

Don't Be Sheepish About Shepherding!

Discussion Guide

TEXT: Acts 20:13-36

OPEN:

1. How do you say goodbye to people you love? Quick and painless? Long or drawn out? Weeping and wailing? Like it's no big deal? Other?

DIG:

1. Why "sail past" Ephesus to reach Jerusalem for Pentecost (see 2:1)?
2. What has characterized Paul's ministry so far? Why does he emphasize how he lived among them?
3. What kinds of hardships has Paul already encountered? How would you explain what motivates Paul to keep on (compare 20:24 with Php. 3:7-8)?
4. What does it mean to "keep watch" (v. 28; see 1Tim. 4:11-16)? How and why is their appointment as elders divine, humbling and dangerous (vs. 28-31)?
5. How does the message of grace (v. 32) and the example of Paul (vs. 33-35) protect them from these dangers?
6. What do you suppose the Ephesians will miss about Paul?

REFLECT:

1. You may never have the official title of shepherd but who makes up the "flock" that you watch out for and take care of? In what specific way can you shepherd them?
2. How would you complete this sentence: The one thing I must accomplish at any cost is _____?" How does it relate to Paul's goal in verse 24?
3. In the race of doing God's will, are you in the front of the pack, one of the stragglers, or an onlooker?

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