

## Small Group Questions: An Inconvenient Calling

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### Read

Acts 27:13-36 and 28:1-10; and Proverbs 18:14

### Reflect

In Acts 27, Paul has been arrested. Appealing as a Roman citizen, he embarks on a journey across the Adriatic Sea to Rome. But the boat he is on hits a long-lasting storm. An angel, however, tells Paul not to fear, that he will make it to Rome. Paul encourages the others on the boat to eat after days of worrying. They do, but soon, they become shipwrecked on the island of Malta, and Paul is bitten by a viper awakened in the heat of a fire Paul built. Surviving the viper, Paul ends up healing many people on the island before continuing on his journey. Why does Paul have to go through such a difficult journey?

Guest Pastor Daniel Floyd discusses how we gain better perspective on the inconveniences that arise when we follow God's calling:

1. When we pursue what God has for us, inconveniences will come up.
  - a. We are all called into ministry. What is yours?
  - b. When you've decided to follow God's calling, what inconveniences have suddenly arisen?
2. Would you say the storms you're going through right now are *around* you or *in* you? Explain.
3. God prepares a table for you, but so does the enemy. In the middle of your storm, what are you feeding on, taking in? What is nourishing and what is unhealthy?
  - a. How can you improve your "diet?"
4. In a storm, what are you mulling over in your mind? What insecurities are you allowing to play over and over and keep you stuck?
5. Your storm may be your greatest testimony to help those around you. What keeps you from sharing your testimony?
  - a. If you've shared your testimony, how has God used it?
6. Vipers will often appear when we turn up the heat of ministry and work to fulfill God's calling. How are you increasing the heat in your calling?
  - a. In what ways are some of the worst vipers coming from inside you?
    - i. Do you ask yourself how God could use you when you've done \_\_\_\_\_?
    - ii. How is God showing you that your past does not prevent him from working through you?
  - b. How does knowing ahead of time there will be vipers when you follow your calling, prepare you to not retreat?
    - i. Have you ever retreated and regretted it? What did you learn from the experience?
7. How has the enemy shown that he is more confident of God's call on your life than you are?
8. How have you based what God has for you on what others say? What has fastened itself to you?
  - a. What do you need to let go of today?
9. What looks like an inconvenience could be an assignment.
  - a. Paul experienced this in healing many people on the island. What inconvenience in your life has actually proven to be an assignment? Explain.

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?