

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A Series of Misunderstandings

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 21:27–22:29

ICE BREAKER:

Give us your best dad joke!

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Read the text together. As the story progresses, what especially stands out in this unfolding drama?

(Optional: for variety, have different people read the dialogue from the different people/groups in this text.)

How does Paul's Roman citizenship in Acts 22:22–29 illustrate the principle of using one's position or privileges for justice?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read John 15:18-19 and Matthew 5:10-12. As we follow Jesus, we are warned that hatred will come because we follow Jesus. Why is this good news to us? How did Paul exemplify this proper understanding of opposition and hatred?

How does Paul's story of Gospel transformation (his testimony) give further clarity to who he is? What's the result?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Discuss the assumptions you think we may have about what the Christian life "should" feel like in the Western world...and how those assumptions compare to what we read in Acts.

Paul's path of faith didn't avoid danger. What if God's calling on your life leads you into hardship instead of comfort? Would your faith survive if God led you into the fire instead of around it? Or, if you have previously gone through a fire instead of around it, describe how God was with you even through the "valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23).

PARENTING MOMENT:

Take a moment to ask your children who they think the main character of their life is and why. Then, remind them that God is the true main character and that He has a plan for them. Help them see that they've been prepared for where God has uniquely placed them right now—and that this season is preparing them for something He has planned in the future.

FURTHER STUDY:

Be encouraged by God's grace by reading "Paul's Former Life" at ligonier.org. For a longer description of Paul's nearly unbelievable life, including a modern-day testimony of God's transforming grace, read "Was the Apostle Paul actually a false prophet?" at gotquestions.org. And, prepare your own testimony to share with others: read "How to Prepare Your Personal Testimony" at navigators.org