



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 44:
“God’s Protection Service”
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 23:11-35 and selected passages

1. Describe a time in your life when you experienced God’s providential protection. What happened? How do you know that God was involved and not just “chance?” What are some other biblical examples of God’s providential protection?

2. Why were the Jews in this passage so intent on killing Paul (*Acts 23:12-13; 2 Corinthians 11:23*)? Do you find their zeal to be frightening (*Romans 10:2-3*)? What does their inclusion of the Council and chief priests reveal about the corruption of the Jews’ leadership (*Acts 23:14-15; Proverbs 29:12*)?

3. Consider the fact that Paul’s nephew overheard the Jews’ plot to kill Paul (*Acts 23:16*). Consider also the fact that the Roman commander listened to Paul’s nephew in private (*Acts 23:19*). How do you see God specifically orchestrating these circumstances?

4. How did the Roman commander respond to the news (*Acts 23:23*)? Why did he order such a large entourage to protect this one man Paul? What was his responsibility to the citizens of Rome (*Acts 23:27; cf. 22:29*)?

5. Think about other examples of God's providential protection: Moses (*Exodus 2:2-9*), Joshua and Caleb (*Joshua 2:1-3, 6*), David (*1 Samuel 19:1-2*). Then consider those who died carrying out God's work: John the Baptist (*Matthew 14:8-12*); Stephen (*Acts 7:58-59*), Jesus Christ (*Luke 23:46-47*). Why does God protect some of His people while letting others die?

6. How has this passage opened your eyes to God's providential care and protection of His people? Whenever His people are spared, what is God ultimately accomplishing (*Romans 8:29*)? Is He simply protecting their lives or is He up to more than that (*Genesis 50:20*)?

7. How has this passage encouraged you to pray for those who are serving Jesus Christ around the world? How might our prayers impact God's protection of those individuals? How else can you or your Community Group encourage and support those individuals just as folks did so for Paul (*Ephesians 6:18-20*)?

Memory Verse:

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

(Romans 8:28, NASB)