

Bible Story Telling Format

Acts 24-25

The Biblical record: Acts 24-25 – Tell story of Acts 25:1-12

Sermon: **Fresh Starts** Acts 24:27-25:23

Memory Verses: Acts 24:14-16

Pray

1. Briefly review last week's story – catch up with group.
 - a. Paul's series of trials continued as he is moved from Jerusalem to Caesarea because he appealed to his Roman Citizenship. There is an ambush plot and an exciting rescue see Acts 23:12-35
 - b. Why happened when you told people of your citizenship being in heaven? Merry Christmas or happy holidays?
2. Transition to this week's story.
 - a. Paul is waiting for his trial to continue, fresh attorneys are hired and bring a fresh new words to the old charges.
 - b. Felix decides to pressure Paul for a bribe and so delays the proceedings. Acts 24:22-26
3. Ask pre-story question.
 - a. How does Festus use his fresh start as The Roman in charge?
 - b. What different ways can you use a fresh start?
4. Tell the story.
5. Ask questions to rebuild the story.
 - a. What starts these proceedings according to Acts25:1-3
 - b. What happened next?
 - c. Was anything left out?
6. Ask discussion (Thumbprint) questions.
 - a. What did learn about how Jesus wants to use your life to accomplish His mission? See Acts 23:11, 25:11-12
 - b. How does Paul's faith give him courage to be reasonable in the face of false charges and accusations?
 - c. What do we learn about God from this account?
 - d. How is God's Son involved?
 - e. Is God's Spirit active in this report?
7. Application Questions.
 - a. What laws conflict with your efforts to emulate Jesus Christ?
 - b. How do you have the opportunity for a fresh start in these efforts?
 - c. What is one thing that threatened to ambush you in your spiritual life?
 - d. What will you do remove this threat – as much as in your ability to do so?

Prayer Requests

Bible Story Telling Format

Acts 26

The Biblical record: Acts 26:1-32

Sermon: **Staying Strong even in front of The King** Acts 26:24-32

Memory Verses: Acts 26:27-29

Pray

1. Briefly review last week's story – catch up with group.
 - a. Felix has been replaced as “governor” and Festus is attempting to make points with King Agrippa and get this “Paul” case off of his desk.
 - b. What did you get to take “off your desk” this week? How does it feel to make such steps forward?
2. Transition to this week's story.
 - a. Paul's trial before Festus ends when Paul appeals to Caesar.
 - b. Festus asks Agrippa II to hear the case so that Festus might understand the case to make his report to go along with Paul to Rome.
3. Ask pre-story question.
 - a. Have you every had to publicly appear before an important or powerful person and put your fate in his/her hands?
 - b. How did you feel as you thought about that day?
4. Tell the story.
5. Ask questions to rebuild the story.
 - a. What set up this opportunity for Paul to make his “case” before King Agrippa II?
 - b. What happened next?
 - c. Was anything left out?
6. Ask discussion (Thumbprint) questions.
 - a. What do we learn about God from this account?
 - b. How is God's Son involved?
 - c. Is God's Spirit active in this report?
 - d. What do we learn about Paul from this account? Anything new added to his story between Acts 22 and Acts 26?
7. Application Questions.
 - a. How do you handle situations when you faith is criticized or questioned?
 - b. Paul used this occasion to share his testimony of Faith in Jesus. Do you have your testimony regarding your journey with Jesus ready to share?
 - c. What do you need to help you be ready to stand strong?

Prayer Requests

Bible Story Telling Format

Acts 27

The Biblical record: Acts 27:27-44

Sermon: **Enjoying The Journey with Jesus** Acts 27:1-14

Memory Verses: 27:42-44

Pray

1. Briefly review last week's story – catch up with group.
 - a. How did you stand strong this week for Jesus?
 - b. If you did not, what did you learn from the encounter?
2. Transition to this week's story.
 - a. Paul is now headed for Rome Italy.
 - b. He is a prisoner of the Romans with a Roman Centurion Julius as his transport guard.
3. Ask pre-story question.
 - a. If you could take a honey-moon cruise anywhere where would you go?
 - b. Have you every been sea sick? What happened? How did you recover?
4. Tell the story.
5. Ask questions to rebuild the story.
 - a. What does Paul warn the crew about the 50 mile trip before they left Fair Havens?
 - b. What happened next?
 - c. Was anything left out?
6. Ask discussion (Thumbprint) questions.
 - a. What do we learn about God from this account?
 - b. How is God's Son involved?
 - c. Is God's Spirit active in this report?
 - d. In what ways does God work to protect Paul on this journey to Rome?
7. Application Questions.
 - a. Have you every been caught in a "northeaster" driven along by the wind? What happened? What did you learn from this experience?
 - b. In terms of a weather report, how would you describe your life at present?
 - c. What is the greatest pressure facing you? What did you learn from Paul's example and principles learned form his experience help you?

Prayer Requests

Bible Story Telling Format

Acts 28

The Biblical record: Acts 28:11-20

Sermon: **Ending Well** Acts 17-31

Memory Verses: Acts 27:23

Pray

1. Briefly review last week's story – catch up with group.
 - a. What “shipwrecks” around your life did you survive this week? What happened?
 - b. Are you stronger because of these pressures? In what ways?
2. Transition to this week's story.
 - a. Paul continues to trust God and God provides miraculous interventions to keep Paul safe on the way to Rome. What events can you think about in Acts 27:1-28:9
 - b. When Paul reaches Rome he is still under “house arrest” and so has some freedoms. Acts 28:16-17,30-31
3. Ask pre-story question.
 - a. Did you notice that it was Paul who contacts the Jewish leaders about his case? He was proactive in continuing to fulfill his mission.
4. Tell the story.
5. Ask questions to rebuild the story.
 - a. The Jewish leaders did not know anything about the charges against Paul. What did Paul do with this reality?
 - b. What happened next?
 - c. Was anything left out?
6. Ask discussion (Thumbprint) questions.
 - a. What do we learn about God from this account?
 - b. How is God's Son involved?
 - c. Is God's Spirit active in this report?
 - d. How has God used a disaster in your life for ministry?
7. Application Questions.
 - a. What bothers you about your non-believing friends not trusting Jesus? How can you help them overcome those barriers?
 - b. How does Acts 28:31 set the stage for the way **your** life could be a continuation of Acts 28?
 - c. In what ways would you like to contribute to “Acts 29” to this movement of during the next two years of your life?
 - d. Paul was probably killed within a few years by Nero. What do you need to build into your life now, so that your faith in Christ will be what people remember about you at death?

Prayer Requests