed mother was _____ by her son's treatment, but she _____ back from complaining to the overseer or to the flock's owner. However, one day the boy limped home crying. The _____ overseer had fired him because he hadn't chased after a lamb fast enough, and then had mocked the boy's tears.
- c. When the flock's owner refused to pay the lad for the days he had already worked, a lawyer in the town felt _____ to help the boy. He said the best _____ was to sue the owner. When the case came before the judge, the overseer said that the lazy boy was always _____ an easier job. However, the judge sided with the lad.
- d. Being sorry the boy had lost his job, the lawyer hired the lad to work part time for him and saw that he attended school. Best of all, one year later, he married the boy's mother. When his mom and new dad _____, the boy was glad he had needed a lawyer.

(Answers are at the end.)

Answers for the Matching Game: 1-H, 2-J, 3-A, 4-N, 5-O, 6-C, 7-M, 8-E, 9-B, 10-L, 11-F, 12-I, 13-D, 14-G, 15-K (If you matched the words within three minutes, I'm compelled to praise you!)

Answers for the fill-in-the-blank exercise: a.) prolonged b.) distressed c.) embraced d.) lad e.) afflicted f.) shrunk g.) course h.) compelled i.) overseers j.) flock k.) sparing l.) perverse m.) admonished n.) coveted o.) sanctified

Answers for the Odd Man Out Game: a.) longhand b.) disjointed c.) brother d.) affect e.) shorten (different from the set), f.) warn g.) dictator h.) hope for i.) circle j.) discipline

Answers for the little tale. a.) lad, flock, overseer, afflicted, admonished, spare, prolonged. b.) distressed, shrank, perverse. c.) compelled, course, coveting. d.) embraced.

Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version, with the English updated to modern usage. The NET Bible® was consulted from time to time to confirm or adopt apt words or phrases.

I. Continuing the Third Missionary Journey to Macedonia and Greece

Acts 20:1-5, ¹ After the uproar ended [in Ephesus], Paul sent for the disciples and encouraged them. Then he said farewell and left for Macedonia. ² After he had gone through those regions and had greatly encouraged the Christians, he came to Greece. ³ He spent three months there. When he was about to set sail for Syria, the Jews made a plot against him, so he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ He was accompanied by Sopater, the son of Pyrrhus, from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, and Timothy, as well as by Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. ⁵ These went before us, and were waiting for us at Troas.

In spite of the previous trouble in Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea) during his second journey, Paul continued his third journey by traveling from Ephesus to Macedonia to encourage the new Christians. Then he spent three months in Greece, which most likely was mainly at Corinth, before heading back toward Israel, again through Macedonia.

II. Crisis at Troas

Acts 20:6-12, ⁶ We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread [Passover], and in five days joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. ⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered to break bread, Paul spoke to the group. Intending to leave the next day, he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸ There were many lights in the upstairs room where we were gathered. ⁹ A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, fell into a deep sleep. As Paul talked yet longer, being overpowered by sleep, Eutychus fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ Paul went down and fell on him. Embracing him, he said, “Don’t be distressed, for his life is in him.” ¹¹ When he had gone back up and had broken bread and eaten, he continued to speak for a long while, even until daybreak. Then he left. ¹² And they took the lad away alive and were greatly comforted.

A. What does Luke’s use of the first-person pronoun *we* tell us? How about his use of the young man’s name? Can you imagine Doctor Luke rushing down the stairs to check the young man?

B. This event points to God’s provision whether Eutychus was kept from dying after falling from a great height or was brought back to life during Paul’s embrace.

III. The Farewell Message for Ephesus

Acts 20:13-16 tells how Paul traveled alone by land to a port called Assos, where he joined Luke and his other companions on a ship traveling along the coast. He wanted to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost, so he didn’t travel through the province of Asia.

