



HELP



DECEMBER

2023

ACTS

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

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

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

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 to your personal commitment.

### **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 Youth/Growth Group \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

### **Scripture Memory:**

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? \_\_\_\_\_

I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

### **Outreach:**

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

I will share Christ with \_\_\_\_\_ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by \_\_\_\_\_

### **Other Activities:**

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. \_\_\_\_\_

How, in this chapter, did the disciples demonstrate they were growing in their faith? One example is by what has been omitted in this chapter, not what is written. Their growth was demonstrated by what they did not do. In John chapter 20, we read that when the disciples gathered in the room, they locked the door for fear of the Jews. Even though they had seen Jesus after His resurrection, they still locked the doors in fear. However, here in this chapter, they gathered again, but this time, the doors were not locked. They had gathered together to pray and to select a new man as an apostle to replace Judas. This time they did not lock the doors. It is very encouraging to see specific ways in which we are growing. We should never be satisfied with where we are spiritually, but can be encouraged to see how far we have come. In what ways can you see growth in your life over this past year? What issues have come up? Use today's questions to gauge how far you have grown in your relationship with God. You should see specific ways God has worked in your life.

**SAY WHAT?**

What words would you use to describe your spiritual journey this year?

**SO WHAT?**

What were your spiritual highlights of the year?

**NOW WHAT?**

In what specific area(s) have you seen growth?

**THEN WHAT?**

What changes can you make to see continued growth this next year?

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 1



## ACTS 2:14-47

## UNITY

**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?

Of all the wonderful things that took place in this chapter, which ones amazed you the most? Did Peter's change in behavior surprise you? Remember, it was Peter who, in fear, denied even knowing Jesus. Yet in verses 14-36 of today's passage, he stood before a crowd and clearly proclaimed the Gospel message to them. Or, did it surprise you that the disciples spoke to the crowd, and they understood them not only in their own language, but in their own dialect? The most awesome thing may be what we find in verse 44. It is that all the believers had everything in common. This was complete unity. We must understand that they were unified because of what had happened in their lives. They were devoted to prayer, the Apostles' teaching, and to fellowship with each other. When a group of people are sold out to Jesus and have determined that their highest priority is going to be reaching the world with the Gospel, unity is the result. Are you experiencing unity?

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 2

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the 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 3:1-10

## ABILITIES

**SAY WHAT?**

What abilities has God given to you?

**SO WHAT?**

Why have you been hesitant to use your gifts and abilities in the past?

**NOW WHAT?**

How can you use your gifts and abilities to encourage someone today?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of what you wrote above, what should be your next step?

What gifts and abilities has God given to you? In what ways do you influence the lives of people? Do you encourage them? Listen to them? Give good advice? Help them? In this chapter, we find an example we need to follow in order to use our God-given gifts and abilities to influence the lives of people. A man came to Peter and John. All he asked for was money. The problem was that Peter and John had no money to give him. But, they did have the gifts and abilities that God had given to them. They knew that they could use them to touch the life of this poor man in such a wonderful way. So, instead of feeling guilty or embarrassed because of what they didn't have, they used what they had to touch his life. We sometimes feel that only those with particular gifts can effectively touch the lives of people. We forget God has given all of us something special that enables us to influence the lives of others. God brings people into our lives who need our specific abilities. Look for ways to impact others with what God has given you. Someone needs what you have to offer. Be ready when the opportunity comes!

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 3

How would the people who heard Peter deny Jesus in the courtyard describe him? Would the word courageous come to mind? Notice in this chapter how different Peter's response was than before. He not only refused to deny knowing Jesus, but blamed the crowd for crucifying Him! He used the opportunity to clearly declare that in Jesus Christ alone is salvation. He boldly spoke these words to the people he once feared the most. He was so different that those who saw and heard him were amazed at his courage (vs13). The difference was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was residing in him, strengthening and guiding him. His confidence and obvious growth was evidence of the fact that the Holy Spirit lived within him. We also can see that same kind of change in our lives. When we trust Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. He desires to change us, just as He did Peter. He will replace our fear with boldness and confidence. He is the power of God that transforms us to accomplish what He desires. Is He at work in your life?

