

Important Reminders

Responding to the Sermon

At the end of this week's sermon, Pastor Doug is going to provide a time for people to respond to the message by writing down a hurt on a sheet of paper. This paper will then be crumpled up and thrown down at the front of the Worship Center. These hurts are intended to be between you and the Lord. Please do not ask what the people in your small group wrote down. This is private. **Instead, discuss how holding onto past hurts can weigh you down and prevent you from persevering in your faith. As you keep these hurts between you and the Lord, use this time to pray as a group and shift your eyes off of yourself and onto the encouragement of what God is doing in the lives of others.**

Men's Conference

As men, we want our lives to count. As men, we want to spend ourselves on what truly matters in this life and what will echo into eternity. The 2019 Men's Conference *Resolved* is about men passionately pursuing Christ and being firmly determined to live our lives by the grace of God for the glory of God. Don't miss this opportunity to spend this weekend with the men in your small group. This conference will start on Friday, November 15 at 7PM and will continue on Saturday, November 16 from 8:30AM–12PM. Register for this conference at harvestindywest.org/resolved.

Leader Guide

Acts 21:1–36

Preview Acts 21:1–36

After years of traveling, Paul is finally headed home to Jerusalem. Paul knew his homecoming would not be well received by the Jewish leaders, yet he followed the example of Christ and surrendered to the will of God, knowing this might cost his life. Again, Paul models that his life and ministry is not about himself, but rather what God is doing in a broken and hurting world.

Discuss Acts 21:1–36

Living we, not me. Paul did life with others. *How have others encouraged you or spoken truth to you in the midst of hurt?*

Living what God has done. Like Paul, we live in an angry world and wrestle through hurt. *How have you seen people hold onto hurt to the point where past hurts take over and control their life?*

Living faithfully in a stirred-up world. Paul entered Jerusalem during the time of Pentecost (20:16), which was a major holiday for the Jews and 50 days after Passover. *What similarities do you see between the arrest of Jesus and the arrest of Paul?*

Apply Acts 21:1–36

When someone is hurting, the natural tendency is to talk about your hurt as you seek to pull the attention of others to yourself. Yet, here Paul does not highlight all of the hurts in his own life (see 2 Corinthians 11:23–28). Instead, Paul emphasizes how he has seen God working in others. Sometimes the best thing we can do when we are hurting is focus on others so we can be encouraged as we see God working in the lives of others.

With the people around you, where do you see God@Work? How is this encouraging?

Spend time as a group praying that we would not hold onto past hurts, but through faith, we would set our eyes on Christ and think more highly of others than ourselves.