



Small Group Discussion Guide- Day 70, Week 10 (Acts 22-28)

Welcome again to our journey together through the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts this summer! Remember <http://christchurchsl.org/la70> is the learning resources center for pastor's videos, discussion guides, reading plans, and the link to the closed Facebook Group. Also, if you would like a pastor's insight to a question you have about your readings, please email them to LA70@christchurchsl.org so that a reply may be emailed to you and posted to the Facebook Group.

This discussion guide is provided as a tool for small group discussions that center on the readings for week 10 (Acts 22-28) or for personal reflections for our independent readers. For the best small group discussion it will be helpful to have done the following prior to each meeting:

- 1- Watched the Pastor's video about the readings for the week
- 2- Completed the daily readings for the week
- 3- Noted at least 2-3 questions or insights from the readings to bring to the meeting to share with the group

Possible Meeting Format for 1 Hour Small Group Meeting:

1. Brief Opening Prayer (1-2 minutes)
2. Discussion of Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group (45 minutes).
 - a. Leader's discretion to be used on question and time management
 - b. You are intentionally provided with more questions than you need (you may wish just to choose the first general question and then one from each day's readings)
 - c. If people have brought insights or questions from their readings during the week, they are encouraged to share them as the group moves through the verses in order.
3. Summarize Life Application Points From Conversation (5 minutes)
4. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (5 minutes)
5. Reminders for the Coming Week & Resources (2 minutes)

Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group:

1. In the Pastor's video for week 10, Pastor Marquice gave an overview of chapters 22-28 and also some concluding remarks on the book as a whole. The narratives this week primarily follow the life of Paul, from arrest in Jerusalem to his journey to Rome. If you were to characterize the personality and driving passion of Paul, how would you describe him?



2. Day 64, Acts 22

- a. Last week's readings concluded with Paul returning to Jerusalem in anticipation of his suffering and possible death. In Acts 21:27-29, some Jews from Asia were visiting Jerusalem and leveled charges against Paul (21:28-29), caused a riot and tried to kill him (21:31). A Roman commander rescued Paul by arresting him and Paul was given opportunity to speak on the steps of the Roman barracks to the crowd. Prior to verse 21 (22:1-20), the crowd listened to his message. How would you summarize his message?
 - i. If you were given just a few minutes to share your testimony with someone, what would you say?
- b. Why do you think what he said in verse 21 caused them to stop listening and turn angry and intent on killing him again (22:22)?
- c. How did Paul's Roman citizenship help him here (22:25-30)?
- d. Why do you think the commander wanted to understand why the Jews were against Paul so as to call a meeting after releasing him (22:30)?
- e. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

3. Day 65, Acts 23

- a. Paul appeared before the council as Jesus and other apostles had before him. Why do you think the meeting turned violent so quickly (23:1-5)? How did Paul respond?
- b. How was Paul's next claim both true and a clever way to present the gospel at the time (23:6-8)?
- c. After a violent dispute, Paul was brought back to the barracks again for his safety where the Lord spoke to him (23:11). How did this message compare to the last message he received from the Lord in 18:9-10?
- d. What other prophetic words were beginning to be fulfilled in this new phase of ministry (Luke 21:12-17, Acts 9:15-16)?
- e. How was the Lord looking out for Paul through his nephew (23:12-22)?
- f. Why did the commander send Paul to Caesarea to be tried by Governor Felix (23:23-34)?
 - i. What was the commander's personal opinion about Paul (23:29-30)?
- g. How was awaiting his accusers under guard in Herod's palace in Caesarea a better option than remaining in Jerusalem for Paul?
- h. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

4. Day 66, Acts 24



- a. The chief priest, a lawyer and other elders came to Caesarea to formally accuse Paul before Festus (the original accusers, the Jews from Asia were not present). Why were they so motivated to legally attack Paul (24:5-8, also 23:14-15)?
- b. Do you believe Paul's words of defense were persuasive? Why or why not? (24:10-21)
- c. Felix listened to Paul on occasion, but for two years held him in prison and held out for a bribe that Paul never paid. What was the following message from Paul that made Felix afraid (24:24-25)?
 - i. Why would that message make him afraid?
- d. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

5. Day 67, Acts 25

- a. When Festus took Felix's position, the Jews tried to get Paul again, first through requesting a transfer to a Jerusalem court where they could kill Paul in transit and when that request failed, through another trial in Caesarea. Paul defended himself successfully there again but then Felix appeared to be giving into the transfer of the trial to Jerusalem to please the Jews. Paul then used his right to appeal to Caesar. What did that mean to Paul? Why would he choose that? (25:1-12)?
- b. Why do you think 2 years later they were still so adamant in pursuing Paul? Do you think Paul's being on their side at one time had anything to do with it (9:1-2)?
- c. When King Agrippa (son of King Herod) and Bernice visited Governor Festus in Caesarea, they were told about Paul and his case. How did the way Festus described Paul's case indicate his own understanding of Paul's message (25:18-21)?
- d. Why do you think he chose to share the case with them (25:25-27)?
- e. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

