

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 55 – On to Jerusalem - [Acts 21:1-16](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

21 After we had torn ourselves away from them, our ship set sail and we put out to sea and headed straight for Cos. The next day we reached Rhodes, and from there we sailed to Patara.

² Upon finding a ship there that was crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and sailed with them.

³ When the island of Cyprus came into view, we sailed south of it and continued on our voyage to Syria. We docked at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴ When we found the Lord's followers who lived there, we stayed a week with them. Through the Holy Spirit they kept telling Paul to give up his plan to visit Jerusalem.

⁵ But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. The entire congregation, including wives and children, went with us, until we were outside the city. There we knelt down together on the shore and prayed.

⁶ When we had finally said our last good-bye, we boarded the ship, and they returned to their homes.

⁷ Our voyage ended after we sailed from Tyre to Ptolemais. We brought greetings to the Lord's followers there, and stayed with them one day.

⁸ The next day, Paul, and those of us who were accompanying him, left and went on to Caesarea. There we went to the home of Philip the evangelist, one of the seven original deacons,* and stayed with him.

Acts 21:8 – "One of the seven original deacons*." See Acts 6:1-6

⁹ He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy.

¹⁰ After we had been there several days, a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, came down from Judea.

¹¹ When he arrived, he took Paul's belt, and tied his own hands and feet with it. Then he said, "This is what the Holy Spirit is saying, 'This is how the Jews at

Jerusalem will tie up the man who owns this belt. Then they will hand him over to the Romans.”

¹²When we heard this, both we and those who lived there pleaded most earnestly with Paul to abandon his visit to Jerusalem.

¹³“What are you doing here,” Paul responded, “crying like this and breaking my heart? Not only am I willing to be bound, but I am also willing to die in Jerusalem for the sake of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁴So when it became clear that we couldn’t change his mind, we gave in, and said, “May the Lord’s will be done.”

¹⁵When our visit there was over, we got our things together and went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁶Some of the followers from Caesarea also went with us. They brought with them a man named Mnason, in whose home we were to stay. He was from Cyprus, and had been a follower since the early days.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 55 – On to Jerusalem - [Acts 21:1-16](#)

814. How did Paul and his companions leave their friends at Miletus? ([21:1](#))
815. Between Cos and Tyre, what stops did the party make? ([21:1-3](#))
816. At Tyre, what did the Christians advise Paul to do? ([21:4](#))
817. What warning did Paul ignore? Why? ([21:5-6](#))
818. How was the departure scene at Tyre meaningful? ([21:5-6](#))
819. What did the group do on their one-day stop in Ptolemais? ([21:7](#))
820. Who was Paul’s host in Caesarea? ([21:8](#))
821. What role did Philip have in the early church? ([21:8](#))
822. What gift did Philip’s four daughters have? ([21:9](#))
823. Who was Agabus? ([21:10](#))
824. Where did Agabus come from? ([21:10](#))
825. How did Agabus dramatize what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem? ([21:11](#))

826. After the people heard the prophecy about Paul, how did they respond? ([21:12](#))
827. What did Paul say to the Christians at Caesarea? ([21:13-14](#))
828. When they realized that Paul would not be dissuaded, what did the believers say to him? ([21:14](#))
829. What did Paul and his companions do on the final stage of their journey? ([21:15-16](#))

Lesson 56 - Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem - [Acts 21:17-26](#)

Paul's Visit With James

- ¹⁷When we arrived in Jerusalem, the Lord's followers there warmly welcomed us.
- ¹⁸The next day Paul and the rest of us went in to see James. All the other elders were also there.
- ¹⁹After Paul had greeted them he gave them a complete, detailed report of what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.
- ²⁰When they had heard his report, they praised the Lord. But then they said, "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have become followers—but all of them are also zealous about obeying the Law of Moses.
- ²¹"But they've been repeatedly told that you teach all Jews who live among the Gentiles to abandon the teachings of Moses, and that you tell them they should not circumcise their children or follow any of the Jewish customs.
- ²²"What should we do about this? The people will certainly hear that you have come, and they'll want to meet with you about this.
- ²³"So why not do this? Four of our men have made a vow to God.
- ²⁴"Go with them and join them in the ceremony of purification, and pay their expenses to have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know that these rumors about you are not true, but that you yourself live in accordance with the requirements of the Laws of Moses.
- ²⁵"But we have written the Gentile followers that in our judgment they do not need to observe these Laws, but that they refrain from eating food offered to idols, from eating blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality."
- ²⁶So the next day, Paul took the four men and was purified along with them. He then went to the Temple to announce the date when the purification would end. At that time, a sacrifice would be offered for each one of them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 56 - Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem - [Acts 21:17-26](#)

