

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 66 - Paul Before Agrippa - [Acts 26:1-32](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Paul's Defense before Agrippa

26 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself." So extending his hand, Paul presented his defense, saying:

²"I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I may stand before you here today, in order to defend myself in regard to all the things that I am accused of by my own people.

³"The main reason for my confidence is because you are so well acquainted with all the customs and concerns of the Jews. So I ask you to listen to me patiently.

⁴"All the Jews know the kind of life I've lived from my earliest youth, because I lived from the very beginning among my own people, the Jews, in Jerusalem.

⁵"They know first of all, if they would admit it, that I lived in full obedience to the most demanding branch of our religion, as a Pharisee.

⁶"And now I stand here on trial because of the hope I have in the promise God made to our people long ago.

⁷"In fact, it is the hope of the fulfillment of this very promise that keeps our twelve tribes devotedly serving God day and night. And yet, O King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that I am accused by the Jews.

⁸"Why should any of you think it incredible to believe that God raises the dead back to life?

⁹"But I myself once thought it my duty to take extreme measures and do everything in my power to fight the cause and influence of Jesus, the Nazarene.

¹⁰"And that's exactly what I did in Jerusalem. I jailed many who were dedicated to Jesus, having been authorized by the chief priests to do so. And when they were put to death, I agreed, and cast my vote against them.

¹¹"I often went from one synagogue to another to have them punished and to do my best to compel them to renounce their faith and curse this Jesus. And because of my extreme hatred for them, I even went to foreign cities to hunt them down.

¹²"It was on just such a trip, as I was on my way to Damascus, after having been authorized and commissioned by the chief priests,

13that about noon, O King, as I was traveling the highway, I saw a bolt of light from the sky more brilliant than the sun. It blazed all around me and around those traveling with me.

14“We all fell to the ground. Then I heard someone say to me in Hebrew, ‘Saul! Saul! why do you persecute Me? It is hard on you to continually kick against the prods*.’

Acts 26:14 – “Kick against the prods.*” Actually a goad, a stick with a pointed end for driving cattle.

15“So I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And He replied, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

16‘But get up on your feet now. Because I have appeared to you for the very purpose of making you a minister and a witness of the things you have seen, and also of things I will reveal when I appear to you later on.

17‘I will continually rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles to whom I am now sending you.

18‘You are to open their eyes *to the truth*, so they may turn from living in Satan’s darkness to living in God’s Light, and so they may turn from allowing Satan to rule their lives to allowing God to rule. They must do this in order to receive forgiveness of their sins and a share in the inheritance that will be theirs together with all others who are made holy by believing in Me.’

19“And King Agrippa, I did not disobey the command I received in that vision from Heaven.

20“First, I spoke to the people in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and throughout the entire province of Judea, and finally to the Gentiles. I preached that they must have a complete change of mind and heart, and turn to God. They must prove their repentance by their deeds.

21“That’s why the Jews mobbed me in the Temple courts and tried to kill me.

22“But with God’s help and protection, I have continued to this day to take my stand. To both small and great I preach nothing except what Moses and the prophets said would happen.

23“‘I pointed out to them how the Scriptures prophesied that Messiah would suffer, and that, by His resurrection from the dead, He would bring light and understanding to both Jews and Gentiles.’”

24At this point in Paul’s defense, Festus shouted, “Paul, you’re crazy! All your great education is driving you insane!”

25“‘I am not crazy, Most Excellent Festus,’” Paul replied. “‘What I’m saying is reasonable. What’s more, it is true.

26“The king before whom I am freely speaking is well informed about these matters. I’m sure that none of these events has escaped his attention, because they did not take place in some dark corner.

27“King Agrippa, do you believe what the prophets said? I know you do.”

28The king replied, “Do you think that in such a short while you’ll convince me to become a Christian?”

29“Whether in a short while or a long while,” Paul replied, “I pray God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today may become the same as I am—except, of course, for these chains.”

30When Paul finished that statement, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and all who sat there with them.

31After they left, they spoke among themselves in agreement, saying, “This man hasn’t done anything to warrant the death sentence or even jail.”

32Agrippa then said to Festus, “He could have been set free if he hadn’t appealed to Caesar.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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970. How did Paul begin his address to Agrippa? ([26:1-3](#))

971. What did Paul say about his early years in Judaism? ([26:4-8](#))

972. What was Paul’s obsession before his conversion? ([26:9-11](#))

973. How did Paul describe his conversion and new life? ([26:12-18](#))

974. How did Paul fulfill his commission? ([26:19-23](#))

975. How did Paul deal with Festus and Agrippa during his speech? ([26:24-29](#))

976. How did Paul conclude his defense? ([26:29](#))

977. What did Agrippa—a man well-trained in Judaism—conclude about Paul? ([26:31-32](#))

978. How can we use stories of our own experience to share the message of Christ?