

. . . Except for These Chains!

Acts 25:13—26:32

Background

1. Paul's Story

2. Your Story

Life Group Questions

. . . *Except for These Chains!*

Acts 25:13—26:32

Opener: When have you had to go before a powerful person and put your fate in his or her hands? (Think: tax audit, asking for a pay increase, asking for daughter's hand in marriage, submitting to a surgeon.)

1. Would you describe Paul's speech as a legal defense or a personal testimony? Explain.
2. For the third time in the Book of Acts, Paul recounts his conversion detailing: his life before Christ; how he came to Christ; and his life now as a result of living with Christ.
 - a. What are some of the benefits of a personal testimony?
 - b. How do the above three elements help us shape our own personal testimony?
 - c. Looking back over Paul's testimony, what would you say is its theme?
3. In Acts 26:9–11, Paul admits to putting many saints in prison and casting his vote against them when they were put to death.
 - a. Does it damage your reputation or credibility to talk about bad things you did in your past, before Christ, as it contributes to your testimony?
 - b. How can God use a rocky or troubled history to bring Him glory?
4. In Acts 26:12–20, Paul testifies about his conversion and calling. We've read about Paul's testimony on previous occasions—before the Jewish crowd in Acts 22 and before Governor Felix in Acts 24, each time speaking in a way that relates to his audience.
 - a. When the opportunity arises, have you prepared your testimony to share?
 - b. How can you incorporate flexibility to match your audience?
 - c. What is the importance of ending your testimony with a question?
5. Now that we have looked at how Paul structured his own personal testimony, take a few minutes and think through the key points of your own personal testimony.
6. In under 2 minutes each, ask two or three people to share their key points from the following
 - a. Their testimony "before Christ."
 - b. Their testimony "coming to Christ."
 - c. Their testimony "living with Christ."

Memory verse: 1 Peter 3:15 ESV—“..but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

*A printable version of these questions is available at
www.eaglechristianchurch.com/lifegroups/*