



ACTS 10:36



DECEMBER

2022

ACTS

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

“...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Who I Will Reach	How I Will Do It	How It Went

Other Requests	Date Answered	How It Was Answered

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend church _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ verse(s) this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? _____

I will share Jesus with _____ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

How can you tell if you are growing spiritually? As you look back over this past year, how can you determine if this year has been a year of growth? You could use the examples of growth in the lives of the apostles found in this passage as a guide. They were once fearful, but conquered fear and replaced it with boldness. They were impatient and moved ahead of God. However, with growth, they waited for God to give direction. In fact, the text says that they prayed constantly. These were the same guys who had asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Obviously, they had learned well. These were the guys who had fallen asleep in the garden when they were there with Jesus. They weren't sleeping in this chapter. When they had to decide who to replace Judas with, they asked God to guide them. They had changed so much since the days when they fought over who would be the greatest. What evidence do you see of your spiritual growth? Can you make similar observations to the ones we have seen in the lives of the disciples? Why not take the time to go through today's questions to see just how far you have grown.

SAY WHAT?

In what areas of your life have you seen spiritual growth this past year?

SO WHAT?

What were some of the spiritual highlights from this past year?

NOW WHAT?

What will you need to do to see continued growth in those areas?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 1

ACTS 2:1-13

OPPOSITION

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How do you think the people in your church would respond if God began to move in a miraculous way as He did in the life of the early church? Would everyone be excited or would there be opposition? That is the one response we often forget to consider, as we see in verse 13. God was obviously moving in this church. In fact, as you continue to read this chapter, you will see that ultimately 3,000 people began following Jesus as a result of what God was doing. Someone could assume that everyone would be enthusiastic and excited. You would think unity would abound, and everyone would want to be part of what God was doing. However, some made fun of what was happening and even accused the apostles of being drunk. Even in the early church there were people who opposed what God was doing. You also should expect opposition when God begins to work. As God works in your life, understand that not everyone will be happy. Some will make fun of you and oppose you. Be ready for it and determine to respond in a way that honors and pleases God.

EXTRA READING
ACTS 2

What can we learn from the example of Peter and John in today's reading? Is it something you can apply to your life today? What was intended to be a simple trip to the temple to pray, turned into a major opportunity to share Jesus with a large group of people. The chapter began with a beggar being healed and ended with Peter preaching to the masses. Why? First, Peter and John used what God had given them to impact this man. They told him they had no silver or gold, but, what they did have, they would give to him. Likewise, we need to influence people by using whatever God has given to us. Second, they seized the opportunity to share Jesus. They did not seek it or create it, but when it came, they took full advantage of the moment. Likewise, we need to make sure to seize the opportunities that God gives to us.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 3



PROVERBS 22

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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What do people observe about you when they spend time with you? If we talked to the people you spent time with over the past week, what would they tell us about you? Hopefully, they would say what was said about the apostles in today's reading. Peter and John were called before the religious rulers. They were asked questions about what they were saying to the people and by whose authority they said it. Peter saw this as an opportunity to share Jesus. It seems the lessons Peter learned from his experience with the servant girl in the courtyard had made a great difference in his life. Unlike then, Peter was controlled by the Holy Spirit, and with great courage he took a stand and shared Jesus with these men. These men were so impressed by his words that they said, "These men had been with Jesus." It was obvious from Peter's behavior that he knew Jesus and had spent time with Him. If you follow Jesus, is it obvious that you do? Do people who spend time with you walk away confident that you follow Jesus? What needs to change in your life as you take your next step at becoming more like Jesus?

SAY WHAT?

What words would people use to describe you?

SO WHAT?

What about your life demonstrates you follow Jesus?

NOW WHAT?

