

Momentum- A Study in Acts
Go! – Study Guide
Acts 27-28

1. What a disaster of a trip to Rome! (Acts 27:1-19). A ship with 276 souls on board, are all afraid they will die. Dr. Luke recounts: "*When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.*" (Acts 27:20).

Share of a situation that felt hopeless, or still feels hopeless even now. Discuss what that's like for people.

Why do you think Paul experiences such difficulty in the center of God's will?

2. Read Acts 27:21-26. Notice how Paul stated that he worships God. As he prays, God gives him a revelation. The rest of the story is played out in front of these men based on the information that they will all survive. Nothing changed in their circumstances, but now each one had a decision to make, whether they believed in the God of Paul or not. Discuss how worship, faith and revelation can lift people out of despair.

3. Read Acts 28 and discuss the divine appointments God prepared for Paul:

a. Acts 28:1-10- What was God doing in Malta? (see also Mark 16:18 and 2 Cor. 12:12).

b. Acts 28:22-24- What was God doing among the Jews in Rome?

c. Acts 28:30-31- What was God doing among the Romans in Rome?

4. Take a few minutes to pray quietly. Share a disappointment with God. Ask Him to give you faith to accept where you are, and to give you hope to continue. Now ask God to use your circumstances to model a life of faith to others. Ask Him to use your "detour" for some divine appointments.

Go Acts 27-28

Momentum

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Acts 1:8- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Big Question:

Why would Paul experience such difficulty in the center of God's will?

Big Idea: When Detours Become Divine Appointments

I. The Voyage

Acts 27:1-2

¹And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. ²And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.

Image- Paul's Journey to Rome

II. The Disaster

A. Hopeless (Acts 27:20)

"When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved."

B. Receptive (Acts 27:21-22)

²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

C. Revelation (Acts 27:23-26)

²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship,²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on some island."

III. Salvation (Acts 27:41-44)

⁴¹ But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. ⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. ⁴³ But the centurion, wishing

to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, ⁴⁴ and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

Big Idea: When Detours Become Divine Appointments

IV. Divine Appointments (Acts 28)

A. Malta (Acts 28:1-10)

¹After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. ²The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. ³When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

Mark 16:18

"They will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

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2 Cor. 12:12

"The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works."

B. Fellow Believers (Acts 28:14-15)

"There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. ¹⁵ And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage."

C. Jewish Openness (Acts 28:22-29)

"But we desire to hear from you what your views are...they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded..."

D. Roman Openness (Acts 28:30-31)

³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and unhindered.

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