



**TO THE ENDS OF THE  
EARTH**

ACTS 16:28





# TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

ACTS 16-28

In this third and final instalment of our journey through the book of Acts, we will cover the final section, chapters 16–28. The question at the heart of these chapters is simple: Will the good news of the gospel spread beyond its Jewish roots and make progress in the Gentile world?

Or will the gospel stall as it encounters new cultural challenges? These questions and more are given answers in the remaining chapters of Acts, which shows us all that is possible as the risen Jesus leads his church by the truth of his Word and the power of his Spirit. Join us as we witness the unstoppable advance of the gospel “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

# SUMMARY

Acts 16–28 demonstrates the unstoppable advance of the gospel and the enduring mission of the church to spread the message of Jesus among Jews and Gentiles throughout the non-Jewish world.

Paul's second missionary journey begins in Acts 16, where he and Silas embark on their mission, visiting cities such as Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. The journey continues in Acts 17 with Paul preaching in Athens, engaging with philosophers and proclaiming the unknown God. He continues his journey to Corinth, where he spends a significant amount of time teaching and establishing a Christian community. Acts 18 continues Paul's travels, including a visit to Ephesus, where he stays for a prolonged period.

After concluding the second journey, Paul returned to Jerusalem briefly before beginning his third missionary journey (Acts 18:23–21:17). During this journey, Paul revisited many of the cities he had previously been to and spent extended periods in Ephesus and Corinth, teaching, performing miracles, and strengthening the believers.

Acts 21 to 28 then detail the events that led to Paul's arrest and imprisonment. He travelled to Jerusalem, faced opposition, was arrested, and eventually appealed to Caesar, which resulted in his transportation to Rome. Throughout this period, Paul continued to share the gospel and minister to both Jews and Gentiles, even while under house arrest in Rome under Caesar's nose. The book ends with Paul under arrest but the gospel going forward unhindered.



# SERMONS

## SERMON ONE

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? ACTS 16:6-34

## SERMON TWO

THEY TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN ACTS 17:16-34

## SERMON THREE

I HAVE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY ACTS 18:1-17

## SERMON FOUR

THERE'S A RIOT GOIN' ON ACTS 19:1-23

## SERMON FIVE

IF ONLY I MAY FINISH MY COURSE ACTS 20:17-38

## SERMON SIX

PLOTS, PROTECTION AND PROVIDENCE ACTS 21:17-36

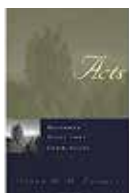
## SERMON SEVEN

PERSUADE ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN ACTS 26:1-29

## SERMON EIGHT

AND THEY WILL LISTEN ACTS 28:11-31

# RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



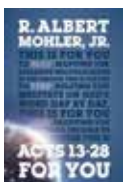
## **ACTS** BY DEREK THOMAS



## **ACTS** BY I. HOWARD MARSHALL



## **THE MESSAGE OF ACTS** BY JOHN STOTT



## **ACTS 13-28 FOR YOU** BY R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR.



## **THE BOOK OF ACTS** BY F.F. BRUCE



## **TEACHING ACTS** BY DAVID COOK



# BibleProject

The Bible project provides helpful and engaging videos that survey different books and themes of the Bible. Use the QR code below to watch the video related to the Book of Acts.



# GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups are an important way we pursue life in Jesus, life together and life for others. In these groups, we open up the Bible together, pray together, support each other and think creatively about how we can get involved in God's mission. There are groups that meet in peoples homes throughout the week and groups that meet in the church building. Contact Pastor Ben today to find a group. [ben@oasischurch.com.au](mailto:ben@oasischurch.com.au)

- Green Groups may have space for new members
- Orange Groups are currently at capacity

## WEDNESDAY

### *Oasis Church*

Womens Group  
General Bible Study  
Weekly 12.30pm-2.30pm

### *Oasis Church*

Senior Mens Group  
General Bible Study  
3rd Wed 10am-1pm

### *Oasis Church*

Senior Womens Group  
General Bible Study  
3rd Wed 10am-1pm

### *Petrie*

Mixed Young Adult Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

## TUESDAY

### *Oasis Church*

Mens Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 6am - 7am

### *Cashmere*

Mens Group  
General Bible Study  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

## MONDAY

### *Kallangur*

Womens Group  
General Bible Study  
Weekly 10am-1pm

### *Kallangur*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

### *Eatons Hill*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Fortnightly 7pm-9pm

### *Whiteside*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm -9pm

### *Mango Hill*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

### *Kallangur*

Mixed Young Adult Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

### *Petrie*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

### *Kallangur*

Mixed Young Adult Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

### *Bridgeman Downs*

Mixed Young Adult Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm

### *Online*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7.15pm-9pm

### *Cashmere*

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Weekly 7pm-9pm



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

## HEBREWS 10:24-25

### THURSDAY

#### ***Oasis Church***

Womens Group  
General Bible Study (KYB)  
Weekly 9am-11am

#### ***Kallangur***

Womens Young Adult Group  
General Bible Study  
Fortnightly 7pm-9pm

#### ***Bray Park/Warner***

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
Fortnightly 7pm-9pm

### FRIDAY

#### ***Oasis Church***

Womens Group  
General Bible Study  
Fortnightly 9.30am-11.30am

### SATURDAY

#### ***Bray Park***

Mixed Group  
Sermon Based  
1st & 3rd Sat 3pm-5pm

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is not meant to replace the Sunday sermon but is designed to help you apply the Biblical teaching given on a Sunday in your Growth Groups. We don't want our Growth Groups to feel like another 'mini-sermon', but rather to be places where we learn to obey what God says in Christian community. You can find our latest sermons here <https://oasischurch.com.au/audio/>

## CHURCH SERVICES

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church. There is space for you to take down notes during the sermon as well.

## GROWTH GROUP

Use this guide during Growth Group each week. There are Growth Group questions for each sermon in the series, and space to write down prayer points that come from the discussion that week or prayer requests from the members of your group.

## PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Although this guide is primarily designed for Growth Groups, it can also be used in personal devotions. After you have heard the sermon preached on the Sunday, go through this guide and use it to apply what you have learnt. It may be more natural to go through these questions with your family. There are also leader's guides available that give additional information to aid leaders in arriving at Biblical answers. Leaders use these to help them lead the group but you may find one beneficial in your personal devotions. If you would like a copy of a leader's guide please email [ben@oasischurch.com.au](mailto:ben@oasischurch.com.au)

# GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

Your group needs to be a safe place for all people to share and to enter the discussion. This means, all members of the group need to follow a few guidelines:

## **WE LEAD WITH GRACE**

We respond to one another in light of what Christ has done for us, understanding that we are all in need of His grace, compassion, and mercy.

## **WE TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT**

We can wrestle with ideas and disagree with one another without judgement, personal attack, or dismissal. We don't laugh at others when they've shared and no putdowns of any kind. These are the actions that make others withdraw and feel uneasy about sharing.

## **WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, NOT `FIX` ONE ANOTHER**

Jesus does the 'fixing'. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

## **WE COMMIT TO CONFIDENTIALITY**

What is said in the group should stay in the group unless permission is given to share it elsewhere. This is not to create a dysfunctional group that keeps unhealthy secrets. Instead, it is to create a culture of safety where everyone feels safe to share thoughts and feelings and knows that others will not find out.

