



The Gift of Friendship | Acts 20:36-21:9
April 26, 2026

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

When you have free time, you would rather:

- ☐ Stay home and relax
- ☐ Hang out with close friends
- ☐ Meet new people
- ☐ Be with family
- ☐ Other: _____

Question:

When have you experienced meaningful hospitality (someone welcoming you in, making space for you, etc.)?

Read Acts 20:36–21:9

Noticing Hospitality

In this passage, Paul is on mission—but he is never alone. Everywhere he goes, he is surrounded by deep relationships and hospitality.

What stands out to you about the way believers relate to Paul in this passage?

How do the believers express their love for one another?

- ☐ Praying together
- ☐ Weeping together
- ☐ Physical affection (embracing, walking with him)
- ☐ Opening their homes
- ☐ Other: _____

Why do you think this kind of community feels "foreign" to us today?

What role does hospitality play in making all of this possible?

Practicing Hospitality

Hospitality is in the background of this passage—but without it, nothing happens.

The word “hospitality” means “love for strangers.”

Which of the following best describes hospitality?

- ☐ Impressing others with your home or abilities
- ☐ Making people feel comfortable and welcomed
- ☐ Opening your life to others
- ☐ Treating guests like family
- ☐ Other: _____

What is the difference between **entertaining** and **hospitality**?

Why is hospitality so important in the life of the church?

Which of these are barriers to practicing hospitality in your life?

- ☐ Busyness
- ☐ Desire for comfort/privacy
- ☐ Fear of awkwardness
- ☐ Wanting things to be “perfect”
- ☐ Other: _____

In your opinion, is hospitality limited to having people in your home? Or is it possible to be hospitable if your living situation doesn't have the option of having people over?

Receiving Hospitality

1 Peter 4:9 says:

“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Why is it hard to show hospitality without grumbling?

We can only show hospitality when we first receive it from God.

What does it mean that we were once “strangers” or “enemies” of God?

How has God shown hospitality to us through Jesus?

Which of these best describes what God's hospitality does?

- ☐ Moves us from strangers to friends
- ☐ Moves us from enemies to family
- ☐ Welcomes us despite our sin
- ☐ Comes at great cost
- ☐ Other: _____

How does receiving God's hospitality change the way we see and treat others?

Community Application

How can we, as a church, grow in being a more hospitable community?

What would it look like for our church to truly feel like a family?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
