

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Defense Defense Defense

Pastor Tommy Creutz | Acts 26:1–32

ICE BREAKER:

What's an unpopular opinion that you'll always defend?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Compare Paul's testimony in Acts 26 with the other two times in Acts describing Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-22 & Acts 22:1-21). Why does Paul seem so motivated to defend Jesus rather than himself?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Why is the historical fact of the Resurrection of Jesus the bedrock for Paul's life and testimony? How does that differentiate Christianity for all other faiths and philosophies? Why is Christ's reign over all things and reign over everyone so hard for so many to receive?

Paul tells his story. And in it we see— in Christ— we are no longer defined by our past, but by His grace and calling. In what ways are you no longer the same since meeting Jesus?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Do you have a testimony? Have you given your life to Christ? If you have not and are ready or if have questions about Jesus, talk to your group leader or a pastor this week.

Have you shared your testimony before? Write out your testimony in 5 sentences or less in a way that's clear and can be easily shared. If you would like, you may find this format helpful:

"I WAS" - Before I knew Christ my life was like _____.

"BUT GOD" - I came to know Christ when _____.

"AND NOW" - Since then my life has been _____.

What platform, situation, or place has God given you to share your testimony, to share who Jesus really is? Pray for open doors (Col 4:3; Eph 6:19-20) to share your testimony as a way to share the Good News of Jesus!

PARENTING MOMENT:

Read Romans 1:16 with your child(ren). Ask them why people might sometimes feel embarrassed to share the Gospel. After hearing their thoughts, have them write down what God has saved them from. Remind them that the more we remember who God is and what He has done, the more confident we become in sharing Him with others. Pray together that your family would live boldly as a Romans 1:16 family.

FURTHER STUDY:

For more help to prepare your own testimony to share with others, read "How to Prepare Your Personal Testimony" at navigators.org Also, from thegospelcoalition.org, read "What Acts 26 Taught Me About Evangelism" by Lorraine Potter Zechmann.