

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 "MY RACE... is all about God's grace!" Read Acts 20:22-24. Paul spent the first part of his life running a different race, but he changed his course after meeting Jesus. How did Paul describe his life and mission in verse 24? Share an example of someone you know who models this mind-set too.

2 UNHINDERED GRACE... produces holiness.

A common misunderstanding about the message of grace is that sin doesn't matter. Rick, however, reminded us that "Grace isn't about getting away with sin; it's about doing away with sin. Grace redeems and grace reforms." **Read Titus 2:11-12.** How has God's grace empowered you to live a self-controlled, upright and godly life, instead of focusing on your own interests and appetites?

3 Rick also mentioned that *"Grace makes the pursuit of holiness a joy, not a duty."* How have you experienced that to be true in your life? Discuss the differences between law and grace.

4 UNHINDERED GRACE... proclaims truth.

Another misconception about grace is that it makes room for all beliefs. Why is that a dangerous misconception? Follow up discussion: Jesus was full of grace and truth, and his church must be as well. **Read Acts 20:28-31.** What were the warnings Paul gave to the leaders at Ephesus? Which do you think is most important for our church? Why? 5 UNHINDERED GRACE... prompts generosity. When grace goes deep the root of selfishness is cut off and the branch of greed dries up. Read Acts 20:33-35. How have you experienced the truth of *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"* in relationship to the spreading of the good news of Jesus?

6 Our generosity is not just motivated by grace; it manifests grace. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 7-9.** How should God's ultimate gift to us compel us to give? What can you do to keep this truth in your thoughts this week?

7 No one runs a perfect race, but everyone can finish. God's grace is stronger than my race! Read Acts 20:32. Rick closed by reminding us that "We are a community of flawed but focused people, saved and sustained by the grace of God." He then added, "So stay committed to grace, because grace is committed to you!" Share an example of how you have experienced this to be true. How has this encouraged you to finish the race?

