
Application Guide: Acts 20

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever fallen asleep in church? What happened and why?

- b. What do you think makes some sermons interesting and some sermons boring?

- c. Think of two or three ideas that can make church more interesting to you and your friends.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Paul says here that he had “one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus...” (vs. 21). Then he says, “My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God” (vs. 24).

These simple statements seem to be the heart of Paul’s ministry. In fact, many of the doctrines that are taught in churches today are from letters that Paul wrote to groups of people as he was helping them learn to apply these simple teachings to their lives.

To apply these teachings to our lives, we first need to realize that God’s laws and His ways are good for us and can make us happy. Then we must realize that there are things we need to change in our lives because they are hurting us in some way, and that God gives grace to help us grow and change. This is how we repent from sin and turn to God—we must realize God’s ways are better and then work with Him to change our ways to match His ways.

Try to think of three examples of things that people think are fun at first but actually end up hurting them and taking them down a wrong road.

Now what does it mean to “have faith in our Lord Jesus” (vs. 21)? Discuss, or think through what you believe this means before reading on.



Faith in Jesus means knowing and trusting Him—and in order to know and trust Him, you must have a relationship with Him. A relationship with Jesus means spending time with Him, talking to Him (praying in various ways), listening to Him (reading your Bible, listening for the Holy Spirit), and doing things together (reaching out to help others).

Make a list of ten things that can help you develop a relationship with Jesus (Hint: they are very similar to activities that can help you develop relationships with other people).

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one or both:

- a. Think of three things in your life that help you feel closer to Jesus. Do you enjoy these things or do you just do them out of a feeling of obligation?
- b. Think of three things in your life that you know do not draw you closer to Jesus. Do you think they are somehow neutral, or do they take you away from Jesus?
- c. Think about how you can make your relationship with Jesus more personal—similar to your relationship with your best friend.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Ask Jesus to bring to your mind some things of which you need to report. Ask Him to help you break any habits that keep you doing these things.
- b. Ask Jesus to bring to your mind several positive things you can do that would help you draw closer to Him. Ask Him to give you the power and strength to do what you know is best.
- c. Try talking to Jesus throughout your day just like you talk to a friend.

