Unstoppable Week 5 | Bound for the City

Main Text: Acts 21:10-14

Big Idea: Faithful obedience follows the Spirit's guidance even when the road leads through suffering for the sake of the gospel.

Ice Breaker: When you know hardship or conflict is ahead of you, how do you respond? Do you try to avoid it? Face it head on? What comes most naturally in those moments?

Say this: Many of us naturally avoid hardship, while others face it head on by sheer stubbornness. Following Jesus means often means that we don't act on our first instinct in the face of conflict, rather, we follow the leading of God's Spirit even is it leads us into suffering.

Q 1. *Read v. 10-12.* Paul was certain that the Spirit was leading him to Jerusalem, but then the Holy Spirit gives him a warning through a prophet. **When it looks like God is leading in two different ways in your life, how do you discern your next steps?**

Q 2. Imagine you are going on a mission trip, and before you leave a friend brings you this same kind of warning – that you will be chained and persecuted for sharing the gospel. **How would you respond to this message? Would you still get on your plane or would you change your plans?**

Q 3. *Read v.13.* Paul feels very strongly that his life is not his own but belongs to Christ and to his service and gospel. **When you read Paul's words that he is ready to die for the gospel, what is your reaction? Are you intimidated? Does this kind of passion excite you?**

Q 4 *Read James 1:2-3:* James says that Christians should count suffering as a joy – a reason to be glad and encouraged in the faith. **How do we prepare in times of peace and comfort to rejoice when we are going through hard times?**

Q 5. How can we build our courage when we are afraid to follow God through hardship?

Q 6. *Read v.14.* **How do you react to watching people you love suffer and walk through hardships? Are you willing to say "God's will be done" even in these times?**

Q 7. How can believers encourage one another to follow God into and through suffering?

Q 8. Think about the where the Holy Spirit is calling you on your own life. **What fears do you need to surrender to follow the Jesus more faithfully?**

Close in Prayer:
Lord, we know that, just as you sent your Son into the world to suffer for your kingdom, sometimes we are sent into suffering as well. Help us to be faithful in the face of hardship and suffering. Help us to walk in step with your Spirit and to faithful take the gospel everywhere you call us to. Amen