What about your life needs to change as you work to become more like Jesus?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 4

ACTS 5:1-11

REPUTATION

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What reaction does your community have to what is taking place in your church? Do the events of this past week cause them to laugh or be amazed? Has the description of the early church in verse 11 ever described your church? This was a church that those in the community noticed. Not because of the wrong things that went on, but because of the right things. As a result, verse 11 tells us that great fear gripped the church and everyone who heard about what was taking place. In this case, they heard that people in that church took sin seriously. What is your church known for in the community? When people hear the name of your church, what thoughts do you think come to their minds? When your friends find out what church you attend, what response do they have? Do they want to attend? What would need to change in order for your church to be known for what this church was known for? What can you do to help your church have a positive reputation in the community?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 5

Today, we are introduced to a great man of God who influenced the early church. In fact, he is the main character of the next three chapters in the book of Acts. His name is Stephen. Stephen was a man who had an unbelievable impact on the lives of people. He was known to be full of wisdom and the Spirit. As a result of his life and death, the message of the Gospel was scattered all over the world and the Apostle Paul was saved. What is amazing about his story is his ministry in the early church. You might think he had a leadership position, but he did not. According to verses 1-6, a group of Jewish widows in the church were overlooked in the distribution of the food. Stephen was one of the men chosen to deliver food to the widows. Doesn't sound like an important job. What it reveals to us is that we do not have to have a leadership positions to be able to influence people for Jesus. We all can have an influence by being the kind of person Stephen was no matter what position we might hold. Being a leader is not about a position. It is about having an influence. How can you begin influencing people today?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 6

ACTS 7:54-60

INFLUENCE

SAY WHAT?

Which of the five characteristics mentioned of Stephen do you see in yourself?

SO WHAT?

Which of the five do you need to work on?

NOW WHAT?

How can you begin to do so?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

As you read today's passage and reflect on yesterday's reading, what qualities do you see in Stephen that enabled him to have such a great influence on his world? First, you notice that he knew the Word of God. To be able to recount Biblical history as he did in chapter 7, he must have been a man who spent a lot of time in the Scriptures. Second, we see him as a man who used good judgment. People viewed him as being wise and probably went to him when they needed to talk to someone. Third, he was godly. People knew he was a man who was filled with the Holy Spirit. His love for God and commitment to Him must have been obvious. Fourth, he showed great courage. He was not afraid to tell people the truth, even if it made them angry at him. Fifth, he had great compassion. How else could a man, while being stoned, ask God to forgive the very people who were throwing the rocks. With these qualities, he could influence people even though he didn't have a leadership position. How do you compare to Stephen? What can you do to become more like him? Use today's questions to help you get started.

EXTRA READING
ACTS 7

Why, when the church was scattered, did the apostles stay behind in Jerusalem? Is there a lesson we can learn from these circumstances? Could it be that God is trying to show us again what we have seen with Stephen's life? Could it have been God's design to show us He does not always use the important positions to influence people? Not only did the early church members scatter after Stephen's death, but they left Jerusalem with great boldness in their witness. In verse 4, we are told that these people preached the Word wherever they went. God even gives us an example of how they specifically influenced their worlds. Philip, not the disciple but one of the men chosen to distribute food in chapter 6, went to Samaria and began to proclaim Jesus. As a result, many trusted Him as Savior. He was also led by God to speak to an Ethiopian man who received Jesus. These were ordinary people who just used what they had to let others know about Jesus. Could God be trying to send you the same message? What is keeping you from having an influence in your world? God has always delighted in using ordinary people just like you.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 8

ACTS 9:1-19

RESPONDING

SAY WHAT?

Who has God been prompting you to reach out to?

SO WHAT?

What has your response been? Why?

NOW WHAT?

