

What's Next? | Acts 23:25-26:32 2021 Fall #7

Announcements: There is a great opportunity for members of your group to serve at church in a meaningful way. 5 to 10 children ages K thru 5th grade need two volunteers a week to play and do crafts at the second hour. Your group could take on this need and send two volunteers each Sunday. These adorables need special love because their parents are volunteers and they attend both hours. Contact: angie.hooie@tworiverschurch.org

Administration: Please send an updated ROSTER to Elizabeth Leonard. Just send a quick email with the names of your group members. Thank you. elizabeth.leonard@tworiverschurch.org

Tips: Developing mature disciples means helping folks identify their gifts and serve God as He enables. Be intentional during group time to highlight a member who is serving at church in some capacity and ask them to give a short report on how they got started serving and what blessings have resulted. Encourage your members to serve others in some capacity and experience God's empowerment and faithfulness.

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) Do you remember a time when you were falsely accused? How did you respond?
- 2) Who in the group has the most leaves to rake this fall? What is your best system for leaf removal?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

- 1) **Read Acts 23:25-24:27** What were the accusations made against Paul and what truth did he continue to put before his accusers? (23:21, 26:6-8, 22, 23)?
 - 2) Why is the truth that Jesus is alive the foundation of Paul's message and ours?
 - 3) The Way was the early name for followers of Jesus. How is that an accurate description of believers?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15**
- 4) What is the evidence that Jesus has been raised? What is the resurrection so important?
 - 5) What hope do you have for your resurrection and how does that affect your attitude today?
 - 6) What verse from this chapter is most meaningful to you and why?
 - 7) **Read 24:22-25:12** How long did Felix keep Paul in prison and why did he call for him so often?
 - 8) What did Paul teach Felix and Bernice on these visits and what truths made Felix uncomfortable.
 - 9) Are there truths that make you uncomfortable or are hard for you to share?
 - 10) Why did Paul appeal to Caesar? What do you learn about God's protection and God's faithfulness to his Word? (23:11)
 - 11) In what situations do you need to trust God's protection? Is there a specific word of scripture that gives you peace?
 - 12) **Read 25:13-26:32** Paul faced 3 trials in Caesarea. It is significant that in each trial he was found innocent but according to God's plan he remained jailed. List similarities between Paul and Jesus when they faced the authorities.
 - 13) When have you been maligned or misunderstood or accused of something unfairly as a believer?
 - 14) Do you more often think to promote Jesus or defend yourself? .

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Lord, how do you want me to draw hope from your resurrection and mine?
- 2) Lord, in what situations am I tempted to defend myself? Give me words to exalt you instead?