

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 14, 2007

Passage: Acts 22:1-30

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 3:15

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 21:27-40.** What three accusations are raised against Paul in Acts 21:28? What does Paul say in Romans 9:3 and Romans 10:1 that answers their first accusation? Why was Paul in Jerusalem to begin with (Romans 15:16; Romans 15:26)?
- (b) What did Paul do in Acts 18:18-21 that answers the second accusation about Paul? Is there anything in the teachings of Paul where he speaks against the temple? Where were *these* Jews from (Acts 21:27)? Why is this significant?
- (c) What was the ultimate act of blasphemy that they claimed that they said Paul had committed (Acts 21:29)? How would they recognize Trophimus? Review what happened in Ephesus in Acts 19:19-20. Why would they spread such rumors?
- (d) What do Proverbs 6:19; Proverbs 14:5 and Proverbs 25:18 tell us about those who spread rumors? What will happen to a false witness (Proverbs 19:9)? Why should we watch our words (Matthew 12:36)? What did Paul continually say about his ministry (2 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-5)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 21:27-29 and Proverbs 19:9. Talk about what it means to be a false witness. How does this affect others? How does it affect the way others see you? How does it affect your witness? Ask for forgiveness for those times when you have spread rumors about others and pray that your conversation would be guided by a love for God, others and the truth.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 22:1-5.** Why did Paul begin his defense with “men and brethren” (Acts 13:26; Romans 9:1-3)? What was Paul appealing to? What did Paul tell the crowd about his Jewish background? What should have been especially impressive?
- (b) What does he tell the crowd to show his zeal for the law? Who does he say can verify the truth of this statement? What does Paul say about religious zeal in Romans 10:2-3? Does zeal for something make it right?
- (c) How did Paul describe his adherence to the Jewish law in Philippians 3:5-6? How did he compare his righteousness under the law to the righteousness he received as a gift from Christ (Philippians 3:7-11)?
- (d) Why must our righteousness be through Christ and not through the law (Romans 10:1-4)? What does Paul conclude about anyone who tries to be righteous through the law (Galatians 3:10-14)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 22:1-5 and Philippians 3:5-11. Talk about righteousness and God’s standard for getting into heaven. How perfectly does a person have to keep the law to be saved? Who has perfectly kept the law? Pray for someone who needs to know that the righteousness of Jesus is all that is needed for salvation.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 22:6-14.** What time of day did Paul see the bright light from heaven? How does this show that it was no ordinary light (Acts 26:13)?
- (b) Who else saw the light (Acts 22:9)? Did they also hear the voice (Acts 9:7)? Did they understand the voice? Compare this to John 12:29-30. What might this tell us about the voice?
- (c) What kind of man did Paul call Ananias (Acts 22:12)? How should this have affected the crowd? Compare Paul’s testimony with Acts 9:1-9. What does he leave out? What did he emphasize in Acts 22? What does this tell you about sharing your testimony?
- (d) In 1 Peter 3:13-16, how does Peter tell us to respond if we are treated badly even though we have been “zealous for good?” Was Paul “always ready to give an answer to those that ask?” Are you?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 22:6-14 and 1 Peter 3:15. Talk together about what it means to share your testimony for Christ. Are all the same? What are some of the different types of testimonies that we can bear for Christ? Pray that God will give you an opportunity this week “to give an answer to those who ask you for a reason for the hope that is within you.”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 22:14-16.** How does Ananias refer to Jesus (Isaiah 53:11)? What does this title tell us about who Jesus is and give some indication of what he did (1 Peter 3:18)? How does this fit with Paul’s description of his own righteousness?
- (b) What does Ananias tell Paul to do *without delay*? What did the Ethiopian eunuch desire after coming to Christ (Acts 8:36-37)?
- (c) Why does Ananias say, “Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins?” Did baptism *save* Paul? Does Paul ever refer to baptism as “saving?” What *alone* saves us (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)?
- (d) How did Peter refer to baptism in 1 Peter 3:21? What is meant by “the answer of a good conscience?” Why was Jesus baptized (Matthew 3:15)? How is this similar to what Peter tells us about baptism?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 9:17-19 and Romans 6:3-4. Talk about baptism. What does it do for the believer? Why is it necessary? How is it a “first testimony” of what Jesus has done for us? Pray for someone today who has not responded to the good news about salvation through Jesus Christ.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 22:17-30.** What does Paul say about where he was praying? How does this help to answer one of the objections of the Jews (Acts 21:27-28)?
- (b) What did the Lord tell Paul? How did Paul argue against this? What additional evidence did he use to show that he was zealous for the temple that he thought should be totally convincing (Acts 22:19-20)?
- (c) Why do you think they would not be willing to listen to someone with such a dramatic conversion? What did the Jews try to do in Acts 9:29-30? What does this tell us about the hardness of men's hearts toward the gospel?
- (d) Where did Paul say that the Lord had sent him? How did the Jews respond to this statement?
- (e) What method of interrogation was planned for Paul? Why was this changed? There are at least two other instances when Paul uses his Roman citizenship for the sake of the gospel. Review them: Acts 16:37; Acts 25:11. Is it wrong to use our privileges as a citizen for the sake of the gospel?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 22:17-20. Talk about sharing the gospel. Why do people reject the clear facts of the gospel and the clear evidence that people's lives have been changed? Does a good testimony guarantee that people will come to Christ? Pray that God will open the eyes of the unbelieving that they might see the wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 22:30-23:35. What kinds of rumors had been spread about Paul? How do rumors and false testimonies hurt the gospel today? What is God's righteous standard for entering heaven? Why is salvation through Jesus the only way? Pray that the message of the gospel might be clear tomorrow.

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Ready to Give an Answer

“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you.”