

Saved by Grace

Small group questions

Hope and trial – Acts 26

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact

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1. Read Acts 26. Anything stand out for you – or something you didn't quite understand?
2. What do you make of the Herods!? Recall what Mark pointed out about this dynasty.

Mark framed his message using three key questions from the passage – two asked by Paul, and the third asked by Agrippa.

WHY DO YOU CONSIDER IT INCREDIBLE THAT GOD RAISES THE DEAD? v8

3. Why has the resurrection of Jesus been so fundamental to the book of Acts throughout?
4. Why is the resurrection of Jesus a stumbling block to many and what does it say about their view of God?
5. Why was Paul at pains to point out that the hope he proclaimed – that Jesus was the Messiah – was totally in line with the hopes of the Jewish leaders?

DO YOU BELIEVE THE PROPHETS? - v27

6. Paul shared his testimony of his arrest by Jesus and his commission to reach the Gentiles (v18) – to open their eyes, turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in God. What stands out for you from this beautiful description of Paul's job commission?
7. Mark asked – is this what we long for and pray for; for those we know and love in our families and towns? What might be the outcome if we prayed more specifically along these lines?
8. As a result of his commission, Paul urged people to repent and turn to God. Paul's commission is not ours – and yet – we need to be open to how the Lord may want to use us to do the same! Discuss.
9. Again in v22, Paul points out that he is saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen regarding the Messiah's suffering, rising from death, bringing the light of the gospel to Gentiles. Read Isaiah 53 and discuss how this passage points us to Jesus, his suffering and resurrection.
10. If Agrippa believed the prophets, why couldn't he accept Jesus as the fulfilment of the same?

DO YOU THINK THAT IN SUCH A SHORT TIME YOU CAN PERSUADE ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

11. What do you think was behind Agrippa's question? What was encouraging about his question?
12. Patience in sharing Jesus for life is important. Some people with little background, will need more time to understand the nature of the good news. Do you have a story to share of how someone only came to follow Jesus after many years?
13. Mark asked a very challenging question: is there any one in your life at the moment who might reckon you're trying to persuade them to become a Christian? Of course there will be times when it is appropriate to hold back and other times to press forward! How might we know if we are becoming a pain... or being useful in sharing the news??

Pray Gracious God, please open people's eyes. May people we hold in our hearts turn from darkness to light; from the power of Satan to you... so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith. And please help us where we can, to persuade people about Jesus. Amen.