

sermon notes

December 14, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | “Paul as Spiritual Leader” | **Acts 20:1–16**

Five Activities of a Spiritual Leader:

- 1) They _____ the church (Acts 20:1–2)
- 2) They _____ the torch (Acts 20:3–6)
- 3) They _____ the sheep (Acts 20:7)
- 4) They _____ the distraught (20:8–12)
- 5) They _____ with decisiveness and conviction
(Acts 20:13–16)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 20:1–16. How does Paul demonstrate spiritual leadership in this passage? How does a spiritual leader build up the church, pass the torch, feed the sheep, comfort the distraught, and lead with decisiveness and conviction in our day?

How would you differentiate spiritual leadership in the church from other kinds of leadership (e.g., military leadership, business leadership, coaching)? What happens in the church when leaders aren’t “spiritual” leaders? Why do leaders in our world not always make for good leaders in the church? Are all Christians expected to lead? Are some Christians empowered specifically to lead the church (see Rom 12:3–8)?

When spiritual leaders fail, can we trust God to chasten them? Give scriptural support for your conclusion. Explain the significance having Christ Jesus (our Great High Priest—Heb 4:14–16) as our unfailing leader. He is

GET PERSONAL

List some of the individuals that Paul poured into in the book of Acts. Who are you pouring into? Why is it important for individuals in the church community to pass the torch?

Why did Paul spend so much time teaching the Word in Troas? What role does the Scripture have in the life of the church? What about in the life of a Christian? How do you prioritize Scripture in your life?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Paul was a good leader, but he was also an encourager (Acts 11:23; 14:22; 15:32; 16:40; 20:1–2). He must have learned a thing or two from Barnabas, the son of encouragement. Are you a natural encourager? If yes, what are some things that you do on a daily basis to encourage others? If you are not a natural encourager, what are some ways you can grow in that discipline? When you consider your church community, what forms of encouragement are most needed right now? Read Hebrews 3:13 and develop an action plan for applying that verse every day.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Paul raised Eutychus from the dead in Acts 20. To what end? Are miracles in the Bible a means to an end or an end in themselves? What evidence from Scripture would you give for your conclusion? What dangers can emerge when miracles are viewed as an end in themselves? Even if we can’t raise people from the dead like Paul, how might we comfort and console distraught Christians?