SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 22

Far Away to the Gentiles

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 22:16

"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 22

In chains on the barracks stairs, Paul told the angry crowd the story of how Jesus stopped him on the road. This week the Lord wants you to look honestly at your own story — who you were, how He met you, and where He is sending you now.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Who I Was

READ · ACTS 22:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was Paul born, where was he raised, who taught him, and what did he do to followers of "this Way" (22:3–5)?

REFLECT

Paul says he was "zealous for God just as you all are today" (22:3), and that zeal led him to persecute believers "to the death" (22:4). Where have you been sincere and still dead wrong?

REFLECT

Paul did not hide his past; he told it (22:4–5). What part of your past do you keep hidden that God might want to use to help someone else?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write three honest sentences about who you were before Christ — no excuses, no exaggeration.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 22:16)

DAY 2 OF 5

Who Are You, Lord?

READ · ACTS 22:6–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened at noon on the road, what did the voice ask, and what two questions did Saul ask back (22:6–10)?

REFLECT

Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (22:7) — Saul had been hurting Christians, and Jesus took it personally. How does that change the way you think about how you treat other believers?

REFLECT

Saul's first question after "Who are You, Lord?" was "What shall I do, Lord?" (22:10). What would change if you asked that question every morning and meant it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Start today by praying out loud, "What shall I do, Lord?" and do the first thing that comes to mind that you already know is right.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 22:16)

DAY 3 OF 5

Why Do You Delay?

READ · ACTS 22:12–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Paul describe Ananias, what did Ananias call him, and what four things did Ananias say God had appointed him to (22:12–15)?

REFLECT

Ananias called the man who came to arrest Christians "Brother Saul" (22:13). Who is someone you find it hard to call "brother," and what would it take for you to do it?

REFLECT

"Now why do you delay?" (22:16). What step of obedience have you been putting off — baptism, a confession, a call, a change — and what is really holding you back?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take the step you have been delaying today, or set a day and tell one man so he can hold you to it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 22:16)

DAY 4 OF 5

Sent Far Away

READ · ACTS 22:17–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was Paul when he saw the Lord, why did the Lord tell him to leave Jerusalem, and where did He send him (22:17–18, 21)?

REFLECT

Paul argued that his past would make Jerusalem listen to him (22:19–20), but the Lord said, "Go!" (22:21). Where are you arguing with God about where you would be most useful?

REFLECT

Paul could not forget standing by while Stephen's blood was shed (22:20). How does it feel to know God can send a man with that kind of past to carry His name to others?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God to show you one person outside your usual circle He wants you to reach this week, and pray for him by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 22:16)

DAY 5 OF 5

One Word

READ · ACTS 22:22–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

At what word did the crowd stop listening, what did they shout and do, and what question stopped the scourging (22:21–25)?

REFLECT

The crowd listened quietly until Paul said "Gentiles" (22:21–22). Who are the people you quietly think God's grace should not reach?

REFLECT

Paul calmly used his rights as a Roman citizen to stop an unjust beating (22:25–29). When is it right for a believer to stand on his rights, and when should he lay them down?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one kind thing today for someone you have written off as outside God's reach.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 22:16)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul answered a false accusation with his testimony instead of an argument (22:1–16). If you had two minutes on the stairs, what would you say?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The men with Saul "saw the light" but "did not understand the voice" (22:9). What is the difference between being around the things of God and actually hearing Jesus speak to you?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul claimed three citizenships in his life — Tarsus (21:39), Rome (22:28) and heaven (Philippians 3:20). Which one shapes your choices most this week, and which should?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You stopped me on my road and called me by name, and today I want to tell You …

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 22:16

"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."