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 4



## ACTS 5:17-42

## SECOND CHANCES

**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 been in a situation when, out of the blue, you recall an experience from your past and suddenly your present experience takes on a whole new meaning? You suddenly view the circumstance with a new perspective? In chapter 5, we see the Apostles taken before the Sanhedrin. They were told never to speak in the name of Jesus Christ again. When they refused to obey, verse 40 tells us they were flogged. Could it be that as Peter walked into the room to receive his beating, he vividly recalled his denial of Jesus in the courtyard? Do you suppose he felt he had been given another chance to take a stand for Jesus, and he was determined not to blow it this time? No wonder he left rejoicing at the opportunity to be counted worthy to suffer for Him. Not only was he worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus, as verse 41 says, but he also made the most of his second chance. Could God be giving you a second chance? When God gives you an opportunity, allow your past to motivate you to do the right thing, not repeat your mistakes. Like Peter, you will rejoice when you make the most of your second chance opportunities.

**EXTRA READING**

ACTS 5, 6

Why did Saul step up his persecution of the church? Could it be that the images of Stephen's stoning were burned into his memory, and they haunted him? He stood and listened to what Stephen said to the crowd. He watched the crowd's reaction and saw them drag Stephen away and stone him. Then, to his amazement, Stephen prayed in the midst of being executed. He asked God to forgive them and not hold that sin against them. These events must have troubled him immensely. His mind must have replayed it over and over. To see such courage and love in Stephen's behavior must have overwhelmed Saul. Stephen could not have had any idea the impact his life and death would have on all of history. His commitment to Jesus was used, not only to impact the Apostle Paul, but to scatter the church all over the world and spread the message of the Gospel. What impact is your life having on those who observe or cause your suffering? Do they watch with amazement? Does your response point them to Jesus? Could God want to use your present circumstances to impact your world as Stephen's impacted his?

**SAY WHAT?**

Who has impacted you as you have watched them walk through difficult times?

**SO WHAT?**

What was it about their response that impressed you?

**NOW WHAT?**

How can your response to your present circumstances influence those around you?

**THEN WHAT?**

How can you prepare yourself to respond to difficulty in a way that positively affects those around you?

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 7

## ACTS 8:26-40

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

**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?

Why did Philip have such a great opportunity to share the Gospel with the Ethiopian man? The answer is found in verse 26. In fact, the answer ought to be an encouragement and motivation to us. Do you ever sense the Spirit of God? When He prompts you, do you immediately take action? Philip's example can teach us a pattern to follow. First, he made himself available. His heart was open to God's leading. Second, Philip responded to the prompting of God. When God moved his heart about going over to the Ethiopian, Philip obeyed. And last, he began right where the Ethiopian was. Philip helped him understand what he was reading and didn't answer questions the Ethiopian hadn't asked. Is there someone God has been prompting you to reach out to? How can you make yourself available to help with his questions? When he is ready to ask, are you ready to answer? If not, there are steps you can take to prepare yourself. Ask someone for help. The opportunity may come soon.

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 8

Think of someone you know who is far from God. How would you respond if they came to you unexpectedly and told you they now follow Jesus? Too often, we are slow to accept the changes people attempt to make. In this passage, we see that Paul's life had changed, and those he needed most were skeptical and afraid. They did not trust his words and were unwilling to give Paul the support he needed to be able to grow. It was remarkable to read in verse 17 that Ananias greeted Paul by calling him brother. It was also remarkable that Barnabas had stepped forward as a witness that God had changed Paul's life. Are you guilty of treating someone with doubt and suspicion who has recently committed to change? What can you do today to encourage them? It may be just what they need. Be open and supportive to the work of God in other people's lives.

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 9



## ACTS 10:1-43

## FAVORITISM

**SAY WHAT?**

How do people show favoritism?

**SO WHAT?**

Why do people show favoritism?

**NOW WHAT?**

How do you show favoritism?

**THEN WHAT?**

What are some specific ways you can avoid showing favoritism?

