



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 9: Nov 7-13

Relay runners know how crucial the handoff is. Even the fastest athletes can disqualify a relay team through a poorly executed handoff or by simply dropping the baton. The apostle Paul was keenly aware of the importance of another type of handoff that happens in gospel ministry. The time had come for others to grab and run with a baton that he had been carrying. We should pay attention because, here in Acts 20, this is what a well-executed handoff looks like!

MAIN TEXT: Acts 20:17-38

CONNECT

1. Think about and describe a time in your life where you either had to take on something new that another person had been doing, or you passed off something you had been doing to someone else. What did you learn from the experience?
2. What stood out to you about the sermon this week?

LEARN

3. Take note of Paul's self-description of his life in verses 18-21. What do you see and how were these attributes an example for the Ephesian elders to follow?
4. Stop for a minute and imagine facing Paul's circumstances in verses 22-23. What kind of thoughts or emotions would you be experiencing?
5. How would you describe Paul's mindset in verses 24-27? What keeps him leaning forward in ministry even as he faces such uncertainty and the prospect of great difficulty?
6. Read through verses 28-35. What do you see as the primary responsibilities the elders are to give themselves to? Why do you think Paul would emphasize these?

APPLY

7. What aspect of Paul's example from this passage (and others in Acts) do you desire most for your life? Why?

8. Think about Paul's words in verse 24. How does that compare with your life's mission? What are the values our culture presents that conflict with this?

9. Based on the first part of verse 28, Pastor Tom said that each person has to care for his or her own soul before he or she can lead others. What are you doing—or should be doing—to care for your soul?

10. Not many of us are elders, yet all Jesus-followers have a responsibility to watch out for "fierce wolves" among us! What do you think this means for us today? What are 1 or 2 forms these kind of threats might pose in our church?