# Welcome + Opening Prayer

# Acts 28:30-31; 2 Timothy 4:6-22

See passage printed on the back of this page.

#### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

How the Christian life is a life of struggle—but with real hope.

## Explore + Apply

- 1. What situations are most challenging for you to follow Christ and "keep the faith" as Paul puts it in v.7? Where does the struggle "to keep the faith" feel most real to you right now?
- 2. How do you typically respond to struggle—anger ("This is unfair!"), despair ("It doesn't matter anyway..."), blame ("You are the problem here!"), or another way? How does seeing the way Christ entered into your struggle—on your behalf—create new ways to respond to struggle?
- 3. What are opportunities in front of you now to follow Christ by entering into other people's struggles with them?

## Pray

## PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.

### **GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING**

This is the last discussion guide for the season.

Please sign up as a home group to host an All Souls summer social event.

- Praise God that in Christ the struggle eventually ends because He has overcome it for us in the resurrection.
- Pray and listen: How do I respond to struggle? How is Jesus' opening up new ways for me to respond?
- Pray "Thy Kingdom come" here in West Seattle, in the U.S. and around the world, as more and more followers of Christ willingly enter into the struggles of our neighbors and friends and family.

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

# Acts 28:30-31; 2 Timothy 4:6-22

- <sup>30</sup> Paul lived in Rome two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.
- <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- 9 Do your best to come to me soon. 10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 12 Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. 16 At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. 21 Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.
- 22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.