

Small Group Guide: Are We Living "The Way"?

May 2, 2026

Key Scripture References

- Acts 26:1-7 - Acts 5:34-39 - Deuteronomy 30:15-16
John 4 (worship in Spirit and Truth)

Ancient Judaism Was Diverse, Not Monolithic

- Four major groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots
- "The Way" was originally a sect within Judaism
- Early believers had significant diversity in background and practice

Discussion Questions

1. What surprised you most about the diversity in first-century Judaism? How does this challenge common assumptions about "getting back to basics" of early faith?
2. Why does Paul appeal to King Agrippa's knowledge of "Jewish customs and issues" in Acts 26? What does this tell us about the nature of early Christianity?
3. Read Acts 5:34-39 (Gamaliel's response). What does this Pharisee's attitude toward "The Way" reveal about the relationship between early believers and Judaism?
4. The pastor asked: "If you are passionate about God...doesn't it make sense to dig into it and know more?" On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your passion for deepening your relationship with God? What holds you back from going deeper?

5. Discuss the statement: "We like our freedom." In what ways do modern believers resist making faith more central to daily life? How have you experienced this tension?

6. The message contrasts Western culture (which separates faith from daily life) with ancient Hebrew life (where God was infused in every moment). What would it look like practically for you to live more intentionally for God throughout your day?

7. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-16. What does it mean to "walk in His ways" in your current life circumstances? What specific choices are you facing where you can choose "life"?

8. The pastor emphasized that we develop in our relationship with God at different rates, and "that's okay." How can we give each other space to grow while still encouraging one another? Share examples of when someone showed you this kind of grace.

9. The early church had to find unity among extreme diversity (Pharisees worshiping with Zealots, lifelong Torah scholars with former Zeus worshipers). What diversity exists in our Fellowship? How can we pursue unity without demanding uniformity?