Why was it so difficult for Peter to go to Cornelius' house? Why had God sent him there? While it may have been difficult for Peter, a Jew, to go into the house of a Gentile, it is clear that God wanted him to go. God wanted this household to hear the message of the Gospel. Although they feared God and sought to know Him, they had not yet heard the message of the Gospel in order to receive eternal life. Although they were God fearing, they were not saved. When Peter arrived, he shared with them the message of salvation. All who heard were saved. It was significant that Peter was the one that led Cornelius' household to Jesus. This was an important event in the life of the early church. God wanted the apostles to realize that the message of the Gospel was for all people, not just Jews. Although God had already told Peter, he had missed it. Everyone needs to hear about Jesus. "God does not show favoritism." Do you? Do you believe that all people need to hear what Jesus Christ has done?

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 10

As you read the beginning of this chapter, did yesterday's passage or thought come to mind? Jesus told the Apostles how and to whom He wanted the Gospel message to be proclaimed. He told them that after they received the Holy Spirit, they were to go to all people. They were to go to the ends of the earth with the message of Jesus. They were to begin in Jerusalem, but it was not to stop there. In light of this verse and the events recorded in chapter 10, how could they have missed the obvious and criticized Peter when Gentiles became followers of Jesus? God wants all men everywhere to hear that Jesus Christ has died for them. God clearly illustrated this to the early church so that they would understand what He meant in Acts 1:8. He continues to clearly demonstrate it to us 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 11

## ACTS 12:1-19

WEAK

**SAY WHAT?**

In what areas do you care more about what pleases others than what pleases God?

**SO WHAT?**

Do you hear the truth but refuse to listen to it because it may make you look bad?

**NOW WHAT?**

Are you taking credit for something someone else is doing?

**THEN WHAT?**

How can you begin to turn those areas into strengths and not feed your weaknesses?

As you read this chapter, what weaknesses did you notice? Was it the lack of faith that Peter could possibly be at the door? Or was it the spineless leadership of Herod? After reading the record of Herod's actions, it makes us wonder how he ever got into a position of leadership. He had Peter arrested, not because he had done anything wrong, but only because it would please the Jews. Herod could not accept the fact that Peter had escaped and, in frustration, he executed the guards. His mistakes did not stop there. His final mistake was accepting praise for himself that should have been given to God. Herod's life illustrates that weak people's actions are based upon the opinions of others. They refuse to accept responsibility for their actions, but accept credit for what others have done. Are you motivated by pleasing God or by pleasing men? Do you give credit where it belongs or take it for yourself? Do either of these characteristics describe your life? If so, ask God to remove them. Don't be weak.

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 12

What is it that brings people to the point that they realize the Gospel message is true? Is it seeing or hearing about something spectacular? Would witnessing some great miracle do it? In today's reading, we see an example of what causes people to respond to the Gospel. Did you notice it? In this chapter, Paul and Barnabas were sharing the Gospel with the Proconsul, but were being opposed by Elymas. Paul performed a miracle causing blindness to come over him. As Paul expected, the Proconsul was amazed, and the passage tells us that he believed. What convinced him? The miracle? No. According to verse 12, it was their teaching, not the miracle. Often, we think it takes great and dazzling demonstrations of the supernatural to convince people of their need for Jesus. It should encourage us to know that it is the Word of God that transforms lives!

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 14:1-23

## COURAGE

**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?

Why were Paul and Barnabas so committed to sharing the message of Jesus? They continued to face great opposition, yet kept on sharing. Of all the things they went through in this chapter, which do you think would be the most difficult for you to endure? Which ones might cause you to give up? They fought verbal abuse, physical abuse, and faced personal gain and pride when the crowd tried to make them gods. But through it all, they stayed true to their mission—sharing Jesus. God had called them to a task, and they were committed to it no matter what the cost might be. They had seen the Gospel transform their lives and countless others. Regardless of the price, they wanted everyone to know what Jesus had done. The task of sharing what Jesus Christ has done is too important to be sidetracked by any discouragement.

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 14

If you had been sitting in the meeting when Paul described what was happening in his ministry, how would you have reacted. We see a principle we should follow in what James said beginning in verse 13. Paul and Barnabas reported what God had been doing in their ministry among the Gentiles. These men, however, needed confirmation that what they were doing was God's plan, not their own. It was critical to the ministry to be able to back up what they were doing with the Word of God. James referred them to Amos 9:11-12 to give Scriptural support for what they saw taking place among the Gentiles. He knew that everything must be in agreement with God's Word. In the same way, we must never allow our experiences to determine what we believe. They can never be the final authority for what we do or what we believe. The Bible is our standard, not opinions, circumstances, or even experiences. We must find our truth in the Word of God.

