SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 28

Unhindered

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 28:15

"And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 28

This week Paul finally reaches Rome — not the way he planned, but the way God promised: through a shipwreck, a snakebite and a chain. The book ends with a prisoner in a rented room and the word of God going out unhindered, and it asks whether the story will keep going through 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

Shake It Off

READ · ACTS 28:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the islanders say about Paul when the viper bit him, and what did they say when nothing happened (28:4–6)?

REFLECT

The same people called Paul "a murderer" and then "a god" (28:4, 6). Whose opinion of you swings like that, and how much do you let it run your day?

REFLECT

Paul "shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm" (28:5). What has fastened itself onto your life that you need to shake off and leave in the fire?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one label people have put on you, cross it out, and write next to it: "I belong to God and serve Him" (27:23).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 28:15)

DAY 2 OF 5

Ready and Available

READ · ACTS 28:7–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Paul do for Publius' father, in what order, and who came next (28:8–9)?

REFLECT

Paul had just survived a shipwreck, yet he went in, prayed and laid hands on a sick stranger (28:8). Who near you is hurting that you have been too tired or too busy to notice?

REFLECT

The "natives showed us extraordinary kindness" (28:2), and Paul repaid it with prayer and healing. Who has been kind to you that you could serve in return this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray today, by name, for one sick or struggling person — and if you can, tell him you did.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 28:15)

DAY 3 OF 5

He Took Courage

READ · ACTS 28:11–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where did the brethren come out to meet Paul, and what did Paul do when he saw them (28:14–15)?

REFLECT

Even the apostle Paul "thanked God and took courage" when he saw his brothers (28:15). Do you let other believers encourage you, or do you try to carry everything alone?

REFLECT

Those brothers walked a long way down the road to meet a prisoner (28:15). Who needs you to show up for him — at a release, a court date, a hospital, a hard first week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Call, write or visit one brother today just to encourage him, and thank God for the men He has put in your life.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 28:15)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Hope of Israel

READ · ACTS 28:17–29

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Paul say his chain was for, and how did the Jewish leaders respond after a whole day of hearing him (28:20, 23–24)?

REFLECT

Paul spoke "from morning until evening," and still "some were being persuaded … but others would not believe" (28:23–24). How do you keep loving and praying for someone who has heard about Jesus and said no?

REFLECT

Isaiah warned of a heart that "has become dull" so that people hear but do not understand (28:27). Where might your own heart be growing dull to what God keeps telling you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one person who has rejected the gospel, and ask God to keep your own heart soft today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 28:15)

DAY 5 OF 5

Unhindered

READ · ACTS 28:30–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where did Paul live for two years, who did he welcome, and what did he preach (28:30–31)?

REFLECT

Paul was chained to a soldier, but he preached "with all openness, unhindered" (28:31). What limits in your life — a record, a sentence, a past — have you treated as reasons God can't use you?

REFLECT

Paul was "welcoming all who came to him" (28:30). Who could you welcome into your space — your table, your bunk, your break room — to hear about Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person today, in a sentence or two, what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 28:15)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul never got the trip to Rome he planned (Romans 1:15), but he got the one God promised (27:24; 28:14). How has God brought you somewhere by a road you never would have chosen?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The brethren met Paul on the road and he took courage (28:15). What can our group do this month to be that kind of welcome for a man who is coming home or starting over?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Acts ends without telling us what happened to Paul (28:30–31). If the story of the gospel keeps going, what part of it is God writing through this group?

MY PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the brothers You have put on my road; today I take courage and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 28:15

"And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage."