



ACTS CHAPTER 23 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one the craziest mistakes you have ever made?
- Was there anything that you did to correct that mistake? If so, what was it?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 23:1-35)

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Acts 23:1-11

- Why did the high priest order Paul to be struck on the mouth?
 - The high priest ordered Paul to be struck in the mouth because Paul put himself on equal footing with the religious leaders by using the word "brothers" or "brethren," and the religious leaders did not consider Paul to be on the same level as them in any way.
 - How would you characterize the response of Paul in verse Acts 23:3?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.



- Was Paul right in what he said in Acts 23:3?
 - Paul was correct in what he said because Israelites being struck and especially being struck in the mouth was prohibited by the Law.
- How do Paul's continued responses indicate wisdom, maturity, and courage on his part?
 - Paul's response in verse 5 concerning the high priest was actually sarcastic because he knew who the high priest was. There was no question about who the high priest was and yet, the high priest in that time was extremely corrupt and wicked. So, Paul's response in essence was saying that he really can't believe that someone so wicked would be in the position of leading others towards God.
 - In verses 6-8, Paul knew that he was going to divide the Sadducees and Pharisees when he brought up physical resurrection because the Sadducees didn't believe in physical resurrection.
 - Paul demonstrated an incredible amount of wisdom, maturity, and courage because he followed through on what he knew to be true by remaining poised and also opening his mouth to testify to the truth.
- Do your responses in the midst of difficult circumstances demonstrate wisdom, maturity, and courage? Why or why not?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 23:12-21

- Have you ever responded defensively to someone telling you the truth that is rooted in God's word and who He is? Why did you choose to respond in this way?



- These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - How are we sometimes similar to the Jews who bound themselves with an oath in Acts 23:12-15?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 23:22-35

- Why are the actions of the commander in this passage significant?
 - The commander was a Roman citizen. From a Jewish perspective (keeping in mind that the Jews were the chosen people of God), Romans were heathens who didn't want a relationship with God, nor did they deserve a relationship with God. Yet, this Roman commander was willing to treat Paul with fairness and equity, something that the Jews chose not to do. In many ways, it is a complete role reversal from what was typical and what we as the readers would expect to find.
 - Why do you think the commander chose to act in the ways that he did?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - What do the commander's actions tell us about each of the following?
 - How we should view people?
 - How we should treat people?
 - How we should stand for truth?
 - How we should exhibit wisdom and discernment in our walk with Jesus?



- These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Acts 24)



ACTS CHAPTER 23 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- What is one the craziest mistakes you have ever made?
- Was there anything that you did to correct that mistake? If so, what was it?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 23:1-35)

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

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Acts 23:1-11

- Why did the high priest order Paul to be struck on the mouth?
 - How would you characterize the response of Paul in verse Acts 23:3?
 - Was Paul right in what he said in Acts 23:3?
 - How do Paul's continued responses indicate wisdom, maturity, and courage on his part?



- Do your responses in the midst of difficult circumstances demonstrate wisdom, maturity, and courage? Why or why not?

Acts 23:12-21

- Have you ever responded defensively to someone telling you the truth that is rooted in God's word and who He is? Why did you choose to respond in this way?
 - How are we sometimes similar to the Jews who bound themselves with an oath in Acts 23:12-15?

Acts 23:22-35

- Why are the actions of the commander in this passage significant?
 - Why do you think the commander chose to act in the ways that he did?
 - What do the commander's actions tell us about each of the following?
 - How we should view people?
 - How we should treat people?
 - How we should stand for truth?
 - How we should exhibit wisdom and discernment in our walk with Jesus?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?



- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

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- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
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