



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?

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Acts 21:1–16 continues Paul's journey toward Jerusalem. Along the way, friends repeatedly warn him about the suffering that awaits. Despite emotional pleas and prophetic warnings, Paul remains resolved to obey God's call. This passage highlights the tension between loving concern and faithful obedience, and it challenges us to trust God even when the path ahead looks difficult.

OPENING

Have you ever had to do something you knew was right, even though people around you didn't understand or were worried about you? What made it difficult?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Obedience isn't always dramatic—but sometimes it is costly. In Acts 21, Paul isn't chasing danger; he's following God. What makes this moment so powerful is the love surrounding him. The warnings Paul receives aren't from enemies but from friends who care deeply for him. This passage reminds us that following God's will doesn't always mean avoiding hardship—it means trusting God through it. Faithfulness is choosing obedience even when the future feels uncertain.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Acts 21:1-16 together.

As you listen, note:

- Paul's description of his own life and ministry
 - His warnings and encouragements to leaders
 - His confidence in God despite uncertainty
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What repeated warnings does Paul receive on his journey, and from whom do they come (vv. 4, 10–11)?

Believers and the prophet Agabus warn Paul—through the Spirit—that he will suffer and be bound in Jerusalem.

How do the people respond emotionally to Paul's decision to continue (vv. 12–13)?

They plead with him not to go, weeping and begging him to change his mind out of concern for his safety.

What does Paul's response in verse 13 reveal about his priorities and faith?

Paul values obedience to Jesus above personal safety. He is willing to suffer—even die—for the name of the Lord.

Why is verse 14 such an important turning point in this passage?

The believers stop arguing and surrender the situation to God, saying, "The Lord's will be done."

How can loving concern sometimes unintentionally conflict with God's will?

Even good intentions can discourage obedience if fear or comfort becomes the main priority instead of faithfulness.

What similarities do you see between Paul’s journey here and Jesus’ journey toward Jerusalem?

Both knew suffering awaited them, both were warned, and both moved forward in obedience to God’s will.

APPLICATION

How do you usually respond when obeying God feels uncomfortable or risky?

Is there an area in your life where God may be calling you to trust Him despite uncertainty or fear?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Faithfulness doesn’t mean having all the answers—it means trusting God with the outcome. Like Paul, we’re called to say with confidence and humility: *“The Lord’s will be done.”*

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 the very opposition he was warned about. We’ll explore what it looks like to remain faithful when obedience leads into conflict rather than comfort.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for courage to obey God even when it’s difficult.
- Pray for wisdom to support others without discouraging their obedience.
- Pray for trust in God’s will, especially when the future feels unclear.
- Pray for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts would be open, the Spirit would move powerfully, and people 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.