

On Trial

Series: The End of the Beginning (message 5) **Date:** July 4/5, 2020

Intro

- Matthew 10:16–18

Acts 22:22-23:35

BE SHREWD; USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE AND CULTURE.

GOD WILL ENCOURAGE YOU WITH HIS PROMISES.

- Galatians 6:9

IN TRIALS, TRUST THE PROMISES OF GOD.

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 22:22-23:35. 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. Describe a person you know who grew up in an environment that is completely opposite to the one in which he or she lives now. What did it take for that person to break free from his or her old environment?
2. **Read Acts 22:22-23:10.** What were some of the ways that Paul demonstrated wisdom or shrewdness?
3. **Read Matthew 10:16.** What are some characteristics of sheep and wolves? How well would you expect sheep to fare in the midst of wolves? What did Jesus mean when He said He was sending them out “like sheep among wolves”?
4. How can believers be both shrewd and harmless? What significance do you see in the fact that Jesus didn’t instruct His followers to be one or the other, but both?
5. What are some examples of how you can be shrewd in presenting the gospel to others or representing Christ in a hostile or non-Christian environment?
6. **Read Isaiah 41:10 & Psalm 119:93.** Describe a time when God’s Word helped you to persevere or do something difficult in the face of adversity.
7. What are some of the promises of God or Scripture passages that you’ve found to be most helpful in staying faithful to God and living for Him? How can this group help you to remember the promises of God in this season?

PRAYER

MEMORIZE

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Isaiah 41:10** ESV*