



The last half of the book of Acts reveals the amazing story of how the Jesus' community became a global movement, and it reveals keys to how it has remained so. There is so much to apply as we explore how we can “proclaim the kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance.”

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** In Acts 24-26 Paul had the opportunity to make his defense while on trial before three key leaders (Felix, Festus, and Agrippa). Each time he looked for an evangelistic opportunity. What was the driving force behind Paul not letting anything hinder his invitation?

**2** Read Acts 26:1-29 to set the context of this lesson. What is one thing that resonates with you from this scene?

**3 THE PLEA: Paul's plea is “Be like me!”** Paul concluded by saying, “I pray that all who are listening to me today may become what I am” (Acts 26:29). In another place he wrote, “You should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). What sorts of things did Paul do as a follower of Jesus that we ought to imitate?

**4** Rick noted that Paul had one theme (*Jesus is risen and he is Lord!*) and one aim (*to invite everyone to follow Jesus as he did*). Nothing hindered him from focusing on his mission. What are some of the things that often hinder us, individually and as a church, from inviting everyone to become what we are—followers of the Lord Jesus?

**5 THE ASK: Examine the Jesus Story.** We need to take seriously the story the Bible is telling. Paul invited Agrippa to do exactly that. Read Acts 26:19-23. How would you summarize the one big story the

Bible is telling? Share the name of one person in your life that you need to invite to closely examine the Jesus story.

**6 THE ASK: Experience the power to change.** Paul validates the legitimacy of Jesus' resurrection by offering up his own transformed life as evidence. His story reminds us that the only thing that can transform from the *inside/out* is an encounter with the living Christ. Why do all *outside/in* approaches to life change ultimately end in frustration? Share an example from your own life where you've seen the gospel turn “ought to” and “want to” into “able to” (see **Philippians 2:13**)?

**7 THE ASK: Expect the incredible.** Rick closed with three strong challenges: “I challenge you as a seeker to be open to encountering a God who still shows up and surprises those who thought he was gone. I challenge you as a believer to live a life that makes no sense unless Jesus is risen from the dead. And I challenge us as a church to relentlessly pursue mission goals that cannot be reached unless God does the incredible.” Which one of those encourages and/or convicts you the most? How has the **Courage Campaign** taught you to trust God for the incredible?