How can you submit to God's leading in this area?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

When was the last time God prompted your heart to reach out to someone? How did you respond? What were the results? Today, we are again reminded of the need to respond immediately to the prompting of God as we never know the plan He has in mind. First, Ananias was asked by God to reach out to Paul. He was afraid and hesitated at first. But because Ananias obeyed God's prompting, Paul received Jesus as his Savior. Later, we see that Barnabas responded to the prompting of God also. Paul left for Jerusalem to join the disciples there, but they were afraid of him and would have nothing to do with him. God prompted Barnabas' heart, and he brought Paul to them and spoke to the disciples on his behalf. The results? Paul was encouraged, taught, and ultimately was used by God to take the Gospel to the world. Would the results have been the same if any of these men had not responded to the prompting of God? Who has God been prompting you to reach out to? What is keeping you from acting upon God's leading? We must never allow our fears to prevent us from reaching out to the people God is prompting us about. Are you?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 9

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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ACTS 10:9-23

PROMPTING

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How does God communicate to us that He wants us to reach out to someone? The example of Peter helps us understand how God might. Peter was waiting for his meal to be prepared as an invited guest in someone's home. While he waited, God communicated something to his heart that he didn't understand at first. As he thought about it, the Spirit of God told him that he needed to go with the men who were coming to find him. When Peter felt prompted, he communicated with God to gain clarification. Today, we communicate with God through prayer. When we sense God would have us reach out to someone, like Peter, we should go to God in prayer. It might be when we hear a message or read a verse and wonder if God is prompting our hearts. When that happens, we must spend time in prayer and allow the Spirit to reveal or confirm His plan to our hearts. Too often, we are not spending time with God in the Word or in prayer so we are not even prepared to be prompted. We must be people who are able to be prompted and respond correctly when we are. Are you?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 10

Today we read that as the church was being scattered throughout the world, Christians were sharing the Gospel only with Jews, even though God had told them to take it to the entire world. However, some of the men began to share the Gospel with Greeks also. According to verse 21, a great number of Greeks responded to the message of Jesus. The Christians had spent a great deal of time and energy trying to share the Gospel with people who were not interested when a group of people who were anxious to know about Jesus were close by. We too, can spend significant amounts of time trying to reach people who are not responding and miss those who are waiting to hear. Could there be people in your world who would listen, if you took time to talk to them? Look around and ask God to lead you to people who are ready to hear. You might be surprised who they are.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 11



ACTS 12:1-19

EARNESTLY

SAY WHAT?

What words would you use to describe your prayer life? Your church's prayer life?

SO WHAT?

What would it take to change it into one more like this church's?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to see those things begin to happen?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Has your church ever spent time in prayer about a great need? If they have, what happened? The church in this passage saw God move in miraculous ways through their prayers. Peter was in jail, and the entire church began to pray about it. It wasn't just put on a prayer list and mentioned at church. These people spent a lot of time together asking God to move on Peter's behalf. Today's reading tells us they earnestly prayed for him. They devoted their time to come together and go before the throne of God on Peter's behalf. How about your own personal prayer life? Are you praying about anything earnestly? Maybe the reason God is not at work in your heart or in your church is because you and others are not praying earnestly. What would it take for your church to become like the one recorded here? What can you do to see that it takes place? Use today's questions to get started.

EXTRA READING
ACTS 12

There is a phrase in today's reading that gives an indication to us of how far the Gospel had penetrated the world in the early church days. There is a list of prophets and teachers from the early church in the beginning of this chapter. One of the names comes with additional information. In verse 1, a man by the name of Manaen is identified. This man had been brought up with Herod, the tetrarch. Manaen was Herod's foster brother. This is the Herod who ruled during the earthly ministry of Jesus. It makes you wonder how Manaen heard the Gospel and how his decision impacted his brother, Herod. One can only imagine the circumstances involved in this fascinating fact. Here again is evidence of the grace of God working in someone's life, regardless of where he is or who he is related to. Does this give you hope? Is God working in your life? Is there someone you need to talk to about Jesus?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 13

