

Part 52 | **Problems & Promises**

Acts 25:1-26:32

Life is full of **PROBLEMS****external** 25:1-12; 2 Timothy 3:12; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9**internal** Romans 7:15-20; Jeremiah 17:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10but God's **PROMISES** are greater**strength in weakness** 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Matthew 10:19-20; Psalm 46:1-3 **with us the whole of every moment** Matthew 28:20; Acts 23:11; John 14:27so root your **STORY** there. **the story you tell others** 26:2-29; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15**the story you tell yourself** Proverbs 18:21; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:2

Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!

Text "**CONVERSATION**" to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Gospel Conversations

Part of our **Enduring Reach** vision is:*By 2030 the people of Wawasee Bible will engage in 10,000 Gospel Conversations*

Types of "Gospel Conversations"

Any intentional conversation with someone you hope to meet Jesus counts as a Gospel Conversation. As you count your conversations, try to categorize them as to what "level" of a conversation it is.

*NOTE, there is **not** a "right" or "wrong" here, it's just a tool to help you gradually move toward level 5 conversations with those far from God, with hopes that they might meet Jesus.*

Categories of Gospel Conversations:

- 1 Connecting** (News/Weather/Sports)
These are casual "connecting" conversations. We all have them every day, multiple times, even with those we're closest to.
- 2 Personal** (Personal Details, Family, etc.)
Personal conversations go further to reveal or disclose something from each other's personal lives. Family, vocation, frustrations, personal joys, interests, etc.
- 3 Their Story**
Here you learn something of their *spiritual* background, knowledge, interest, etc.
- 4 My Story**
Sharing part or all of your faith story.
- 5 God's Story**
Sharing part or all of the Gospel with them, Jesus's work, our response, etc.

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's some questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going.

1. If you owned a boat... what name would you choose for it?
2. What posters did you have in your room when you were young?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.

3. It's been said, "Don't ever let the problems of life overshadow the promises of God" (Pastor Chris Brown). Another way to say that is, "Never doubt in the darkness what God has said in the light." — Has there ever been a time in your life when you had to work hard to keep focused on God's promises instead of your problems? If so, what helped you keep your focus on God's promises?
4. Paul had little impact on the government officials he talked to during his two-year imprisonment in Caesarea. What is your response to the fact that even the Apostle Paul, as experienced as he was in talking to people about Jesus, wasn't able to convince everyone he talked to?
5. We often equate success with results while God equates success with our faithfulness. How does **1 Corinthians 3:5-9** reinforce this idea that our responsibility is to be faithful to what we are called to do and not be concerned with the outcome?

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—

the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been

making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God,

who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they

will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are

God's field, God's building. **1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9 (NIV)**

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES

This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...



1 | Receiving From God.

Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?



2 | Responding To God.

How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?



3 | Receiving From Others.

Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?



4 | Moving Toward Others.

How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)



5 | Going to those Far from God.

How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 26:25-29 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

²⁵ But **Paul said**, "I am not out of my **mind**, **most excellent Festus**, but I am **speaking true** and **rational** words. ²⁶ For the **king knows** about these **things**, and to him I **speak boldly**. For I am **persuaded** that **none** of these **things** has **escaped** his **notice**, for this has not **been done** in a

corner. ²⁷ **King Agrippa**,

do you **believe** the **prophets**? I **know** that you **believe**." ²⁸ And **Agrippa said** to **Paul**, "In a **short time** would you **persuade** me to be a **Christian**?" ²⁹ And **Paul said**, "Whether **short** or **long**, I would to God that not **only** you but **also** all who **hear** me this day might **become such** as I am—except for these chains."

Y U E B E E N O T I C E B
S U C H R I S T I A N X E
P P D E D S S M L L U Y C
E M O C F P P I M O S T O
G P N O E A E N B N D I M
L P E R S U A D E G R M E
T R X N T L K W L R B E A
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E T E S C A P E D G Y N I
A S N O N E P R T S B G D
R A T I O N A L S O N L Y

life groups Study Guide (continued)

6. Don't want to miss the fact that God does reward our faithfulness. What motivations to live a life of faithfulness and obedience do you find in the following passages?

Colossians 3:23-24 **Matthew 19:27-30** **Matthew 25:14-21**

- What would you suggest to someone who has been faithful but is now growing weary because of a lack of visible results?
- What role do you think gaining rewards should play in our faithfulness?

7. As we mentioned, Paul had little apparent impact on government officials Felix, Festus, and Agrippa during his two years of imprisonment at Caesarea. However, in his other writings, Paul describes his desire to share the Gospel with others and the impact he was able to have in people's lives despite his incarceration. What can we learn about Paul's attitude regarding how he views his problems and sharing the Gospel from the verses below?

Philippians 1:12-13 **Colossians 4:2-6**

- What does Paul's prayer request reveal about what is involved in being a faithful spokesperson for Jesus?
- How might Paul's instructions on how to act toward "outsiders" influence the way you relate to people?

Digging Deeper

8. Is there anyone in your life with whom you want to act with more wisdom toward as **Colossians 4:5** talks about? What are some ways others can pray for you regarding this relationship?
9. Take a moment to pray the following prayer as a way to reinforce the reality that when it comes to serving God, our part is faithfulness, and His part is producing the fruit (John 15).

"Lord, help me to be faithful to the gifts, abilities and opportunities You have given me according to the strength You give me (see Colossians 1:28-29). Then give me the grace and faith to leave the results to You."

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, April 21, 2024



PART 52

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ACTS 25:1-26:32



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our Digital Announcements & Connect Card.

<https://wawasee.today>