



LEAVING IT ON A CLIFFHANGER

Open it

1. Do you like cliffhangers? Why or why not? What movie or show have you seen that ended on the biggest cliffhanger?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 28:17–31

2. Who did Paul meet with once he got to Rome?
3. What had they heard about Paul before he got to Rome?
4. What did they want to do with Paul?
5. How did these people in Rome respond to Paul's message?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: FAMILIAR COMPANY

Read Acts 28:17–20

When Paul arrived in Rome, as was his custom, he first sought out the Jewish people there. Although he was still under Roman custody, he had been given a great deal of freedom now, and he could invite people over and see people. So he invited these Jewish leaders over to his house to talk with them. When they came, he explained to them why he was in Rome and some of the things that had happened leading up to this. But perhaps the most important thing he said was in verse 20, *“For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.”*

6. Do you feel that it was smart or foolish for Paul to have invited the Jewish leaders to his home? Why?

7. Why do you think Paul says that he is in chains because of the hope of Israel? What does that mean?

8. How do you know if it's time to stop sharing the gospel with someone?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray for the people who have heard the gospel message many times but have not responded in faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that their eyes might be opened to the truth. Pray that God might give His people the words to speak that will connect with them in a real way.

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Acts 28:23

Did you know that everything that's written in the Old Testament is written to point towards Christ? Paul was able to reason with the Jews about who Jesus was from the Old Testament Scriptures by showing them that what they've believed all along was leading to Jesus as the Messiah! In Luke 24, after Jesus rose from the dead, he was walking on the road to Emmaus with a couple of His followers. Along the way it says that *"beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."*¹

Jesus was the one who had been promised all along. He was the promised Messiah mentioned first in Genesis 3:15. He is the focal point of Scripture. All the Old Testament leads to Christ and all the New Testament comes from Christ! Jesus is what it's all about!

9. What parts of the Old Testament are difficult for you to understand?

10. How does the fact that all the Scriptures point toward Christ change how we should interpret the Bible?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✎ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray that God would help you to understand how the whole Bible points to Christ. Pray that He would give you focus and clarity as you study God's Word. Pray that He would give you eyes to see and ears to hear the good news!

¹ Luke 24:27

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: EYES THAT DO NOT SEE

Read Acts 28:24–28

After Paul had spent a whole day explaining to the Jews about the kingdom of God and showing them from the Old Testament that Jesus was the promised Messiah, some still did not believe. This isn't news to us. We have seen this happen time and time again throughout the book of Acts. Some Jews would believe, some wouldn't. But this time Paul quotes a passage from Isaiah about them having eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. That doesn't just mean they didn't see at all. It means that they were shown the truth. It was explained to them. But God had not given them the eyes to see it and believe. So even though everything was laid out clearly before them, some still just did not believe the gospel about Jesus.

11. Read Isaiah's words in Acts 28:26–27. What do these words tell us about some people we will share the gospel with today?

12. What attitudes should we have towards people as we share the gospel with them if in fact we know that some will believe and some will not, despite our best efforts at explaining everything clearly and logically?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Write down the names of three people below who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior that you could start praying for, that God would give them eyes to see and believe and ears to hear and understand!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: THE CLIFFHANGER

Read Acts 28:30–31

What an ending to the book of Acts. With all the build up to Paul getting to Rome you probably would have expected that we would have been told a lot more about his time there! We aren't told anything about his trial before Caesar. We aren't told that thousands and thousands came to faith in Jesus Christ there. We are simply told that Paul spent two years there and proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about Jesus with all boldness and no hindrance. That's it! And if your Bible looks anything like mine, there's a bunch of empty, white page left. And I think that's pretty neat.

The story in many ways, isn't over. Sure, the acts of the Apostles are done now. But the continuing story of Acts 1:8—*“you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”*—is not over. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are still carrying on this story and this mission that all people might hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

13. Did you know that somewhere around $\frac{1}{5}$ of the world's population is still considered “unreached” with the gospel of Jesus Christ? There are still people in the world who have never even heard the name Jesus.² How do these facts make you feel?

14. What are you doing right now to continue in this mission to take the gospel message to the ends of the earth?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray that God might send someone to the many people who are “unreached” and have not yet heard of Jesus. Pray that the Bible might be translated into new languages so that more people can read it. Pray that missionaries would be sent out. Pray that people would be receptive to the gospel.

² https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/has_everyone_heard

Note: This study was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson. www.villagebible.org