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## A Good Bye

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**Introduction:** Paul ends his ministry at Ephesus. It was certain, to him, that he would never see the believers he had served for three years ever again. He spends his last moments pouring the word of God into them. He also calls the pastors together and gives them one final charge before he leaves.

### Text: Acts 20

#### Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: When have you experienced a change of seasons in your life (a new chapter of life—moving to a different city, graduating from college, getting married, the death of a loved one etc) How did you feel about the change?
2. Paul was leaving a three year ministry. He loved the people he had served. Before leaving, he shares with them how he has given them an example of how to live a faithful life. His good bye was a sad time, but it was a blessed time. He looked back on the season that he was with them and was able to say that he had done all that God had asked of him during that time. How can we make the most of every season of our life for the glory of God?
3. Acts 20:17-23. Paul gave us an example to follow: humility, passion, boldness, Spirit led. Discuss/write about each of these examples and apply them to how you can serve the Lord.
4. Acts 20:24-27. Paul gave us a purpose to fulfill. What are some mind sets that helped Paul live out his purpose? What was his main purpose in his ministry?
5. The number one purpose in life is to know God through a relationship with Christ. Not everyone is called to be a preacher or a church planter. So—what are some other divine ordained purposes for the believer?
6. Acts 20:28-32 Paul had a doctrine to defend. He calls the pastors of the church and gives them a final charge. (The term Elder, Overseer, and Pastor are used synonymously). What was the danger that Paul cautioned them to be aware of? How is this still a danger in church life? Have you been encountered or been in a group where someone attempted to teach false doctrine? How have you witnessed people attempting to divide a church?
7. Why must pastors protect the teaching of the church?
8. How does the Holy Spirit use the Word of God to build the believer's faith?
9. Acts 20:35 How can you activate this attitude in your life?

#### Think About it:

Life is short. There will be a final breath that we all take that will end the season of life. Will you be able to look back on your life and say that your life was spent living it for the glory of God? We will have several “good byes” in life. There are different seasons, or different chapters, of life. The goal should be to embrace every season and be thankful for the people that God places in our life and live in such a way that we fulfill the purpose of God in our life. Our life should be a witness for others. Could you encourage someone to follow your example in the faith and have confidence that they would live a godly life if they lived the way you live?

#### Moving Forward:

Write down the season of life that you are currently in. Identify the people that God has placed in your life. Discover the purposes of God for this season of your life. Write out a purpose statement for the season you are in and set out a goal that you would like to achieve. Pray that the Lord will use you during this time to bring glory and honor to him.