

## November 2021

*Paul had a special relationship with the church at Ephesus. This is chronicled a bit for us in chapters 19 and 20 as he creates quite a ruckus in the city. Paul is forced to flee, however his affection for the believers in the city is evident. On a return trip to nearby regions, he calls for the elders of the church in Ephesus to come and to meet with him. His words to them in ch. 20 are powerful and inspirational. Imagine being a shepherd and having the apostle personally admonish you to, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." After this, they prayed, weeping and embracing. It is a true picture of Christian fellowship and the sort of relationships that we are to share with one another and with our shepherds.*

*As Paul travels closer towards Jerusalem, the drums of threat against him beat even more loudly. This section of Acts mirrors the gospels somewhat. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, he knew what he would meet there. As Paul nears Jerusalem, he, too, will face hardship.*

*Paul's arrest, however, gives him new opportunities to share the gospel. These chapters of Acts give the reader wonderful re-tellings of how God has been powerfully at work in Paul's life. He is able to speak to crowds of Roman citizens, to the Jewish ruling council and, eventually, will be brought before the Roman governors. Marvel at how calmly and steadfastly Paul approaches each of these encounters! Even with the threats against him, he never fails to stop speaking about Jesus! In what ways can we speak about Jesus today?*

-Jim

## Discovery Bible Study

*Begin with Prayer*

What have you been praying about that you would like the group to pray for?

- ♦ *Gratitude*— What happened last week you are most thankful for?
- ♦ *Intercession*— How can we pray for you this week?

*Read the text & discuss...*

- 1) What do we learn about God, his nature, character or plan?
- 2) What do we learn about ourselves, our nature, our weaknesses, our needs?
- 3) How do I need to respond to this text?
- 4) Who will I share this with this week?

*How can we help with a challenge you're facing?*

## Weekly Schedule

Nov. 14	Acts 19:1-20:38 Paul in Ephesus
Nov. 21	Acts 21:1-22:29 Paul Arrested
Nov. 28	Acts 22:30-24:27 Paul on Trial