

Guarding the Faith and Living Authentic Christian Community

Acts 20:17–38

Bulletin

1. Keep Watch Over Yourself

(Acts 20:28; Proverbs 4:23)

2. Keep Watch Over Others

(Acts 20:28; Hebrews 3:13)

3. Authenticate Christian Community

(Acts 20:36–37; Romans 12:10)

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. When have you seen someone's faith quietly influence others around them, not by what they said but by how they lived? What stood out to you about that?

2. Think about a time when you realized you were drifting spiritually, maybe losing focus, getting distracted, or coasting. What helped you notice it, and what brought you back? (Proverbs 4:23)

3. Paul tells the elders to "keep watch over yourselves" (Acts 20:28). What does that look like in your everyday life? Where do you find it hardest to guard your heart or stay anchored in God's Word?

4. We often assume spiritual danger comes from outside, but Paul warns that it can rise up from "your own number" (Acts 20:30). What might that look like today in the church, in relationships, or even in your own thinking?

5. Spurgeon said discernment is knowing the difference between right and “almost right.” Where do you see that challenge in our culture or within the church right now?

6. When you think about people who have helped you grow in faith, what did they actually do that made a difference? (Hebrews 3:13, Galatians 6:2)

7. Who in your life might need you to “keep watch” over them, not by judging but by caring, praying, or gently helping them stay close to Christ? What might that look like this week?

8. Paul’s farewell was full of emotion, prayer, and love (Acts 20:36–37). Why do you think deep Christian community can be so rare today? What gets in the way of that kind of honesty and affection?

9. The church in Ephesus later lost its “first love” (Revelation 2:4). What helps you keep your love for Jesus fresh and real instead of routine or duty-driven?

10. If you took one small step this week to guard your heart, care for others, or build authentic community, what would it be, and what might help you actually follow through?