



Paul's Goodbye Tour

Acts 20:1-12

Icebreaker:

What's one of the hardest goodbyes you've ever had to say?

Discussion Questions:

In Acts 20, Paul begins to wind up his third missionary journey and set his sights on returning to Jerusalem where an uncertain and dangerous future awaits him. After having been in Paul's "School of Evangelism" (from chapters 16 to 18, which are filled with tips for sharing our faith), we're now in his "School of Discipleship" (from chapters 19-21) where we get to watch Paul as he strengthens established believers in the faith before he says farewell to them.

1. Write out your own definition for *discipleship*, then share it with your group.
2. What would you say is the relationship between evangelism and discipleship? How important is it?

In this part of chapter 20, we learn that the journey of discipleship provides three essential things new believers need (and stagnant believers also):

Encouragement (vss. 1-2)

3. Read verses 1-2, then compare them to 14:21-22, 15:41, 16:40, 18:23. What do you notice?
4. If established believers need regular encouragement ("*Encourage one another annually.*" – Hebrews 3:13. Wait! That's not right...) how much more do new believers? Come up with 3-5 reasons why this is so.

5. Paul grew over the years in the skill of encouragement so we can also. Have an open discussion on how we can get better at encouragement. Again, try to come up with a half dozen ideas.

Training (vss.4-6)

6. Read 2 Timothy 2:2 then write down a definition of training. Why does Luke list the names of all these people in verses 4-6?

7. What do many (most?) churches offer instead of training? Would you say you were “trained” in the church where you first came to faith?

8. The Bible speaks about training a lot. Read the following verses then make some observations about them. Ask yourself: Am I trainable?

Luke 6:40

1 Timothy 4:7

Hebrews 12:10-11

Teaching (vss.7-12)

9. Teaching is not training, but you can't train without teaching! In your own words, why is teaching such a prominent part of our faith?

10. If you were given the responsibility of teaching and training a brand new Christian for their first year of faith, what would you want them to end up learning? As a group, come up with a list of 6-10 things.

For Prayer:

Share prayer requests and pray for one another. Pray also for the new *Journey* discipleship ministry about to begin at BridgeWay. Pray for the new believers, and stagnant believers, who will grow because of it. Pray for all the future people the Lord will bring who will be discipled by us.