



Sermon Discussion Guide

Acts: Outward Identity, Outward Purpose

Acts 28:23-31

Zach Lutz, February 14, 2021

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. Can you think of movies (or stories) where the protagonist (or antagonist) is asked to look within themselves to find their identity and purpose? Do you see 'expressive individualism' anywhere particular in your life or the life of those around you?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

OUTWARD IDENTITY

3. Rooting our identity in Christ challenges our culture's identity making in three ways: our inherit worth, you are truly you when you yield to Him, and your 'true' you is uniquely loved. Which of these tend to be most difficult for your to remember or live out?
4. Are there any stories that you, or the group, can think of from the Bible to help encourage each particular aspect listed above? (ie. where do we see someone loved by Jesus despite their background?)

OUTWARD PURPOSE

5. Have you been able to experience things in your life that you thought, "I am made for this!"? Have those things changed? How did it feel?
6. Both our identity and purpose, rooted in Christ and His work, drives us towards not just seeing our relationship with God as a ticket to heaven but as a divine calling and relationship which overflows. Have you ever known people who seem to just exude goodness, encouragement, and peace wherever they are? What would it take to live a little more more like that?

Step 3: Final Reflections

7. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
8. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?