

WARM-UP

- What were one or two phrases your mother or father always said as you were growing up?
- What are some traditions you follow, whether individually or as part of a group?
- Do you have a teacher or role model you are imitating? Who?

WORD *³⁰He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. **ACTS 28:30,31***

The gospels ended with Jesus' giving His disciples the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples." The Book of Acts followed, showing how even without Jesus, the disciples carried on His mission in the power of the Holy Spirit. At the end of Acts, Paul is shown still passionately proclaiming that Jesus had come and explaining His teaching to all. This same mission is passed on to us, as followers of God and part of the same church. In what way must we carry on God's mission?

1 | Be deliberate.

After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews . . .

ACTS 28:17

Even under guard, Paul was deliberate in calling people together to preach the gospel to them. He even chose influential people: the Jewish leaders in his vicinity. In the same way, no matter our circumstances, we can be deliberate in gathering people together to explain the hope that is in us. What are some ways you have called people together? How have you been deliberate in preaching the gospel?

2 | Be persistent.

And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

ACTS 28:24

Paul preached the gospel from morning till evening. He preached to those who believed and those who still doubted. He was persistent in spite of the time it took, and he preached to anyone who would listen. How does this encourage you to keep on preaching the gospel? How have you taken strength from God in times of discouragement or rejection?

3 | Be inclusive.

"Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen." **ACTS 28:28**

One truth of the gospel is that it is inclusive. It is meant for all people. In Paul's time, his statement offended the Jewish leaders because they believed that God favored them more than other people. But in spite of the natural prejudices and differences among people, we must preach the gospel inclusively. This includes people we don't like or those we hesitate to preach to. How have you been inclusive? How are you in the process of overcoming prejudices?

APPLICATION

- We must carry on God's mission deliberately. What are three ways you can create the opportunity to preach the gospel to your family, friends, or community?
- We must carry on God's mission persistently. Have you felt that so much time has passed without response, or certain people still have not accepted the message of the gospel? List two ways you can respond.
- We must carry on God's mission inclusively. Are there people among your family or community whom you have hesitations preaching the gospel to? How can you take on the heart and perspective of Christ and be inclusive even to those you don't like?

