



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

February 8, 2026

Acts 21:1-16

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING QUESTION

What's harder for you—doing the right thing when no one notices, or doing the right thing when people disagree with you? Why?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sometimes the hardest part of following God isn't knowing what's right—it's sticking with it when people push back. Paul isn't being reckless or stubborn; he's being faithful. The people warning him aren't wrong or mean—they care about him. This passage reminds us that loving God doesn't always mean an easy path, but it always means trusting Him with the outcome.

SCRIPTURE

Read Acts 21:1–16 aloud together. Encourage students to listen for emotions—fear, love, courage, and trust.

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Paul is traveling toward Jerusalem even though he knows hard things are coming. Friends who love him warn him and beg him not to go. Paul listens—but he still obeys God. This story shows us that following Jesus can be hard, emotional, and confusing, but obedience matters more than comfort.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Paul models honesty and humility—he doesn't pretend life was easy.
- Leadership is about service, not recognition.
- Faithfulness sometimes comes with hard choices and sacrifices.
- Paul entrusts the church to God instead of trying to control everything.
- Saying goodbye can be a chance to encourage and strengthen others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do people warn Paul about in this passage?

That he will suffer and be arrested in Jerusalem.

Why do you think Paul's friends beg him not to go?

They love him and don't want him to get hurt.

In verse 13, Paul says he's ready to suffer for Jesus. What does that tell us about his faith?

Jesus matters more to Paul than comfort, safety, or approval.

Why is verse 14 ("The Lord's will be done") such an important moment?

The group stops arguing and chooses to trust God instead of fear.

What's one way teens today might feel pressure *not* to obey God?

Peer pressure, fear of being judged, wanting to fit in, or choosing comfort over faith.

APPLICATION

Where do you feel pressure to choose comfort or approval instead of obedience to God?

Who is someone you trust to help you follow God when it's hard?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Obedience doesn't mean everything will turn out easy—it means we trust God no matter what. Like Paul, we can say with confidence: *"The Lord's will be done."*

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Identify one situation this week where following Jesus might be uncomfortable. Pray for courage ahead of time—and choose obedience when the moment comes.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

February 15, 2026 — Acts 21:17–26

Next week we'll study **Acts 21:17–26**, where Paul arrives in Jerusalem and faces tension within the church itself. We'll talk about unity, wisdom, and how to respond when doing the right thing still leads to misunderstanding.

Teaser Question for Next Week: Have you ever tried to do the right thing but still been misunderstood? How did you respond?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for courage to follow Jesus at school, online, and with friends.
- Pray for wisdom to encourage others without letting fear control us.
- Pray for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts would be open, the Spirit would move powerfully, and students would respond in obedience and faith.

COMMENTARY

Acts 21:1-16

21:1. The shipboard journey continued from Ephesus by way of Cos to Rhodes and Patara. This is the third “we” section in Acts. It extends through 21:18.

21:3. The most common vessels sailing the Mediterranean were grain ships from Egypt, heading to the rest of the Roman Empire (but especially Rome).

21:4. Some Christians in Tyre had received from the Holy Spirit the same message that Paul disclosed in Ephesus: Trouble awaited Paul in Jerusalem (20:22-23).

21:5-6. The departure from the Christians at Tyre resembled the departure from Miletus and the Ephesian elders (20:37-38). They knew Paul was heading for his deepest trouble yet.

21:8. Philip the evangelist was probably so called to distinguish him from other Philips. He was one of those selected to serve in the church in Jerusalem. Philip eventually settled with his daughters in Caesarea. Some believe he may have been one of the

original Twelve (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:14). But he is distinctly identified as one of the Seven (6:3).

21:9. The word virgin means Philip's daughters were young and unmarried.

21:10-11. Agabus explicitly stated that Paul would fall into hostile hands in Jerusalem. As it turned out (21:30-36), Paul was delivered by Gentiles out of Jewish hands, but then remained in Gentile hands throughout the rest of the book of Acts.

21:12. With such an explicit prophecy, it is not surprising that Paul's traveling companions and the locals begged him not to go on to Jerusalem.

21:13. Paul had already thought about the cost of obedience and decided it was worthwhile.

21:14. Ultimately, the only appropriate response for a believer is the one that Paul's companions stated: The Lord's will be done. One of the major themes of the book of Acts is the simultaneous reality of human choice and the sovereign divine will (4:24-28).

21:16. Mnason was a Cypriot believer who had probably been saved during the first missionary journey. Mnason may be a Hellenized form of a Jewish name, or he may have been a Gentile.