

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of November 23, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** Paul's final stop.... Rome!

**This Week's Text:** Acts 28

*Luke's main concern is to leave the reader a reminder about the unstoppable word of God which no obstacle, no ship wreck, no poisonous snake, not roman authorities, could hinder reaching the heart of the empire and the hearts of those who dwell there. It was a universal message that was proclaimed, and yet it was from the start of Acts to its conclusion the same story over and over again about the coming of the kingdom of Jesus. **Ben Witherington***

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. **Colossians 4:2-6***

**Related Texts:** Hebrews 2:2-4; Ephesians 1:11; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 1:3-8, 6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- Read and discuss the final leg of Paul's journey to Rome. What do you think God is revealing to us through Luke's detailed account?
- The natives showed hospitality toward Paul and the others. Why? What can we learn?
- What do Paul's actions say about him?
- What were the demonstrations of gospel power and what are their purposes?
  - In what ways have you seen the gospel demonstrated? (Not necessarily supernatural.)
- Discuss the different ways in which the natives responded to Paul.

- Why is it dangerous to jump to conclusions?
- On the way to Rome they stopped in Puteoli where they found some brothers. What kind of reception did Paul get? When has God brought others into your life at precisely the right time? How can we be better at encouraging one another?
- In verses 17-28, Paul defends himself again against the Jewish brethren. What do Paul's activities in these verses tell you about his ministry strategy?
- What was the response to Paul's message? Have you encountered similar responses while living on mission and sharing your faith?
- Based on these scriptures and the totality of the trip to Rome, why might Paul have been sent to Rome?
  - What do all the trials and storms that ultimately brought Paul to Rome tell us about God's sovereignty, our responsibility, and God's plan for our life?
- Acts ends by telling us that for two whole years Paul welcomed people into his rented home. Why do you think no further mention is made of Paul's trials?
- Read Acts 1:3-8. Discuss the "bookends" Luke has put together for us.
  - Based on these bookends, what would you say the book of Acts is about?
  - Read verse 31. In what way does this verse summarize Paul's life? Discuss the message and the mission God called Paul to.
  - Where does King's Chapel fit in the ending of this book?
  - How can we accomplish what God has called us to do?
- Looking back over the book, what major lessons stick out to you? What verses or incidents were the most personally significant for you? Why?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- God the Father sent God the Son into this broken world on mission to save us from our sin!
- God the Father and God the Son sent God the Holy Spirit into the world to apply this great salvation!
- God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are sending us into the world on mission with the message of the Gospel.

**Next Week's Text:** Luke 1:39-55