

# WEEK 7 - Acts 22-25

## Canopy Guide // Fall Focus 2025: The Spirit Acts

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

*Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.*

- How, in hindsight, have you seen God working through and bringing about fruit in the midst of a hard time in your life?
- When thinking about the idea of speaking the truth in love, do you struggle more with the truth part or the love part?
- How did you encounter God since the last time we met?

### [VIDEO INTRO: WEEK 7](#)

### STUDY GUIDE

Throughout Acts, the Holy Spirit empowers believers to proclaim Jesus boldly, even in difficult and intimidating settings. Last week's sermon on Acts 17 showed Paul speaking God's truth in Athens—a city full of idols, skeptical philosophers, and cultural barriers. This week, as we turn to Acts 22–25, we see Paul proclaiming Christ in even more threatening contexts: before angry crowds, religious councils, and Roman governors. Rather than preaching in public squares, Paul now testifies as a prisoner on trial, yet he continues to speak with Spirit-given courage and clarity.

These chapters remind us that the mission of proclaiming Jesus doesn't stop when circumstances become hostile or uncomfortable. Even in chains, Paul sees an opportunity to bear witness. He shares his testimony, explains the resurrection, and reasons about faith before rulers who hold his fate in their hands. The Spirit is not limited by closed doors, legal threats, or political systems. Instead, the Spirit uses these trials to spread the gospel to new audiences, fulfilling Jesus' promise that his followers would testify before kings and governors.

As we study Acts 22–25, let's consider how the Spirit still calls and equips us to proclaim Jesus today. Like Paul, we may face settings where sharing our faith feels risky or

intimidating—conversations that could cost us comfort, relationships, reputation, or security. The Spirit who strengthened Paul in courtrooms and councils is the same Spirit who empowers us to speak with love, wisdom, and boldness wherever God sends us.

### **Scripture to Read: Acts 22-25**

*This semester we're challenging our canopies to read the book of Acts in total. This study will be the most meaningful if you read the chapters you'll discuss ahead of time individually AND if you read the week's chapters during your group meeting time aloud together. You can read individually all in one setting or parse it out through your week. The Bible app has a great audio version of the Bible you can use as well.*

### **General Discussion Questions:**

What's something in this week's reading you have questions about?

What is something in this week's reading that makes you think about your own life of faith?

### **Deeper Discussion Questions**

1. What stands out to you about Paul's willingness to speak about Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the Spirit at work?
2. Why do you think God sometimes places his people in intimidating or hostile settings to proclaim the gospel?
3. When have you felt hesitant or intimidated about sharing your faith? How might the Spirit help you in those situations?
4. What opportunities might God be giving you right now to proclaim Jesus? How can our group encourage and pray for one another in this?

## **PRAYER**

Invite the Holy Spirit to prepare you to live and speak in Truth even if (or when) your surroundings become hostile or risky.

## **EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH**

An additional document full of resources that will benefit deeper study through the book of Acts and the Holy Spirit can be found here:

<https://grandviewchristian.org/fallfocus2025/>