

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A Good Example

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 20:1–12

ICE BREAKER:

Who is the most encouraging person you know? Why does their encouragement stand out to you?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

In Acts 20:1-16, Luke includes detailed stories about Paul encouraging others, performing a miracle, and hurrying toward Jerusalem. Recount some ways in this story that emphasize encouragement, friendship, and being like Jesus.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

The Gospel forms a new kind of community: encouragers, not critics...friends, not wallflowers.

How is your life helping others believe that Jesus is real and worth following, whether starting to follow or continuing to follow?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Why are we so quick to complain, and what makes it hard to be encouraging? What does it look like to be an encouragement to people in your life? (refer to Hebrews 10:23-25)

What does a good friendship look like? What might it look like for us to be “life-giving” friends in the middle of busy or challenging seasons?

The more Paul lived, the more He “smelled” like Jesus. The same should be true of us. (2nd Corinthians 2:15-17). How can we look more like Jesus this week to bring the aroma of Christ? Ask a friend to follow up this week on your progress.

PARENTING MOMENT:

Take a moment with you and your child(ren) to talk about what you love about Jesus and why. Once everyone has answered, ask the question: What is one way we can be more like Jesus this week, and how can we live it out? Pray that God will give everyone the strength to be the aroma of Christ everywhere they go this week.

FURTHER STUDY:

Read ‘The Trinity Transforms the Church into a Community of Love’ at www.crossway.org. For a deeper dive on community and discipleship, read ‘Life Together’ by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.