Connection Group Questions

For the Week of November 8, 2026

This Week's Message: *"Have Courage!"*

Passages: Acts 22:30-23:35

The following discussion questions are intended to encourage a deeper knowledge and more fruitful application of Sunday morning's teaching in the lives of those who hear it.

Getting-To-Know-Me Question

With the holidays just around the corner, is there a favorite holiday movie you're looking forward to watching again this year?

Into-the-Bible Questions

1. **As a group, read Acts 22:30-23:35. Paul finds courage, God's presence, and sovereignty in the face of persecution and division.**
    - Are there any aspects from Sunday's message or these verses that resonate with you?
2. **Re-read and review Acts 9:15-15; Acts 18:9-10; Acts 20:22-23; Acts 23:11. The Lord's mission through Paul cannot be thwarted.**
    - How would you define the word "*thwart*," and what are some specific characteristics or attributes of God that guarantee His will cannot be thwarted?
    - How should this realization lead to peace and obedience rather than anger and intolerance? Read Job 42:2-3 and recall Job's life.
3. **In vs. 1, Paul faces hostility, physical abuse, and a violent riot before the Sanhedrin council.**
    - Knowing that he used to persecute the church violently, how could Paul confidently claim that he has lived his life in "*all good conscience before God up to this day"?* Read Acts 22:19-20 and 1 Timothy 12:14.
4. **In vs. 4-5, Paul is rebuked for insulting the high priest and admits he didn't realize who Ananias was and quotes Exodus 22:28: "*You should not speak evil of a ruler of your people."***
    - Do you think Paul's initial anger was righteous indignation against injustice, or was it a sinful outburst of pride and temper? Could it be *both* righteously motivated and sinfully executed?
    - What's the difference between Paul's response to being treated unjustly and Jesus' when He was treated the same? Read 1 Peter 2:23.
    - How did Paul's response in condemning himself in front of the whole court and not playing ignorant or the "blame game" speak to how spiritually minded and mature he was?
5. **In vs. 6-8, Paul points out his identity as a Pharisee and his faith in the resurrection to divide the Sanhedrin.**
    - Compare the core beliefs between the Pharisees and Sadducees.
    - Is it wise or is it manipulative to use your opponent's divisions to your advantage? Where is the line between godly wisdom and worldly deceit? Read James 3:13-18.
6. **In vs. 11, Jesus fortifies Paul's resolve and his courage, reassuring him He was standing by Him.**
    - Explain how *"take courage"* is not merely a warm emotion but a choice for us to anchor ourselves knowing Christ stands with His people. Read Matt. 28:20 and John 14:18.
7. **In vs. 12-22, God's unstoppable orchestration shields Paul from an extraordinary assassination plot.**
    - What are several key highlights or the many examples in this narrative that demonstrate human schemes cannot thwart God's sovereignty?
8. **In vs. 23-35, extraordinary measures deliver Paul safely to Felix, the governor.**
    - God used an army, a pagan commander, and a corrupt governor to protect Paul. How does this now change how we should view secular authorities and governments?

Application for the Week

Paul didn't land in Acts 23 because he made mistakes; he landed there because he stayed faithful to God and His Word by preaching Jesus' death and resurrection and by standing firm for the gospel. We often assume that if we are in the center of "God's will," our paths will be smooth. Paul's life proves the exact opposite. Standing for truth and the gospel as a witness for Christ can cost us temporal opportunities that would make this world gasp in disbelief, rendering us an easy target for hostility, animosity, and opposition. But evil withers and dies whenever it isn't returned. (Romans 12:21). This week, "*have courage,*" and step forward in confidence and trust, knowing *"Jesus does not leave us as orphans and is with us always even until the end of the age."* (Matt. 28:20; John 14:18).

How Your Group Can Be Praying This Week

Paul faced a severe crisis, yet this week's passages serve as a powerful reminder that human conspiracies and wickedness cannot thwart God's will or sovereign plan. Even the schemes of evil men and corrupt authorities cannot overturn God's purposes. This week, pray and remind one another in your group that God's plan cannot be stopped, so there is no need to live in panic or resort to frantic self-protection or worries. Like Paul, we can have courage, obey faithfully, and trust the results to Him.

How You Can Be Praying for New Heights

As followers of Christ, we understand repentance is not merely an emotional response to sin; it's a decisive turning away from sin and a humble turning toward God. This week, pray that our church recognizes that when we wander in disobedience from His will and seriously come to Him with a humble heart in genuine repentance, we place ourselves in a position to experience His mercy and grace. He's that good. Genuine repentance produces a turning point and a changed direction. Pray, we turn toward the One who offers forgiveness, restoration, and grace. It is in Christ that we only find grace when we deserve judgment and hope when we once faced despair.