



Bible study for the week starting May 7, 2023

SHARE

Can you think of a time you had to stand up for yourself and make your case in front of others? Was it easy or difficult for you? What was the result?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. **Read Acts 26.** “Defense” in our English translation comes from a word more literally translated as “apology,” or “speak a word for.” It has to do with testifying on one’s own behalf. When you read Paul’s testimony, what does he cover?
2. Paul did a good job of steering the conversation back to the resurrection of Jesus as the make-or-break factor in whether he was a blasphemer and deserved death... or not. His line was, “Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?” Why do you think Paul asked that question?
3. Paul remarked he wished Agrippa would become like Paul (minus the chains). Who was the more unlikely convert between the two? What hope is there for Agrippa if you listen to Paul’s story?
4. **Read 1 Peter 2:2-10.** These verses talk about the Gospel (Jesus) as either a “stumbling stone” or a “cornerstone.” How can it be these things? It also reminds us God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Unpack these verses and all God offers in them.
5. **Read John 21:15-19.** Between Jesus’ betrayal and crucifixion, Peter blew it...big time. He denied Jesus 3 times, right after he promised he never would. What is happening in this story only John’s Gospel tells? Where do we see Peter go from here, especially in the stories of the book of Acts?

What encouragement does this give to *you*?

PRAY

Share your prayer needs, and lift one another up in prayer, knowing God hears every one.!



Speak for yourself!

Acts 26

May 7, 2023 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

It's amazing what will come out of you at just the RIGHT time if the Word of God lives in you ALL the time!

Apologeō = “speak a WORD FOR” = TESTIFY on one's own behalf

“Why is it thought INCREDIBLE by any of you that God raises the dead?”

Genuine repentance and faith are INSEPARABLY linked to a CHANGED life.

God is *always* the One who INITIATES faith, but the Gospel *always* DEMANDS a response.

“Repent and turn to God, performing DEEDS in keeping with [your] REPENTANCE.”

For next week, read Acts 27:1-44.