A. Paul’s Review of His Ministry in Ephesus

Acts 20:17- 21, ¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church to come. ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said, “You yourselves know how I always behaved with you, from the first day that I set foot in the province of Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with humility and with tears amid the trials which afflicted me because of the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ I did not shrink from declaring anything that was helpful for you, teaching you

publicly and from house to house, ²¹ proclaiming to both Jews and Greeks their need for repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1. What was one of the hardest tests Paul and his companions faced in Ephesus (in chapter 19)? In spite of hardship and opposition, what had Paul done in Ephesus?
2. We already know Paul preached publicly. What additional information is given here?
3. The threats in Ephesus had been so bad that Paul described them as similar to fighting “wild beasts,” such as the lions in the Roman arenas (I Corinthians 15:32).

B. Running the Race to the Finish Line

Acts 20:22–27, ²² “Now I am going to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing the things that will happen to me there ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and suffering are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I do not hold my life in any way as precious to myself, so that I may complete my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to proclaim the good news of God’s grace. ²⁵ And now I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will not see my face again.

²⁶ Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring the whole counsel [purpose, will, and guidance] of God to you.”

1. Paul gave several reasons why he continued declaring the gospel in spite of persecution:
 - a. What does he say about his own life?
 - b. What does he say about his ministry?
 - c. What does he say about his responsibility to others?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit was warning Paul about his future trials?
Corrie ten Boom helped hide Jews during World War II. In a book she wrote later, she shared how she had a dream before being arrested that foretold the arrest exactly. The dream was not to stop her family’s work, but to show that God would still be with them.

C. Let’s think about how a successful Christian life is similar to finishing a course, i.e., to running a race. Paul wrote about this in several of his letters. The author of Hebrews did as well.

1. **Hebrews 12:1, ¹ Therefore. . . let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily hinders us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.** (*The author of Hebrews isn’t known.*) Do people run in heavy coats? How do we lay aside hindering sin?
2. **Philippians 3:13,14, ¹³ Brothers, I do not count myself as having already taken hold of the prize, but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching toward what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.** What happens if a runner looks back? Christians need to pursue God’s purpose for their lives, moving forward!
3. **I Corinthians 9:25, ²⁵ Every man who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a crown that will lose its worth, but we do it for a lasting crown.** How can some emotions and physical desires, such as a demand for too much comfort, affect how we move toward the goal?
4. **Colossians 1:27-29, ²⁷ . . . Christ in you, the hope of glory, ²⁸ whom we proclaim, admonishing and teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ I labor for this purpose also, striving according to his power, which mightily works in me.** How can we have enough energy for this race?

5. Christians may be discouraged because they are not like Paul. In *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, the authors point out how God uses different personalities to reach people. Peter had the “direct” approach; a blind man had the personal testimony approach; Matthew, who entertained friends, had the “interpersonal” approach; the woman at the well had the “invitational” approach; Tabitha concentrated on “service” to others.¹ God uses our gifts and personalities in ways adapted to us when we trust and obey him.

D. Paul’s Final Instructions

Acts 20:28-35, ²⁸ “Be on guard for yourselves and all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers in order to care for the church of the Lord, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure, fierce wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ From among yourselves, men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore, keep watch, remembering that for three years I did not stop admonishing everyone night and day with tears. ³² Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no man’s silver, gold, or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that my hands took care of my needs as well as the needs of those who were with me. ³⁵ In all these things, I gave you an example so that in the same way you should help the weak, remembering the words spoken by the Lord Jesus himself: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

1. Jesus said that false teachers are like “wolves in sheep’s clothing.” Why are false teachers so dangerous? Today, too, Christians need to be warned about false teachers.
2. Can you think of an example of how the Bible helped “build you up” recently?
3. In addition to working in order to help others, Paul gave a further word about work in **Colossians 3:23,** ²³ **In whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord, not for men.**

E. The Departure

Acts 20:36–38, ³⁶ **After Paul had finished these words, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. ³⁷ They all wept greatly and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all about his words that they would not see his face again. Then they went with him to the ship.**

Note: We know from I Timothy 1:3, written to Timothy in about 64 A.D. (around seven years after this farewell) that Paul later sent Timothy to help lead the Ephesian church.

IV. Making Memories:

What is a key truth from Acts 20 that you want to remember?

Mark one important verse that will help you remember what took place in this chapter.

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¹ Hybels, Bill and Mark Mittelberg. *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994, pp. 123-131.