

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 56 - Acts 23:12-35

Summary of this week's teaching: This week's passage details the continued threats that Paul experienced from the Jews. Instead of facing a mob or the Sanhedrin, Paul is threatened by 40 men who have vowed to assassinate him. Thankfully the plot is found out and foiled by the Roman tribune. This week's passage is a classic example of historical (or narrative) scripture. The point of which is to give a factual retelling of events, not necessarily to provide us with immediately applicable information. We therefore took the opportunity to discuss the Bible, its genres, and how we can better understand and apply God's Word to our lives.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What is your favorite book of the Bible and why? What about your least favorite?

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 23:12-35, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, and Isaiah 55:10-11.

1. What applications can you find in this week's passage of Acts?
2. Must all scripture have immediate application for our lives? Why or why not?
3. How does God's Word describe itself in these passages? What does that teach us?

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. How regularly do you engage with God's Word, and what does that look like for you in this season?
2. Besides reading God's Word, do you ever meditate upon it or memorize it? If not, why not?

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. Do you struggle to believe that all of scripture is God-breathed and true? If so, with what portions do you struggle the most?
2. Can a believer's faith grow if they are not engaging with God's Word? Why or why not?

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. What are some steps you can take to engage in the Bible more regularly and effectively?
2. Who in your life can you partner with in these endeavors?

THE BOOK OF ACTS