

A Church That SHARES

From childhood, sharing is a quality we want people to have. Sharing both leads to and flows from connection. When people share, they invest their resources, time, emotions and self in other. Sharing helps to build community and open the doors of communication.

What kinds of things are we called to share with the world around us?

As we join Paul on his journey this week, we see he is headed for Jerusalem. His mission is a mission of sharing. His purpose in traveling to Jerusalem is clear when we look at his past travel and his letters to the churches in Rome and Corinth.

Read the following scriptures and describe how you see his plan to go to Jerusalem unfold:

- **Acts 19:21-21**
- **Romans 15:25-26**
- **I Corinthians 16:1-4**
- **Acts 21:1-16**

How does sharing our resources help us to lift up Jesus?

Read Acts 21:17-26

How does sharing someone's burdens help us to lift up Jesus?

Read Acts 21:27-40

Summarize Paul's story of who he was before he was a Christian:

Adapted from: "Acts: A Church That Shines, by Bill Rasco"

Read Acts 22:6-13

Summarize Paul's transforming experience of meeting Jesus:

Reads Acts 22:14-21

Summarize Paul's call to surrender to a lifetime of serving Jesus:

A Church That SHARES (WITH NOTES)

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Personal reflection...

As we join Paul on his journey this week, we see he is headed for Jerusalem. His mission is a mission of sharing. His purpose in traveling to Jerusalem is clear when we look at his past travel and his letters to the churches in Rome and Corinth.

Read the following scriptures and describe how you see his plan to go to Jerusalem unfold:

- **Acts 19:21-21** In Ephesus, Paul makes a plan to travel to Jerusalem. His travels will first include stops in Macedonia and Achaia.
- **Romans 15:25-26** Paul shares his intent to travel to Jerusalem in his letter to the Romans. Here he mentions the gift that those in Macedonia and Achaia have put together to send to Jerusalem.
- **I Corinthians 16:1-4** Paul gives the church instruction on taking up the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem.
- **Acts 21:1-16** As Paul moves through the region he is intent on taking the gift to Jerusalem. The Spirit has moved in Paul to warn him the journey will be difficult one.

How does sharing our resources help us to lift up Jesus?

Personal Reflection...

Read Acts 21:17-26

How does sharing someone's burdens help us to lift up Jesus?

Personal Reflection...

Read Acts 21:27-40

Summarize Paul's story of who he was before he was a Christian: **Being a persecutor of Christians, he had attacked the body of Christ. By attacking the church, Paul set himself against Jesus.**

Read Acts 22:6-13

Summarize Paul's transforming experience of meeting Jesus: **It is THE road to Damascus experience. But no matter who you are, the experience is the same. Like Paul, there came a day when you met Jesus and faced the fact that you needed a relationship with Him. Like Paul, we need to be changed in action, attitude, and focus.**

Reads Acts 22:14-21

Summarize Paul's call to surrender to a lifetime of serving Jesus: **As Paul rises from the waters of baptism, his life is changed. He no longer lives in his own will, but is commissioned to tell all men what he has seen and heard. It is a moment when the entire course of his life is redirected and transformed.**