

## **WITNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (Leader's Guide)**

### **Acts 28:16–31**

#### **OPENING QUESTION**

Have you ever faced a situation where you had to stand up for something you believed in, even when it was difficult or unpopular? How did you handle it, and what was the outcome?

#### **CONTEXT**

The Book of Acts highlights how opposition and persecution helped spread the Gospel. The early church faced increasing resistance—from verbal warnings in Acts 4, to physical beatings in Acts 5, and even executions in Acts 7 and 11. Despite these challenges, the church grew rapidly, with mentions of increasing numbers and multiplying disciples (Acts 2:47; 6:7; 12:24; 16:5). This shows that, guided by the Holy Spirit, the church not only survived but thrived amidst adversity (Acts 9:31; 19:20).

Our passage today in Acts 28 is the climax of Paul's journey to Rome, the center of the Roman Empire. After enduring many trials, including a shipwreck, Paul finally arrives in this diverse and influential city. This moment is significant because it marks the final step in Jesus' command in Acts 1:8, where he called his disciples to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Rome, being the heart of the known world at that time, represents the Gospel reaching those "ends of the earth." Even under house arrest, Paul continues to boldly preach about the kingdom of God and teach about Jesus Christ without hindrance, illustrating the unstoppable nature of the Gospel and the fulfillment of the mission Jesus set forth at the beginning of Acts.

#### **READ ACTS 28:16–31**

#### **DISCUSS**

How does Paul's approach to engaging the Jewish leaders in Acts 28:23-24 reflect the importance of understanding and connecting with your audience? How can we apply this to sharing the Gospel on our campuses today?

Leader Note	<i>Encourage your group to think about the diverse backgrounds of their peers on campus. Discuss ways that the Gospel might be relevant to and understandable by different groups. Ask your group to identify common questions or issues that their peers face and explore how the Gospel addresses these concerns.</i>
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Paul speaks strongly about the consequences of rejecting the Gospel (Acts 28:26-28). Why do you think he felt such urgency and passion about this message? How can this inspire us to be more passionate and urgent in our own witness?

Leader Note	<i>Highlight Paul's deep love and concern for his fellow Jews. His strong words come from a place of sincere desire for their salvation. Ask your small group to reflect on their motivations for sharing the Gospel. Encourage them to consider how a deep love for others and an understanding of the eternal significance of the Gospel can fuel their passion and urgency. Discuss practical ways to cultivate this love and urgency in their daily lives.</i>
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The last word in Acts, "without hindrance" (Acts 28:31), emphasizes the unrestrained spread of the Gospel. What does this reveal about God's power and sovereignty? How can this encourage us in our efforts to share the Gospel, even when we face obstacles?

Leader Note	<i>Point out that despite Paul's physical limitations (being under house arrest), the Gospel continued to spread. This underscores the idea that God's plans cannot be thwarted by human opposition or circumstances. Encourage your group to see obstacles as opportunities for God to demonstrate His power. Discuss how understanding God's sovereignty can give us confidence and boldness in our witness. Share personal stories or examples of how God has worked through challenging situations to advance His kingdom.</i>
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## REFLECT

The book's abrupt ending shows that the church's history is incomplete. We are part of the sequel. Though we encounter obstacles and setbacks, God can work through any opposition.

Leader Note	<i>Invite your group to reflect on a time when they felt hesitant to share their faith. How can Paul's example inspire them to boldly proclaim the Kingdom of God?</i>
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## PRAY

Lord, help us to persevere in our mission to advance your kingdom on our campus. Empower us with your Holy Spirit to share the Gospel with boldness and clarity. Center our efforts on Jesus and guide us to make his message relevant and compelling to everyone we encounter. Amen.