

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 11, 2007

Passage: Acts 26

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 2:9

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 26:1-5.** How does Paul describe his life (Acts 26:2)? What would you find strange about this if you were King Agrippa (Acts 24:27; Acts 26:29)?

(b) Where did this joy come from (1 Peter 1:3-9)? How does a joyful life in difficult circumstances give a powerful testimony (1 Peter 3:15)?

(c) What do we learn about Paul's *early* manner of life? How would you describe yours?

(d) Compare this with Philippians 3:3-6. What was Paul's confidence and hope in his early life?

(e) What was your hope and confidence before you came to faith in Christ?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 26:1-8 and 1 Peter 3:15. Talk about giving our testimonies for Christ. What are the basic elements of a testimony? Share your testimonies with each other. Pray that you might have an opportunity to tell someone about the gospel of Jesus this week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 26:6-8.** What did Paul call the "hope of the promise made by God to our Fathers?"

(b) How do Genesis 25:8, Genesis 35:28, Genesis 49:33, Numbers 27:13, and Judges 2:10 speak about the hope of the resurrection?

(c) What did people in the Old Testament look forward to (Job 19:25; Daniel 12:2)?

(d) How has the resurrection always been a hope of God's people (Psalm 16:10)? ?

(e) How did they expect this promise to be fulfilled (Acts 2:24-28)? How does Isaiah 53:9-10 speak about the resurrection?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 26:1-8 and Job 19:25. Why is the resurrection at the center of the gospel presentations in Acts? How does the resurrection set Christianity apart from every other religion? How is the resurrection our "hope?" How was this a confidence even for Job? Give thanks for the resurrection of Jesus and for the hope of resurrection that we have in Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 26:9-15.** What did Paul think he *should* do? Why did he torture believers? What was he trying to get them to do (Acts 26:11)?

(b) How did these believers respond? How would this have affected you if you were Paul?

(c) What were the "goads" that Jesus referred to? How did the testimony of these martyrs affect Paul's conscience (Acts 22:19-20)?

(d) What were some of the "goads" that God used in your life to wake you up to your need for salvation?

(e) What did Paul come to realize through this encounter (Philippians 3:7-11)? How does this describe the essence of coming to faith in Christ?

(f) *Family* Read Acts 26:9-18 and Philippians 3:7-11. How does God use various circumstances in our lives to bring us to Christ? What kinds of things did God use to awaken you to your need for Christ? Pray for someone who needs to be awakened to the need for Jesus.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 26:16-23.** What was the job that Jesus gave Paul (Acts 26:16, 18)? How is this similar to our responsibility as a witness (Acts 1:8; 4:20)?

(b) What are some of the *descriptions of salvation* that Jesus gives to Paul? Compare 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9; and 2 Timothy 2:26.

(c) What are the three results of salvation mentioned in Acts 26:18? Compare Acts 13:38-39; Acts 10:43; Luke 24:47; Ephesians 1:11, 14; Colossians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:4; and 1 Corinthians 6:11.

(d) What are the essential elements in salvation (Acts 26:20; Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9)? What are the indications that a person is truly converted?

(e) How did Paul summarize the gospel in Acts 26:23 (also 1 Corinthians 15:1-3)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 26:16-23 and Colossians 1:13. Discuss what takes place in salvation. How does the Bible describe a person without Christ? What happens when a person comes to Christ? What does *everyone* receive when they come to Christ? Spend some time thanking God for His saving work in your lives.

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

- (a) **Read Acts 26:24-32.** What did Festus say about Paul? How does Paul describe his ministry in 1 Corinthians 4:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:12-14? What had they said about Jesus (Mark 3:20-21)?
- (b) How does Paul describe the message of the gospel in Acts 26:25-26? What does he say that indicates that *evidence matters*?
- (c) Why does Paul ask Agrippa if he believed the prophets instead of asking Festus? How does Agrippa avoid dealing with Paul's questions?
- (d) What does Acts 26:29 show us about Paul's heart for people? How did Paul respond even though he was in chains (Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:3)? What did Agrippa and Festus conclude about Paul?
- (e) Read 2 Timothy 2:8-10. Why did Paul continue to share even though he was kept in chains for over 2 years?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 26:24-32 and 2 Timothy 2:8-10. Talk about Paul's being kept in prison. How would you avoid discouragement if you were put in prison wrongly like this? What kept Paul encouraged? Pray that you might have a heart to be used by God in sharing the gospel no matter what your situation.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 26. Review the basics of Paul's testimony. What are the three phases or aspects of his testimony? Based on this chapter, how would you summarize the gospel? What happens when a person is saved? Pray for the message of the gospel as it is taught tomorrow.

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Being a Witness

"...to this day I stand, witnessing to the great and the small..."