



WESTPARK VALUES

Part 7 – March 26

Acts 20:24

Leaders Guide

(Approximately 60 min)



Connect Spend time allowing group members to connect with one another relationally. (5 min)



Celebrate Ask how they've seen God working in their lives since you met last. (or relating to the previous meeting's discussion) (5 min)



Coach Facilitate discussion using the guide below (30 min)

Focus: Farewell for the Stone Family

Big Idea: It is good to honour those in authority over you

Read through Galatians Acts 20:24 and share a couple of things that stand out to you.



In What way can you be thankful for the Stone Family and their leadership over these past 10 years?

Overview:

On Sunday we celebrated the Stone family and all the ways that God used them over the years. Pastor Charles shared some final thoughts.

What do I believe are WP's strengths?

- Board and their leadership
- Staff: commitment, competencies, love for God and love for you.
- Location is in a growing area.
- Facility is amazing.
- There is great momentum now, God's presence is palpable.
- Attendance is the highest it's ever been.
- The spirit of the church, WP is a warm and welcoming church. Keep doing that well.
- You are easy to preach to. You listen and pay attention well. The new guy will love it.

What do I see as WP's future challenges.

1. Standing strong against many of the prevailing cultural and governmental moral and ethical winds in Canada that diametrically oppose a biblical world view.
2. Rising to the financial challenge to fully financially resource what God is doing at WP. We are not meeting budget right now, and there are many reasons that include
 - Inflation, deaths, great re-shuffling from covid (some new people have come and some have gone to other churches), interest rates,
 - some of you who are new may hesitate about giving until you know who the new guy is. If that is you, until you make your decision about what church you will plant yourself in, if for now WP is that church, please consider giving to the ministry here. 20 new tithing families would fully resource WP.



Discussion Questions:

Question 1: What are some reasons why it is important to pray for the next lead pastor?

Question 2: Why do you think it was good to celebrate and honour the Stone family on Sunday?

Question 3: Why is it important to rejoice over the great things that God is doing at WestPark during this very fruitful season of ministry we are in right now?

Question 4: What is one way that you be involved in preparing for this transition time and the next lead pastor?



Quotes and passages from the teaching:

"You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream." C.S. Lewis

Psalm 92:12-14 But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.

Acts 20: 17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. 18 When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. 21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. 22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me --the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God which he bought with his own blood.

32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

36 When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.

Here is my final prayer for you. When King David was making the transition to the new king Solomon, one of David's most loyal and courageous soldiers prayed this prayer,

1Kings 1:37 May the Lord be with Solomon as he has been with you, and may God make Solomon's reign even greater than yours!"

Put in terms applied to WP, My final prayer is that as God brings a new lead pastor, that He would lift WP to even greater heights and depths than it has ever been.



EXPERIENCE: A time to apply

Here is a spiritual assignment for this week: take some time to pray for this next season of ministry at WestPark

Pray for:

Our next lead pastor

Our Elder board

Our staff

Our church people

Pray and ask God how He wants you to be involved in this next season

Another assignment – take some time to look at the “Lead Pastor Succession Updates” and review the announcements and top 10 questions

www.westparkchurch.ca/lead-pastor-succession



Communicate

Share important information items with your group. (5 min)



Care

Spend time praying as a group. You may want to take specific prayer requests from your team members. (10 min)
