



The Guidelines of the Mission
September 27, 2020
Sermon Discussion Guide

This message begins with a fascinating story from the book of Acts concerning the New Testament Church. The story highlights the need for guidelines for the newly formed church and its God-given mission. The message concludes with a look at some guidelines for the Church's mission which are found in the Book of James. The guidelines not only apply to the larger church but are very applicable to the individual lives of church members. The guidelines are broken down into do's and don'ts. There are five of each! James used a style of writing known as "paranetic literature." "Paranesis is general ethical instruction and exhortation...These instructions are general and calculated to inspire Christian's conduct in a wide variety of circumstances. It was characteristic of paranesis to place together in loose organization a series of exhortations without any concern to develop one theme or line of thought in the entire writing." (Broadman Commentary) This style is the reason the passages selected in James are not in sequential order.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Read the Text - Acts 12:1-17, James 1-5 (selected verses)**
- **Look for Highlights** - As the text is read, tell the group to be looking out for the highlights (a particular verse, something new learned, a reminder, a question, etc.)

EXPLAIN

- To whom was it originally written? Why?
- How does it fit with the verses before and after it?
- What is the Holy Spirit intending to communicate through this text?

APPLY

- What does this mean today?
- What is God saying to you personally?
- How can you apply this message to your life?

RESPOND

- In what ways does this passage call you to action?
- How will you be different because of what you've learned?
- What is a prayer to God in response to what you read today?