

WEEK 8 - Acts 26-28

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.

- Have you ever had to continue a job someone else started?
- Is it discouraging to work on something others have labored long on and yet not be able to finish the work yourself?
- Can you be satisfied doing something that is not complete even if you do your best?

[VIDEO INTRO: WEEK 8](#)

STUDY GUIDE

In these concluding chapters of Acts (26-28), Paul's testimony to the governor (Festus) and king (Agrippa II) and then to the Jewish leaders – some curious, others hostile – brings to mind what Jesus said (Matthew 10:16-20):

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speaks, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Even today, this need to speak for Christ still prevails, and the Spirit of our Father still guides us in what to say. Surely this should remind us of that exhortation in I Peter 3:15b: “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.”

When Paul spoke to Agrippa, he was accused by Festus of being out of his mind, driven

insane by “too much learning,” and Agrippa was alarmed that Paul was trying to convert him. But later in Rome, as the reaction of the Jewish leaders was mixed, some believing but most rejecting and arguing with Paul, he concluded with an appraisal: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah” that even speaking truth to them would not convince them. That statement seems almost defeating and discouraging, but the last two verses of the book note that Paul continued there for two more years, “welcoming all who came to him, and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”

We know historically that the Spirit continued to lead as others followed Paul in bearing testimony and living faithfully until that very city became, for centuries, a powerful influence for Christian faith, as it still is. The Spirit still works and guides, empowers and motivates even through the likes of people like us!

We cannot control people’s reactions or responses – and should not try, in any kind of manipulative way - but we must be faithful in being ready to speak up for Jesus, and we need to stay open and responsive as God’s Spirit works in and through us.

Our calling is not to be discouraged or depressed by negative or small responses. At the beginning of the book of Acts, it was just a handful of faithful followers that the Spirit was using. In many places where Paul preached in his missionary journeys, it was often a tiny group of people who accepted his message and converted to Christ; but the cumulative effect eventually impacted the whole Roman Empire. Today, as the Holy Spirit works through even a few faithful people, we can have faith that great results will eventually be made clear.

Scripture to Read: Acts 26-28

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. Is it better to plan and strategize an effort to present Christ to a non-Christian, or

- let serendipity happen as circumstances present opportunity?
2. Will living a Christian lifestyle be sufficient to lead someone to Christ, or is a specific verbal occasion needed?
 3. How much preparation or anticipation is too much for the Spirit's good leading?
 4. How can you know that it is actually God's Spirit leading you?

PRAYER

Invite the Spirit to move through you and your group as you seek to “proclaim the kingdom of God and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance” (Acts 28:31).

EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLYhgyMJPnU>
 - a. Fr. Mike Schmitz discussion of “How Can I Know That It's Actually God's Voice?”
2. <https://hermeneutics4re.wordpress.com/2018/07/02/the-authority-of-scripture-and-nt-wrights-five-act-play-analogy>
 - a. Summary of NT Wright's Five Act Play analogy (a helpful of thinking even of the somewhat abrupt ending of Acts)

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/>