
[SERMON NOTES]

Acts – Week 21 (*Acts 21:4-14, 30, 33-36; 1 Peter 4:14-17; Romans 12:2*)

What do we do when the _____ thing goes the
_____ way?

Feeling _____ is part of everyone's _____.

Just because it sounds _____, doesn't _____
_____.

Not every _____ is because of a wrong _____.

The pit of _____ is only filled by the
depths of _____.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

Goodbyes are hard but there's no avoiding them in life. We've all had to say farewell to someone or something or someplace over the course of our lives, but here's the truth: *we all handle goodbyes in different ways*. Some of us put off saying goodbye until the last second while some are fans of multiple goodbyes, some of us are clingy and tearful while some of us completely skip goodbyes to avoid how hard they are, and some of us refuse to see a goodbye as a goodbye, but instead merely a "see you later!" ***What kind of goodbye-er are you?***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

This week we learned all about the journey Paul took on his way back to Jerusalem. We see his many encouragements and the many goodbyes. We saw numerous cautions and prophecies of what would happen if he went to Jerusalem and he kept on going anyway. Paul modeled a resoluteness and trust in God that inspires and challenges us, even today. ***Has there ever been anything that you have been so resolutely set on because you believed it was the right thing to do in spite of others hesitancy or caution? If so, share it with your group.***

As we heard in the message, *feeling forsaken is part of everyone's story*. Whether that is due to a decision we decided to make that no one agreed with or a season where we simply feel lost with no direction or we make a mistake that leads us to believe the lie that God has surely abandoned us because of our sin, forsakenness is something that we have all likely have experience with feeling. **Read the following passages from Scripture. What do we learn from these passages?**

Isaiah 49:14-18

Jeremiah 2:13

Psalms 88:9-14

Jeremiah 20:7-10

Matthew 27:45-50

Psalms 139:7-12

How do the previous Scriptures make you feel?

Read these two passages of scripture: Psalm 23 & Romans 8:31-39.

If these two passages are how God truly relates to us as his people, how would that change the way you go about your day to day life with Him?

Reach Activity (if you have time and if you feel prompted): ***Invite anyone who is willing to share the area(s) of your life in which they are currently feeling forsaken with the rest of your group. After someone shares, invite the rest of the group to speak life, encourage, and pray over this individual. Share the hope of the love of Christ with them. Allow time and space for others to do the same.***

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Acts 21

Philippians 3

1 Peter 4

Psalms 22

Genesis 37, 38-45 (Bonus!)