



1. Before Paul left Ephesus, where did he still plan to go, and in what order (19:21)? Where did he actually go in 20:1-2? Where was he headed at the end of our passage (20:16)? After he got there, where else did he still plan to go, that will take place before we finish Acts?
2. Paul focused on one particular ministry to the people of Ephesus as he left, and again in Macedonia. What is this ministry, and what does this word mean? (1-2) Romans 12:8 lists this as a spiritual gift; can you share with the group a time when someone has ministered to you using this gift?
3. Briefly review all the places, events, and results of the attempts by the Jews so far in Acts to oppose Paul (9:22-25; 9:28-30; 13:6-12; 13:14,44-51; 14:1-7; 14:19-22; 17:5-10; 17:13-14; 18:12-17; 20:2-3). In a few words, what did these Jews think of Paul and his message?
4. Why does Luke take the time to name the individuals traveling with Paul during this part of his journey? Besides learning from Paul as they went, what important responsibility did these men have (1 Corinthians 16:3-4)? How did their involvement protect the financial integrity of the funds that were being carried to Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:19-22)?
5. Paul waited all week in Troas for the church to meet. On what day of the week did they gather together? In Acts 2:42, the early church in Jerusalem practiced four things when they met; which two of these four are listed as part of the Troas church meeting? (7) Which third one is implied (11)? And how might the fourth one have been involved between verses 9-10?
6. Trace the steps that led to Eutychus dying (7-9). Although the Scriptures don't say, what do you think caused this to happen? What is your impression of Eutychus from this passage?
7. How do Paul's actions in v. 10 remind you of: What Peter did in Acts 9:36-41? Of the miracles done by Elijah in 1 Kings 17:17-24 and Elisha in 2 Kings 4:32-27? What does this miracle say about the authenticity of Paul's ministry in the early church?
8. Paul decided not to leave Troas by ship, where he could have taken a nice nap after being up all night. Why do you think Paul wanted to travel by himself over land that day (11, 13)?
9. Luke tells us Paul was "hurrying" to be in Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost (16), which was a month away at that point. Why do you think he was in such a hurry to get to Jerusalem, right after he had waited seven days in Troas so he could meet with the church on Sunday? In our busy lives today, when is it appropriate to hurry, and when should we take our time?
10. How would you feel if you were one of Paul's friends in Ephesus, after you read verse 16? What can we learn about our practical limits as human beings from Paul's decision here?



Paul Went Here, Paul Went There  
Leader Notes for Acts 20:1-16

It may seem like not much went on during Paul's travels this week, in the latter part of his third missionary journey. Paul traveled from Ephesus northwest to Macedonia, then south to Achaia (Greece), then reversed his journey headed for Jerusalem, following the plan laid out in 19:21. He still hoped to visit Rome later. By looking at other Scriptures, we can see that there was a lot more happening in this time period than is indicated by our Acts passage.

Twice we see that Paul "exhorted" the disciples, in Ephesus and Macedonia. The region of Macedonia included churches Paul had started in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea (Acts 16-17). Exhortation is listed as a spiritual gift by Paul in Romans 12:8, and it seems he wrote the letter to the Romans during the three months he spent in Greece (probably mostly in Corinth) in v. 3. So he had recently been practicing what he preached. To "exhort" means to urge someone to pursue a certain course of action in the future. Paul urged them to keep following Christ!

As he had often experienced earlier in Acts, there was stiff opposition from the Jews to Paul and the message he preached. This leads up to the even greater opposition he will face when he reaches Jerusalem in the last part of our Acts study this fall (chapters 21-28).

A major task on Paul's heart was the offering being collected from the mostly Gentile churches he had founded, for the benefit of the needy Jewish believers in Judea. Paul brought along delegates from each of the regions where he had founded churches (Galatia, Macedonia, Asia) to carry this offering. By having multiple trustworthy brothers take charge of the offering, Paul was insuring that everything about it was being done above board and with integrity.

The church at Troas gives us an important example of how the early church met. It was on the first day of the week (Sunday), most likely in the evening after the work day was over. They gathered to break bread (take the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him) and heard a message related to the apostles' doctrine – in this case from one of the apostles himself! It seems they fellowshiped with Paul after his message (v. 11) to the wee hours of the morning.

When you read commentaries on Eutychus, there are varying opinions on the causes behind his fatal accident. They range from him being tired after a long day of work to him being disinterested in what Paul was saying or even rebellious. The Scriptures are silent – Eutychus is not rebuked in any way. We are never told whether he was a young believer or perhaps just there along with his family. His accidental death led to a miraculous resurrection done by the Lord through the apostle Paul. The church was probably praying hard between verses 9 and 10!

The picture of Paul falling upon Eutychus and embracing him reminds us of two Old Testament resurrections, done by Elijah in 1 Kings 17 and Elisha in 2 Kings 4. This resurrection adds credibility to Paul's role as an apostle, just as the resurrection of Dorcas had certified Peter's message back in Acts 9.

After staying up all night, Paul left by himself in the morning, walking 25-30 miles to Assos while his companions traveled by ship with the offering. A lot had happened on the previous day, and maybe Paul just needed to clear his mind by talking to the Lord. There must have been a good reason, because he could have napped on the ship if he had chosen to.

Paul passed by the important city of Ephesus, where he had stayed for three years. A lot of people there would want to see him, including those from surrounding cities, and he felt from the Lord that his higher priority was to get to Jerusalem with the offering by Pentecost. That led him to want to "hurry," an uncommon word in the New Testament. We need to be sensitive to the Lord to find the right balance between "hurrying" and "waiting on the Lord."

