

Crossway Life Group, Week of May 10

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Acts 28:17-31. Sermon: "The Unstoppable Gospel"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

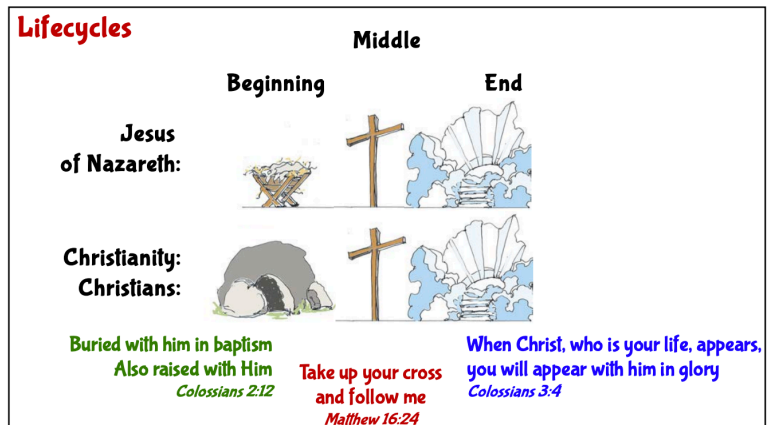
1. **Life cycles.** Things and events in our lives often have a beginning, middle, and an end. For example, each day has a sunrise, daytime, and sunset; for humans: birth, lifetime, and death. This week we study the end of the book of Acts, which invites us to consider ways that Christianity and Christians have a beginning, middle, and end. Acts explains the beginnings of the church. Though the book ends in chapter 28, the Gospel, unlike many things in this world, will go and grow, despite all obstacles and limits!
2. **Setting of Acts 28.** Paul was arrested in Jerusalem (Judea). Jewish leaders were upset with Paul because he claimed that the Jewish traditions were no longer necessary and that Gentiles are to be included among God's people. They accused him of crimes before Roman leaders, and Paul appealed to Caesar. Paul had just arrived in Rome as a prisoner after a 4-month journey that almost took his life.
3. **Read Acts 28:17-22.** Paul carefully reaches out to skeptical Jewish leaders in Rome. What ways and words does Paul use to build bridges with them? What lessons can be learned for connecting with people who might be skeptical about us as Christians or Christianity in general?
4. **Read Acts 28:23-29.** What main points does Paul share with the people who came to hear him? How do the people respond? What is the meaning and purpose of Paul quoting Isaiah?
5. **Read Acts 28:30-31 & Acts 1:6-8.** In what ways does the end of Acts relate to Jesus' promise in Acts 1?
6. What do you think Luke wanted Christians in the early church to learn from this story?
 - What is an important lesson that you take from this story (and/or from the sermon)?

The Big Idea

**The Good News of Jesus Christ
will grow and go to all peoples
until the end of this age**

By the Spirit and power of God
Even through human and supernatural
opposition and failings

This is the big idea of all of Acts: with all
boldness and without hinderance



Application & Reflection Questions

1. What forces or events or problems tend to erode your confidence in the work of God in your life?
...in the Church? ... in our church?
2. What helps restore your confidence in the power and the promise of God that the Good News will **grow** and **go** to all peoples until the end of this age?
3. What are some of the "fruits" of the Kingdom of God?
What is one way that you can boldly **share the "fruits"** of the Kingdom of God this week?
4. What is the "root" of the Kingdom of God (that is, the source of the fruits)?
What is one way that you can boldly **share the "root"** of the Kingdom of God this week?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

Some churches emphasize *demonstrating* the kingdom of God (sharing the fruit) over *proclaiming* the kingdom of God (sharing the root), while others do the opposite, and yet others attempt a balance. What has been your church experience? Why are both important? How does the cultural context of a church influence how we do both?

Serving beyond ourselves

In this season of life that is so deeply affected by the coronavirus, what practical things might your group be able to do to help and care for others, while practicing the wisdom and discipline of social distancing?

- **Crossway COVID 19 special offering wraps up [this Friday, May 15](#)** – This fund will support ministries where Crossway has and is developing a rich connection and are deeply challenged by this pandemic:
 - [Cornerstone Church in Detroit](#)
 - Myanmar: Naypyitaw Christian Church and [New Life International Fellowship in Yangon](#)
 - [Africa Revolution](#) (Allan & Annie Greig) ministry colleagues in Kenya & Zimbabwe
 - You can see the presentations and prayer times at:
 - Cornerstone Church: <https://vimeo.com/409749380> password cmc
 - Churches in Myanmar: <https://vimeo.com/412346556> password cmc
 - Africa Revolution Partners: <https://vimeo.com/414598967> password cmc
- **Crossway Congregation Care Fund** – Do you know someone who could use financial help?
 - Contact Pastor John or John Bankson (jbanksn1414@gmail.com)
- **Go to the Crossway website for ways to give: crosswaymchurch.org/give** *Would you consider giving?*

Acts 28:17-31: Preaches at Rome Under Guard (New International Version)

¹⁷ Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. ¹⁸ They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. ¹⁹ The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. ²⁰ For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

²¹ They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. ²² But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”

²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. ²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵ They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: ²⁶ “Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” ²⁷ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ ²⁸ “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!”

^[29] ³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!