

Expectations & Decisions

“Living Large”, part 27, Insights from Acts 20:1-38
Pastor Bob Johnson, March 10th, 2024

A Specific Summary	(Acts 20:1-6)
A Sleepy Sermon	(Acts 20:7-12)
Another Specific Summary	(Acts 20:13-16)
A Somber Send off	(Acts 20:17-38)

What to expect:

- It's **M** _____ at times
- It's **M** _____ at times
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

What it takes:

- It takes **H** _____
(Acts 20:18-19)
- It takes **V** _____
(Acts 20:20, John 1:14)
- It takes **T** _____
(Acts 20:19, 22-23)
- It takes **H** _____
(Acts 20:20-21, 26-27, Ephesians 4:15)
- It takes **G** _____
(Acts 20:33-35)

For a free audio or video of this message go to [GPC.SD](#),
or follow us on Facebook or Youtube.

This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our eighth week of our 9 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

From reading Acts 20, we were reminded that we should expect life to get messy at times. Speaking of messes, when did you make a pretty big mess and how long did it take to clean it up?

We were also reminded that life is not lived on mountain tops but in the mundane ... most of the time.

Speaking of embracing the mundane, what do you like to do that others might consider a bit mundane or boring?

Why do you like it and why do you think it refreshes you?

In Acts 20, Paul had a 'somber send off' as he left Ephesus. When have you had a tearful (emotional) good-bye?

What do you miss about where you were and those who you had to leave as life moved you onward?

Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:

From reflecting on Acts 20 this past Sunday, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Of the five character qualities listed as 'what it takes to live larger' (to have healthier more meaningful relationships) which one or two stood out to you as what you would like to develop more in your life, ministry and relationships?

Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday, we heard how our character greatly impacts the health of our relationships and the outcome of our lives. Developing Christ-like character is a partnership between God and us. We have our part to play and God has His part.

What can we learn about the character-building process and the partnership we have with God in building our character from 2 Peter 1:3-9?

As we think about the development of our character, is there anything you need to start, stop or do more to see growth?

2. One of the keys to living larger (living the abundant life God desires for us) 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 can we see in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 that helps explain how he was able to keep going when the mundane and the messy got difficult?

Paul mentions his “light and momentary afflictions” in v17. Later in 2 Corinthians, he unpacks what he meant by that phrase. How do you think he was able to describe the difficulties and challenges he had been through as “light and momentary” in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29?

3. It is clear in Acts 20, that Paul deeply cared for those he was ministering to. In this chapter we read how Paul had a special relationship with the Ephesian church and their leaders.

He had a strong desire to see them grow in their faith and expressed this desire in two different prayers he wrote in his letter to that church.

Last week we looked at some other passages in Ephesians. This week, let’s read two of Paul’s prayers and share how those prayers reflect what he desires to see happen in their lives.

Ephesians 1:15-21, Ephesians 3:14-19

Which of the things he mentioned would we most like to experience in our lives?

4. If we have time, in Romans 12:1-8, Paul gives some more foundational principles for “living large” (living a life of Godly influence).

What insights can we see in this passage about the kind of people God uses to have an impact on others?

Praying Together:

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week’s sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?