

# 2024 - Family Devo

## Sep 15 - a



### READ: Acts 20:17-24

**Main Idea:** Paul meets with the elders of the church at Ephesus. He tells them he feels he has to go to Jerusalem and preach there. He is also convinced that he will be persecuted there just like other places he has been. Paul is able to keep doing this because of what he says in vs 24. He cares only about the job of serving God.

### DISCUSS

**Children:** How much faith does it take to move from place to place, knowing that you are going to have to face people hating you, putting you in prison, trying to kill you. Do you think he was scared? I don't. I think his life was dedicated to Jesus and if he died, he knew he would be in a much better place. No matter how much the dying part hurt.

**Teen:** What gave Paul the strength to continue knowing he would be persecuted? Was Paul able to speak boldly and openly about Jesus? Did Paul have a spirit of fear or of power? Who did Paul put first...God or himself?

**Adult:** Paul knew his road ahead would not be easy, yet he didn't shrink from it. Rather, he looked to finishing his course and the ministry he was given. If you've known someone who was facing death from an illness, how did they approach the end of their life? What did they put at the top of their priorities? Were there special times with family? Did they make peace with someone? Why is it we wait till those times to have those conversations, to tell someone how special they are, how we cherished the time we spent together? Conversely, is there someone you've lost suddenly where you wish you could have that conversation?

### PRAY

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### MEMORIZE

**Matthew 5:16 (ESV)**  
**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**



# 2024 - Family Devo

## Sep 15 - b



### READ: Acts 20:25-38

**Main Idea:** Paul gives his final words to these Ephesian elders. He warns them about false teachers coming in after he is gone. He tells them to watch after their flock (congregation of Christians) and remember his genuine and pure service. Paul showed them the example of Christ, that it is more blessed to give than receive.

### DISCUSS

**Children:** Paul knew he was never coming back to see these people. He knew that after he left, their world would be hard. He knew that 'savage wolves' would come in to tear them apart. Not actual wolves, that would be quick and painful, but people that would tell lies and spread rumors. That sort of breaking down a church takes longer and hurts in a different way.

**Teen:** Paul makes it a point to say the church was purchased with the blood of God. What a responsibility the elders have to guide and protect something so valuable. How blessed are we to have godly men in our congregation who care so much about our souls, that they are willing to take on such a great responsibility. Our elders give much. What can we do to serve with them making their work joyful? (Heb 13:17)

**Adult:** Parting with someone special is hard! Whether that's moving to a new place, changing jobs, or death. Think about a recent parting you have had. What was it about that relationship that made it difficult? How did you build a friendship that made a separation hard? How much time did you spend with that person? Was it someone you knew you could see again by traveling, by meeting for lunch? If it was a separation by death, will you see them again? Does that make it easier when the time comes?

### PRAY

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### MEMORIZE

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