

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Principles of Christian Leadership

Pastor Jeff Thompson | Acts 20:17-38

ICE BREAKER:

Have you had a mentor figure in your life? What stood out to you about how they demonstrated leadership?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Ephesus was a busy city full of trade, religion, and culture. How might that setting have affected Paul's ministry? Why does Paul feel such urgency when saying goodbye to the church leaders?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read Matthew 20:20-28. What does Christian leadership look like according to Jesus? How does that compare to how the world sees and understands leadership? How is Paul a positive example, trusting God and His ways?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Acts 20:19 said Paul served "the Lord with all humility". Is there a person, relationship, or ministry where God is calling you to act with humility? Read Philippians 2:1-11. How can Jesus' example help us see what it looks like to live out that humility this week?

Acts 20:29-32 mentions false teachers and teaching that will come against the flock (the people of God). What are some ways shown in verses 31 and 32 that we can protect ourselves and our church from false teaching?

How does your sacrifice for Jesus, the church, or the mission reveal your love for the Lord?

PARENTING MOMENT:

Read Acts 20:19, 34-35 as a family. Paul talks about how he served God with humility and tears, even when things were hard. He also worked hard to provide for himself and others, not wanting anything from them. Paul even quoted Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Ask your child(ren) what they think that means for how we should live our lives. How can we show that we are willing to serve others, even when it's not easy, and to be generous with what we have?

FURTHER STUDY:

To be built up in the truth of the "word of his grace," read Jon Nielson's book "Knowing God's Truth." Two articles helping us identify wolves and false teaching: Tim Challies' "7 False Teachers in the Church Today" and Kevin DeYoung's "What Can Church History Teach Us About Wolves?"