



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of April 12, 2026

Acts 20:1-12

[1] After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. [2] When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. [3] There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. [4] Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. [5] These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, [6] but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days. [7] On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. [8] There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. [9] And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. [10] But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." [11] And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. [12] And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

1. In the book of Acts we see a repetitive theme of the gospel moving forth in power, followed by great trials and persecution. What is it about the gospel that has such a polarizing effect on people? Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?
2. Despite continuous persecution and hardship - sometimes, most painfully, coming from within the church itself - Paul never stops ministering to God's people through the teaching and preaching of the word of God. Why do you think Paul loved the church so much? How do you think he viewed the church and what should we learn about the church from Paul?
3. Paul's life and ministry was characterized by community. He always had a wide variety of people working alongside him. Why do you think Paul did this, and what power and impact did it have in spreading the gospel and the growth of the church?
4. Do you see this kind of community within the church today (in general, and at HKC in particular)? What role did the polarizing effect of the gospel and the resulting persecution play in fostering community within the early church? How can community be built and sustained within the church today?
5. When Eutychus falls, dies and is resurrected from the dead, it's portrayed almost as if it was an incidental disruption to Paul's teaching. Why do you think the teaching of God's word must overshadow great signs and wonders? How would Hawaii Kai Church be different if we depended more upon miraculous signs, or even flashy events that draw a crowd, rather than the consistent teaching of the word of God?
6. Explain how the ordinance of the Lord's supper is like a sermon for our eyes. What do you think is the main point of communion and why do you think Jesus commanded His followers to regularly observe it as an important part of Christian worship?