

7. Discuss with the group some of the things you would need to change in order to guarantee that you will have done all you can to pass on that spiritual heritage to those who follow you.

In verse 28-35 Paul tells his friends to think about how they are going to pass along a spiritual heritage. To do that, they will need to check their peripheral vision. They need to think about who is on the track—themselves, fellow believers, and others in the race who are not friendly or who may turn out to be destructive. The spiritual race we run is conducted in enemy territory, so it can be dangerous

8. What does the Bible tell us to look out for as we seek to move our faith forward into the lives of others?

9. Discuss with the group some of the best ways to be engaged in a wise way as we try to influence others in the Christ-life that Jesus calls us to live.

10. Who can you put on your list of someone to strengthen in the faith? What is your next step with them?

Harvest **Reaching Beyond**

Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal study and/or growth groups)*

Week of August 28, 2016

Acts 20: 17-38

Week Overview:

“Passing the Baton ”



One of the special challenges to a relay race is the passing of the baton. You can have the **fastest** runners in the competition, but if they don't pass the baton well, they are almost guaranteed to lose. The skill of passing the baton involves people and time. You pass the baton during the course of the race. And the baton is carried forward by someone who benefits from your efforts and moves the team forward in time to the future (the end of the race in sports).

Sometimes we think that we can be fruitful in our Christian lives and never need to worry about learning how to pass a baton. But when we focus on individual fruitfulness, the power of the word and the work of the Spirit is confined to our own lives. The potential of what Christ seeks to do in us is cut short. Paul understood this. He shows us how to do better as we read the

words the Spirit inspired him to share with the elders of the church in Ephesus.

He knows he is near the end of the race, and so these words are among the most significant that the elders will hear. In this text we discover some of the last vital instructions that the Apostle Paul leaves behind for those who carry on the responsibilities of perpetuating the faith in their community and beyond.

Sometimes it's easier to work on putting your own life in order than in thinking about passing along the things you've learned or the skills you have developed.

1. In your group discuss some of the skills or abilities that your mother and/or father deliberately tried to pass along to you.

2. Now discuss some of the skills or abilities that either or both of your parents had that you wish they had passed along to you, but did not.

3. Many of us have had inspirational friends, relatives, or teachers who passed on to us something that we still value to this day. If this happened to you, share about something valuable that was handed down to you by someone else.

4. What are some of the reasons we sometimes don't actively pass along something we've learned or understood from other people?

Unfortunately, we know that it's easy to pass along things that are not healthy. We can perpetuate a sharp tongue, a greedy attitude toward money, or a suspicion of people we don't know well.

5. Look at verse 18-27 together and discuss some of the things that Paul shares about his own life and walk with Christ that he is deliberately trying to pass on to those who follow after him.

6. What does your baton look like? What are you passing on? If your life were to end in five years, what would be the spiritual heritage that you would desire to leave behind?
