



**SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN**  
**MESSAGE TITLE: "THE UNFOLDING STORY"**

**SPEAKER: GABE BARREIRO**  
**DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020**

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

## BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Acts 28:1-10*

In Acts chapter 28, Paul unexpectedly finds himself on the island of Malta. Though he may not have planned to be there, God is clearly at work in Paul's journey. This week, Northwest Pacific District Supervisor, Gabe Barreiro, shows us how this chapter demonstrates the ways the Holy Spirit leads the Church and how we get to be a part of it. It is the Holy Spirit who arranges Paul's unexpected encounter with those the people on the island Malta, who gives Paul a chance to make Jesus known, and who leads Paul to serve with love and supernatural power. The Holy Spirit does these same things for us today in our lives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably*

## LEAN IN

***These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What is your least favorite animal or the creature you find most creepy?
2. What is the worst trip you have ever been on? Where were you going and what made it so terrible?
3. Who do you know that is an amazing host or hostess? What do you most admire about them?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

## LOOK DOWN

***These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What had happened before Paul and those with him landed on the island of Malta? What unusual experience brought them to that island? Skim Acts chapter 27 to help you answer this question if you need to.
2. How did the people of Malta respond to these strangers landing on their shore?
3. What happened as Paul was gathering wood? What did the people expect to happen? What was their conclusion about Paul after this incident?
4. Who showed Paul and his associates hospitality? How was Paul able to demonstrate God's power in his home?

*cont.*

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5. Overall, how did the people of Malta respond to Paul?

### LOOK DOWN

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What surprising encounters, similar to what happened with Paul in this passage, have you seen God orchestrate in people around you or throughout history?
2. How have you seen people outside the church respond with lavish generosity, much like the people of Malta did?
3. Can you think of a story from history or from someone that you know or know of where God has protected someone as Paul was protected in this story?
4. How have you seen the Holy Spirit provide opportunities to make Jesus known in our own world or in history?
5. What are some good examples in today's world of Christians serving those outside the church (and maybe even those opposing the faith) through love and the Holy Spirit? Who are groups, organizations, or people that you know who are doing this well?

### LOOK IN

*These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Can you think of a time when God has orchestrated a surprising encounter in your life? What happened?
2. Does the idea that those outside the church can be generous encourage or challenge you? Why? Does this change anything about the way you perceive those in the world?
3. Has God ever divinely protected you? What happened? If this has never happened to you, do you think God would divinely protect you? Why or why not?
4. What opportunities has the Holy Spirit given you in your life to make Jesus known to those around you? What circumstances might he be using right now?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how involved are you in serving those outside the church through love and the Holy Spirit? If you ranked yourself over 5, what things have you done to serve those around you? If you've ranked yourself less than 5, what has kept you from serving those outside the church?

cont.

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## LIVE IT OUT

***These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Is God orchestrating a surprising encounter in your life right now? Spend some time in prayer asking that you would have eyes to see the opportunities God might be placing before you. You also may want to ask a friend, family member, or your small group to pray with and for you in this process.
2. What can you do this week to be more cognizant and proactive in taking advantage of divine opportunities God might be giving you?
3. What's something you can do this week to serve those around you who don't know Jesus with love and in the power of the Holy Spirit?

*Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions.*