

TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for October 23-October 29, 2022

“ACTS IN 30” Chapter 22: Paul’s Testimony

CHAPTER OVERVIEW: In Acts 22, we see Paul powerfully **use his own personal testimony** both as a Jew (to his Jewish accusers) and then as a Roman citizen (to his Gentile accusers). Our own personal testimonies can be powerful tools for sharing the Gospel, silencing false accusations and overcoming various temptations. In Revelation 12:11, the Bible says that believers, “*conquered him*” (meaning Satan) “*by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*” Think about writing out your own personal testimony to what Jesus ¹**HAS** done in your life; ²**IS** doing in your life today; ³**WILL** do for your life when He returns.

DAY 1: Paul’s Testimony of His CONVERSION

READ: Acts 22:1-10

REFLECT: This is the second of three times that Paul’s testimony of his conversion experience is mentioned in the Book of Acts. In this testimony, Paul highlights his Jewish heritage to a Jewish audience of his encounter with Jesus that is recorded in Acts 9.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: What are some similarities and what are some differences in the three times Paul shares his personal testimony:
1. Acts 9:1-9 2. Acts 22:1-10 and 3. Acts 26:12-18.

Application Question: Paul tailored his testimony to help his audience connect to his message. What are some ways that you could also tailor your testimony that would help you make a connection with some of the people in your world? (for example, a family member vs. co-worked vs. a neighbor)

DAY 2: Paul’s Testimony of His CALLING

READ: Acts 22:11-21

REFLECT: In this passage, Ananias prophesies to Paul about his future calling in ministry (v. 15). Later, Paul receives more specific direction from the Lord about his calling and the audience he was being called to go out and reach (v. 21).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: What are some ways that Paul fulfilled his calling “*to the Gentiles*” through his missionary journeys (Acts 16-21)?

Application Question: Are there some areas of ministry that you feel personally called to do for God’s Kingdom? If so, what are they?
What are some ways you are ministering to people with your **time, treasure, and talents** today?

DAY 3: Paul’s Testimony of His CITIZENSHIP

READ: Acts 22:22-30

REFLECT: Paul’s Jewish accusers listened politely to him. But, once he brought up the calling of Jesus to go to the Gentiles they became enraged (v. 22). The Roman officers seek to torture Paul to get to the bottom of their accusations against him. Paul then shares his testimony of being a Roman citizen to his Roman accusers who became too afraid to torture a fellow Roman citizen (vs. 29).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Even though being a Roman citizen was highly prized and expensive to obtain (Acts 22:28) it cannot be compared to our citizenship in Heaven. How does what Paul later wrote in **Philippians 3:20** remind us of this?

Application Question: Do you see yourself **primarily** as a citizen of Heaven or as a citizen of the USA here on Earth? What are some of the distinctions between the two?

DAY 4: “ACTS 29” – Putting the Book of ACTS into Practice in Your World TODAY

READ: Revelation 4:8

REFLECT: One of the stated goals of this 30-week reading plan is for each reader to discover, “ACTS 29.” Truth is, there is no “ACTS 29” chapter – Luke’s account of the disciples taking the Gospel from Jerusalem to “*the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8) ends somewhat abruptly at Acts 28. Perhaps this was intentional and means that the “Book of Acts” is still being written today! Take time today to begin writing your own personal testimony and ask God to give you opportunities to share it throughout the year. You may be surprised at the results!

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Read Revelation 4:8. What does it mean that we worship the Lord, “*who was, who is, and who is to come?*”

Application Question: Take time today to start writing out your own personal testimony to what Jesus ¹**HAS** done in your life; ²**IS** doing in your life today; ³**WILL** do for your life when He returns. Once you are finished, write down the names of 2-3 people who you can personally share your testimony with. Then, begin praying for God to open the door for you to share your 3-part testimony with them. That’s what the Book of Acts is really all about! (See Acts 1:8)