

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Momentum: The Word that Grew the Church

### “Momentum” Series

September 30/October 1, 2017

Main Idea

***“For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.” (Act 20:27)***

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#### Discovery Questions

**1. What’s a favorite recent book you’ve read (or movie you’ve seen) and why?**

This week, as we continue our “Momentum” series, we’ll take a look at the early church’s commitment to the Word of God—to the preaching and proclaiming of the *whole* word of God in their teaching.

For this week’s study, we’ll look at the only speech of Paul given to a group of Christians—to the leaders of a church that he himself founded, and spent three years getting off the ground. Now Paul has to leave this church, but not without giving a final “farewell,” talking to them about the type of ministry that he had with them and therefore the type of ministry that they themselves should have.

- 2. a. Read Acts 20:17-27, 33-35. As Paul describes his ministry in Ephesus, what does Paul make clear his commitments were?**  
**b. Read Acts 20:28-32. What advice does Paul give this church for when he leaves? Why does Paul give this advice?**

We see in this passage that one of the commitments Paul had while he was at Ephesus was a commitment to proclaim God’s Word to the Ephesians. Indeed, one of the commitments that the early church had was to always proclaim God’s Word. It’s with that in mind that we turn to the questions that follow.

**3. As you think of your own spiritual journey, what role has God’s Word played in it? How have you been strengthened, challenged, encouraged, motivated, convicted, etc. by the word of God? Share specific examples if you can.**

- 4. a. Think and share about a season in your life when you had a consistent connection with God’s Word. What were some things that contributed to that season?**  
**b. Is there anything you find that gets in the way of regular engagement with God’s Word (lack of time, lack of knowledge about how to read it, lack of discipline, etc.)? How might you overcome those obstacles to make it a regular part of your life?**  
**c. Does anybody in your group have ideas about ways to engage with God’s Word that have led to meaningful application in life? Go around your group and share any methods that others have used in the past. What can you learn from other people’s experience with the Bible?**

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

**5. Can you make a commitment to read God’s Word for at least 10 minutes a day every day this week? Consider choosing a book of the Bible—like Philippians—and read a little bit each day. Or, try one of the methods you learned about in question #4. Come prepared next week to share your experience. As you close, pray for one another in this challenge; that God would reveal Himself to you through the reading of His Word, and infuse it into your daily life.**

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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### 1. What's a favorite recent book you've read (or movie you've seen) and why?

*This is a "lighter" question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

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For this week's study, we'll look at the only speech of Paul given to a group of Christians—to the leaders of a church that he himself founded, and spent three years getting off the ground. Now Paul has to leave this church, but not without giving a final "farewell," talking to them about the type of ministry that he had with them and therefore the type of ministry that they themselves should have.

2. a. Read Acts 20:17-27, 33-35. As Paul describes his ministry in Ephesus, what does Paul make clear his commitments were?
- b. Read Acts 20:28-32. What advice does Paul give this church for when he leaves? Why does Paul give this advice?

*For part "a," there were a few things that Paul makes clear he was committed to:*

- *He was committed to serving the church with humility in the face of opposition (v. 19).*
- *He preached the whole word of God, not withholding anything that would be beneficial to them (v. 20, 27).*
- *He preached about repentance and faith in Jesus (v. 21).*
- *He was committed to doing what God wanted, even if it meant difficulties for himself (vv. 22-24).*

*For part "b," he advises the church to "be on guard" and to "keep watch" over the flock. This is because of the possibility of false teachers might come and lead people astray.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.*

We see in this passage that one of the commitments Paul had while he was at Ephesus was a commitment to proclaim God's Word to the Ephesians. Indeed, one of the commitments that the early church had was to always proclaim God's Word. It's with that in mind that we turn to the questions that follow.

3. As you think of your own spiritual journey, what role has God's Word played in it? How have you been strengthened, challenged, encouraged, motivated, convicted, etc. by the word of God? Share specific examples if you can.

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

*As you hear people's stories, see if you can make a connection between people "hearing" the Word of God and how it impacted how they lived (see James 1:22).*

*Spend 5-7 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

4.
  - a. **Think and share about a season in your life when you had a consistent connection with God's Word. What were some things that contributed to that season?**
  - b. **Is there anything you find that gets in the way of regular engagement with God's Word (lack of time, lack of knowledge about how to read it, lack of discipline, etc.)? How might you overcome those obstacles to make it a regular part of your life?**
  - c. **Does anybody in your group have ideas about ways to engage with God's Word that have led to meaningful application in life? Go around your group and share any methods that others have used in the past. What can you learn from other people's experience with the Bible?**

*For this question, we don't want to induce guilt for not reading God's word regularly, but we do want to motivate people to begin to get into God's word on a regular basis. That's why part "c" is so important—have people share things they have done to help them get into God's word on a regular basis.*

*Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

5. **Can you make a commitment to read God's Word for at least 10 minutes a day every day this week? Consider choosing a book of the Bible—like Philippians—and read a little bit each day. Or, try one of the methods you learned about in question #4. Come prepared next week to share your experience. As you close, pray for one another in this challenge; that God would reveal Himself to you through the reading of His Word, and infuse it into your daily life.**