

## Let's Talk: Day 246

Today's Reading: Acts 19 / Family Focus: verses 8-10

Paul understood the culture of the people he was trying to reach. In his day, if you wanted to talk about religious topics you went to the synagogue. Public debates and speeches were the "TV" of the day. He "cast his net" to find people interested in Jesus. Once he found this group, he disciplined them and started a church. Ask your family members to describe the first time they remember hearing about Jesus.

Questions:

1. How long did Paul speak in the synagogue? Was he shy or bold?
2. What happened after that? How did Paul handle this new problem?
3. Think about a place in your daily life where you could share Jesus. What other ways besides speaking could you use to do it? (think technology and art too)
4. It's one thing to hear about Jesus and it's another thing to know Him. How long did Paul spend discipling believers in Corinth? Have you ever been disciplined? (NOTE: if you haven't been, contact your church office if you are interested in more information)

## Let's Talk: Day 247

Today's Reading: Acts 20 / Family Focus: verses 25-38

Today we are reading the last spoken words of Paul to the church of Ephesus, a church that was very close to his heart. After reading today's passage and discussing, consider sending a card or picture to someone you love that lives far away.

Questions:

1. What was Paul about to do?

2. With no phone in those days, these are the last things they will ever hear Paul say. What stands out to you?
3. If you were saying good bye to someone that you had just spent three years with, what are some of the things you would want to tell him/her?
4. What does Paul say that Jesus said about giving? Have you ever tried this or had this experience? If not, ask God to give you an opportunity to apply it this week.

## **Let's Talk: Day 248**

Today's Reading: Acts 21 / Family Focus: verses 27-30

A mob gathers in Jerusalem in our reading today. To introduce what a mob might look like, Google "flash mob" and watch some videos. Just like these mobs seem to gather almost instantly for fun, serious mobs can also gather quickly, get out of control and even cause harm.

Questions:

1. What did the Jews accuse Paul of in verse 28?
2. What assumption (guess) did they make about Paul's Greek friends that they didn't actually check to see was true (verse 29)?
3. Have you ever spread a rumor you thought was true without first going to the source and making sure it was true? Has anyone ever done that to you? What happened?
4. What happened to Paul and the people gathered around Paul as a result of this rumor? Does it sound like these people were going to calmly listen to reason? What do you think Paul was doing at this point? What would you do?

## **Let's Talk: Day 249**

Today's Reading: Acts 22 / Family Focus: verses 1-16

The mob that formed yesterday has now been quieted and is listening to what Paul has to say. This is his one big chance to either defend his innocence or tell the crowd about Jesus. What would you do? Imagine the scene. He is at the top of some stairs with soldiers protecting him from the angry crowd of hundreds, who have quieted for a moment but could get out of control any minute.

Questions:

1. How does Paul greet the people? Why? What does this show about his attitude toward the crowd?
2. After the greeting, what does Paul talk about?
3. What is your story?
4. Although Paul actually got to hear Jesus, what person was involved in helping Paul understand about Jesus? Who is in your life helping you know Jesus better?

## **Let's Talk: Day 250**

Today's Reading: Acts 23 / Family Focus: verses 6-11

Still under arrest, but a Roman citizen, Paul demanded to know what he was accused of from the Jews. He appeared before the Jewish council which was composed of two very different groups – Pharisees and Sadducees.

Questions:

1. Paul knew that the group he was talking to only wanted to destroy him and had hard hearts toward God. How did Paul apply Matthew 10:16 in this passage? What did he ask?
2. Was Paul disrespectful to this group in any way? Did he act afraid of the group?
3. In school and in life you will meet people that are just angry at God and wanting to pick a fight. How does Paul's response in this situation help you learn how to handle being attacked? Describe Paul's attitude? Describe how he spoke to his accusers.
4. What do you think was in Paul's heart: was he angry at these Jews for putting him in prison or do you think he wished for them to know Jesus? What is in your heart towards people that are unfair to you?

## **Let's Talk: Day 251**

Today's Reading: Ezekiel 33 / Family Focus: verses 1-6

Today's passage was referenced in Day 248 in Acts 20 and uses a great historical example to illustrate a spiritual truth. Make it come to life by using action figures and blocks while you read the passage.

## Questions:

1. In ancient times, how did cities know when an enemy was coming?
2. What happens if the watchman doesn't do his job? Whose fault is it if the city is destroyed?
3. Paul says that **we** are watchmen. We need to warn those around us about sin and bring the good news that Jesus can save us. Discuss some ways that we can "blow our trumpet" for those around us, similar to how the watchman would blow their trumpet. What happens if we don't? When is the last time you "blew your trumpet" and told someone the good news of Jesus?
4. You can also warn your friends when you see them making choices that can get them into trouble. How can you do that in love?

## Let's Talk: Day 252

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: On what island was Paul stranded?

Paul invested many years of his life meeting new people and sharing Jesus with them. Introduce yourself to someone new this week, at school or at the checkout of a store or in your neighborhood . Pray that you will have a chance to share Jesus with them.