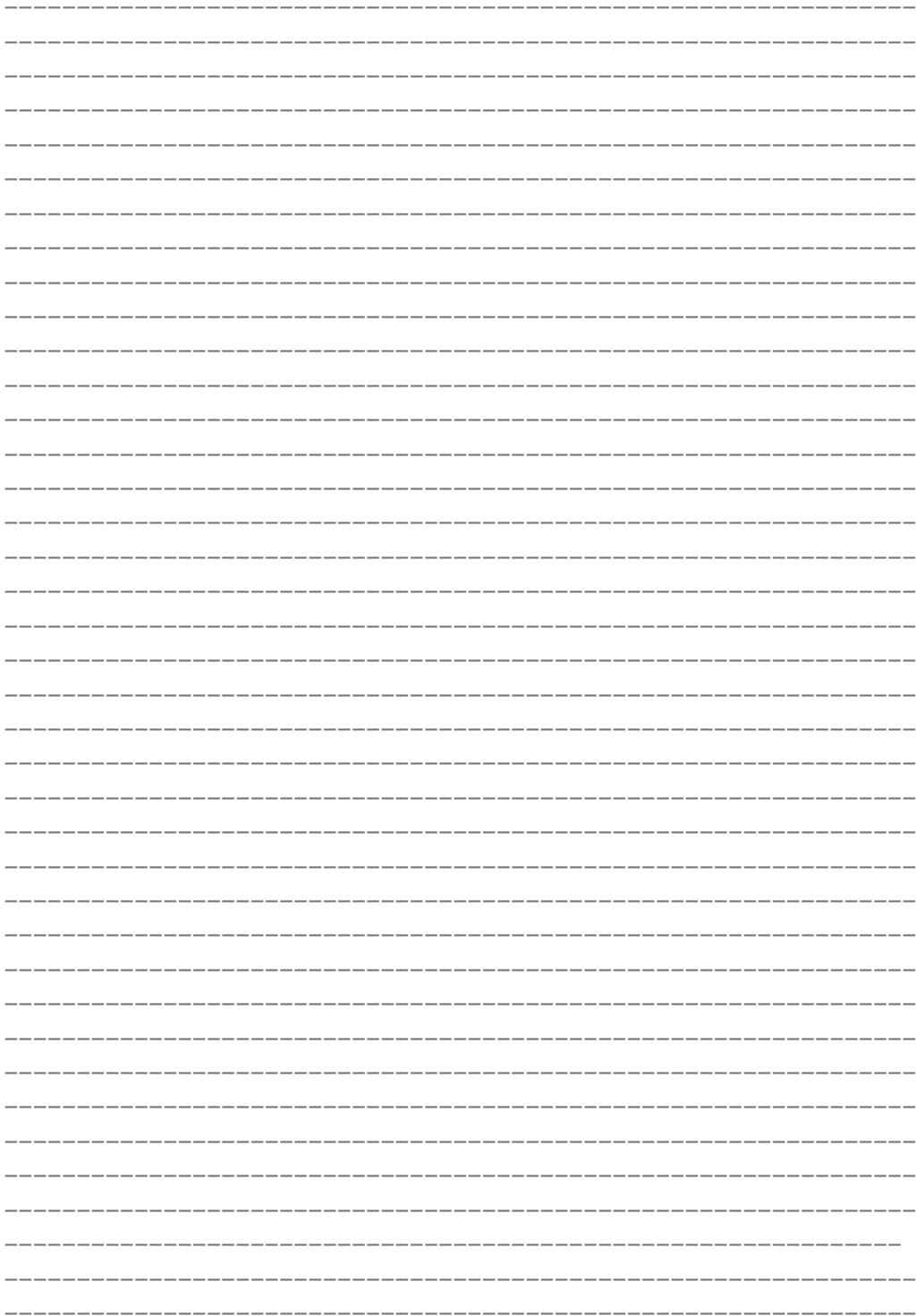
## **WE DO NOT CROSTALK**

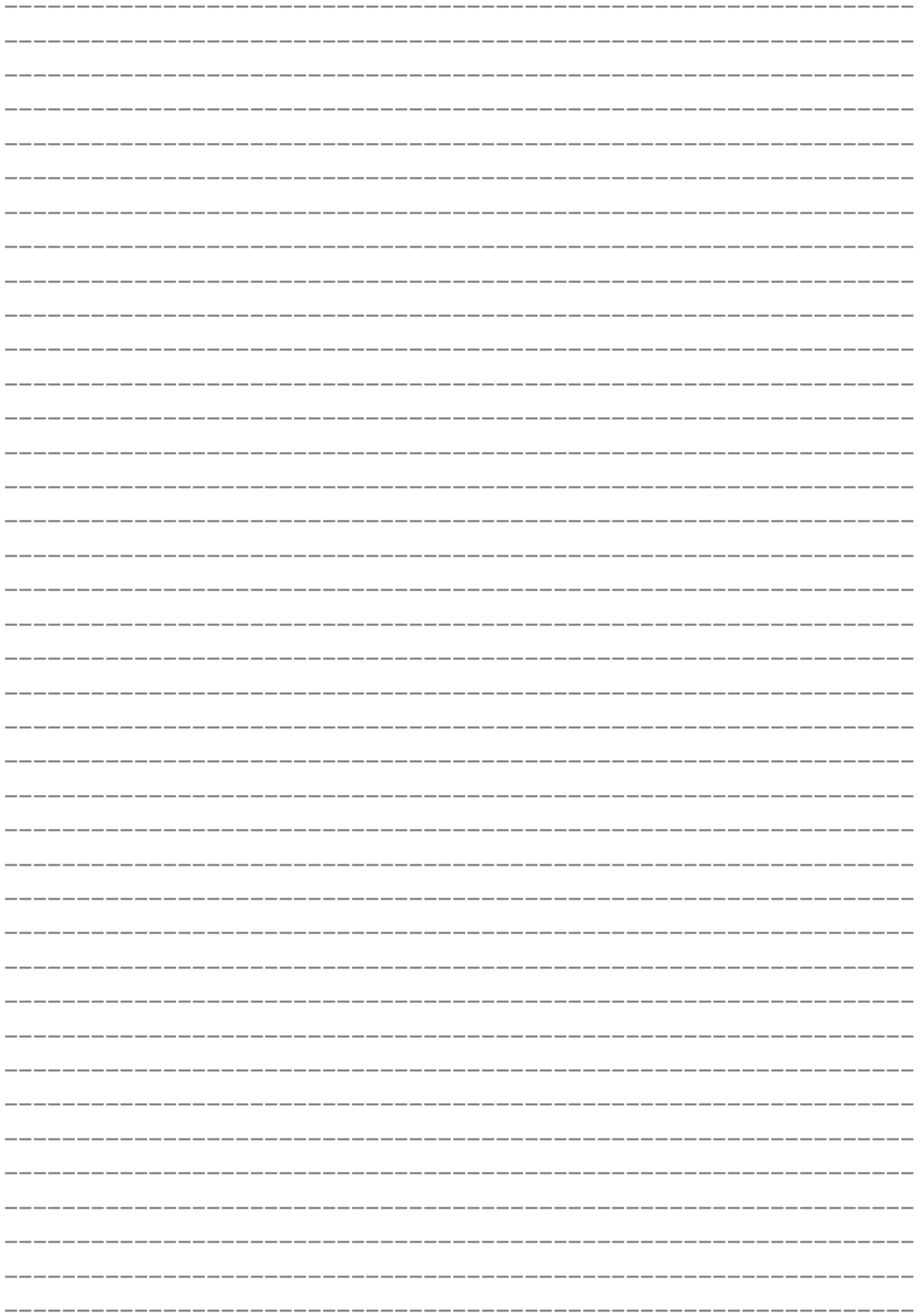
Crosstalk is a conversation during discussion time that leaves others out and can be hurtful. Each person should be free to express his or her feelings without interruptions.

