



# OPEN HOUSE AT GOSPEL GRACE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ACTS 20:17-38

1 What does Paul say about his ministry to the Ephesians (vv 18-21, 26-27, 31, 33-35)?

 *Is ministry the calling of every Christian or only some? Give biblical support for your answer?*

 *So how are you involved in ministry?*

2 Why do you think Paul mentions his tears in Acts 20:19, 31? And then why do you think Luke (the author of Acts) mentions the tears of the elders in Acts 20:37?

 *What can you learn from these verses about the relationship Paul had with these men?*

 *What does it take to develop these kinds of relationships? Are you developing these kind of bonds with people at the church?*

3 What do you think Acts 20:17-38 says about discipleship at large? List some principles of discipleship you derive from the text.

4 We learn far more from models than we imagine. Paul's reflection on his ministry at Ephesus provides a model to be followed then and now. In what particular areas would ministers today be challenged by this apostolic model?

5 Since the elders from the church of Ephesus in Acts 20 are shepherds of God's people, what must they do first and foremost? Where do you find that in the text?

 *What must they recognize according to Acts 20:28?*

 *What must they be wary of according to Acts 20:29-31?*

💡 What do you know about the relationship of sheep and shepherds that would parallel the relationship of the church and her leaders?

6 **In Acts 20:28, who does Paul tell the elders they must care for before they can minister to others?** Why is this an important lesson for servants?

7 **As Paul leaves, where is the confidence of these elders to be placed according to Acts 20:32?** What could God's Word do for them?

🗨️ When has a specific time of study and understanding of Scripture done that for you? Be ready to share an example with your group.

8 **There are several key concepts connected with ministry that are emphasized in Acts 20:17-38 – service, character, discipleship, perspective, and commitment.** Look back over the discussion questions above. Prayerfully examine your own life. How does God want you to grow in these areas?

## FOR DEEPER PERSONAL STUDY

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1 **The Ephesian church was planted in AD 53-54.** The letter to the church in Ephesus recorded in Revelation 2:1-7 dates from about AD 95-98. What lessons can we learn from the final mention of this church in the book of Revelation?

⚙️ What are the factors which may lead a church to such a state described in Revelation 2:4? If it were happening in a church you were a part of, what should you do about it?

2 **In Acts 20:17-38 Paul is saying goodbye to the Ephesian elders.** He indicates that he won't see them again. What does this text teach you about saying goodbye?

💡 Who is in your spiritual care, and how are you preparing them for your departure? What would you say to them if you had to leave them now? How will lessons from this text help you the next time separation is inevitable?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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