SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

# Acts

## *Chapter 21*

*Ready to Die for the Name*

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 21:13

*“Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.””*

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

# This week in Acts 21

Paul walked toward Jerusalem knowing chains were waiting, and he went anyway because the name of Jesus was worth it to him. This week the Lord is asking you what you are ready for — not to go looking for trouble, but to trust Him enough to do what is right even when it costs you.

**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

# Prayer on the Beach

READ · ACTS 21:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did the disciples at Tyre keep telling Paul, and what did the whole church do before he got back on the ship (21:4–5)?**

REFLECT

**The believers at Tyre heard a true warning from the Spirit and decided it meant "don't go" (21:4). When have you taken a real fear and treated it as if it were God telling you to avoid the hard thing?**

REFLECT

**Men, wives and children knelt on the beach to pray Paul on his way (21:5). Who has prayed you through a hard road — and who could you pray for that way this week?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Kneel somewhere ordinary today — beside your bunk, your bed or your truck — and pray by name for a brother who is heading into something hard.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 21:13)

DAY 2 OF 5

# Ready

READ · ACTS 21:7–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did Agabus do with Paul's belt, what did everyone beg Paul to do, and what did Paul answer (21:11–13)?**

REFLECT

**Paul said, "I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die … for the name of the Lord Jesus" (21:13). What are you honestly ready to lose for Jesus right now, and what are you still holding back?**

REFLECT

**His friends finally said, "The will of the Lord be done!" (21:14). Where do you need to stop arguing with God and rest in His will, even though you cannot see the whole plan?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Write down one thing you are afraid will happen if you obey God fully, and under it write: "The will of the Lord be done."**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 21:13)

DAY 3 OF 5

# For the Sake of My Brothers

READ · ACTS 21:17–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did the elders do when Paul told them what God had done among the Gentiles, and what did they ask Paul to do about the rumor (21:19–24)?**

REFLECT

**Thousands of Jewish believers had heard a false story about Paul (21:21). When has a rumor about you — true or false — hurt you, and how did you answer it?**

REFLECT

**Paul gave up some of his freedom so his brothers would not stumble (21:24, 26). What is one thing you are free to do that might be hurting a weaker brother around you?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Lay down one freedom today for the sake of another man — not to earn anything, but because you love him.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 21:13)

DAY 4 OF 5

# Doing Right, Getting Hurt

READ · ACTS 21:27–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did the Jews from Asia accuse Paul of, what had they actually seen, and who stopped the beating (21:28–29, 32)?**

REFLECT

**The whole riot started because "they supposed" something that was not true (21:29). Where have you jumped to a conclusion about someone and stirred up others against him?**

REFLECT

**Paul was in the temple doing what the elders asked, and he got beaten anyway (21:26–27, 31). How do you keep trusting God when obedience makes things worse before they get better?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**If you have spread a guess about someone as if it were fact, go to the person you told and set the record straight today.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 21:13)

DAY 5 OF 5

# Speaking from the Stairs

READ · ACTS 21:37–40

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did the commander think Paul was, how did Paul describe himself, and what did he ask permission to do (21:38–39)?**

REFLECT

**Bloody and chained, Paul asked to speak to the very crowd that had just tried to kill him (21:39–40). Who is the person or group you would rather walk away from than speak to?**

REFLECT

**When Paul motioned with his hand, "there was a great hush" (21:40). What would it look like for you to answer anger with calm this week?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Ask God for one opportunity this week to speak kindly and honestly to someone who has treated you badly, and take it when it comes.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 21:13)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

# Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

**Paul's friends wept and begged him not to go, and he still went (21:12–14). How do you tell the difference between wise counsel you should follow and loving fear you should not?**

FOR THE GROUP · 2

**Mnason was "a disciple of long standing" who opened his home to Paul's team (21:16). Who are the long-time believers in your life, and what could you learn from them?**

FOR THE GROUP · 3

**The cry "Away with him!" (21:36) is the same cry the crowd raised against Jesus (Luke 23:18). What does it mean to you that following Jesus may mean walking the road He walked?**

MY PRAYER

**Lord Jesus, I want to be ready for whatever Your will is, and today the thing I am least ready for is …**

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 21:13

*"Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.""*