Your group needs to agree with one another that you are committed to providing a safe place to be encouraged and challenged by the word of God and to let Him do a healing, sanctifying work in your lives.

If you have any concerns, you should speak to your group leader or get in contact with our Community Pastor, Ben Fien ([ben@oasischurch.com.au](mailto:ben@oasischurch.com.au)).







# SHARE TOGETHER

BUILDING AUTHENTIC AND LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

# PRAY TOGETHER

RELATING TO GOD TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS

- 1** If you could identify a ministry that was truly led by the Holy Spirit, what do you think it would look like?



**Read Acts 16:6-10**

**2**

What does the Holy Spirit do in this passage? Does this surprise you? Why?



**Read Acts 16:11-15**

**3**

It was the Apostle Paul's practice to preach to the Jews first in each city before sharing with the Gentiles (non-Jews). Apart from his own desire for the Jews to accept that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish

**4** Scriptures (**Romans 1:16; 9:1-5**), why might it make logical sense to preach here first? Does this teach us anything about strategies for sharing the gospel?

**5** Why did Lydia respond well to the gospel (**v.15**)? What does this teach you about evangelism?

**6** **Verse 15** contains one of many household baptisms in the book of Acts (we see another later in **Acts 16:31-34**). What is the significance of Lydia's whole household being baptised upon her conversion?



### Read Acts 16:16-18

**7** This demon possessed girl followed Paul's company for many days. Many Christians today are fearful of demonic spirits. How does Paul's company react? What does this teach us about who should receive our fear and reverence?



### Read Acts 16:19-24

**8** Notice how callous the owners were. This oppressed girl was finally delivered and all they could think about was their loss of profits. How might we be tempted to act in a similar way (**1 Timothy 6:9-10**)?

**9** The Holy Spirit led Paul's group to Philippi, and yet they find themselves being severely beaten and thrown into jail. Did this mean that the Holy Spirit had left them? Or that their ministry was failing? Share your thoughts.





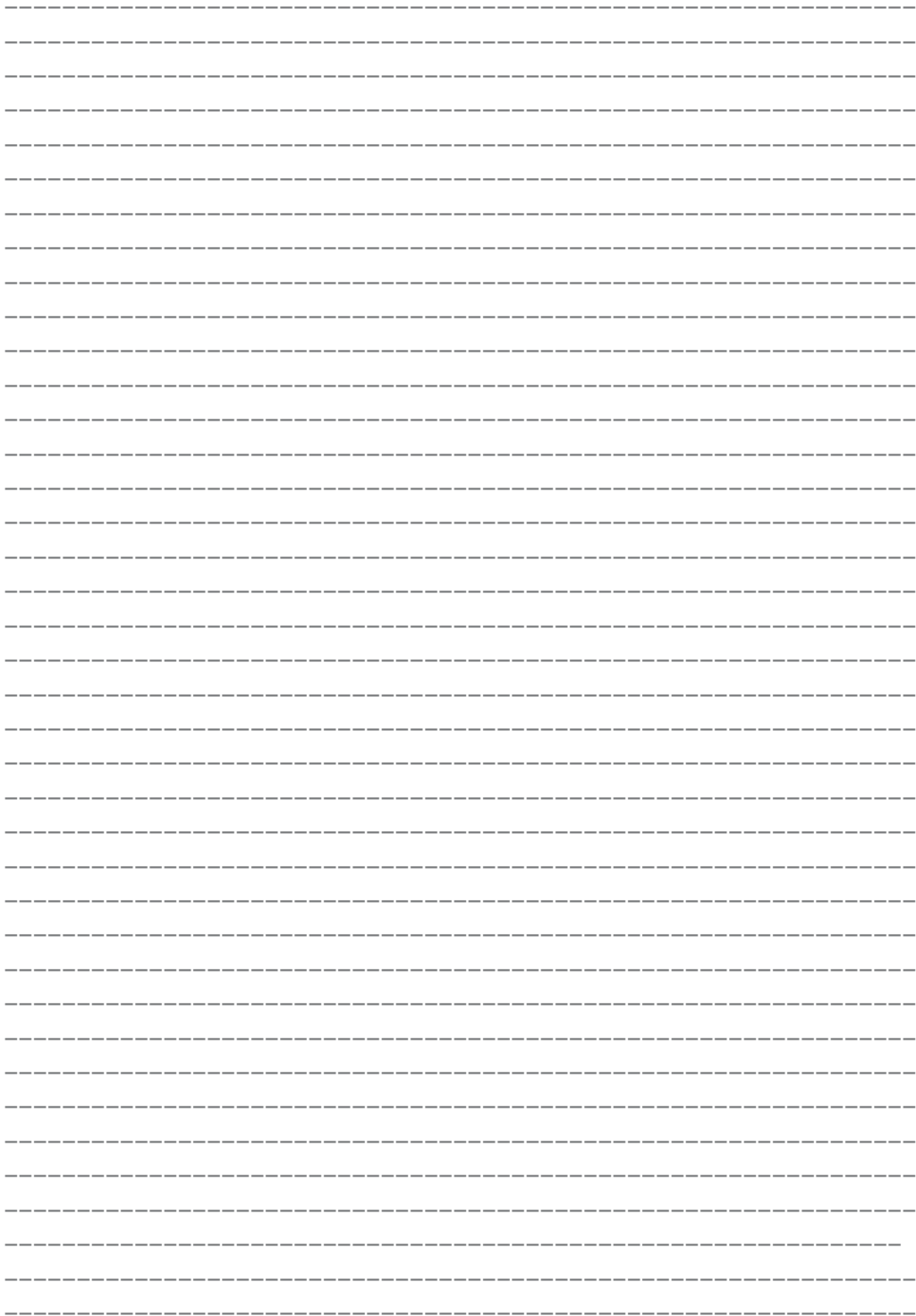
## Read Acts 16:25-34

- 10 Notice that Paul and Silas were undeterred by their suffering. Comment on their reaction and consider **Matthew 5:10-12** in your answer.
  
- 11 What do we learn about enemy-love in this passage?
  
- 12 What do we learn about evangelism in this passage?
  
- 13 What was required for the jailer to receive salvation in this case? How does this encourage you?

## LIVE IT OUT APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

- 14 Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your everyday circumstances. Pray that he will give you an effective ministry in sharing the gospel with others, even if His guidance leads you through suffering and persecution.





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# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS

- 1** If someone asked you: 'What is the gospel?', how would you respond? Perhaps take it in turns to each give your response.
- 2** Is there only one way to faithfully share the gospel with others? Or can the gospel be faithfully shared in many ways? Discuss.
-  **Read Acts 17:16-17**
- 3** What does this teach us about what Paul deeply cares about?
- 4** How does Paul's use of his idle time encourage or convict you?



