Small Group
Focus Passage: Acts 23:12-35

Getting Started

1. How do you see God working to protect Paul in this passage?

2. What does Paul do when he learns of the plot against his life and what does this reveal about his trust in God? If he hadn't trusted in God, what else might he have done?

3. At no point does Paul try to escape or lie his way out of his chains. Why not?

Digging Deeper

4. What are some non-Christ like ways people show their zeal for Christianity today? How does Paul compare to those people?

5. In a fit of zeal or fanaticism, some Christians today have a tendency to show more devotion to the Christian religion than to Jesus himself; as a result, they fail to model the character of Christ. On the flipside, there are many Christians who don't allow Christ to be evident in their lives, compromising their faith in order to be accepted by their secular peers. On which side of the coin do you usually fall? What can you do to truly model Christ in your life?

6. Consider the fact that Paul, much like Christ, was willing to suffer and forsake his personal comforts and wants for the chance to share the gospel. What ultimately drove him was his love for Christ and Christ's people. How do you compare to Paul? Are willing to truly share in Christ's suffering? Why or why not?

7. After personally encountering Christ, Paul realized that there was no other life worth living except a life joined to Christ. Do you share Paul's conviction? What needs to happen in your life for you to be able to say, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" (Acts 20:24)?

Prayer

- How is the Holy Spirit challenging you through this passage? Name one way you can apply this week's passage.

- Are there any sins you need to confess or attitudes and behaviors that need to be changed? Surrender all these things to God and trust Him to change you.