



## August 1 Discussion Questions

### "Solid Ground"

Acts 28:1-11

#### *Preview*

#### **Don't use Circumstances to determine:**

- Your **Value** - "I matter because..." (v. 2-4)
- Your **Happiness** - "I'm happy because..." (v. 7-10)
- God's **Faithfulness** - "I believe God is good because..." (27:27)

#### **Instead, establish your value and happiness on the faithfulness of God**

- "I matter because..."
  - God **made** me (Ps. 139:13)
  - God **loves** me (1 Jn. 4:10a)
  - Jesus **died** for me (1 Jn. 4:10b)
  - God has a **plan** for my life (Eph. 2:10)
- "I'm happy because..."
  - God is **with** me (Heb. 13:5)
  - God is **enough** for me (Ps. 37:4)
  - Jesus conquered sin and **death** (1 Cor. 15:57)
  - Jesus is **coming** soon to fix everything (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

## OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Are you afraid of snakes? What other things are you afraid of? Why do you think that is?

**PRAY** - Pray for God's blessing on your conversation - to illuminate your minds, transform your hearts, and draw you closer together as a group.

## READ THE PASSAGE — Acts 28:1-11

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

2. What happened to Paul while on the island of Malta? How did the natives respond? How did this change after Paul went unaffected?
3. Why do you think Paul's life and ministry was so full of hardship?
4. Why does hardship make us question our value? Has there been a time in your life that you questioned your significance to God? What did God teach you?
5. Why might Paul have left the island of Malta disappointed in his ministry effectiveness there? (i.e. Did he establish any churches or raise up elders?)
6. What is disappointing or challenging in your life right now? How has it affected your daily happiness?
7. What things are you inclined to turn to for happiness when you lack happiness in God?
8. What character attributes or promises of God do you need to cling to and preach to yourself right now?
9. What does it look like to have happiness in God in the midst of real loss?
10. What ministry opportunity did Paul find while on the island of Malta?
11. What ministry opportunities has God put in your life right now? Are you finding the strength and discipline to faithfully fulfill this opportunity?
12. Read Colossian 1:28-29. What does it mean to operate in God's strength? How do you increase your reception and reliance on God's strength for ministry?
13. What is your key takeaway from this text or from your discussion? How is God working in your heart?

## PRAYER

- Personal Request: Pray we would establish our value and happiness on the faithfulness of God, not our circumstances.
- Ministry Request: Pray for the Men's Ministry Team as they implement opportunities for the men of Oakwood to build relationships and grow in their faith.