830. How were Paul and his companions received in Jerusalem? ([21:17](#))
831. After a day in Jerusalem, with whom did the missionaries meet? ([21:18](#))
832. What did Paul report? To whom? ([21:18-19](#))
833. How did the leaders of the Jerusalem church respond to Paul's report? ([21:20](#))
834. What concern did the church leaders voice? ([21:20](#))
835. What false report had gone out concerning Paul? ([21:21](#))
836. What did the leaders of the church suggest that Paul do? Why? ([21:22-24](#))
837. What decision of the Jerusalem Council was repeated? ([21:25](#))
838. Why did the leaders bring up the Jerusalem decree? ([21:25](#))
839. What did Paul and the young men do the next day? ([21:26](#))
840. What was at the heart of the controversy between the Jews and the Gentiles?
841. Why did Paul support the Jewish leaders?
842. How can we decide when we should stand up for our beliefs and when we should give in for the sake of others?
843. When are Christians often tempted to make a rule or tradition as important as God's written Word?

Lesson 57 - Paul Arrested - [Acts 21:27-36](#)

Paul Arrested

27-28 But when the seven days had nearly ended, some Jews from the province of Asia saw him in the Temple courts, and they turned everyone there against him. Grabbing hold of him they screamed, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who's going around speaking to everyone everywhere against our people and the Law, and against this holy place! And added to that he's also defiled this holy place by bringing some Greeks into the Temple!"

29(They said this because they had previously seen Trophimus from Ephesus with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the Temple as well.)

30This aroused the whole city, and the people came running together from every direction. They grabbed hold of Paul and dragged him out of the Temple courts, and immediately the gates were shut.

31As they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman garrison that all Jerusalem was rioting.

32He at once took some captains and soldiers and ran down to the mob. As soon as the rioters saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

33The commander then took Paul from them, and gave orders that he be bound with two chains. Then he asked the people, “Who is this man? What has he done?”

34In response the crowd began shouting, some one thing, some another. So when he couldn’t make out what the truth was because of the turmoil, he ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks.

35When they reached the steps to the barracks, the mob became so violent that the soldiers had to carry him.

36And still the mob followed, shouting, “Away with him! Away with him!”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 57 - Paul Arrested - [Acts 21:27-36](#)

844. What happened when Paul went to the temple? ([21:27](#))

845. Who stirred up the crowd and seized Paul? Why? ([21:27-29](#))

846. What did the Jews from Ephesus say? ([21:28](#))

847. What were the false charges against Paul? ([21:28-29](#))

848. How did the city respond to the furor over Paul? ([21:30](#))

849. What did the people do to Paul? ([21:30-31](#))

850. Why were the temple gates shut? ([21:30-31](#))

851. How did the commander of the Roman troops and his men intervene while Paul was under attack? ([21:31-32](#))

852. What did the commander do to Paul? ([21:33](#))
853. How was Paul arrested? ([21:33](#))
854. When the Roman commander asked what Paul had done, why couldn't he get at the truth? ([21:33-34](#))
855. Why was Paul taken to the barracks? ([21:34](#))
856. Why was Paul carried away by the soldiers? ([21:35-36](#))
857. Why was there so much animosity between Jews and Christians at the time of Paul's arrest?

Lesson 58a - Paul Speaks to the Crowd - [Acts 21:37-40](#) (Part 1)

Paul's Defense before the Angry Crowd

³⁷As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I speak to you?"

"Do you speak Greek?" he replied.

³⁸"Aren't you the Egyptian who stirred up a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the desert some time ago?"

³⁹"No, I am a Jew from Tarsus, an important city in Cilicia," Paul replied. "May I have your permission to speak to the people?"

⁴⁰Upon receiving permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the crowd. When there was a great hush, he spoke to them in Hebrew, saying,

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 58a - Paul Speaks to the Crowd - [Acts 21:37-40](#) (Part 1)

858. What did Paul ask as he was about to be taken away? ([21:37](#))
859. Why was the tribune surprised that Paul could speak Greek? ([21:38](#))
860. In establishing his background, what did Paul say? ([21:39](#))
861. What did Paul request? ([21:39](#))
862. What language did the apostle use in speaking to the crowd? ([21:40](#))

