



# A *rise* $\Omega$

reaching all people

**LIFE**  
**GROUPS**  
WEEK 38 • JAN 11

## **NORTHSHERE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT**

Hope changes everything.

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### **ICE BREAKER**

What is one of the most tearful partings you have experienced in this life? In what ways did you entrust this parting to the Lord?

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### **BACKGROUND**

As we read Acts 20, Paul is nearing the end of his third missionary journey. The Holy Spirit warns him that prison and hardships will face him on his way back to Jerusalem and afterwards. Yet Paul presses on in obedience to the Lord. Paul desires to get back to Jerusalem in time for Pentecost and to fulfill his vow to worship in the Temple, and to deliver the love gifts of support for the Jerusalem church. On his way, he wants to connect with the leaders of the church in Ephesus, but he does not want to take a long time for a visit with the entire church. As a result, he sends for the elders of the church at Ephesus to make the 40-50-mile journey to Miletus and join him for a heart-felt reunion on the beach. There he challenges them to live up to the model of passionate, Christ-centered leadership that he set for them by sacrificially proclaiming the Good News about Jesus and watching over the flock the Lord Jesus has entrusted to them. By doing so, Paul sets the model for what mature Christian leadership should look like in the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we read, take note of how Paul models sacrificial leadership and challenges every church leader to rise to a high level of passionate service to the Lord.

### **REVIEW**

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

**KEY VERSES:** Acts 20:24

*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

**READ:** Acts 20:17-38**HEAD LEVEL:** *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. How does Paul describe his past actions among the Ephesian believers?
2. What evidence do we see of Paul's deep connection to the Spirit of Christ?
3. What evidence does Luke present to describe the strength of the relationship between Paul and the elders of the Ephesian church? In what ways do these strengths express themselves in the story?

**HEART LEVEL:** *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. To what extent is Paul's love and loyalty on display in his meeting with the leaders of the Ephesian church?
2. What evidence do we see of the deep connection the elders have with the Apostle Paul? To what extent have you participated in such a connection with a spiritual leader?
3. In what ways is Paul's courage expressed? In what ways does Paul call out courage from the Ephesian elders? From us?
4. When have you seen church leaders act with courage? What was the impact?



**HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. In what ways does the Holy Spirit inspire Paul's actions?
2. In what ways does Paul warn the Ephesian leaders about the difficulties they would face as they fulfilled their calling? How willing are you to pay the price for serving Jesus?
3. What does it look like to have godly leaders who act as overseers of our souls? What do they do? What difference does it make?
4. How would you compare your desire to share the Good News to that of the Apostle Paul? How does this move you toward repentance and re-engagement with the lost?



**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 20:24

*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)*