

acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 13
September 29
Acts 27-28

“And When We Came Into Rome...”

We started this study with and have consistently reminded ourselves of the mission Jesus gave the apostles in [Acts 1:7-8](#):

“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Luke has helped us see how that mission unfolded from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, to Antioch, and deep into Gentile territory. In our last study, we heard the Lord promise Paul, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome” ([23:11](#)). The last two chapters of Acts tell us all about Paul’s journey to that great city.

Beginning in [Acts 27](#), Paul and some other prisoners were being transported by a Roman centurion named Julius who treated him kindly ([27:3](#)). Their journey took them to the island of Crete where Paul warned them, but the decision was made to continue. [Acts 27](#) tells us all about a terrible storm, an eventual shipwreck on the island of Malta, and even a snakebite ([27:13-28:10](#)).

Eventually, just as the Lord had promised, Paul and his companions arrived in Rome ([28:14](#)) where Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him ([28:16](#)). When given the opportunity to speak with the local leaders of the Jews, Paul was ready and anxious to share the news he had been sharing everywhere.

When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. ([28:23-24](#))

As they disagreed among themselves, Paul reminded them of what the Holy Spirit had warned their fathers about through Isaiah the prophet ([Isa 6:9-10](#)). Not everyone who has ears hears. Not everyone who has eyes sees. Not everyone who has a heart is willing to turn it towards God. Acts ends with...

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

What have we learned? Why does it still matter? What comes next? Let’s talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why do you think getting the gospel of Jesus all the way to Rome was such a big deal?
- In **Acts 27**, let's notice what Paul did two weeks into this very difficult journey in **27:33-36**. What can we learn from his example? According to **27:25**, what did Paul believe?
- What did the native people of Malta say to themselves when Paul was bit by a snake in **28:4**? What lesson did they learn that day?
- Before Paul ever traveled to Rome, he had written the saints there a letter. Take a look at what he wrote in **Romans 1:8-17**. Why do you think Paul did what he did once he had arrived in **28:15**?
- What do you think Paul means by referencing "the hope of Israel" in **28:20**?
- How would you summarize the hearts of the local leaders of the Jews in **28:21-23**?
- "From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets" (**28:23**). In your own words, what was Paul doing? Based on everything we've learned, what do you think the biggest ideas of his message were?
- Why would Paul reach back to **Isaiah 6:9-10** as a last word to some of those Jewish leaders?
- Of all the ways Luke could conclude this great book for Theophilus (**1:1**), why do you think he ended it the way he did?