## Read Acts 17:19-34

5

What stands out to you about Paul's address?

6

Paul builds a lot of rapport in his sermon, spending most of his time preaching truths these philosophers would have sympathised with, but he also doesn't back down from the truth, calling his elite, highly-educated listeners 'ignorant' (**Acts 17:23, 30**) and then preaching the offensive truth about a day of judgement (**Acts 17:30-31**). What does this teach us about sharing the gospel?

7

Paul mentions the resurrection rather than the cross (as most of the sermons emphasise in Acts). Is the resurrection essential to your understanding of the gospel? Think about the last time you shared the gospel with someone. Did you mention the resurrection of Jesus or only his death on the cross? Why is the resurrection so central to the gospel?



## Read Acts 17:32-34

8

Paul's preaching resulted in new disciples. How does Paul's message help you understand the role of the Holy Spirit in sharing the gospel?

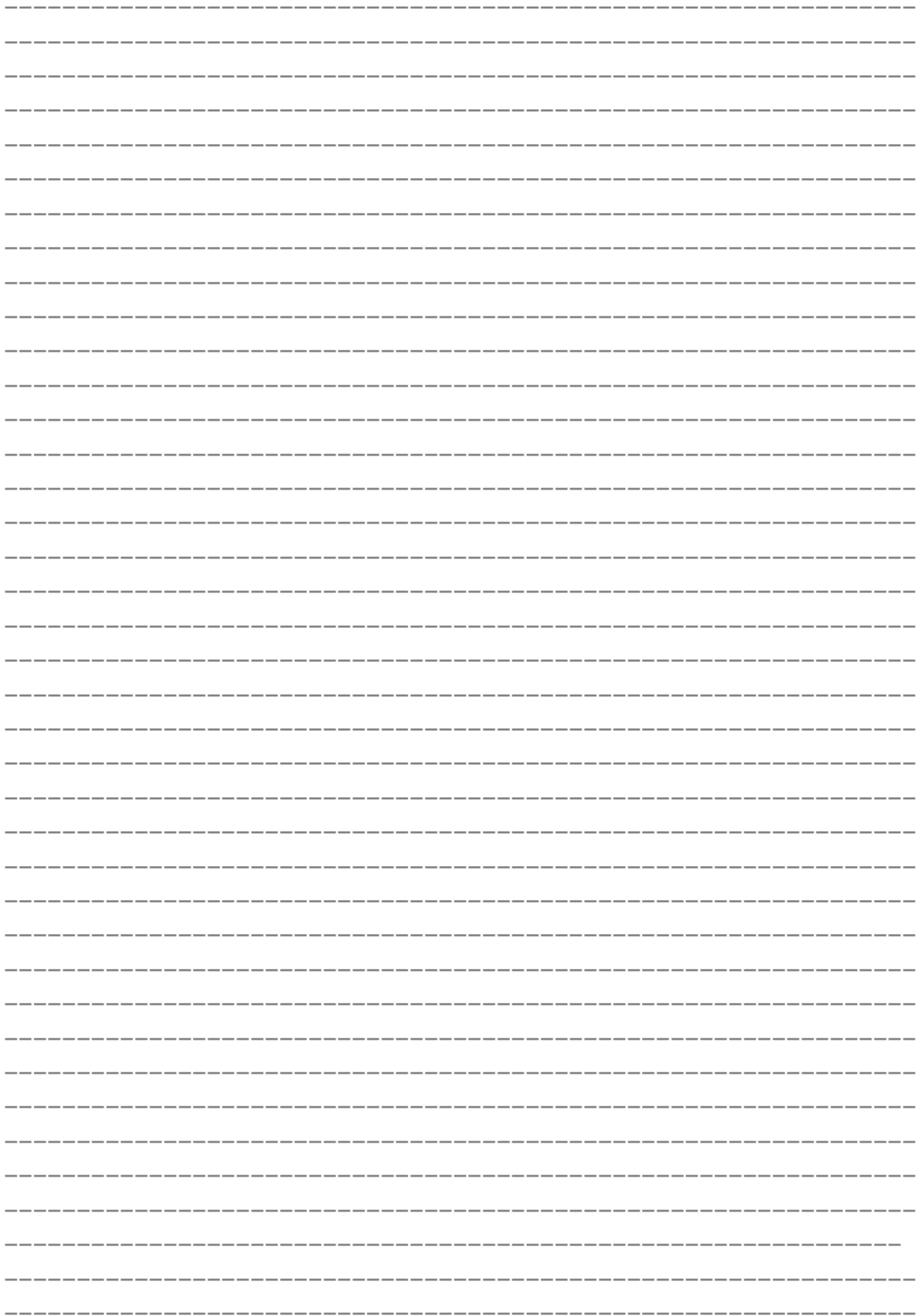
## LIVE IT OUT

### APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

9

Paul was devoted to helping more people find life in Jesus through the gospel. Is there a step you need to take to support the spread of the gospel in our city? Share with the group.





# SHARE TOGETHER

## BUILDING AUTHENTIC AND LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

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# PRAY TOGETHER

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# PURSUE GOD

## GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS



### Read Acts 18:1-4

- 1** Paul worked a day job making tents while he was in Corinth. The gospel needed to be spread urgently yet he couldn't survive without money and a trade to earn his bread. Did he stop spreading the gospel while he worked? Discuss.
- 2** What can we learn about Paul's approach to ministry from his interaction with Aquila and Priscilla? How does their partnership contribute to Paul's effectiveness as a missionary? Consider also **Acts 18:18, 18:26** and **1 Corinthians 16:19**.
- 3** Have you ever served alongside someone else in some form of Christian ministry or service? Share your experience.





## Read Acts 18:5

4

Why is financial support necessary in gospel ministry? Discuss the impact financial support can make upon gospel ministry. If you're comfortable, share why you do or don't support financially. Consider also **1 Corinthians 9:7-12** and **1 Timothy 5:17-18**.



## Read Acts 18:6-8

5

Would you say that in **verse 6** Paul is following Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 7:6**? Why or why not?



## Read Acts 18:9-11

6

How do these verses encourage you?

7

How do these verses give us insight into the doctrine of election (i.e., the teaching that God has from eternity past graciously chosen to save some from the judgement they deserve)?



## Read Acts 18:12-17

8

How should we interpret this section in light of **Acts 18:9-10**?

