

## TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for November 6 – November 12, 2022

### “ACTS IN 30” Chapter 24: Paul *Redeems* Time While *Serving* Time

**CHAPTER OVERVIEW:** Jesus appeared to Paul while imprisoned in Jerusalem and told him that he would, “*testify of Me in Rome*” (Acts 23:11). In Acts 24, we read of Paul’s first stop along that journey, which was to make his case before the Roman Governor, Felix, who reigned over Judea. Although his accusers from Jerusalem followed him (the High Priest Ananias, etc.), their false claims against Paul were not well received. Paul is placed under house arrest in Caesarea with “*some liberties*” (v. 23) while his court case awaits trial. Paul never misses an opportunity to make the most out of his time, so he ends up staying in Caesarea for two years **teaching, ministering, and sharing** the Gospel to Felix and his wife, Drusilla (v. 24-27) and many others. This should also inspire us to “*redeem time*” (Eph. 5:16).

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#### DAY 1 Paul’s Accusers Track Him Down

**READ:** Acts 24:1-9

**REFLECT:** After their plot to assassinate Paul failed (Acts 23), the High Priest Ananias and his team of accusers follow Paul all the way to Caesarea. Although they hired one of the best attorney’s at the time to argue their case against Paul, their efforts were not rewarded.

**JOURNAL or DISCUSS:**

**Context Question:** What does Proverbs 18:17 say about court cases and how does that relate to Paul’s trial before Felix in Acts 24?

**Application Question:** Jesus told His followers that they are “*blessed*” when falsely accused for His name’s sake (Matt. 5:11). Think of a time someone spoke falsely about you. What was your reaction? Did you feel, “*blessed*” afterwards? Why or why not?

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#### DAY 2 Paul’s Defense Puts False Accusations Against Him on Trial

**READ:** Acts 24: 10-21

**REFLECT:** When Paul has his chance to respond, he does so with incredible rhetorical skills – even more than their hired attorney!

**JOURNAL or DISCUSS:**

**Context Question:** Read Luke 21:12-13. What did Jesus say would happen to His followers (v. 12) and what will they get to do (v. 13)?

**Application Question:** Have you defended your Christian beliefs to someone recently? If so, describe the situation – what was the setting and who were you speaking with? What are some things that you can learn from Paul’s defense here in Acts 24?

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#### DAY 3 Felix and His Wife Want to Hear More From Paul about “The Way”

**READ:** Acts 24:21-27

**REFLECT:** Instead of being handed over to his accusers for execution, Paul wins his case before Felix, the Roman Governor. Some scholars believe that Paul was actually placed under a form of house arrest right in Felix’s palace for the next two years! (vs. 27)

**JOURNAL or DISCUSS:**

**Context Question:** Reflect on the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). He went from “pit to palace.” Do you notice any similarities to how God was with Joseph, delivered him, and then used him mightily afterwards and Paul’s story here? If so, how?

**Application Question:** What are some things that you think Paul did for those two years being in Felix’s palace (see v. 23-26)? The next time you feel “stuck” in a situation (school, job, debt, etc...) what are some ways that you act more like Paul did?

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#### DAY 4 Like Paul, We Should “Redeem the Time” and Make the Most Out of Every Opportunity

**READ:** Ephesians 5:15-21

**REFLECT:** It is estimated that Paul wrote the book of Ephesians just 2-3 years after his house arrest in Caesarea. In this passage, Paul reminds Christians that they need to make the most out of every opportunity they find themselves in (“*redeeming the time*” v. 16, NKJV).

**JOURNAL or DISCUSS:**

**Context Question:** In many translations, the phrase “*redeeming the time*” appears here in Ephesians 5:16. What are some ways God “*redeemed time*” in the lives of people like Noah, Job, and Esther? What can we learn from this idea?

**Application Question:** While we cannot physically travel back in time, God can fulfill promises that He made to us long ago and bring them to pass despite our mistakes. What is an area of your life that you can ask God to, “redeem?” Also – what are some practical ways that YOU can begin to “redeem” or make the most of your time for the Kingdom of God this week? How can you have a more eternal **perspective** about your life? What are some new **priorities** you can put into place? Who are some **people** that you know that you need to have a conversation with? Don’t wait!

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