

Within the Word **Acts 25 NIV** *study guide*

1 Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, **2** where the chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul. **3** They urgently requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. **4** Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. **5** Let some of your leaders come with me and press charges against the man there, if he has done anything wrong." **6** After spending eight or ten days with them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought before him. **7** When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. **8** Then Paul made his defense: "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." **9** Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?" **10** Paul answered: "I am now standing before Caesar's court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. **11** If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!" **12** After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

13 A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. **14** Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. **15** When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned. **16** "I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand over any man before he has faced his accusers and has had an opportunity to defend himself against their charges. **17** When they came here with me, I did not delay the case, but convened the court the next day and ordered the man to be brought in. **18** When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. **19** Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive. **20** I was at a loss how to investigate such matters; so I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges. **21** When Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar." **22** Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself." He replied, "Tomorrow you will hear him." **23** The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high ranking officers and the leading men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. **24** Festus said: "King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. **25** I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome. **26** But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. **27** For I think it is unreasonable to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him."

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Read this chapter several times before starting the questions. Pray and ask God to bless your time in his word and open your heart to all he has to teach you.

1. Begin again this week by marking any references to time. Highlight them or circle them.

2. Felix is replaced by Festus after failing to deal properly with a dispute between the Jews and Gentiles in Caesarea and was ordered back to Rome.

Before leaving he tried to make a bit of peace with the Jews. What did he do?

Acts 24:26 It was within his power to release Paul but it would not have been to his advantage since the Jews were already angry with him and sending word to Rome against him.

3. Again the plot is hatched to kill Paul, what was the plan and who was behind it?

4. Have you ever felt like there were those who just repeatedly were plotting against you?

5. Who did you cry out to in your time of need? If you feel comfortable share this experience with your group.

Why are these Jewish leaders so “anti-Paul”? What is it that has stirred this much hatred in their hearts?

Proverbs 27:4 Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

6. Read Romans 10:1-4 What is the desire of Paul’s heart?

What are the facts about his Jewish brothers and sisters?

What is the truth about Christ that they are blind to at this time?

What does Paul say about them?

They try to establish _____, they have not

7. Are these Jewish leaders messing up God’s plan?

Did God know this would be their response and for warn them? Read Romans 10:18-21

8. How does knowing all this help you when you, like Paul, are enduring jealousy and mistreatment because of your stand for Christ?

9. Why do you believe Festus would have said no to these leading Jews? Vs.4-5 10.

10. Serious charges were brought against Paul by these leading Jews, but what was missing?

11. Paul stood in his own defense, what three statements did he make in response to all their accusations? Vs.8 There is nothing like a clear conscience.

- a.
- b.
- c.

12. Why did Paul not want to return to Jerusalem to stand trial?

Why appeal to Caesar?

13. In verse 23-27 we are introduced to two new characters, who are they?

It sounds like they are a married couple but they are not. They are brother and 1/2 sister they were constant companions and lived a very immoral life together.

14. This man was the great-grandson of Herod the Great and the son of Herod Agrippa I. What were these two men like?
Matthew 2:16 and Acts 12:2

15. They arrive to congratulate Festus on his new political position and Festus asks for this king's advice. What does he want him to do?

16. As Paul was led in before this crowd of elaborately dressed dignitaries what do you think he might be have been thinking?
What would you be thinking?

17. Paul has had lots of practice at relying on the comfort and protection of God in what looked like a no win situation. Do you think he thought about the unbelievable opportunity this would be to witness to all of these high ranking officials?

18. Do you think he might have looked around as he entered and in his heart began to pray for them?

What was Paul's mission, his life's work?

19. When you walk in a room do you pray for the people in there to know Christ?

20. When you walk in church are you praying for the ones who are there without Christ?