## LIVE IT OUT APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

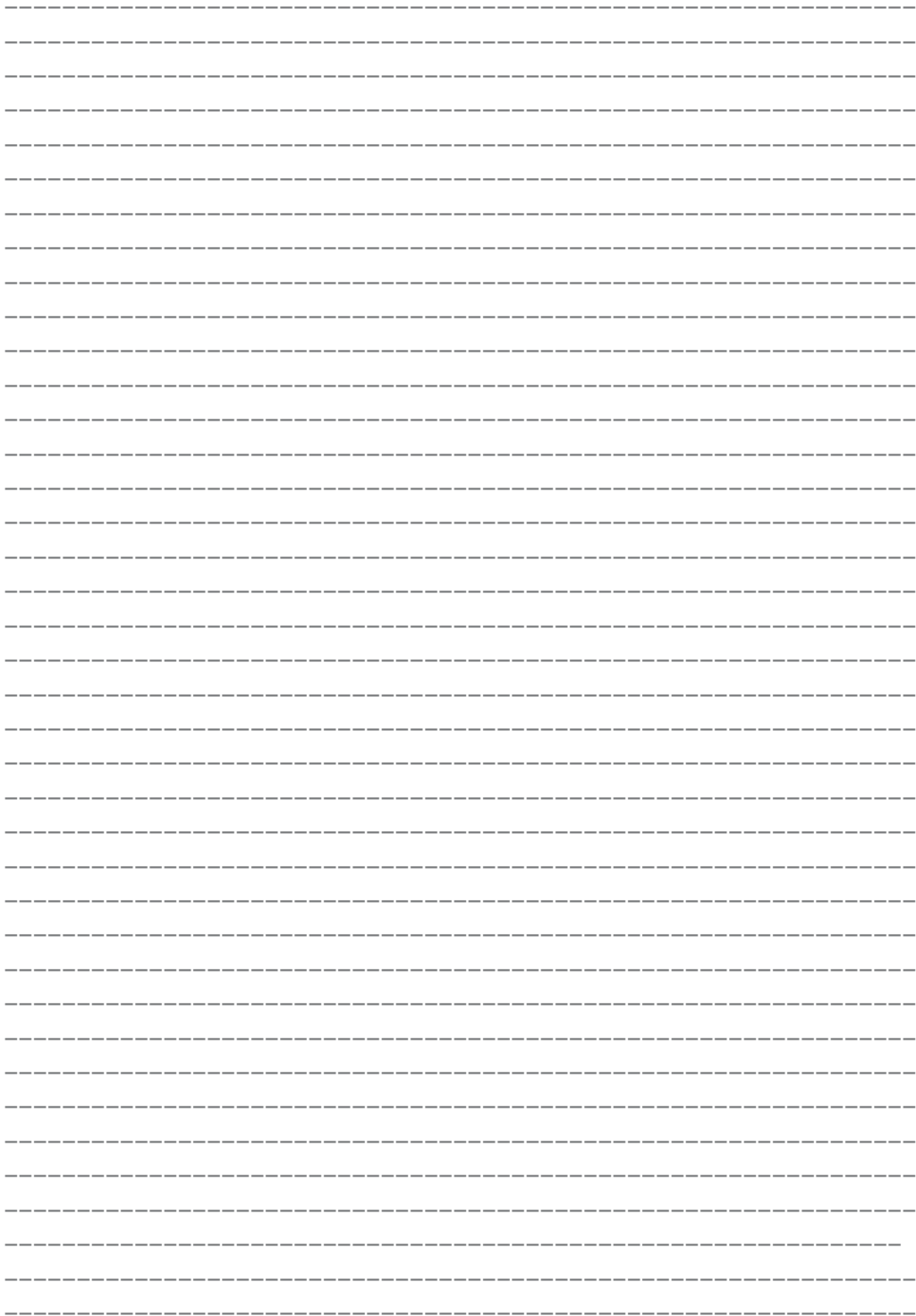
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Reflect on the perseverance of Paul in his ministry. Despite opposition and challenges, he stays in Corinth for a significant period. How can we cultivate perseverance in our own lives and as a church?

10

Do you feel God impressed anything strongly upon you in this study? Is there anything that particularly stood out? If so, what action step can you take to put this lesson into practice? Share with





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# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS

**1** What does the word 'revival' bring to mind? Share with the group.



**Read Acts 19:11-12**

**2** How does this encourage you?

**3** What do you think is the purpose of these miracles?



**Read Acts 19:13-16**

**4** Why didn't God grant his power to these Jewish exorcists?

**5** Why might Luke (author of Acts) have included this account?



## Read Acts 19:17-20

6

This is an account of incredible spiritual revival in a deeply pagan city. Name some of the marks or characteristics of this revival.

7

The drachma was around a day's wages. Today in Australia the average daily wage is around \$306. This means in modern terms these books were worth around \$15.3 million! How should this challenge us? What does it teach us about repentance and revival?



## Read Acts 19:23-27

8

What caused the craftsmen in Ephesus to become upset?



## Read Acts 19:28-41

9

Sometimes spiritual revival will upset the powers that be. Often it will be accompanied with persecution. You may be excited to see the gospel go forward in Australia, but are you ready to face persecution along with it? Discuss.

10

Reflect on the underlying spiritual battle that was taking place in Ephesus. How did the demonic realm react to the advancement of the gospel? How does this remind us of the spiritual opposition we may encounter when proclaiming and living out our faith? Consider also **Ephesians 6:12**.

## LIVE IT OUT APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

11

Finish by praying together for spiritual revival in our city. Pray that the name of Jesus will be honoured. Ask God that he would prepare our hearts to face persecution if it arose.



# IF ONLY I MAY FINISH MY COURSE

ACTS 20:17-38

## CONTEXT

As Paul's third and final missionary journey concludes, he embarks on a journey toward Jerusalem, fully aware of the trials and imprisonment that await him there. During this journey, Paul deliberately arranges a meeting with the elders of the church he had established in Ephesus. Understanding the gravity of the situation and believing that he would never see them again, Paul's words in **Acts 20:17–38** are infused with the weight of a heartfelt and final farewell. It is within this context of impending hardship and farewell that Paul shares some final reflections and warnings with the Ephesian elders.

