SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 20

The Whole Purpose of God

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 20:24

"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 20

Acts 20 is a pastor saying goodbye to men he loved. He held nothing back, he was ready to suffer, and he handed them over to God and to the word of His grace. This week Jesus invites you to wake up to His Word, to serve with humility, and to run the course He has given you all the way to the finish.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

His Life Is in Him

READ · ACTS 20:1–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

When did the believers at Troas gather, why did they gather, what happened to Eutychus, and what did Paul say after he embraced him (20:7–10)?

REFLECT

Eutychus was "sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep" while Paul taught (20:9). Where are you sitting "in the window" with God — half in, half out, drifting off?

REFLECT

Paul said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him," and they "took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted" (20:10, 12). Where do you need to hear that Jesus can bring life back to something that looks dead?

RESPOND — TODAY

Show up early to church or group this week, sit where you will stay awake, and come with one question for God's Word.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 20:24)

DAY 2 OF 5

You Know How I Was With You

READ · ACTS 20:13–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Paul describe the way he lived and served among the Ephesians, and what two things did he testify to everyone (20:18–21)?

REFLECT

Paul could say, "You yourselves know … how I was with you the whole time" (20:18). If the men closest to you described how you have been with them this year, what would they say?

REFLECT

Paul served "with all humility and with tears and with trials" (20:19). What does humble service that costs you something look like at home or at work this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one quiet act of service today for someone who cannot pay you back, and tell no one about it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 20:24)

DAY 3 OF 5

Finish the Course

READ · ACTS 20:22–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the Holy Spirit tell Paul was waiting for him, and what did Paul say mattered more than his own life (20:23–24)?

REFLECT

Paul did not "consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course" (20:24). What are you holding on to so tightly that it keeps you from running the race God gave you?

REFLECT

Paul went to Jerusalem knowing "bonds and afflictions await me" (20:23). What hard thing is ahead of you, and how does knowing Jesus walks with you change the way you face it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write one sentence describing the "course" you believe Jesus has given you right now, and pray over it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 20:24)

DAY 4 OF 5

Guard the Flock

READ · ACTS 20:25–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Paul say he did not shrink from declaring, whose blood purchased the church, and what two dangers did he warn about (20:27–30)?

REFLECT

Paul "did not shrink from declaring … the whole purpose of God" (20:27). Is there a part of God's Word you skip or avoid because it is hard or uncomfortable? Which part, and why?

REFLECT

The church is the flock God "purchased with His own blood" (20:28). How does knowing what Jesus paid for the people around you change the way you treat them?

RESPOND — TODAY

Check on one man God has put in your life today — by name, with a call or a visit — and ask him honestly how his soul is doing.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 20:24)

DAY 5 OF 5

More Blessed to Give

READ · ACTS 20:32–38

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

To whom did Paul commend the elders, what did he say about silver and gold, and what words of Jesus did he leave them with (20:32–35)?

REFLECT

Paul commended them "to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up" (20:32). Who are you worried about right now that you need to leave in God's hands?

REFLECT

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (20:35). Where is it hardest for you to give — time, money, attention, forgiveness — and what would one step of giving look like?

RESPOND — TODAY

Give something this week that costs you — money, a meal, a few hours of work — to help someone weaker than you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 20:24)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The believers at Troas gathered on the first day of the week to break bread and hear the Word, and stayed until daybreak (20:7, 11). What helps us stay awake and hungry for God's Word when we meet together?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Paul warned that some would come in from outside and some would rise up "from among your own selves" (20:29–30). How can we watch out for one another without becoming suspicious or controlling?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The elders wept because they would not see Paul again (20:37–38). Who has poured into your life like that, and how are we passing it on to the next men?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You bought Your church with Your own blood, so wake me up, make me humble, and help me finish the course You gave me as I…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 20:24

"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."