MY WITNESSES
THE BOOK OF ACTS

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts
Discussion Guide: Week 63 - Acts 28:1-28

Summary of this week's teaching: After surviving the shipwreck on the island of Malta, Paul then survived the bite of a deadly serpent which turned into an opportunity to pray for and heal many on the island. After Malta, Paul and the others continued their journey and were met by a group of believers in Puteoli who encouraged Paul. At last they arrived in Rome, where Paul met with the Jews and tried persuading them of the Gospel of Christ. While some believed, many others did not. Paul's response, which are his last words in the book of Acts, was: "Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Please share a passion or hobby of yours. How, and how often do you communicate this passion to others?

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 28:1-28.

1. What stands out to you most from this week's passage? With what questions does it leave you?
2. Why didn't Paul freak out when he was bit by the presumably-deadly serpent?
3. Paul passionately shared the Gospel with the Jews in Rome. What Old Testament passages do you think he might have used to share about the Messiah?

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 have you connected with the Lord this week?
2. What aspects of the Lord's character are you thankful for this week, and why?

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. Verse 15 tells us that Paul took courage when he was met by the believers from Rome. Do you have believers in your own life who encourage your faith? If so, who? What have they done that encouraged you?
2. Who in your life do you seek to encourage? How do you go about that?

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. Why was Paul so passionate about sharing the Gospel with anyone who would listen? What prevents you from doing the same?

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