## SERMON NOTES

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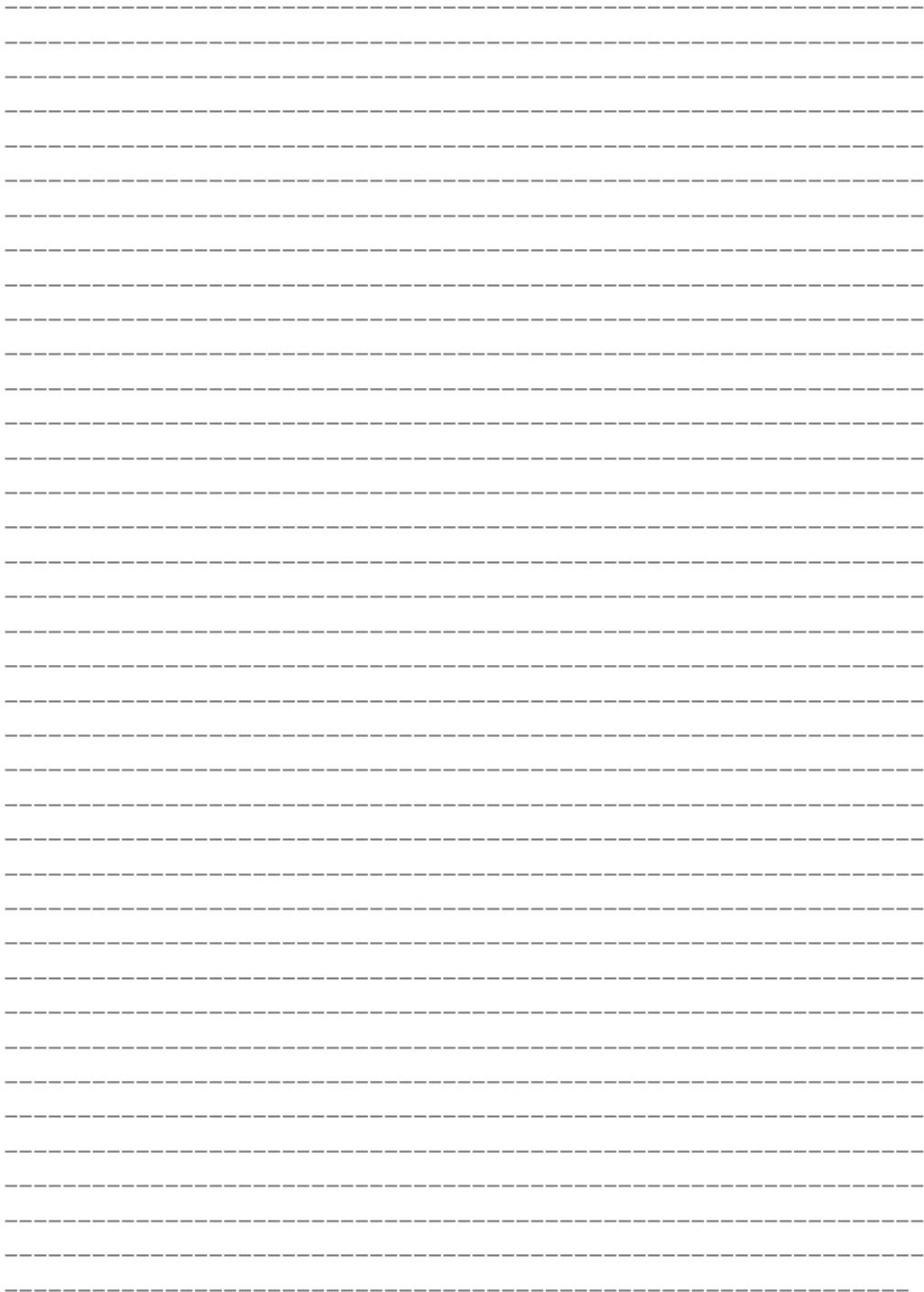
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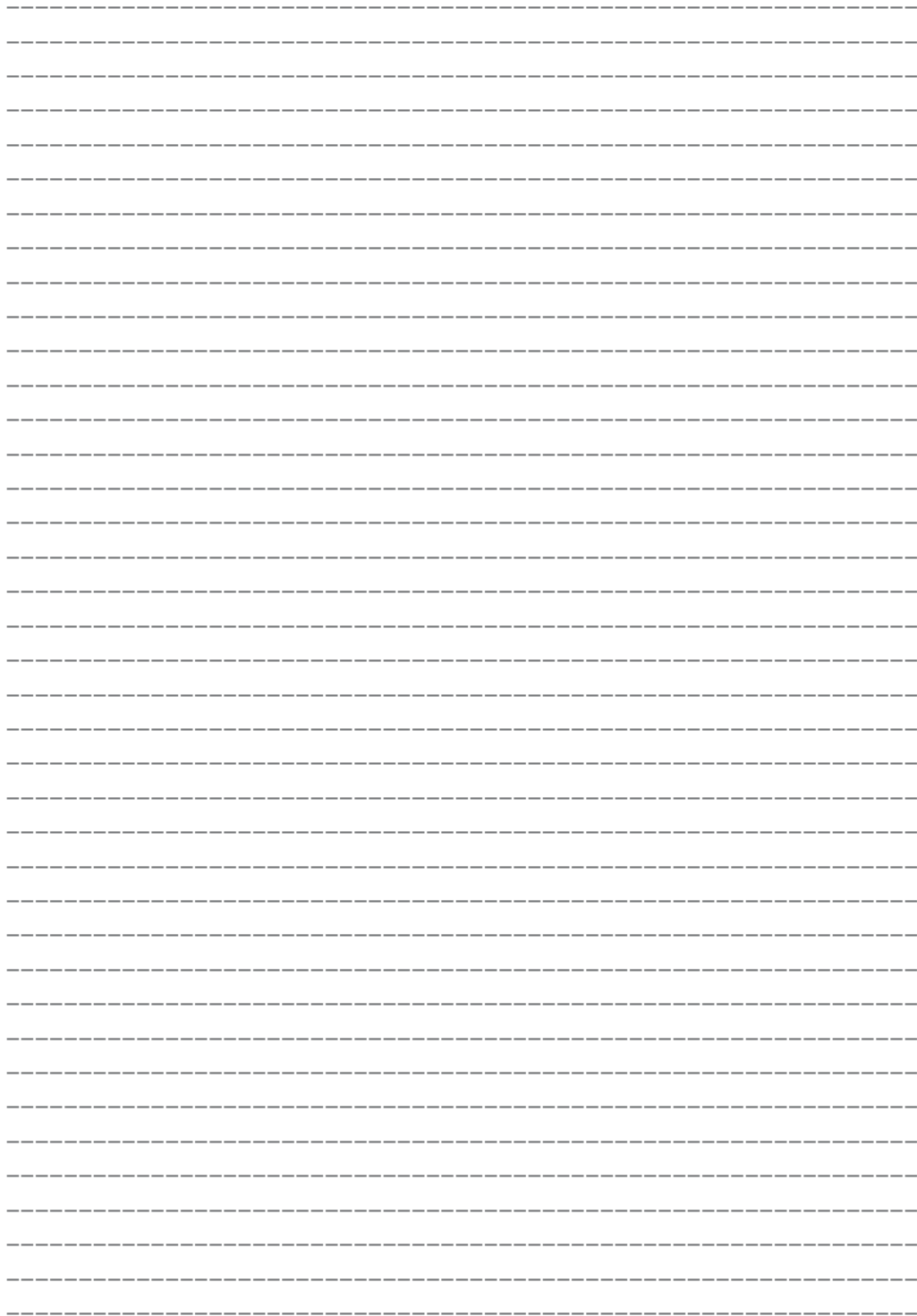
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# SHARE TOGETHER

BUILDING AUTHENTIC AND LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

# PRAY TOGETHER

RELATING TO GOD TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS

**1** As a Christian, what would you like your legacy to be? In your family, church, vocation, community? How are you working towards this end?



**Read Acts 20:17-27**

**2** Disciples make Disciples. Are you in a position to develop others? Or could you ask someone more mature in the faith to help you develop as a disciple of Jesus?

**3** What would you say were the priorities of Paul's ministry? What does he emphasise and what does he not mention? How can these priorities be reflected in our own priorities as a church?

**4** What might it look like practically for us to 'proclaim the whole will of God' (**v.27**)?

**5** Paul defines the task that God has given him in **verse 24**. He has pursued this task at great cost to himself (**v.19, 23**). Are you willing to sacrifice to fulfil the task(s) that God has given you?



### **Read Acts 20:28-38**

**6** Why does Paul mention his tears (**v.19, 31**) and why does Luke (author of Acts) mention their tears? (**v.37**)

**7** Paul the Apostle is saying a permanent goodbye to this church, leaving them without an apostle to lead them and teach them. Where does he say they should seek guidance and wisdom (**v.32**)?

**8** Discuss the significance of Paul committing the elders (and church) to God (**v.32**). How can we apply this in our own relationships and lives?

