



The last half of the book of Acts reveals the amazing story of how the Jesus' community became a global movement, and it reveals keys to how it has remained so. There is so much to apply as we explore how we can “proclaim the kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance.”

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Acts 27 tells the story of Paul being shipwrecked in the midst of a great storm (and this wasn't the only time Paul had been shipwrecked—see **2 Corinthians 11:25**). What kind of courage does it take to go through an experience like that and willingly put yourself in a place where it could happen again? What are some of the storms that appeared to create a hopeless situation in your life?

**2 WE NEED COURAGE... to grow through what we go through.** God had promised that Paul would get to Rome, and now Paul realizes he will do so as a prisoner. If God wanted Paul in Rome, why didn't He make it easy for him to get there? How does this relate to your life experience?

**3** Read Acts 27:20-26. On what basis did Paul encourage the men to keep up their courage? What kinds of things must Paul have believed to be true about God in order to respond like this?

**4 IT TAKES COURAGE...to trust that God is present in your present circumstances.** Paul spent two years stuck in prison, and it had been over a week being tossed at sea since his last word from God. So it took great courage to thank God in the middle of the storm. Read Acts 27:33-36. How did Paul's words and his example serve to encourage the others? How have you been encouraged by other people's trust in God's promises while it felt like God was absent in the midst of the storm?

**5 IT TAKES COURAGE...to find your identity in what God says instead of what others say.** Read Acts 28:1-6. People are quick to assign reasons why you're going through what you're going through. It is easier to give a label than give a hand. But Paul did not live in fear of the latest opinion poll. Why do we often struggle with “the pull of approval addiction”? Share an example of how it takes courage to let God define who you will be.

**6 IT TAKES COURAGE...to be who you should be when you are not where you want to be.** Rick said, “We've all been stuck on Malta. Malta is that place you did not plan on going to, that experience you wanted to keep from going through. You may not be responsible for where you are, but you are responsible for what you do there.” Read Acts 28:7-10. Share an example of a time you saw a divine detour lead to a ministry opportunity. What did you learn from that experience?

**7 What you go through is not just about you.** Rick closed by reminding us that “The storms, the shipwrecks, the Maltas become pulpits for those with unhindered courage. God will never take you where He cannot use you.” With that in mind, reflect on this question “What's the boat you don't want to get on, the storm you don't want to go through, the Malta you don't want to go to?” Close in prayer by asking God for the courage to say “yes” to His itinerary.

