

Missions Month: Ends of the Earth -- Tim Knipp
5 – 24 – 20

Discussion Guide

- This discussion guide can be used by an individual, a family, housemates, or a small group. All of our small groups are moving to an online format. If you would like to be in a small group please [go to www.hcbellingham.com/smallgroups/](http://www.hcbellingham.com/smallgroups/) or email smallgroups@hcbellingham.com.

For Leaders

- We have three priorities this season
 - 1 - Connect people to Jesus
 - Spend some time in Scripture and prayer together. When meeting online this will be shorter than in person usually, that's okay.
 - 2 - Connect people to one another.
 - Make sure you spend time every week letting people share how they are feeling and doing.
 - 3 - Connect to the needs around us
 - Ask your group how the people they know are doing. Encourage them to be reaching out and caring for those around them. Even if someone is stuck at home they can use the phone to reach out to those they know.

Hook (Check-in)

- How is everyone doing this week?
- If you are on your own, check in with yourself. How are you doing this week?

Read Scripture

Acts 24:27 and Acts 28

(Note – Leaders, if you have enough time, it is a great reminder to read from Acts 24:27-28:31 This section shows Paul's faithfulness and trust in the Lord through years of challenges like imprisonment for false accusations, a shipwreck, and a poisonous snake bite. Throughout it all, Paul takes every opportunity to preach the name of Jesus – to Romans, Jews, Maltans. Paul faithfully takes the Gospel to the ends of the earth.)

Book

- Retell the story of Paul preaching in Rome in your own words. What would you emphasize in this story?
- Describe the situations Paul found himself in. Then describe his responses, the responses to those holding him, and the responses of the people who came to see him.
- In verses 23-27, what methods does Paul use to present the Gospel?

Look

- It is not enough to stop preaching when times are tough or people don't believe, Paul continued to preach and welcome people in even when they didn't agree. How has the church broadscale and Hillcrest Church been an example of this? What are some areas where we are lacking?

- What about Paul's message is attractive? What do you find interesting when you read Paul's accounting of the Gospel message in passages such as this one?
- What prevents some of the Jews from receiving the message of Jesus? What do you think caused these people to be in this condition?
- How difficult do you think it would have been to welcome people and to preach the message of Jesus when wrongly in chains for 5 years, 2 of them literally chained to a guard?
- How can the church continue to respond during this time? What is our role in the spread of the Gospel under the current restrictions?

Took

- What similarities to Paul's situation do you find with your own currently in Washington state, what differences?
- Pastor Tim reminded us today that Paul had 3 responses to his 5 year quarantine imprisonment. These responses were
 - Hospitality – Paul “welcomed all who came to see him” (v30) – including the lonely, the hungry, the cynics, and the doubters
 - Tell the Story – “Boldly and without hinderance he [Paul] preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ” – in all circumstances, Paul was faithful to preach the message
 - Trust God – in our weakness, God uses people when they are weak
- What are some ways that we can be hospitable in a time where contact is very limited?
- How might these times be making people open to hearing the story of Jesus?
- What are some ways that we can and must place our trust fully in Jesus in this time?

Pray