



LIKE I SAID...

Open it

1. Who is the most famous person that you have talked to? What did you say to him/her? What did he/she say to you?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 25:1–22

2. How would you summarize this passage?
3. What do you learn about God in this passage?
4. How do you see God at work in this passage?
5. What do you think will happen next?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: FORCED NAP TIME

Read Acts 24:27–25:5

Remember when you were a kid and your parents forced you take a nap in the afternoon? Sometimes I really wish I could go back to those days and have people make me take naps. When we were little, though, being forced to take naps was no fun. We would rather be playing and exploring and doing all the things little kids like to do. Sleeping was no good. But our parents knew that we needed that sleep in order to function later in the day! So even though it wasn't pleasant for us, it was good for us. It prepared us for what was coming next!

In some ways, God is giving Paul a little bit of a “forced nap” by putting him in Roman custody. He has spent over two years now in Roman prison, waiting for the end of his trial. While he was there, he was given a chance to rest. He would be under the protection of the Romans as a citizen, which would keep him safe from the attacks from the Jews and their plots to kill him. God is getting Paul ready for what's coming next!

6. How do you prepare for upcoming tests?

7. How have you seen God prepare you for something He had planned for you?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- That God would help you grow into the person He has for you to be. That He would use the difficulties in life to help prepare you for what tomorrow holds, that you would be ready and able to take on all that He brings your way!

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: TO CAESAR!

Read Acts 25:6–12

This is perhaps the moment Paul has been waiting for! In the Roman court system, all Roman citizens had the right to take their case before Caesar if they were displeased with the rulings of the lower courts. That would really be like taking their case to the Supreme Court today! Now remember, Paul had been going through this trial on and off for over two years, and they were suggesting extending that time and going back to Jerusalem for another hearing there! So perhaps Paul has seen his chance. I imagine him thinking, “Forget all this, let’s just take it to Caesar!”

This will begin what we will see over the next few weeks of Paul’s journey to Rome to give his defense before Caesar. Do you remember what God told Paul earlier in Acts 23:11? If not, look it up. “*Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.*” Now we are starting to see the plan unfold. Time to go to Rome!

8. God has ultimately used the false accusations against Paul and his “eternal” imprisonment to bring about His purposes in sending Paul to Rome. How have you seen God use tough times in your family’s life to bring you where He wanted you to be?

9. Do you think God is preparing you for something in the future right now? How is He preparing you?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray for patience in the process, that as God prepares you for things yet to come, that you’d be able to trust Him in all the uncertainty.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: IS JESUS ALIVE?

Read Acts 25:13–22

“This was Herod Agrippa II, son of Herod Agrippa I and a descendant of Herod the Great. He had power over the Temple, controlled the Temple treasury, and could appoint and remove the high priest. Bernice was the sister of Herod Agrippa II. She had married her uncle, Herod Chalcis, had become mistress to her brother Agrippa II, and then had become mistress to the emperor Vespasian's son, Titus. Here Agrippa and Bernice were making an official visit to Festus. Agrippa, of Jewish descent, could help clarify Paul's case for the Roman governor. Agrippa and Festus were anxious to cooperate in governing their neighboring territories.”¹

A main point of their discussion is that Paul's accusations revolved around points of faith and disagreements in the Jewish community.

One point that was brought up was about this person Jesus who was believed to be dead but Paul believed to be alive. The Romans, and many others in the region, were maybe aware of who Jesus was, but it wasn't common knowledge like it is for many people today. And furthermore, imagine having the conversation where you're telling that someone had died and come back to life: “Could it really be that this Jesus rose from the dead? How could you be sure? Since it's true, it is the single most important event in the history of the world!”

10. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–19. What do these verses say about the resurrection and why it is so important?

11. What caused you to believe in Jesus' resurrection? How can you be sure of it?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Thank God for raising Jesus from the dead!

¹ *Life Application Study Bible*.

Note: This study was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson. www.villagebible.church