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 15



## ACTS 16:16-40

## RESPONSES

**SAY WHAT?**

What difficult circumstances are you facing right now?

**SO WHAT?**

What might God want your response to communicate to those around you?

**NOW WHAT?**

Is your response helping or hindering what God might want to accomplish? How?

**THEN WHAT?**

Write a commitment outlining your response to those circumstances from now on.

Why were Paul and Silas in prison? How did they respond? What was the result? In this chapter, we find an important principle to follow when we find ourselves suffering for doing what is right. Paul and Silas were in prison because a slave girl had gotten saved. Her owner lost his business because at the moment of her salvation, the evil spirit left her. Paul and Silas did not complain about their circumstances. They did not become bitter about what God was doing. They rejoiced in their circumstances. Verse 25 tells us that they were singing and praying in jail. Paul and Silas' positive response to the situation God had brought into their lives resulted in the salvation of the jailer and his family. The principle? There will be times in our lives when God allows difficult circumstances so that our response to them will impact others. What circumstances are affecting you right now that God may have specifically designed for the purpose of impacting others? How can you maximize the influence you are having on others?

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 16

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the 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 17:1-9

## 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?

Did Paul succeed in reaching people with the Gospel? How did they respond? Amazingly, every town had people come to Jesus for salvation as a result of Paul's witness. How incredible it would have been to be with him when so many acknowledged Jesus as Savior. This chapter also reveals what can happen when we speak out for God, and He begins to move in the hearts of people. There were many who responded to the message and trusted Jesus, but there was another group who opposed Paul and his message. It seemed as if every time God began to move among people, a group of Jews worked to counter what Paul was doing. His response was to faithfully preach the message and use his opportunities to the best of his ability. Although he must have felt discouraged at times, he knew he must faithfully continue his ministry. Any time God moves, we must expect opposition. When it does, we need to stay focused on God and allow Him to comfort us. Do you need to change your perspective on the opposition that you may be facing right now?

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 17

In this chapter, there is a bit of information that can help us in determining who to reach out to. Look at the example of the Apostle Paul in verse 6. Paul tried diligently to reach the Jews and share the message of Jesus with them. They resisted no matter what he tried. He did not appear to have made any progress with the Jews. He decided to find people who were interested and spend time with them. He was not going to continue investing his time with those who had no interest in changing. He was wasting his time. God directed him to begin building relationships with Gentiles, who responded to the Gospel message. Who are you trying to reach out to, encourage, or befriend and they don't seem to want it? Maybe you are missing others around you who would want your friendship. Ask God to show you who needs you.

**SAY WHAT?**

Make a list of people that you have been trying to reach out to.

**SO WHAT?**

How have they responded?

**NOW WHAT?**

List some people you know who might be open to your friendship.

**THEN WHAT?**

How can you begin to reach them?

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 18

## ACTS 19:11-41

## CONFIDENCE

**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 today's reading, we read one of the most spectacular responses to the Gospel in Scripture. The chapter begins with God doing miracles in the midst of this church. People were getting saved, which resulted in some burning their sorcery scrolls publicly. The chapter ends with an out-of-control riot incited by Demetrius, whose business had been affected by the salvation of those in Ephesus. Why did they react so violently? God changed the lives of many people. There is opposition when God moves in a great way. Satan will not sit idly by and do nothing. He will do whatever he can to thwart the movement of God. We must prepare for it and not allow it to discourage us. God has a plan and will strengthen us to move forward. When opposition is great, God's ability to deliver is greater. Does your life reflect confidence in Him?

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 19

What is the one thing that motivates you more than anything else? What is it that occupies your time, your money, and your thoughts? How would the Apostle Paul answer that question? He did so in today's reading. This was an emotional time for Paul and these believers as they began to understand what was ahead. In his final talk to the Ephesian elders, he shared that the Holy Spirit had warned him many times about what he had to face in the future. His response was to stay committed. Verse 24 states the reason for his commitment. He wanted to be sure to finish the task God had given him. If that meant imprisonment, so be it. He wanted to be able to stand before God and know that he had finished the work God had given to him. What has God given to you? What might God be asking of you? Are you working to make that the most important thing in your life? Use the questions to help you evaluate what is most important to you.