**9** What does it mean to you personally that it is more blessed to give than to receive? (**v.35**)

**10** How can we cultivate an attitude of humility and selflessness in our service to God and others?

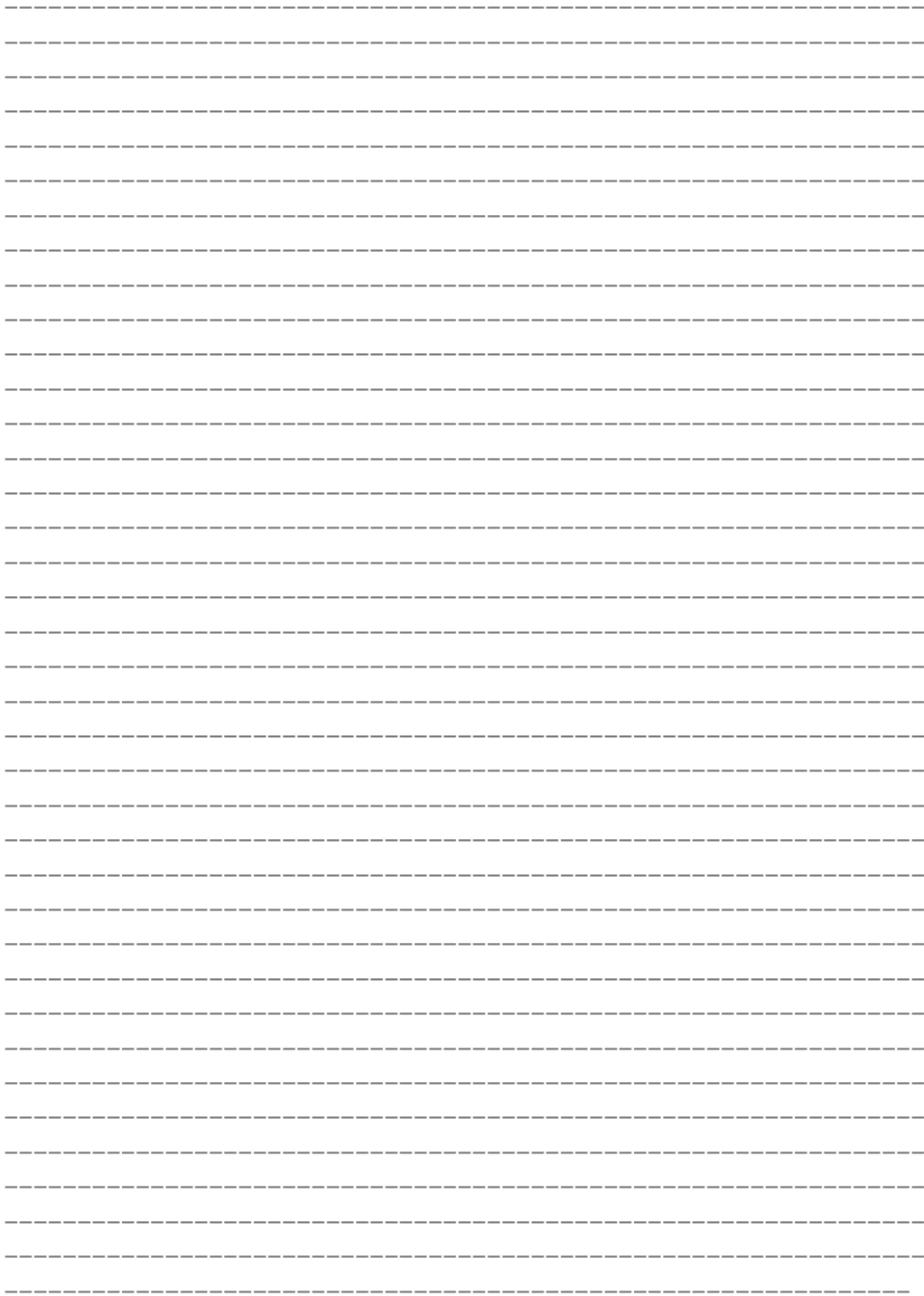
- 11** Paul was very conscious that his financial dealings and situation would reflect on his credibility as an ambassador for Christ. Discuss the importance of financial integrity and responsibility in our individual lives and within the church.
- 12** We learn far more from models than we imagine. Paul's reflection on his ministry at Ephesus (**v.19–27**) provides a model to be followed, then and now. How can we use his example to help us discern dangerous/bad teachers from godly teachers?
- 13** Paul warns against false teachers. How can we practically guard ourselves against the influence of false teachers and false doctrines?

## LIVE IT OUT

### APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

- 14** Paul was laser focused on his mission in life. He knew what it was, and he wholeheartedly pursued it. Do you have clarity in your own mind about what your unique mission/calling at this stage in your life? Your calling and context will (probably) be very different from Paul's, but if you already know it, are you wholeheartedly pursuing it?





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# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS



**Read Acts 22:30-23:10**

- 1** What parallels exist between Jesus' trial and Paul's trial? What are some of the key differences? Consider **Luke 22:63–23:23**, **Mark 14:53–63** and **John 18:19–24**.
- 2** Paul apologizes for his words to the High Priest. Why do you think he does this? (**v.5**)
- 3** What does Paul's apology to the High Priest teach us about honouring authority?
- 4** What was the crux of the Sadducees belief and how did Jesus dismiss/defeat their view?
- 5** Why do you think that Paul's "defence" was so effective?

**6** How is the resurrection central to the message of Christianity? How does your belief (or lack of belief) in the resurrection of Jesus and promised resurrection of his followers change the way that you live?



### Read Acts 23:11-30

**7** How does Paul's treatment from the Sanhedrin compare with his treatment from the Romans? Why might this be the case?

**8** Why would **Acts 23:11** be such an encouragement for Paul?

**9** While the details of **23:11** were specific to Paul, how is it helpful for us? What does it teach us about God?

**10** Look at **Romans 8:28-29**. How do these verses and this narrative in Acts encourage your trust in God?

**11** Just as Jesus was compelled to go to Jerusalem (e.g., **Luke 18:31-33** and **Mark 10:32**), so Paul is also compelled to go. Each are unjustly beaten and face an unjust judicial system. Each has a different outcome and yet each outcome is clearly under God's control. What does this tell us about the sovereign hand of God?

## LIVE IT OUT

### APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

**12** What can we learn from Paul's trial about engaging others with the gospel?

**13** God wanted Paul to go to Rome, so he organized for a small Roman army to escort and protect Paul on the first leg of that journey. He was also housed in Herod's Palace once he arrived at Caesarea. What does this reveal about God's sovereignty and how should this affect our expectations of God?

**14** If comfortable, pray some big prayers as a group. If not, pray some big prayers on your way home.



# PERSUADE ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN

ACTS 26:1-29

## CONTEXT

After arriving at Caesarea, Paul was tried by the Roman governor Felix and placed in legal limbo. Felix did not declare him guilty, but he did not let him go either (**Acts 24:26** says that he was fishing for a bribe). Paul was then placed under a form of house arrest by Felix for the next 2 years, during which time Felix and his wife regularly met with Paul to speak about the good news of Jesus.

After 2 years Felix was replaced by a different Roman governor named Festus, who sought to get rid of Paul. After a second trial, and again in legal limbo despite Festus admitting that he was not guilty, Paul used his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to the Roman Emperor and request a retrial in Rome.

The Roman governor was so unsure of how to charge Paul that he invited King Agrippa, the local representative of the Jewish people, to listen to Paul speak and help him devise a letter to the emperor outlining the charges against Paul. **Acts 26** outlines what Paul said to Festus and Agrippa.