ACTS 14:8-20

FICKLE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever experienced a situation in which someone's feelings towards you seemed to change overnight? If so, you can identify with Paul and Barnabas in today's reading. Paul did some incredible miracles in Lystra. The crowd was convinced Paul and Barnabas were gods. In fact, they were so sure Paul and Barnabas were gods, that they began their preparations to offer sacrifices to them in the temple. Moments later however, they stoned Paul and left him for dead. This passage reminds us of how fickle people can be. If Paul's main concern was pleasing people and he always worried about what they were thinking, he would never have impacted people the way he did. Could the same thing be said of you? The only thing in this world we can count on is the love of God. We need to be committed to what's right even if it means people change how they feel about us. Although it is disappointing and painful, we must never let how others feel about us keep us from doing God's will. Could you be allowing the feelings of others to keep you from doing what is right?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 14

What is the difference between a disagreement and division? Can you have one without the other? In today's reading, we learn about a major disagreement between two very godly people, Paul and Barnabas. While their positions were strong and caused them to each go a different way, it did not cause division. Both were commended by the church and sent out. Disagreement occurs when two people feel differently about an issue. It can be over something very small or something very large. A disagreement can involve only a little emotion or a great deal of emotion. However, we must never allow a disagreement to lead to division. All too often we disagree with someone about an issue and find ourselves drawing lines of division which is never right. We need to realize that disagreements occur all the time, but we need to see them for what they are, two different views. Has a disagreement caused division in your family or with your friends? What can you do to change it?

SAY WHAT?

What disagreements have you had recently?

SO WHAT?

How did you respond to the disagreement?

NOW WHAT?

How can you prevent it from leading to a division?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 15

PROVERBS 24

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in “gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.” As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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How much of an impact does your past have on your future? Does your past determine your future? This chapter shows us that our past does not determine our future. Timothy had several things from his past that might have impacted his future. But, in spite of his past, he became a man greatly used by God. God brought Paul into his life to disciple and train him for ministry. Timothy did great things to further the name of Jesus. His past was used by God to make him a godly man. Do you ever wonder if your past could determine your future? Never allow Satan to use your past to cause you to think God could never use you! It has been given to you and will be used by God! He designed it so embrace it.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 16

ACTS 17:10-15

LIKE BEREA

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

In what way is your church like the Berean church seen in this chapter? Berea was no ordinary church. It was a church that received Paul's message with great eagerness. The people in this church did not come because it was required of them. They didn't complain that church was boring. These were people who sat with eager hearts, ready to be taught God's Word. They were also known as a church who examined God's Word themselves to see if what they were being taught was true. They didn't just depend on Paul to tell them the truth, but searched the Word themselves to discover the truth. It really would be exciting to be part of a church like this. Sadly, it seems few churches can really say this about themselves. Do people in your church come eager to hear a message from the Word of God? Do they spend time individually in the Word studying it for themselves? Do you? Can the qualities of the Berean church be seen in your life? What would need to change for you and your church to be like Berea?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 17

As you read through this chapter, who do you notice as having the most significant influence? Was it Paul, the preacher and church planter? After all, if he hadn't gone to Corinth, the church would not even have existed there. He had spent countless hours preaching and teaching there. What about Apollos? He was gifted as a communicator and was greatly used by God to impact the lives of many. How can we measure his impact on the church of Ephesus? There are however, two people who could easily go unnoticed, but whose impact may have been even more significant than the two we have already mentioned. Who are they? Priscilla and Aquila. These were two people with whom Paul spent considerable time. They made tents together and no doubt had encouraged him and gave him strength to press on. Apollos was a great preacher, but it was Priscilla and Aquila who took him in and helped him better understand what Jesus had done. Often, the most important people are the ones you might not notice. What seemingly unimportant job has God called you to do? Are you doing it in a way that touches the lives of others?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 18

ACTS 19:1-22

ALL

SAY WHAT?

How would you describe your efforts to share Jesus?

SO WHAT?

List some ways that you can effectively share what Jesus has done.

NOW WHAT?

