

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday October 4, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 22:1–21**, Paul tells the story of how meeting Jesus changed the direction of his life and led him into obedience. Jesus is not asking Paul to understand the entire plan or control how people respond; He is inviting him to trust Him and take the next step. We often want to know where obedience will lead before we are willing to move. But following Jesus is less about controlling the outcome and more about becoming like Him one faithful step at a time. This week, consider what Jesus has already shown you and where He may be inviting you to respond.

Main Passage:

Acts 22:1–21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Obedience Over Outcome

READ ALOUD

Acts 22:1–21

Opening Question: When have you taken a small step without knowing where it would eventually lead?

- What stands out to you about the way Paul tells his story?
- What do you notice about how Paul responds when Jesus gives him direction?
- Why do you think Jesus gave Paul a next step instead of showing him the entire plan?
- Where might focusing on the outcome make it harder for us to simply obey what God has already shown us?

APPLY

- Paul could clearly describe who he was before encountering Jesus and how Jesus changed him. How has knowing or following Jesus changed you?
- Who has God placed around you that could be impacted by your story, encouragement, or invitation?
- What is one step of obedience you already know you need to take but have been delaying?

RESPOND

- What specific step of obedience will you take this week?
- Who is one person you will intentionally encourage, invite, or share your story with?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 22:22–30

- What changes in the crowd after Paul mentions his mission to the Gentiles?
- How does Paul respond when the situation becomes hostile again?
- What does the rest of the chapter teach us about being obedient when we cannot control how others respond?

PRAY

Take a moment to reflect quietly on what God may be showing you through Acts 22. Ask Him to reveal any place where fear, uncertainty, or a desire to control the outcome has kept you from obeying. Pray for courage to take the next step He has already made clear and for opportunities to share what Jesus has done in your life. Thank Jesus for His grace, for continuing to change us, and for choosing to work through ordinary people.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 22:1–21

- What happened to Paul when he met Jesus?
- What did Jesus ask Paul to do next?
- How did Paul's life change after meeting Jesus?
- What is one way we can listen to and obey Jesus this week?

For younger children: Help your child see that following Jesus often means listening to what He says and taking one simple step of obedience.

For older kids or students: What is one thing you believe Jesus wants you to do right now, and what would it look like to actually do it this week?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 23:1–5
- **Day 2:** Acts 23:6–11
- **Day 3:** Acts 23:12–22
- **Day 4:** Acts 23:23–30
- **Day 5:** Acts 23:31–35

COMMENTARY

What's Going On?

Acts 22 continues Paul's journey back to Jerusalem. After being attacked by a crowd and rescued by Roman soldiers, Paul asks permission to speak to the very people who had just tried to kill him. Instead of arguing every accusation, he tells them what Jesus has done in his life. He explains who he was, how he encountered the risen Jesus, and how Jesus gave him a new direction and mission.

Paul's obedience does not immediately produce the response we might expect. The crowd eventually turns against him again. That matters because Acts 22 reminds us that faithfulness and visible results are not the same thing. Paul could not control the crowd's response, but he could faithfully do what Jesus had called him to do.

A Bit of Background

Paul is speaking to a Jewish crowd in Jerusalem, and he deliberately emphasizes his Jewish background, training, and former zeal for persecuting followers of Jesus. He wants them to understand that he once thought much like they did. The turning point was not that Paul discovered a better argument; he encountered Jesus. When Paul explains that Jesus sent him to the Gentiles, the crowd erupts again because this challenged deeply held assumptions about who could belong to God's people.