



EVIDENCE OF THE TRUTH!

Open it

1. What is the last thing you had to fact-check? How did you fact-check it? Did it turn out to be true?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 25:23–26:32

2. How would you summarize the events that took place in this passage?
3. What are the main points of Paul's defense?
4. What is the reason for putting Paul on trial again right now?
5. What questions do you have after reading this passage?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION

Read Acts 26:6–8

Paul admits that the main reason for his trial is his hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's why the Jews hate him and why the Romans can't understand him. It's not so much about Paul as it is about Jesus! When we share the gospel message with people today, we sometimes are afraid that they will reject us for it. But the reality is that it isn't us they are rejecting; they are rejecting Jesus! We should be bold in sharing the gospel message because it is the power of God for salvation! That's why we are UNASHAMED!

6. Why is the gospel message offensive to people?

7. What causes you to be fearful or timid in sharing your faith?

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:

- Ephesians 6:19–20, “Pray that words may be given to [you] in opening [your] mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which [you are] an ambassador in chains, that [you] may declare it boldly, as [you] ought to speak.”

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: AN ENEMY OF CHRIST

Read Acts 26:9–11

Back in Acts 22 we saw Paul share his testimony, like he is doing now, and we learned about how our testimonies are a story made up of what our lives looked like before we knew Jesus, how we came to know Jesus, and how our lives look different now that we do know Jesus. Well, Paul is sharing his testimony again here. But he does so in much more detail than last time.

This time he really makes it clear that he didn't just not believe or like Jesus, but that he was truly an enemy of Christ—persecuting those who believed in Jesus and His resurrection. Not only did he arrest people, but he even voted to kill them! Unbelievable!

It's easy for us to look at someone like Paul and say that we are nothing like that, so perhaps we weren't really "enemies" of Christ, but really we were! All of us! (See Romans 5:10) Before we were saved by Christ, we were enemies of Christ in our sin—rebels against God! So even though you may not have killed people or put people in prison for being Christians, you have been an enemy of Christ!

8. What is the most evil thing humans have ever done?

What is the most evil thing you have ever done?

9. Paul murdered and arrested people as an enemy of Christ. What things have you done as an enemy of Christ?

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

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Confess your sins to God and ask Him to forgive them!
- Thank the Lord for forgiving you of your sins.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: DIVINE INTERVENTION

Read Acts 26:12–18

It's easy for us to look at Paul and say that he was a real enemy of Christ and diminish how we were also enemies of Christ. In the same way it's easy to look at Paul, and maybe other people we know who had really rough backgrounds, and say that clearly God intervened to change their life. But certainly it didn't take divine intervention in my case! **WRONG!**

The Scriptures teach us that there is no one good, not one person (Romans 3:10) and that we have all strayed and gone our own ways (Isaiah 53:6). In Ephesians 2:1, Paul talks about how we were dead in our sins. Let me ask you—what can something or someone who is dead do? **NOTHING!** That means that in order to have life, it had to be given to us by God! So even in your case and mine, we have been saved by an act of divine intervention. Maybe it wasn't being blinded on the road to Damascus to arrest or kill people, but God did use something to catch your attention and change your life!

10. What did God use to catch your attention and change your life forever?

11. How has God used you to work in someone's life to bring them to saving faith in Jesus Christ?

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:

- Take a minute to remember the ways that God has worked in your life to bring you closer to Him. Thank Him for the ways He has been patient with you and worked to change your life.

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: A NEW CALLING

Read Acts 26:19–23

Paul was once a Pharisee who lived strictly according to the Law. He was a murderer and just an all-around jerk, all in the name of his faith. But after meeting Jesus and having his life changed on the road to Damascus, God put a new calling on Paul's life. No longer would Paul take lives, but instead he would bring the message of eternal life to Jews and Gentiles all throughout the world! No longer would Paul identify as a Pharisee but as a Son of God and heir with Christ!

If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ and have been saved from eternal condemnation and punishment in hell, you have a new calling on your life as well! You aren't called to the same life as the rest of the world but to live your entire life on mission for Jesus Christ. You are called to make disciples of all nations, starting right in your backyard! Look for those opportunities God has given you to share the good news with others. Live your life in freedom, not guilt. Live your life in peace, not stirring up trouble. In everything you do, you represent Jesus Christ to a watching world! What message are you sending?

12. How can you tell that God has made you new? How have you seen Jesus change your life?

13. If God is in the business of making things new (redeeming things), how can we also work in line with God's mission to make things new? What is an example of something that can be redeemed for the sake of Christ?

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

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Strength and help to live in the new calling on your life
- Wisdom and clarity to know what that new calling in your life is!

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: TRUTH VERIFIED

Read Acts 26:24–32

At the end of the whole trial, Agrippa says, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.” Unlike Festus, Agrippa was from Jewish descent and thus was very familiar with the Jewish laws and customs and could verify much of what Paul was teaching. He brought a different perspective to the table that other rulers like Lysias, Felix, and Festus didn't have.

With Paul's testimony verified and unofficially declared as innocent, it shows real credibility to Paul's story and ultimately the message he brings!

I believe that if you truly seek out the truth about God that you will find all the Bible claims to be true! Lee Strobel is a well-known pastor and author who early in his marriage was an atheist. His wife became a Christian, and as he did extensive research in an effort to prove to her that what she believed was false, he found it all to be true. God forever changed his life, and he found that the Bible and its claims were true!

14. How can we be sure the Christian message is true?

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 that God would continue to show you the truth presented in Scripture, that you might believe and have confidence that all that God says about Himself is true!

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