

Part 49 | **Right Choices, Tough Results**

Acts 21:1-22:29


If you follow Jesus, **BE WARNED**;

it won't be easy Matthew 16:24; Acts 14:19-23

you will suffer John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12

& when it *does* get hard, **LOVE** those he sends you to

Paul genuinely loved these people 2 Corinthians 2:4; 11:11; Philippians 1:7-8; 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:8

 **We're sent to love...** Matthew 22:39; Romans 13:10; Galatians 5:14; John 3:16-17 → John 17:18; 20:21

—even when it **HURTS**.

 **remember: “not every valley means a wrong turn”** — Larry Osborne Psalm 23:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8-10

 **keep making the next right choice** Proverbs 3:5-6; Colossians 3:17



Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!

Text **“CONVERSATION”** to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.

You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **“Pray for...”** followed by your request.

Gospel Conversations

Part of our
Enduring Reach vision is:

*By 2030 the people of
Wawasee Bible will engage in
10,000 Gospel Conversations*

Types of “Gospel Conversations”

Any *intentional* conversation with someone you hope to meet Jesus counts as a Gospel Conversation. As you count your conversations, try to categorize them as to what “level” of a conversation it is.

*NOTE, there is **not** a “right” or “wrong” here, it’s just a tool to help you gradually move toward level 5 conversations with those far from God, with hopes that they might meet Jesus.*

Categories of Gospel Conversations:

1 **Connecting** (News/Weather/Sports)
These are casual “connecting” conversations. We all have them every day, multiple times, even with those we’re closest to.

2 **Personal** (Personal Details, Family, etc.)
Personal conversations go further to reveal or disclose something from each other’s personal lives. Family, vocation, frustrations, personal joys, interests, etc.

3 **Their Story**
Here you learn something of their *spiritual* background, knowledge, interest, etc.

4 **My Story**
Sharing part or all of your faith story.

5 **God’s Story**
Sharing part or all of the Gospel with them, Jesus’s work, our response, etc.



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 biggest childhood fear? (Clowns? Being lost? Monsters? The dark?)
2. What’s your favorite candy?

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.

This week we saw Paul make a number of right choices, but that ended in difficult results—including being wrongly accuses, beaten, and arrested. This weeks study will explore more of what the Bible says when our right choices yield hard things.

1. One of the ways to respond when the right choice brings a tough result is to not assume every valley means a wrong turn. One bit of truth that can help us understand this principle is to know the difference between a trial and a temptation. James, the brother of Jesus (and the James in our passage this week), gives us some incredible wisdom and insight when it comes to trials. *As you read, underline anything that catches your attention, and put a question mark next to anything that might be unclear.*

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. . . . ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own

(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 21:10-14 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁰While we were **staying** for **many days**, a **prophet named Agabus** **came** down from **Judea**. ¹¹And **coming** to us, he **took Paul's belt** and **bound** his own **feet** and **hands** and **said**, "**Thus says the Holy Spirit**, 'This is how the **Jews at Jerusalem** will **bind** the man who owns this **belt** and **deliver** him into the **hands**

of the **Gentiles**.'" ¹²**When** we **heard** this, we and the **people there urged** him not to go up to **Jerusalem**. ¹³**Then Paul answered**, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in **Jerusalem** for the **name** of the **Lord Jesus**." ¹⁴And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and **said**, "Let the will of the **Lord** be done."

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life groups Study Guide (continued)

desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. **JAMES 1:2-8, 12-15** (ESV)

- Although none of us ask for the "tough" result, God often is able to use trials to mature us. Have you ever thought of trials through this lens? How might viewing them this way help us to respond to our next trial?
 - In **James 1:13-15**, we read that going through trials can cause a person to face temptation. Think about a trial that you or someone you know has walked through. What were some of the temptations faced during the trial? (*i.e. question God with "why," distrust of God's goodness, unhealthy coping with pain, bitterness, anger, hatred*)
 - Why do you think so many temptations seem to pop up when we are experiencing a trial?
 - What advice/encouragement/truth would you share with someone walking through a trial to avoid falling prey to temptation?
2. In the life of Jesus, there was a family Jesus loved dearly— Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Even though they did the "right" things, Lazarus still died. **Read John 11:32-44** and make note of anything that stands out.
- In the passage above Jesus had a visible response to the situation. What might we be able to learn from Jesus' response that we can apply when we have an opportunity to respond to others?
 - Can you think of a time when someone's tough season had a positive influence on your relationship with Jesus?
 - In the passage above, Jesus waited four days after Lazarus' death to raise him from the dead. Take a moment to ponder what Mary and Martha must have felt in those four days. Have you ever felt like God wasn't working on your timetable?

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.*

Much 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

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION



Sunday, April 7, 2024

PART 49

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We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our **Digital Announcements & Connect Card.**

<https://wawasee.today>

