

Defense

Series: The End of the Beginning (message 6) **Date:** July 11/12, 2020

Intro

Acts 24:1–27

WE WILL FACE DANGEROUS FOES ON THE ADVENTURE.

- Acts 23:11

WE MUST BE READY TO GIVE A DEFENSE OF OUR FAITH.

- 1 Peter 3:14–15

WE MUST SEEK TO LEAD OTHERS TO FAITH WITH INTELLIGENCE.

sermon discussion

OPENING DISCUSSION

As you start your group time today, take a few moments to share two or three things you are grateful for from this past week. Challenge your group members to take time every day to write down 3-5 things they are thankful for and then thank God, the giver of all good things.

RECAP THE SERMON

Read Acts 24:1-27 Spend some time discussing the passage. What stood out from this passage or what did you notice? What questions did you have about what you read? Next, discuss the sermon from the weekend. Was there anything new that you learned, anything that confused you or anything that stood out to you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Would you describe yourself more as a rule follower or as a rebel? Are there certain situations you tend to switch from one to the other?
2. **Read Acts 24:5-6.** We don't always respond well to rumors or accusations that are directed toward us, but share a time when you or someone you know responded in way that honored God? What does our response to accusations or rumors say about our trust and confidence in the Lord?
3. **Read Acts 24:16.** As Christians, we may stand before two courts: standing before men and ultimately standing before God. Why should we strive to be above reproach before others? How can we remember that God is our ultimate Judge during times of conflict with others?
4. **Read Acts 24:21.** When did you wrestle with the truth of the resurrection? Why do you think the apostles put so much emphasis on the resurrection?
5. It can be difficult to argue with someone when their response is driven by emotions rather than facts. When you've found yourself in a situation like that, what has helped to get the argument to stick with facts versus emotions? Would others say that it is easy or difficult for you to maintain your composure or emotions in an argument? Why do you think that is?
6. **Read 1 Peter 3:14-15.** We must be ready to "make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." How prepared do you feel at the present to make a defense of the gospel? What can we do to get others to ask us about our hope and faith?

PRAYER

MEMORIZE

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. **1 Peter 3:15 NIV***