

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

APR. 5 & 6 - ACTS 24-26 - PAUL IN CAESAREA

OPENING QUESTIONS

- The message this week focused in on a few evidences or “reasons to believe” in the resurrection. On your journey to knowing and trusting Christ, were there any evidences or proofs that convinced you of the truthfulness of the Gospel? Was it a personal experience, an argument, a physical proof or maybe a spiritual understanding?
- What were the things that helped motivate you in your faith and encourage a relationship with Jesus?

READ TOGETHER

Acts 26

BIG IDEA

We need to joyfully speak about the truth of Jesus Christ with courage and grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) The lead into the message was a powerful story about the power of truth. Nathan Sharansky said, “I used to believe the most powerful weapon in the world was the [hydrogen] bomb, but now I believe the most powerful weapon in the world is the truth.” What do you think about that statement?
- 2) We find Paul defending his belief in the hope that he has in the resurrection. Why do you think Paul framed it this way in his speech to King Agrippa?
- 3) When Paul was speaking he used his testimony as a powerful guide toward the truth. How do you think this impacted the king who was aware of Jewish governance and hierarchy? Who do you think your testimony could speak to?
- 4) In verses 17 and 18 it speaks about the transformation that takes place in our lives as we move from light to darkness and from the power of Satan to the power of God. What did this look like in your life?
- 5) In verses 22 and 23 Paul says that he is preaching nothing except what Moses and the prophets say about Jesus Christ. Do you understand what he means here? Why do you think this is important for him to cover in his message to Agrippa? Why is it important now?
- 6) In the message Geoff challenged RockPointe with the fact that we do not hear many people telling stories of how they courageously told their friends about Christ. Do you think this is true? Why do you think it is or it isn't?
- 7) What do you think would change this or strengthen it in our church, so that we could become a church known by this?
- 8) Geoff provided us with 12 proofs of the resurrection:
 - The disciples eye-witness experience
 - The transformation from fear to martyrdom
 - The early proclamation of the resurrection
 - The empty tomb
 - They proclaimed the resurrection in Jerusalem itself
 - No one was able to produce the body
 - The existence of the church founded by law-abiding Jews

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- The change of the day of worship to Sunday
- The conversion of James
- Original testimony in the mouths of women
- Jesus claim to rise bodily
- The conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Which of these impresses you most? Does this convince you of the resurrection?

- 9) Would it be convincing enough for you to share with one of your friends? Do you have anyone in your life who you could share this with?
- 10) What would it take for you to be more courageous in sharing the life-changing hope of Jesus Christ with those that you love?

PRAYER

Effective Christian mission includes both divine and human activity. The initiator of everything is God. He calls, commissions, equips, and protects the evangelists (26: 16, 17, 22). But we have a responsibility to obey the heavenly vision (26:19), testifying to both small and great (26:22b). When we proclaim the gospel, God is actually speaking through us and makes our words become fruitful, and Jesus is the one proclaiming light to the people (26:23).

- We need to pray about this. Thanking God for His provision and help, but also asking Him to show us who we are to speak to and to give us the confidence to do so.
- Take some time to talk about the names of people we could or should be talking to. Pray for them. Pray that God would soften their heart towards Him and respond to Him. Pray that whatever conversation you have with them is fruitful.

NEXT STEP

- This week, strike up a conversation with someone about spiritual matters. It may be very basic or short, but every time we do it builds confidence. Throughout the week, pray for them.
- Come back to Small Group next week and let everyone know how it went!

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