What action can you take right now to share Jesus with those around you?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

What percentage of people in your town have heard about Jesus? How many people, would you guess, know that Jesus Christ died and rose again to save them from their sin? What percentage of kids in your school would know how to receive eternal life and what it really means? How many people at work know what Jesus has done for them? Paul answers that question for the province of Asia in verse 10. Did you notice it? Paul's travels spreading the news of Jesus Christ are recorded in the beginning of this chapter. He entered synagogues and boldly proclaimed the news of Jesus. He led discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. How successful were these efforts? According to verse 10, these efforts resulted in "ALL" the Jews and Greeks, who lived in the province of Asia, hearing about Jesus. That is incredible! One hundred percent of the Asian Jews and Greeks had been impacted by his efforts. What are you doing to make sure everyone in your world knows about Jesus?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 19

If you were going away and knew that you would never see someone again, what would you say to them? Paul found himself in that situation with the Ephesian elders. Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. He knew he would never see these men again. He was fearful they would give in to sin and destroy their lives. So what did he tell them on this final opportunity? That the key to their growth was going to be the Word of God. He also told them, in verse 32, that the Word of God would build them up and give them an inheritance. It would keep them strong and growing and enable them to stay faithful. God's Word is the key to our growth and must be our priority. Does your life demonstrate how important the Bible is? Do you organize your life in such a way that reading the Bible is your priority every day? What needs to change to make it so?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 20

ACTS 21:1-16

HARD TIMES

SAY WHAT?

What positive reasons might God have for wanting someone to go through hardships?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so hard for us to see the positives in hardship?

NOW WHAT?

How can you come to view hardships as Paul did?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

How could Paul, being led by the Holy Spirit, conclude that God wanted him to go to Jerusalem? And yet others, also led by the Holy Spirit, conclude that he shouldn't go? One answer might be that they each had a different perspective on what the Spirit of God was telling them. Both were being told by the Spirit that Paul would face great hardships in Jerusalem. He would be imprisoned. To most people that would be something to avoid. After all, God would not want anyone to suffer, right? Paul was the greatest missionary in all of history. He was responsible for leading thousands to Jesus and started churches all over the world. God could never want him in jail and destroy his ministry impacting the world. Right? Paul realized something that the elders forgot—God had a plan. They didn't consider that maybe God wanted Paul to go to Rome, at Rome's expense, to influence many leaders and prisoners for Jesus. What awaited was not a bad situation to be avoided, but a painful experience that was exactly what God wanted for him. God's plan isn't always easy, but it is always best. Use today's questions to help you apply this truth to your own life.

EXTRA READING
ACTS 21

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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ACTS 22:1-21

CHANGE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What happens to someone when they ask Jesus to be their Savior? If you read today's section carefully, you realized that salvation means that you become a totally new person. We see this truth demonstrated in Paul's testimony. He spoke to the crowd and reminded them of the kind of person he was before he trusted Jesus. He was once a man who persecuted Christians, and, after salvation, he preached the same message he tried so hard to silence. He once hated Jesus and everything about Him, but after salvation, became willing to die for Him. His conversion on the road to Damascus radically changed him. We often view salvation as a ticket to heaven. Our lives stay as they were before our salvation. If there isn't a change in your life, you have never been saved. The change may not be as drastic or as immediate as Paul's was, but it should still be there. Salvation means becoming a new person. How should you respond to what you see in your own life?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 22

What do you think went through Paul's mind when Jesus came to him and spoke the words we read in verse 11? Maybe he began to understand the plan of God for placing him in prison. Paul had headed to Jerusalem knowing that persecution awaited him. He even had people tell him that he should not go because of the danger that awaited him. If you had been Paul, would you wonder why God had put you in prison, away from those you were discipling? After his conversation with Jesus, he began to understand. God was taking him to Rome, the economic and cultural capital of the world, to proclaim the message of Jesus. On the way, God would give him the opportunity to share his story with hundreds of people who might not otherwise have heard the message of salvation. Paul must have been overwhelmed at the thought of God using such disastrous circumstances to accomplish His perfectly planned event. Are there circumstances in your life that make no sense? What could God's plan be? Why not commit today to trust God with every one of them?

