

## SESSION SIX: THROUGH MISSION, THE WORD OF THE LORD BUILDS THE CHURCH ACTS 20:1–21:19

### CENTRAL FOCUS

Paul did not aim simply to speak of Christ on the fly with as many individuals as possible. Through missionary activity, like the bold work of Paul, the Word of the Lord builds the Church.

### OBJECTIVES

That participants, led by the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, will

1. tell the rest of the story of Paul's third missionary journey;
2. discuss specific ways in which the church was built as the mission was carried out through Paul;
3. apply lessons from this course to our life in the church today; and
4. take encouragement from the account of Paul's journeys as it is given in God's Word.

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, You would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom break and hinder all the counsels of those who hate Your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would destroy it. Enlighten them with the knowledge of Your glory that they may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*LSB*, p. 305)

### QUESTIONS

1. In what ways did the instances of charitable works and consecrated worship result from mission? How might they lead to further mission?
2. What did Paul say in his farewell speech that can be of help to you as you pray for your pastor or for a missionary?
3. In what ways did Paul's courage come to the fore as the third journey was ending? How would his attitude have affected you if you were there?
4. Which of Paul's missionary journeys most encourages you, and why?
5. What do you think is the most important thing you have learned in this course about
  - Christ and His Gospel?
  - building the Church?
  - yourself?