

ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS’S MISSION

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 46 | Last Words, Legacy, & Love

Acts 20:1-38

The greatest **LEGACY** we leave

it won’t be about us James 4:14; Ecclesiastes 1:11

↑ It’s All About Jesus! 1 Corinthians 3:11–15

for those we **LOVE**

Paul genuinely loved these people 2 Corinthians 2:4; 11:11; Philipppians 4:1

↗ We’re sent to love... Galatians 5:14

is to point them to **JESUS** who loves them even more.

with our life v. 13-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7ff

with our words v. 22-27

Text us at **833-271-8805**.
Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, “**Pray for...**” followed by your request.
Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever’s going on and someone will be in touch via text.

3 MAJOR FEASTS

The major events of Acts 20 (v. 6 on) happen between the feasts of Passover and Pentecost. God ordained 7 feasts/festivals for Israel in **Leviticus 23**. Pentecost is one of three major feasts that required “native born” Israelite males to pilgrimage to Jerusalem and worship at the Temple each year. Below is an overview of those three major feasts. . .

Passover (Unleavened Bread)

Celebrated in the spring (modern day March/April), Passover remembered the Exodus and God’s rescue of his people from Egypt. It pointed ahead to Jesus’s atoning work on the cross rescuing us as God’s wrath for sin “passes over” us and lands on Jesus.

Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

Pentecost (which means “fiftieth”) was celebrated 50 days after Passover. It was celebrated “the day after the seventh Sabbath” after Passover. Since the date was determined by the passing of a “week” of weeks (7 weeks), it was often called the Feast of Weeks. It was celebrated at the wheat harvest and included a first fruits offering to God, remembering that God is the provider of all things. It was about 50 days after the first Passover that God provided the Law at Mount Sinai so Israel would know how to live in the Promised Land. **Acts 2** reminds us God is the provider of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to *actually* live the Christian life, empowering us to carry out Jesus’s mission.

Feast of Tabernacles (Booths)

About 4 months after Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths/Tents) was celebrated in late September/early October. The Israelites would make temporary “booths” (like a tent) to dwell in during this week-long feast to remind them of God’s covenant promise to dwell among his people and that our time here is temporary. It remembered the ancient Israelites’ journey to the Promised Land, and their temporary dwelling places along the way. Many scholars believe that Jesus was born during this time (not December 25 as made popular by the Catholic Church in the 4th Century). John 1:14 says “*the Word became flesh and dwelt (lit. ‘tabernacled’) among us. . .*” Jesus came to live among us temporarily at his first coming, and will forever at his second coming!

life groups Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group’s study. If you’re interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You
Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here’s two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

- 1. What was your first job?
- 2. Have you ever purchased something you saw on an infomercial?

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

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. .

- 1. This week we saw some of Paul’s final words and visits with multiple groups of people that he grew to love, and that who love him and thanked God for his ministry to them. His love for Jesus and for them was the greatest legacy he could leave them with. — As we think about any legacy we could possibly leave behind, the truth is that our character is more important than our accomplishments or our possessions. Developing character is a partnership between God and us. We have our part to play, and he has his part. What do you learn about the character-building process and the partnership we have with God in building our character from **2 Peter 1:3-9**?
 - a. **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
 - b. **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
 - c. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.
2 PETER 1:3-9 (NIV)

- As you think about the development of your character, is there anything you need to start, stop or do more to see growth?
- (Study Guide continues on back panel...)

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 1 | Receiving From God. Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 2 | Responding To God. How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 3 | Receiving From Others. Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | Moving Toward Others. How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 5 | Going to those Far from God. How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 20:24-27 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

24 But my **life** is worth **nothing** to me **unless** I use **it** for **finishing** the work **assigned** me by the **Lord Jesus**—the work of **telling others** the **Good News** about the **wonderful grace** of God. 25 And now I **know** that **none** of you to whom I have **preached** the **Kingdom** will **ever** see me **again**. 26 I **declare today** that I have **been faithful**. If **anyone** suffers **eternal death**, it's not my **fault**, 27 for I didn't **shrink** from **declaring** all that God wants you to **know**.

B E E N M P R H K G G O Y
K B E T E R N A L G B U O
N S U F F E R S H R I N K
O D E C L A R E F A U L T
W T I F I C N ' C C F E A
O F A I T H F U L E K S L
N N S B ' E T O D A Y S O
D O S A S D E F K G S N R
E T I G J O L D I G O O D
R H G A E T L A N Y O N E
F I N I S H I N G E L E A
U N E N U E N ' D V I W T
L G D W S R G O O E F S H
H S C L V S B J M R E C U

life groups Study Guide (continued)

- 2. One of the secrets to living an abundant life (thought a life that is mostly mundane) is maintaining an eternal perspective. The Apostle Paul had many challenging experiences in his life, and it would have been easy for him to give up, yet he was consistently able to maintain an eternal perspective. What do you see in **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** that helps explain how he was able to keep going when the mundane and messy got difficult?
 - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18** (NIV)
 - Paul mentions his “light and momentary troubles” in 2 Corinthians 4:17. Later in 2 Corinthians, he unpacks what he meant by that phrase. Go read **2 Corinthians 11:23-29** and make note of the troubles Paul faced in life and ministry.
 - How in the world do you think he was able to describe the difficulties and challenges he had been through as “light and momentary”?

- 3. It may seem strange to say so, but a key to growing our character (Christlikeness) as well as to maintaining an eternal perspective is to pause and remember all we have to be thankful for. To deliberately, intentionally, and regularly choose to be thankful. **Read Psalm 118 slowly**, as you do *stop regularly* and thank God for who he is, what he has done, what he is doing and what he will do.
 - The Apostle Paul also encourages this kind of prayer in **Philippians 4:4-9**. Check it out and give it a try.

Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.

Some parts of this week's Study Guide are adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.

Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS 20:1-38

We're Glad You're Here Today!

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<https://wawasee.today>