SAY WHAT?

Make a list of all the activities you are involved in.

SO WHAT?

Of those, which ones are the most important to you?

NOW WHAT?

Which ones are the most important to God?

THEN WHAT?

What needs to change so that what God has called you to do becomes the most important priority in your life?

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 20



## ACTS 21:17-26

## MY RIGHTS

**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 character traits did Paul demonstrate in this chapter? An obvious one is courage. Paul knew that hardship was ahead, yet he was willing to die for the name of Jesus if that was what it would take. There is another trait that is not as obvious without careful reading. It is found in verse 26. In this verse, we see Paul submitting himself to Jewish customs even though he was not obligated to do so. Why? Because he wanted to put their fears concerning his obedience to the law to rest and prove that he still observed the law. The rumors going around about him were not true, and he was willing to submit to these customs so that he might have an opportunity to minister to them. His rights and preferences were not important enough to sacrifice his ministry in someone's life. Do you need this same attitude in your relationships? Do you miss opportunities to impact others because you are unwilling to give up your rights? Demanding your rights is not worth missing opportunities to impact someone's life.

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 21

PREPARATION

ACTS 21:37-22:21

In what ways did God prepare Paul for what he would be facing? It is awesome to see both the big and small areas God used in preparation for the difficult events ahead. Think about it. He was arrested and received an opportunity to speak to the crowd because he asked the commander for permission in Greek. Was it a coincidence, that he knew Greek? The crowd listened to him because he spoke Aramaic to them. How fortunate he knew Aramaic! As they listened, they heard the names of men who had impacted his life who were renowned among the Jews. What a coincidence that he was trained by them. The point? God had been preparing Paul for his ministry. These examples are not coincidence or luck but the sovereign plan of God. It was with this ministry opportunity in mind that God organized the events of Paul's life. It should encourage you to know that He is doing the same with your life now. As you evaluate the events and circumstances in your life, what could God be preparing you for? Are you willing to trust Him with your future? He will prepare you for His plan.

SAY WHAT?

List some of the significant events that have taken place in your life.

SO WHAT?

What talents or abilities do you have?

NOW WHAT?

What kinds of ministries could God be preparing you for?

THEN WHAT?

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

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 22

PROVERBS 25

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the 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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Today is an important day—a day that we celebrate the greatest gift that was ever given, Jesus Christ. As you read again that incredible story, reflect on how your life has changed because of that gift. Write a thank you note to God for the gift of love He has given in the space provided. Take some time today to share your letter with Him in prayer. He will be pleased with your time together.

EXTRA READING  
LUKE 1-2



## ACTS 23:1-22

## TAKE COURAGE

**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?

Why did God say to Paul what He did in verse 11? How do you think Paul was feeling up until that point? What thoughts do you think went through his mind when he heard what God said? Although you probably have not faced the same kinds of circumstances Paul did, you may have wondered if God knew what was going on in your life, or if He even cared. In this case, God demonstrated His love for Paul in a remarkable way. The Jews plotted to kill Paul and fortunately their plot was overheard by Paul's nephew. He told Paul about the plot. Then, at the instruction of Paul, told the commander. As a result, Paul's life was spared. How amazing that God had the boy in that location at the exact moment the plot was discussed? Could you be facing a situation that may cause you to doubt God's ability to understand and care? Allow Paul's example to give you comfort that He is already making a way for you. God knows where you are, and He will respond when the time is right.

**EXTRA READING**  
ACTS 23

Do you think that Paul ever got discouraged by the fact that he was once a great missionary, but then found himself a prisoner with seemingly few opportunities to continue his preaching ministry? Why would God take a man who was doing a great work leading Gentiles to Jesus and put him in prison? We find a reason for that unfolding in this chapter. Did you notice it? God wanted Paul to have opportunities to share the Gospel with people he would not have otherwise had a chance. He had to be in prison to accomplish God's task for him. In this chapter, he got a chance to share with Felix publicly and, according to verse 26, shared privately with Felix and his wife on several occasions. The Bible tell us that Felix sent for Paul regularly. How exciting it must have been for Paul to see the plan of God unfold in his life! What opportunities has God brought into your life recently? Could He want you to share your faith with doctors and nurses through an illness? Could He want you to share with athletes on your team? Could He be organizing the events of your life to provide you opportunities to share Jesus? Are you ready?

