



Week 19: Acts 22-28

Study Guide for the week of May 4-10

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

For many of us, waiting is difficult. Paul waited over two years to finally get to Rome and then waited another two years for his trial. Are you waiting on God? What are you waiting for? How are you spending your time as you wait? Can waiting be productive? If so, how?

What obstacles have you encountered during the wait? Did the obstacles function as tests to strengthen your faith? How did you do with the tests? Remember Abraham, a man the Bible commends as being faithful, both failed and passed tests of faith on his years-long journey with God. Your relationship with God is not a sprint, but a marathon; ask God for the endurance, patience, and perseverance you need to continue to run the race.

Discussion starters

1. Paul's long years journeying to Rome were filled with persecution that he chose to see as opportunity. Name other leaders who have used opposition as opportunity. Name other Christians you know. Share a time you used difficult circumstances as an opportunity for growth.
2. Reread Acts 23:6-10. Did Paul remove himself from understanding people and their culture? Unthinkingly embrace the dominant culture? How involved are you in the culture? Are you a student of the culture in order to understand others? Have you been co-opted by the culture?
3. In Acts 23:11, God told Paul he would preach in Rome; as it turned out, the trip probably wasn't what Paul had expected! Have you ever been surprised by the circumstances you've found yourself in? What were those circumstances and what had you hoped they would be? How did you react to the circumstances? How did God work through the unexpected circumstances?
4. What do you think Julius learned about Paul's character as he spent his days "up close and personal" with Paul (Acts 27:1)? What would people learn about your character if you let them into your life "up close and personal?"
5. Reread Acts 27:27-44, the story of the shipwreck. List the actions the sailors and passengers took to avoid being shipwrecked. Do you tend to "pray as if it all depends on God" or to "work as if it all depends on me?" Does the account of the shipwreck present a balanced picture? Do you need to better balance your efforts with God's power and presence?

Bible verse to memorize: Acts 28:28