SAY WHAT?

What difficult circumstances are you now facing?

SO WHAT?

What could God's plan be for these circumstances?

NOW WHAT?

How should you respond to them?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 23

ACTS 24:10-27

CONVENIENT

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Today, we see one of the most common responses to the Gospel and to Christianity in general. In fact, you may have already heard it. It is found in verse 25. Paul had the opportunity to share the Gospel with Felix. Felix, who was already familiar with the story of Jesus, had spent time discussing the truth of God's Word with Paul. No doubt, there were occasions in which he seriously considered his own need to trust Jesus as his Savior. On this occasion, however, Felix became afraid when he realized what Paul meant by what he said. He must have understood how lost he was. But, instead of responding by trusting Jesus, he told Paul he would discuss it again later when he found it more convenient. This response often has tragic consequences that are eternal. Are you approaching God this way? Is following Jesus your priority or just something you do when it's convenient?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 24

Have you ever talked with someone who needed money in order to be able to go to a foreign country to share Jesus? Imagine how helpful it would be if the government of the country he was going to paid all his expenses. How much would it require if his airfare and other travel expenses were paid for? Include in that his housing and food while he shared Jesus with the lost and hurting. Sound impossible? This is exactly what happened to Paul. He went to Rome to share Jesus, and Rome paid for it. They thought he was going to be tried and convicted for his ministry. His arrest resulted in Rome providing his transportation and meeting his physical needs all the way there. They assigned personal guards to Paul, who then had to listen to his message. What a miracle! How amazed Paul must have been to watch the plan of God unfold! This is an example to us of complete trust in God when all seems hopeless. God always has a plan! Do you believe that?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 25

ACTS 26:1-23

YOUR STORY

SAY WHAT?

What was my life like before I met Jesus? What would it be like right now if I had not started following Jesus?

SO WHAT?

How did I come to trust Jesus as my Savior?

NOW WHAT?

How is my life different since or because I follow Jesus?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should I make in light of this passage?

If you had an opportunity to share your faith with a group of people who do not know Jesus Christ, what would you say? How would you begin? What would you make sure to communicate? In today's reading, we receive an excellent example from the apostle Paul of how to share our faith with people who do not know Jesus. God had again given Paul an opportunity that few men would have, to share with King Agrippa. Let's look closely at his example. He was polite and kind (26:2-3). Next, he shared with them what his life was like before he met Jesus Christ (26:4-11). He then shared with him how he had trusted Jesus Christ (26:12-18). He concluded by letting him know that his life had changed as a result of what God had done (26:19-23). This is an example anyone can follow when they have the opportunity to share their faith with others. Do you have a story to tell? If not, what is stopping you from following Jesus? If you are following Jesus, use today's questions to put together your story so you can share it with others.

EXTRA READING
ACTS 26

When are people most open to the Gospel? Usually, it is in a crisis. In today's reading, we see Paul again taking advantage of a great moment of crisis to influence others with the message of Jesus. The ship he was on was about to be destroyed. Paul took that opportunity to share with the crew that God would save them. He told them to eat food, but first made sure he gave thanks to God. For 14 days, they were in the midst of a great crisis. Paul did not panic or doubt God. He attempted to encourage the sailors to trust in the sovereignty of God, even though at the moment, it looked hopeless. As a result, all were saved and the words of Paul proven true. What an incredible opportunity he must have had to share Jesus with these men once they arrived on shore. They must have been more open to hearing about Jesus after watching Paul's faith, knowing they were close to death themselves. Are you in crisis and Jesus is using it to draw you to Himself? Do you know of someone open to the message of Jesus and you need to share it with them?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
ACTS 27

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