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# PRAY TOGETHER

RELATING TO GOD TOGETHER

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# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS



**Read Acts 26:1-29**

- 1** If you had one minute to explain to someone how Jesus has impacted your life, what would you say? If comfortable, take turns sharing.
- 2** What does Paul say about the relationship of Jesus to the Old Testament?
- 3** What does the detail "Paul stretched out his hand" (**Acts 26:1**) imply?
- 4** Ask someone to read **Acts 26:18** out loud. What stands out to you about this verse?

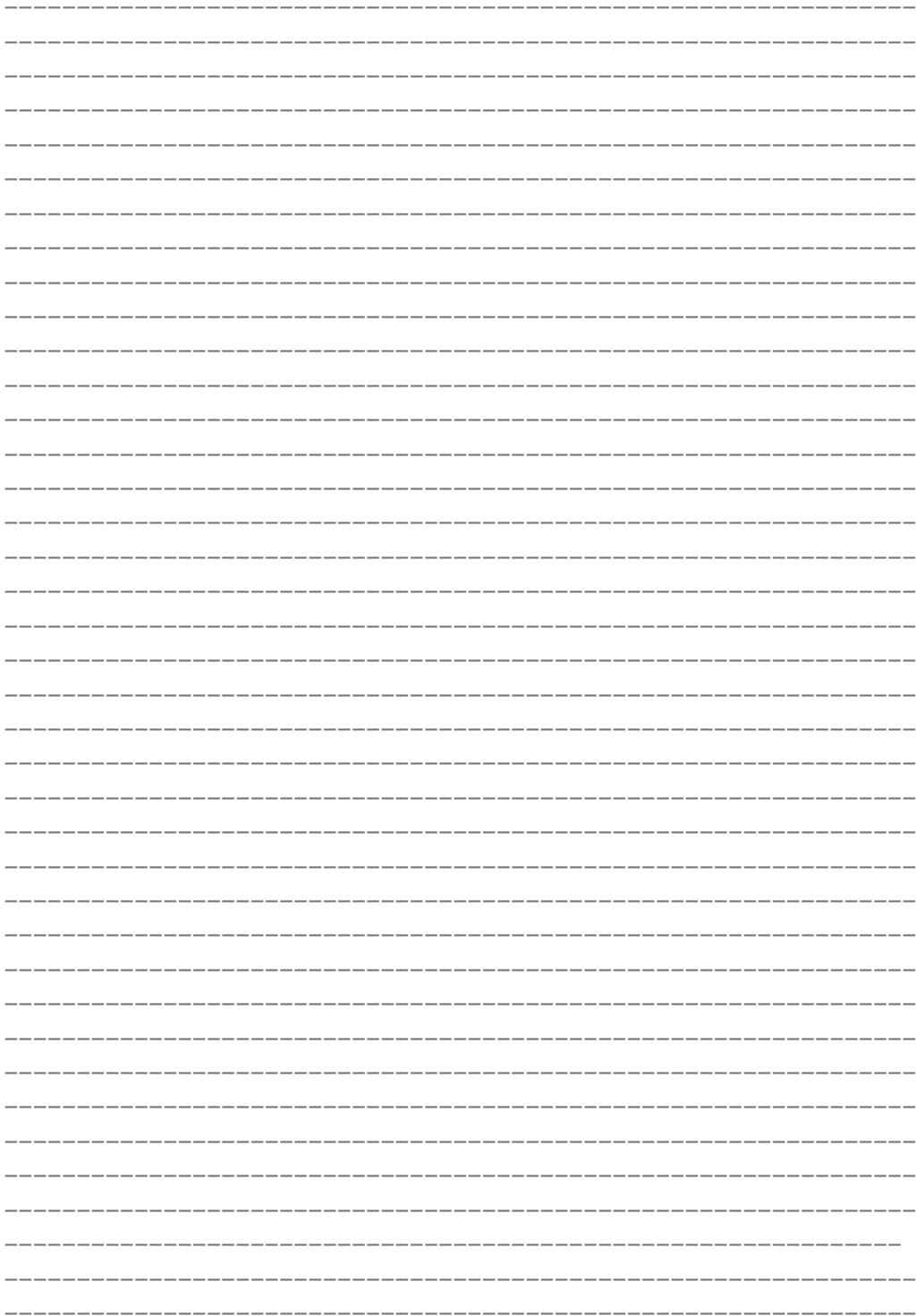
- 5 What does **Acts 26:20** teach us about good deeds?
- 6 Paul takes great pains to point out that the gospel is relevant to Gentiles (non-Jews). Why does he do this? How should we contextualise our presentation of the gospel?
- 7 How are you challenged by Paul's example? One of God's promises is that you will never testify about Jesus alone (**John 15:26–27**). Does this promise encourage you at all? If so, how?
- 8 Evangelism often takes time, as **verse 29** suggests. How should this fact influence the way we share the good news about Jesus?
- 9 How do Festus and Agrippa respond to Paul's gospel presentation? What implications does his response have for us?

## LIVE IT OUT

### APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

- 10 Paul reveals his zeal for the gospel again. He is so zealous to share the good news about Jesus that when asked to give a defence of himself, he naturally works Jesus into the conversation. What are some ways that we can introduce Jesus into conversations we have in a natural way? Brainstorm together.
- 11 Do you have the same kind of zeal as Paul to share the good news about Jesus with those who haven't been saved yet? If you did, what impact would it have on your life? (e.g., the conversations you have, the way you act, etc.)





# SHARE TOGETHER

BUILDING AUTHENTIC AND LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

# PRAY TOGETHER

RELATING TO GOD TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

# PURSUE GOD

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST-LIKENESS



**Read Acts 28:11-16**

**1** Can you think of someone in your life who is personally encouraging to you? What do they do for you which is so helpful?

**2** Why is encouragement so important for believers? Consider **1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Corinthians 7:13; 2 Timothy 1:16; Philemon 1:7.**

**3** Paul was "permitted to live by himself with the soldier who guarded him" (v.16). What does this suggest about how we ought to behave as Christians?



**Read Acts 28:17-31**

**4** How was the church in Rome founded? What does this tell us about evangelism?

- 5 Why would Paul quote **Isaiah 6:9-10** to the Israelites? (**Acts 28:25-27**)
- 6 What does it mean to have a hardened heart? What can we do as Christians to soften our hearts?
- 7 Paul was seemingly brought to Rome as a prisoner via human machinations, but Acts reveals to us that God himself orchestrated the events to bring the good news about Jesus to Rome. What does this teach us about how God often works in the world? Consider **Proverbs 21:1** and **Genesis 50:20**.
- 8 We have spent much time in this sermon series looking at the life and ministry of Paul. What is Acts really about? What does this passage especially highlight?
- 9 The book of Acts ends without telling us the outcome of Paul's trial. Why might this be the case?

## LIVE IT OUT

### APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

- 10 How can you personally be an encouragement to another believer this week?
- 11 Consider **Acts 28:30-31**. Paul is trapped in his own house under house arrest, yet still needing to pay for all his own expenses (and perhaps the expenses of a live-in Roman guard), while awaiting judgment on false charges... and he is ministering "without hindrance." What is your mission and ministry in life? What do you consider as hindrances to your ministry and mission? Why?



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