6. Day 68, Acts 26

- a. For a third time Paul defends himself against the charges in a formal setting (first with Felix, second with Festus and then with King Agrippa). How was Agrippa in a better position to understand the conflict with Paul rather than Felix or Festus (26:3)?
- b. How was Paul able to work in his testimony of faith in Christ while defending himself against the charges against him (26:4-18)?
- c. According to Paul, what was the main reason the Jews were angry with him (26:19-23)?



- i. How else had Paul stated the source of the conflict with his enemies before (18:15, 23:6, 24:21, 26:6-8)?
- ii. How central is belief in the resurrection of the dead, starting with Jesus Christ, in our every day faith? Why is this so?
- d. Why would Festus think that Paul was out of his mind while Festus simply thought he was a Christian trying to convert him (26:24-28)?
 - i. How was Paul's question "Do you believe in the prophets" a good one to ask Agrippa (26:27)? How did Agrippa respond to it?
 - ii. What incremental steps towards Christian faith do you believe we could encourage in others who are uncertain about Jesus Christ today?
- e. Agrippa agreed Paul did not deserve death or imprisonment and "could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar." While legally, that might have been true, what options was Paul facing when he decided to appeal to Caesar's court (25:10-12)?
- f. The legal system at times saved Paul's life, but in Caesarea, other factors such as waiting on bribes and trying to appease the Jews led to unjust treatment or increased risks to Paul's life. As with Joseph who was wrongly imprisoned in Genesis, how was God's higher plans at work when it seemed evil was winning?
- g. *what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

7. Day 69, Acts 27

- a. Along the sea voyage to Rome, Paul warned the Romans guarding him, that it was too late in the year to risk the life-threatening storms on the Mediterranean, but they decided to press on to try to reach western Crete by the winter (27:10-12). The Roman centurion chose instead to follow the advice of the pilot and owner of the ship. How do you face decisions when others around you offer conflicting advice?
- b. How was the pilot and owner wrong in their predictions (27:13-14)?
- c. After experiencing much loss, how was Paul's message to them more than just "I told you so" (27:21-26)?
- d. The use of terms such as "us" and "we" suggests that Luke was with Paul in this journey. The degree of detail given in the account of the experience also gives credibility to this claim. How do you believe sharing an experience like this impacted the relationship between Paul and Luke?
- e. How did the Romans later show signs of faith in Paul's message (27:31-32)?
 - i. What further encouragement did Paul offer them after this step of faith (27:33-38)?



ii. What small steps of faith do you believe the Lord may be calling to you at this time?

f. *what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

8. Day 70, Acts 28

a. Paul's prophetic proved true when the ship crashed on a beach and the storm destroyed the ship but all on board made it safely ashore (27:39-44). How were they received by the residents of the island of Malta (28:1-2)?

b. Paul did not die from the viper bite as the islanders had expected and as before with others who witnessed miraculous activity of the Holy Spirit, they thought he was a god (28:3-6). Why do you think this was a common mistake among non-jews in the missionary activities of Paul?

c. Three months later on a different ship they continued toward Rome where Paul was placed under guard until trial. How did Paul utilize the time before trial (28:17-24)?

d. Some among the Jews believed Paul's message but they could not agree among themselves such that Paul spoke against them with a passage from Isaiah 6:9-10. Jesus had used these verses before to justify speaking in parables to the crowds. What do you believe are the determining factors today to the receptiveness of hearts, ears and eyes to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

e. Did you interpret verse 28 as Paul just focusing on sharing the gospel with gentiles, or sharing with Jews and gentiles with an expectation of more gentiles responding or something else?

i. What do you think is mean by "he welcomed all who came to see him?"

f. What kind of questions do you have at the end of the book of Acts?

g. *what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

*If you did not bring any questions or insights ahead of time, the following questions may help you develop some in the moment. (Discussion questions from Immerse: The Reading Bible by Tyndale)

- What stood out to you this week?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you feel differently about God?

Summary of Life Application Points from the Conversation:

1. How might what we have learned today change how we live?
2. In light of this conversation today and the readings for week 8, what do you believe the Lord is calling you to move towards in your thinking or actions or relationships?



Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer:

1. What recent life events are worth giving thanks to God for or lifting up as a prayer request before the group?
2. The facilitator closes the meeting in prayer



(Italy today)

Macedonia (Greece today)

Asia Minor (Turkey today)