**SAY WHAT?**

What circumstances are you facing right now that could open up new opportunities?

**SO WHAT?**

What will you need to do to be able to take advantage of these new opportunities?

**NOW WHAT?**

What could keep you from taking advantage of these new opportunities?

**THEN WHAT?**

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

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 24

## ACTS 25:1-12

## RELEVANT STILL

**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?

Is it ever right to take a life under certain circumstances? What about capital punishment? Is there a crime that would warrant the death penalty? This is a debate that has gone on for years, and one that Paul gives us some insight into in today's reading. Did you notice it? Paul makes a comment in verse 11 that helps us understand his views on the issue of capital punishment. We know from reading the Old Testament, that there were crimes that were punishable by death. Read through the Old Testament and you will discover them. We, however, are not under Old Testament law. Does that mean that capital punishment should no longer be enforced? Paul was accused of a crime that, under the law of that day, was punishable by death. He did not argue against the death penalty, but submitted himself to it in verse 11. He said that if he had done something that deserved death, he would not fight the penalty. He seemed to support the death penalty. We can assume by this that if he felt it were wrong in all cases, he would have said so. The Bible is relevant even today!

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 25

If you had an opportunity to share your faith with a group of people who do not know Jesus, what would you say? How would you begin? What would you make sure you included? In today's reading, we receive an excellent pattern to follow when sharing our faith. God again had given Paul a rare opportunity that few men would have—to share with King Agrippa. He began by being polite and kind (26:2-3). Next, he shared with him what his life had been like before his encounter with Jesus Christ (26:4-11). He shared with him how he had met Jesus Christ (26:12-18), and how he had gotten saved. He concluded by letting him know how his life had changed as a result of what God had done (26:19-23). This method can be used by anyone who has an opportunity to share their faith with others. Use today's questions to put together your story so you can share it with others. If you don't have a story, what is stopping you from giving your life to Jesus?

**SAY WHAT?**

What was your life like before you heard about Jesus?

**SO WHAT?**

If you follow Jesus, what is the story of your salvation?

**NOW WHAT?**

How has salvation changed your life?

**THEN WHAT?**

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

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 26





## ACTS 27:13-44

## GIVING THANKS

**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 does giving thanks have to do with Paul's shipwreck found here in chapter 27? Look at verse 35, and you will find an interesting phrase. The ship's crew and passengers found themselves in the midst of a storm that was destroying the ship. They had a small amount of food left and prepared for one last meal. It is recorded that before they ate, Paul prayed and gave thanks for the food in front of them all. Why would God direct Luke to record what seems like an insignificant fact? Maybe because it is not insignificant. Even in the midst of a crisis situation, Paul stopped to demonstrate to those around him that he knew where the food came from and he was thankful for it. Are you a thankful person? Do you find things to be thankful for in all your circumstances? Today is great day to start!

EXTRA READING  
ACTS 27

What one word could you use to describe the Apostle Paul? How about the word focused? No matter what circumstances Paul faced, it seemed that he always viewed them as opportunities to share his faith with others. It seems as though he saw everything in his life as an opportunity to influence. He was shipwrecked, so he began a ministry on the island of Malta. He arrived in Rome and began to share with those around him what God had done in his life. While under house arrest, he spent from morning till evening sharing with people from the Bible. Why? He was focused! The book of Acts ends with a verse that sums up his life. Could the words of verse 31 be said of you? How about the word focused? Could it be used to describe your life? What would need to change in your life for someone to be able to use these words about you? What keeps distracting you? Today would be a great day to begin living a focused life.

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 28



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THIS HOPE WE HAVE AS AN **ANCHOR** OF THE SOUL, A HOPE BOTH SURE AND STEADFAST AND ONE WHICH ENTERS WITHIN THE VEIL, WHERE **JESUS** HAS ENTERED AS A FORERUNNER FOR US...  
HEBREWS 6:19-20

AND I HAVE BEEN A CONSTANT  
EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN HELP  
THOSE IN NEED BY WORKING HARD.  
YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE WORDS  
OF THE LORD JESUS: 'IT IS MORE  
BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'"

ACTS 20:35 (NLT)

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