

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 54 - Acts 22:22-29

Summary of this week's teaching: As the murderous mob cried for the extermination of Paul, the Roman soldiers quickly whisked him away. The order was then given to flog him. However, as the Roman soldiers bound and stretched him out, Paul claimed Roman citizenship. If he indeed held the coveted position of legal citizen, Paul had rights and privileges that would protect him from such violence and secure him a fair and legal trial. Like Paul's Roman citizenship, all who believe become citizens of the Kingdom of God and enjoy rights and privileges as such. How frequently do we claim these?

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. In how many other US states have you resided? Which was your favorite? Why?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 22:22-29.

1. How many scriptural passages can you think of that deal with the kingdom of God/Heaven? What do these passages tell us of the Kingdom? (If you can't recall any, check out Matthew 4:7, Matthew 5:1-20, John 3:3, John 18:36, and Romans 14:17.)
2. How does the Kingdom of God contrast to the Roman Empire that we see in the New Testament, especially in this week's passage?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. As we near the end of summer, take a few minutes to reflect. How have you connected with the Lord over the last three months?
2. What character traits of our amazing God are you most enjoying during this season of Life (e.g. His faithfulness, mercy, dependability, etc.)?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Does your worldly citizenship ever feel more significant and influential than your heavenly citizenship? If so, what can be done to change this perspective?
2. How would your life of faith be different if you lived daily in the reality that Jesus is King Eternal, and that you are a citizen of His Kingdom?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Assuming that you are saved, how do you honor Jesus as King, and in what ways does your life reflect His Kingdom?

THE BOOK OF ACTS