

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 61 - Acts 26:12-32

Summary of this week's teaching: This week's passage continues Paul's defense before King Agrippa and Festus. After speaking of his hope in the resurrection, Paul tells those who are gathered about his conversion experience. Paul conveys how the Lord vividly described salvation to Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus - repentance, turning away from sin toward God, deliverance from the power of the evil one, turning from darkness into light, forgiveness of sins, and sanctification...all by faith in Jesus.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What is your favorite part of Fall, and 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 26:12-32.

1. How would you describe salvation to a nonbelieving friend?
2. Why do you think Festus interrupted Paul's defense?

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. In his conversion story, Jesus calls Saul's name twice. What do you think that conveyed to Saul? Can you think of other times in scripture where a name is used twice?
2. Please read Matthew 7:21-23. Jesus once spoke of people who will call his name twice, pretending to have a relationship with Him when none exists. How can you be certain that Jesus truly knows you and that you are not a stranger to him?

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. Have you ever "kicked against the goads" in your own journey of faith? If so, would you mind sharing?
2. In Jesus' description of salvation, he mentions sanctification. How would you define sanctification in your own words?
3. How would you describe the process of sanctification in your own journey of faith?

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. Part of Paul's message was that people must "repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance." What do deeds of repentance look like in your own life? Have you witnessed such deeds from others in your growth group?

THE BOOK OF ACTS