



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 48:
"Moving with God on the Detours of Life"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 25:13-26:23 and selected passages

1. When have you experienced a significant "detour" to your plans in life (cf. *Romans 1:13*)? Are you confident that God introduced that detour? What happened? How can you best prepare for God's supernatural detours in the future (*Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 90:12*)?

2. Skim through *Acts 25:13-27*. