

---

## Small Group Discussion Guide — September 11, 2022

- Series: Church Alive - The Book of Acts
- Sermon: "Testify"
- Scripture: Acts 26: 1-23

---

### FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

What was something this week that reminded you that God is not far from you?

### CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Have you ever been called as a witness in a criminal or civil trial? What was it like? Were you nervous? Why?

### ENGAGE

Read Acts 26: 1-23.

- In what ways was Paul's defense in front of King Agrippa influenced by their shared heritage in Judaism? How did Paul set the stage for his defense?
- What is the only question that Paul asked Agrippa? What was the significance of this question in the context of the charges that had been brought against Paul?
- Why does Paul use his time in front of Agrippa as an opportunity to share the gospel rather than a chance to defend himself against the charges? What does this say about Paul's mission?
- What does Paul mean when he talks in verses 6 & 7 about *hope*? Why did Paul say that he was being put on trial because of this hope?

### APPLY

1. Most of us like to win our arguments. However, when talking about matters of faith throughout the Book of Acts, Paul does very little debating. Instead, he tells anyone who will listen about his own miraculous transformation. What lessons can we take from this approach when talking about matters of faith?
2. It must have taken a lot of courage for Paul to stand before people who had the power over his life in their hands. And yet, his speech recorded in this passage is clear, concise, and persuasive. Read Acts 1:8 and discuss how these words of Jesus apply both to Paul's circumstances and to yours. How can this promise help you serve as a witness to the hope that is within you?
3. Matt talked about what separates the hope of the gospel from the common understanding of hope merely as *optimism about the future*. The difference is based on the fact of the resurrection of Christ. In what practical ways can this fact move us to a greater mission?

## **PRAYER**

Father in heaven, thank you for raising Jesus from the dead to guarantee our future in heaven. Thank you for giving us through the shed blood of Christ more than mere optimism about the present and the future, but blessed assurance. Help us through the power of the Holy Spirit to have the courage to engage those around us with the good news of this assurance with love, kindness and grace. Amen.

## **GOING DEEPER**

Matt shared about his experience as a missionary in the Czech Republic and being asked the question, “Why are you here?” This week, go about your daily tasks and schedules with the mindset that you are a missionary in the places where you have been sent — your school, workplace, neighborhood, etc. Begin each morning in prayer and mindful of why you are here, and how you can be a powerful witness of Christ’s resurrection power in your own life.

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

Acts 1: 8

Acts 20:21-24

1 Timothy 1: 12-16