

## Aim of lesson

To consider Paul's last words to, and last actions with, some groups of believers he did not expect to see again before the Kingdom.

## Bible background

Acts 20; 21:1-26.

## Outline of lesson

### On the map

Using the class map, remind the class that Paul, on his third journey, had travelled as far as Ephesus. Can the class remember what happened at Ephesus? Paul then travels into Macedonia. This lesson covers his return to Jerusalem, visiting several groups of believers en route. An older class may like to trace his route at this point and note where he met disciples. A younger group of seniors may prefer to look at verses 5-6, and 15-17 of chapter 20 and verses 3-4 and 8 of chapter 21 to see the four places en route where some details of Paul's meeting with the believers is recorded. The four people on the worksheet represent someone from each of these four visits.

### Eutychus

Tell the class that the first picture is of a young man called Eutychus. Get them to consider what he might later have said about this time as you read together Acts 20:6-12. They could write their own ideas on how Eutychus might have recalled that night, and then compare what they have written.

### At Miletus

For the second section, Acts 20:15-38, you may prefer to stop two or three times during the reading in order to collect and list the things Paul speaks about. The words that the Ephesian elder on the worksheet might have said could be discussed by the whole class together

### On to Tyre and Caesarea

You may like to divide the class into two groups to look at Acts 21:3-6 and 8-15. Each group could read and discuss their section, then write what they think one of the believers at Tyre, or Agabus at Caesarea, might have said. They can then explain to the other group what they have discovered from this reading and what they have written in the workbook.

### Quiz

The last section in the workbook is a review of some points in the lesson in the form of a quiz. The class should answer the first clue and put the letters of that answer into the spaces on the second line. This will enable them to read the second clue and so continue the quiz. The answers are: FIRST, EUTYCHUS, TROAS. BREAD, SHIP, ELDERS, SHEPHERDS, KINGDOM, PRAYING, and the final answer is HARDSHIP AND PRISON, which leads to the subject of the next lesson.

## Digging deeper

### What happened at Ephesus later

After Paul left the church at Ephesus, Timothy was sent to look after it. We can learn a bit more from the letter to Ephesus in Revelation.

### Relevance to our lives

Paul knows that he will not see at least some of the people in this lesson again. Ask the class to consider what he does and says, knowing it will be the last thing he can say and do with them. He breaks bread, teaches them and prays with them.

The class may like to consider that we do not know when we are seeing someone for the last time. Will our last words to them have been bitter and angry or indifferent and uncaring? The only way to be sure of not regretting what we have said is to show kindness and care at all times and never say anything we might later regret.

### Prayer

Ask the class what Paul might have prayed for the people he met. What might he thank God for, and what might he ask God for? The class may like to think about praying for each other during the week.

## Other suggestions for activities

- The class could make a newspaper with reports from the places Paul visited.
- The class could draw pictures of what happened at places Paul visited on his return to Jerusalem.