
Application Guide: Acts 21

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Has God ever impressed you to say something to someone? What did you feel impressed to say?

- b. Has anyone ever said something to you that seemed to be a message from God? How did that feel? Do you think that person is a prophet?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Picture it: Imagine you are alive in the time of the Apostles. Imagine you are watching as the prophet Agabus arrived from Judea, went up to Paul and took his belt. What do you think would go through mind as you watch him tie up his own feet and hands with Paul's belt and then say, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles'" (vs. 11).

What would you think if you saw someone do something like this today, at your home church? Do you think God communicates with us differently today? Why?

What forms of communication do you think God could use to reach you in the most effective way?

Why do you think Paul was so eager to go to Jerusalem, knowing he would face arrest and persecution? How would you feel about going on a mission trip, knowing that it would result in you and your friends getting mocked and beaten?

Paul had been beaten many times by Gentiles. Do you think it felt different for him to be beaten by fellow Jews? Would you rather be beaten by strangers, or by people from your own community?

If you had just been saved in the middle of a beating and been arrested because of mistaken identity, would the first thing on your mind be to stand up and witness to the people that had been beating and arresting you?

How do you think Paul maintained such a focus on the mission God had given him?

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

- a. Think about it: Is it fair to compare your commitment to Jesus to Paul's?
- b. What would it look like for you today to be as committed as Paul? Would God want a different kind of sacrifice from you?
- c. How do you think God would like you to show your faith in Him today.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Ask Jesus to fill your thoughts and mind with Him. Ask Him to help you learn what it means to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- b. Ask Jesus to help your thoughts of Him to drive out the temptations that distract you.
- c. Ask Jesus to help your thoughts of Him to remind you to be kind and loving to others.

5. Outreach Idea

Ask Jesus to impress you with a desire to compliment and pray for a different person on each day this week.