



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *Two Kingdoms, One King [Acts 28:17-21]*

## GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What in your life do you have such conviction about (a hobby, a product, an interest, a sports team, a child/family, a cause) that you could "sell" us on it today? Why is that?

## QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

## QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Dave walked us through chapters 21-28 by highlighting Paul's confrontations with those who had the power to sentence him to death or set him free. At every turn, Paul holds fast to the message that he received about the Kingdom of God and the person of Jesus, regardless of the cost. At the heart of his long, painful road to Rome is a conflict over two Kingdoms, between those who hold power in our world, and the eternal Kingdom of God, where Jesus is Supreme.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how "unsettled" are you about what may happen as a result of this upcoming election? Why? Do our reactions and responses matter? Why or why not?
2. Why is it that Paul zeroed in on communicating to everyone about the Kingdom of God and persuading them about Jesus?
3. In what ways do we struggle with confusing others about where our allegiance and trust really lies? (By our words, actions, our passions, convictions and causes?) In what way would God call us to use the things we already love, like our passions, convictions and causes to advance the good news about Jesus?

## EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Acts 28:17-21]

With whom did Paul first speak in Rome? (28:17)

In his presentation to the Jewish leaders, what significant points did Paul make? (28:17-20)

What did Paul mean by "the hope of Israel"? (28:20)

What kind of response did Paul get from the leaders? (28:21-22)

How did the Jewish leaders in Rome show increasing interest in the apostle and his message? (28:23-24)

What did Paul do all day long while meeting with the Jewish leaders? (28:23)

How did the Jews in Rome respond to Paul's teaching? (28:24-25)

To whom did Paul ascribe Isaiah's words? (28:25)

How did Paul apply the words of Isaiah to his audience? (28:26-27)

What prediction did Paul make about the future? (28:28)

Though the Jews had turned away from Christ, what group had God promised will receive it? (28:28)

What did Paul do for two years in Rome? (28:30-31)

### **Questions that help us understand the *significance* of the text to us?**

Why is it important to understand that Jesus is trying to persuade a Jewish audience, rather than a Gentile audience? Read, Acts 17:22-31 to see how Paul persuades a different audience? How ought this inform our conversations with others?

Why do you think Paul's teaching was hard for some followers of Judaism to accept?

What could you imagine was Paul's intention in quoting from Isaiah and letting the Jewish leaders know before they left that the Gentiles would accept this good news?

Why do many people dismiss the message of God's Kingdom and the good news of Jesus?

In what ways can we become hardened to God? How can we guard against hard-heartedness?

### **APPLICATION**

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?