

Paul the Pastor – His Shepherding Study and Discussion Questions

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders¹ - Acts 20:13-38

Topics: <u>Believers</u>, <u>Church</u>, <u>God</u>, <u>God's Will</u>, <u>Grace</u>, <u>Grief</u>, <u>Holy Spirit</u>, <u>Kingdom of God/Heaven</u>, <u>Leadership</u>, <u>Mission</u>, <u>Pastors</u>, <u>Prayer</u>, <u>Serving</u>, <u>Testing</u>, <u>Work</u>

Open It

- 1. Who is one person you have trained or taught a skill in the last few years?
- 2. What is one of the hardest things about leaving home?
- 3. *If you knew that this would be your last day with your loved ones, what would you want to say to them?
- 4. How do you usually say good-bye?

Explore It

- 5. What did Paul do when the rest of his party sailed for Assos? (20:13)
- 6. After meeting at Assos, where did the journey take Paul and his companions? (20:14-15)
- 7. Why did the group bypass Ephesus? (20:16)
- 8. At Miletus, for whom did Paul send? (20:17)
- 9. What was the gist of Paul's talk to the Ephesian elders? (20:18-35)
- 10. *What did Paul say in review of his ministry in Ephesus? (20:18-21)
- 11. How did the apostle describe the present situation? (20:22-27)
- 12. Why did Paul expect trouble in Jerusalem? (20:22-23)
- 13. How did Paul describe his life and mission? (20:24)
- 14. *What made Paul "innocent of the blood of all men"? (20:26-27)
- 15. *What were the future responsibilities of the Ephesian elders? (20:28-35)
- 16. How did the elders display their deep love for Paul? (20:36-38)

^{1.} Adult Questions for LESSONMaker, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders - Acts 20:13-38".

- 17. How did Paul and the elders say their good-byes? (20:36-38)
- 18. What saddened the group most? (20:38)

Get It

- 19. What kind of send-off does your church give someone on his or her way to the mission field?
- 20. When your church loses a member, how do people tend to grieve over the loss?
- 21. *How does Paul's life and work challenge you?
- 22. How is your pastor's work in the church like Paul's ministry among the Ephesians?
- 23. How did the Holy Spirit help Paul?
- 24. How does the Holy Spirit lead and guide us?
- 25. *Why do mature Christians need to "be on guard" and "watch over" younger believers in their congregation?
- 26. How would you describe your work for God's kingdom?
- 27. What does it mean to commit someone else to God?
- 28. Why did Paul support himself financially?
- 29. How can we stay blameless in the way we support ourselves and our church's work?

Apply It

- 30. How can you give to others this week?
- 31. How can you draw guidance and comfort from the Holy Spirit today?
- 32. *Who is one other believer for whom you can be a "shepherd" or guide this week? How?