

TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for November 20 – November 26, 2022

“ACTS IN 30” Chapter 26: *Paul’s Power of Persuasion*

CHAPTER OVERVIEW: Chapter 26 records what will be the Apostle Paul’s final defense before a judicial court that’s recorded in the Book of Acts. This time, as Paul recaps his entire testimony for King Agrippa II, Paul shares some details about his conversion and his calling that is revealed here for the very first time in Scripture. Paul’s testimony is so penetrating and persuasive, that even King Agrippa II remarks, “**In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?**”(vs. 28). Paul replies that yes – he would – and not only him but everyone in the courtroom as well! (vs. 29). Governor Festus and King Agrippa II finally agree that there is no reason to detain Paul and that he should be sent to Rome. This fulfills the prophecy that Jesus told Paul would happen when He appeared to him in Acts 23:11.

DAY 1 Paul’s Reciprocity

READ: Acts 26:1-3

REFLECT: Paul begins his defense by praising the King, which was the custom in that day. Paul is sincere and addresses King Agrippa II directly, asking him to be patient while he shares his testimony with him. As Agrippa kindly gave Paul the floor, Paul reciprocates to him.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Read I Peter 2:13-17. What stands out to you about this passage and the way in which Paul addresses King Agrippa?

Application Question: While Paul knew of Agrippa’s past, he did not hold that against him while addressing him. Paul treats this as a fresh opportunity to share the Gospel with him that God made possible. Is it hard or is it easy for you to share the Good News of Jesus with those who you know have a “checkered” past? Describe why.

DAY 2 Paul’s Consistency

READ: Acts 26:4-25

REFLECT: Paul takes a considerable amount of time sharing his life before meeting Jesus, his calling, and what his life has been like trying to obey Jesus each day. To this point in time, Paul has been sharing the same testimony again and again to Jewish and Roman officials for several years, yet his story remains consistent. Consistency is a key quality for people to receive our testimony.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Paul gives new details into his testimony than weren’t previously recorded. Review Acts 9:1-19- what do you notice?

Application Question: Paul’s message and mission demonstrated a life dedicated to being a follower of Jesus. Paul did not live a “perfect” life – he made mistakes – but that didn’t stop him from following Jesus and sharing Christ with others. Do your “mistakes” hold you back from living for Jesus daily and sharing God’s Good News with others? Why or why not?

DAY 3 Paul’s Entrancing Authority

READ: Acts 26:26-29

REFLECT: Paul’s testimony ends by appealing to King Agrippa’s knowledge of Scripture and asks him a simple – yet loaded – personal question: Do you believe the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah? Then Paul reassures King Agrippa II that he believes he does (vs. 27). If Agrippa answered, “No,” he would have gone against the Jews. If he would’ve answered “Yes”, it would have appeared that he agreed with Paul. The King was backed into a corner and instead of replying to Paul, Agrippa abruptly ends the trial and leaves.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: It appears that Paul’s power of persuasion begins to affect Agrippa personally (vs. 28). Therefore, Agrippa tries to deflect the conversation by ending it. Review the story of the woman at the well in John 4:1-26. Do you believe she initially tried to use a similar tactic when Jesus got a little too, “personal?” Why or why not?

Application Question: When it comes down to asking people if they believe in the Bible or if they believe that Jesus is the Messiah, sometimes they tend to get nervous and try to deflect the conversation. What are some things you can learn from the Paul here in Acts 26 and from Jesus in John 4 that could help when those situations arise in the future?

DAY 4 Paul’s Victory

READ: Acts 26:30-32

REFLECT: Once again, God’s will prevails and Paul is sent to Rome. This fulfills the prophetic dream Jesus gave Paul in Acts 23:11.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: What other prophetic dreams that you know are recorded in Scripture? (Hint: Joseph, Daniel, Ezekiel, Peter, etc..)

Application Question: What are some “dreams” that the Lord has spoken to you about concerning your future? Have you shared them with someone recently? How do you keep your faith high that the Lord will bring them to reality one day?