



## Week 27 | June 9 Sermon

**Community:** This week, we will do some thought work together on one of the 10 core values of GROUPS ministry. We will do this periodically throughout the remainder of the series.

### Prayer

#### **Acts 2:42-43 (NLT)**

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

#### **1 John 5:14-15 (NLT)**

14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

**PUT IT INTO PRACTICE:** The early church members devoted themselves to prayer as a primary element of their fellowship together. This prayer was powerful, as the Scripture goes on to mention the awe that came over them and that that some of them went on to perform miraculous signs and wonders after their time of devotion together. The book of Acts shares many more examples of the early church elevating prayer as a discipline, both in private and in public spaces and situations.

Pray for your group—for individuals and families. Pray as a group—learn together how to pray powerful prayers and model prayer in your group meetings. Pray for others—spend time interceding for global, national, regional and personal concerns. Everyone, no matter where they are in their spiritual journey, can pray. Consider ways you can encourage each member of your GROUP to exercise their prayer muscles and increase their comfort level with GROUP prayer. Consider crafting a prayer together that each member would commit to praying regularly throughout the week and you could pray together when you gather.

As you pray, recognize your dependence on the Holy Spirit to direct you in your prayers to pray according to God's desires for you and for the situations and people for which you pray.

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

# GROUPS

## Sermon Title: A Long Trip Toward Jerusalem, Part 2 | Text: Acts 20:36-21:19

### Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Read Acts 20:36 – 21:19

What do you notice about how Luke writes and who he places in the story?

Where do you land on this scale of 1 to 10 (1 = extreme introvert, 10 = extreme extrovert)

What challenges are there in finding community based on your number?

Is there a desire for more community?

Are you recovering from the loss of community?

“Koinonia” means communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution...

Have you ever experienced community like this? Explain

“It’s so hard to find community in Pella” (or other small towns) is something I’ve heard many times. Do you think that statement is true? Share a story with the group that backs that claim or debunks it!

What does community ask from you?

### Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 20:36-21:19. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to? Why?

In the early church, the Spirit-gift of prophecy was one of the most cherished gifts given to the Body of Christ. Consider the following words written by St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians. (Corinthians 14: 1-5, 30-40 “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. (vs 39) Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”)

What do you think about as you read Paul’s words?

Does the spiritual gift of prophecy have a role in our lives today? If so, how?

How do you respond to these learnings from today’s passage?

Some “unusual people” are both honored and recognized by Dr. Luke. Why is this important?

The work of the Spirit in this chapter is somehow mysterious and encouraging at the same time. Has this ever been your experience? If so, when?

Relationships in the Body of Christ can be messy and yet somehow comforting. Has this ever been part of your experience? If so, when?

Paul’s singular vision propelled him through so many challenges and opportunities.

What was his vision?

What is your God-given vision for the way you follow Christ in mission?

Will you spend time in prayer? In particular, could you consider praying for:

More of the Spirit’s infilling for the purpose of bearing witness to Jesus.

Clarity of vision and purpose for someone you care for who is “stuck” and uncertain about how to move forward.