

# *Godspeed*

## “Dead Man Running”

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Home Community Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or write your own questions.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-5 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Have the group thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank the Lord for knowing our innermost desires and creating us for His eternally significant purposes. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be present in all our circumstances and that we would walk in step with the Spirit as we engage in the journey He has planned for us.

**Check-In:** (5 minutes) Throughout the week, what information has God revealed to you about your spiritual longings? Why do you think God has placed these specific desires on your heart in this season of your life?

#### **Discussion:** (30 minutes)

##### What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the final week of the series titled *Godspeed*. Pastor Danny focused our attention on Acts 27-28 and contemplates how the church can develop a dynamic relationship with the Holy Spirit. Pastor Danny challenges the church to learn from Paul’s consistent and steadfast faithfulness even when his message seems to fall on deaf ears.

“A person with a deep faith and a dynamic relationship with the Spirit is an unstoppable force!”  
– Pastor Danny Strange

## Suggested Questions

- *Read Acts 27:9-12, 14-32:* Pastor Danny starts his sermon by pointing out that following our spiritual prompting may lead us to nowhere, similar to how Paul's message to his shipmates was initially overlooked. However, Paul's faith in the Spirit's promptings was unshaken even though no one would listen. As a group, what situations can we be praying for that are seemingly headed to nowhere? What are some ways that we can remind each other to remain faithful, even when we do not experience success?
- *Read Acts 27:33-38:* Pastor Danny uses this text to reveal how Paul's deep-rooted relationship with the Spirit eventually stood out to his shipmates amidst a situation filled with panic and turmoil. What fears stand in the way of your faithfulness to the Holy Spirit's promptings? How can we as a group encourage one another to keep our eyes fixed on the Holy Spirit?
- *Read Acts 28:1-10; 16-31:* Finally, Pastor Danny points to Paul's time in Rome to express that a person with a deep faith and a dynamic relationship with the Holy Spirit is an unstoppable force! He lists five different suggestions to develop this type of relationship...
  - *Listen to God's voice through the Scriptures and prayer:* Throughout our Godspeed series and our study of the book of Acts, what has been the most memorable scripture or story to you? How has the Lord used the message of scripture to speak to you in your time of prayer?
  - *Take action when the Spirit prompts you:* Over the course of the series, what spiritual promptings have been at the forefront of your mind? What was the result of your actions over the last 5 weeks? How can the group help you take your next leap of faith?
  - *Do not evaluate success based on the results you see:* After following the story of the disciples and Paul in Acts, what have you learned from their definition of success in ministry? How does Acts 1:8 play a part in this definition?
  - *Refuse to fear people's opinions:* Discuss how the story of Acts would have looked different if the apostles caved to popular opinion. How is the fear of people's opinions holding you back from experiencing an incredible journey with the Holy Spirit?
  - *Take effort to deepen the roots of your faith in as many ways as possible:* What is one spiritual discipline that you know you need to improve upon? What is one step of improvement that you can take that you are willing to commit to starting today? Share this commitment with a trusted friend and ask them to hold you accountable!

**Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)**

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank Jesus for laying down his life so that we can journey alongside the Holy Spirit as He accomplishes the story of the Father. Pray that the Holy Spirit would guide us as we engage in circumstances that seem to result in a dead end. Pray that the group would encourage one another remain faithful by pursuing an unchanging dynamic relationship with the Spirit. Finally, as the group goes out this week, ask the Holy Spirit would work through us as we push forward to finish the race!

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

*-Sometimes, we follow the Spirit's promptings and they seem to go nowhere:* Consider the circumstances in which you are being faithful to the Spirit's promptings yet seem to be yielding negative results. Reflect and pray over how the Holy Spirit could really be moving in this situation and how you can remain faithful to His promptings. Be in prayer with your group about these situations throughout the week!

*-Life by the Spirit is not about having great success, it's about trusting the Spirit:* Check out the 3Crosses Podcast! In his interview, Pastor Mark Campbell suggested a strategy where he reads the Bible and does not begin his day until a certain portion of the text speaks to him in a profound way. Try this starting today! Read Acts 28:1-10 and do not start your day until the Lord has spoken to you!

*-Living by the Spirit is not merely about following promptings:* Reflect on your current relationship with the Holy Spirit. How deeply rooted is your faith in the Holy Spirit? Journal your responses and be prepared to share with your group next week!

*-If you want to develop this type of relationship with the Spirit...:* With a friend, create an action plan for the next 30 days! Consider these two questions: (1) How will you cultivate a deeply-rooted relationship with the Spirit? (2) What can you do daily to deepen your faith?