



the upside down series
week twenty-three: upside down ending

1. At the end God always brings us _____ through
2. At the end God always _____ his purposes
3. At the end God always opens _____
4. At the end God always is always in the _____
5. At the end God always _____

This is it! Can you believe it? We are doing the last week of homework. I'm so so proud of you. I know the Lord is pleased with your endurance. I am excited to hear your testimonies of what God has done in your lives during the year! Aren't you thankful for your Small Group leader? Aren't you thankful for the Holy Spirit? I know I am.



day one: unusual kindness

Have you developed the habit of praying before getting into the word? I sure hope so. We are finishing up with Acts 28 this week. Read it.

Now focus on vs. 1-1 .

exploring the text

- 1.** Where did Paul land after the storm?
- 2.** What strange friends did God raise up for Paul and his companions?
- 3.** How did Paul busy himself when he came ashore?

4. What was Satan's next device?
5. What effect did this have on the natives in vs.4?
6. How did the Lord give him yet another opportunity to witness?
7. To what extreme did popular opinion turn as a result?
8. Who became interested in Paul in vs.7?
9. What blessing resulted from the shipwreck in vs.8-9?
10. How did the inhabitants reward Paul in vs.10?

prayer

Be not dismayed
whate'er be tide
God will take
care of you.
Beneath his wings
of love abide
God will take
care of you.
God will take
care of you.
Through every way
O'er all the way
He will take
care of you.
God will take
care of you.



day two: finally Rome

Acts 28:11-16.

exploring the text

1. How long did Paul stay in Malta?
2. Who did Paul run into in Puteoli?
3. And so we came to Rome. So much is said in this one little phrase. How hard was it to get to Rome?
4. How was Paul encouraged upon his arrival to Rome?
5. Do you get a sense that perhaps Paul really was a little afraid of getting to Rome?

interesting fact

The twin brothers - Castor and Pollux, Zeus' sons according to Greek mythology, were believed to provide special protection to sailors.

Rhegium - a harbor on the southern tip of the Italian mainland.



day three: a pleasant surprise

We're almost there. I can taste it. Don't cut corners. Seek the face of the Lord and ask him - what else, Lord? What else are you trying to say to me today?

Read Acts 28:17-22.

exploring the text

1. To whom did Paul appeal in Rome?
2. What did Paul tell the Jewish leaders?
3. What was their response?
4. Wow. After all this time, can you believe the response of the Jewish leaders?

verse

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



day four: and finally

Ok. We are there! Congratulations! Take a minute to praise God for his faithfulness this year.

Now read our final verses in Acts 28:23-31.

exploring the text

1. Describe the opportunity that Paul is given in vs.23.
2. How long did he have to preach?
3. What did he preach?
4. What kind of response did he get?

poem

Sometimes the
day seems long
Our trials hard
to bear
We're tempted
to complain
To mumurm and
despair
But Christ will
soon appear
To catch his
bride away!
All tears
forever over
In God's
eternal day!

It will be
Worth it all
when we
see Jesus
Life's trials will
seem so small
When we
see Christ
One glimpse of
His dear face
All sorrow
will erase
So bravely
run the race
Til we see
Christ.

5. What rebuke does Paul give the Jewish people in vs.26-27?
6. Who benefits from the rejection of the gospel by the Jewish people?
7. How long was Paul in Rome? Was he free?
8. How did Paul spend his time in Rome?



day five: heart matters

One last time, begin your time with Prayer.

I'm all about lists. Let's end our last day of homework in a review - by making some lists!

exploring the text

1. Write down the top 2-3 lessons God has taught you this year.
2. Page through the book of Acts and write down your favorite 1-2 stories.
3. Write down your favorite verse from the book of Acts.
4. List a couple of ways your life has been turned upside down by the Lord this year.

poem

Holy Spirit have
your way
In my life come
what may
Ears to listen 'tis
my prayer
A heart that's
willing to obey

Take my worries
toil and care
Give me joy and
peace today
Make me soft and
broken too
Quick to listen
love and do

Where there's
anger bring
your peace
Where there's
fear be still near
When I'm
wronged help
me be still
When I'm tried
I'll wait on

Come Holy Spirit
Come
In this moment
through the day
Take control have
your way
Settle o'er me
always

9. Think back over some opportunities to share Christ this year.
10. Lastly, write down a couple of ways your Small Group has blessed you!