

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

MAR. 29 & 30 - ACTS 21-23 - GOD WINS

OPENING QUESTION

What is your favourite epic movie? (think The Sound of Music, Lord of the Rings, Braveheart, etc.) What is it about that film that grabbed your attention?

READ TOGETHER

Acts 23:12-35

BIG IDEA

Every epic story ends with goodness winning the day. The gospel story is no different – we see it again and again in Scripture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How steep are the odds against Paul in this story? (verses 12-15) How do the odds against Paul begin to shift in verses 16-21?
- 2) Have you ever experienced a “shift in odds” in your life? Theologians call this “a providential turn of events.” Have someone in your group Google the word “providence.” What does it mean? How do you see that happening here?
- 3) What is the result of Paul’s nephew hearing of the plot in verse 15? (read verses 22-35)
- 4) How would the world today be different if Paul’s nephew hadn’t been part of this story?
- 5) Paul’s desire throughout this passage is to go to Rome. Why is that? (read Acts 19:21 and 23:11)
- 6) Does this story teach us anything about how God is involved in the daily events of our lives? (you can read Psalm 139:1-12 and 2 Chronicles 16:9 for help on this)

CHALLENGE

This week commit to watching for God’s providence in your life. What are ways you see yourself experiencing 2 Chronicles 16:9 firsthand?

PRAYER

Take a minute to think of the person closest to you, most important to you - a family member, friend, co-worker, neighbour – who doesn’t know Jesus. You may be the person on Planet Earth most fully vested with a relationship that might bring them from death to life, from darkness to light. What does that mean for you today? What is the Spirit prompting in you right now?

NEXT STEP

Take time this week to meditate on Psalm 139 and the way in which God by His Spirit is engaged in our lives everyday.

BECOMING
PART OF THE
**RIPPLE
EFFECT**

