



A *rise* Ω

reaching all people

LIFE
GROUPS

WEEK 40 • FEB 1

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever had a trip that seemed to go horribly, but ended well?

BACKGROUND

The book of Acts comes to its conclusion by situating Paul's long journey within the larger mission of the gospel reaching the heart of the Roman world. After wintering for three months on Malta following the shipwreck, Paul and the other passengers sail to Italy on an Alexandrian grain ship marked with the gods Castor and Pollux, reflecting the common pagan belief that they would bring safety to sailors. They stop at Syracuse, Rhegium, and Puteoli, tracing a realistic and historically grounded route into Italy. Along the way, Paul encounters Christian believers whose hospitality and encouragement highlight the spread of Christianity even before Paul arrives in Rome. When Paul finally enters the city under Roman guard, he is allowed to live by himself under house arrest, showing both the seriousness of his legal situation and the relative freedom he has to continue teaching. This setting underscores Rome as both a place of imperial power and a strategic center for the proclamation of the gospel.

Once settled, Paul follows his consistent missionary pattern by first engaging the Jewish leaders in Rome, explaining that he has done nothing against his people or the customs of the fathers, and that his imprisonment is the result of his hope in the resurrection of Israel. Their mixed response—some persuaded, others disbelieving—mirrors the pattern seen throughout Acts. Paul's citation of Isaiah 6 serves as a theological explanation for Jewish resistance and as a turning point that emphasizes the widening mission to the Gentiles. The book ends with Paul spending two full years proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ "with all boldness and without hindrance." This open-ended conclusion reinforces Luke's central theme: though God's messengers may be bound, the word of God is not. Acts thus closes not with Paul's trial or death, but with the unstoppable advance of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome, signaling that the mission will continue beyond the narrative itself.

REVIEW

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



KEY VERSES: 28:28

Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.

READ: Acts 28:11-31



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. When Paul is bit by the viper what is the assumption of the native people? What actually happened?
2. What did Paul do for the Jews in Rome once he arrived?
3. What was the response from the Jews in Rome?

DEEPER DISCOVERY:

In Acts 28:26-27, Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10, declaring that many in Israel hear the message but do not truly understand or respond. Look at the following verses to see the further Old Testament basis.

- Isaiah 6:9-10
- Deuteronomy 29:4
- Psalm 95:7-11
- Jeremiah 5:21
- Ezekiel 12:2



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

1. How does God's sovereignty appear in Paul's journey to Rome as a prisoner?
2. How does Paul's quotation of Isaiah 6:9-10 shape our understanding of unbelief and spiritual blindness?
3. Is Paul's statement in verses 28-29 best understood as judgment, transition, or fulfillment? Why do you think some texts don't include verse 29?



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. How is God's sovereignty seen in your daily life?
2. How does God's work in your life help your witness to those who don't believe?
3. What is the proper response of faith when others remain stuck in unbelief?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 28:28

Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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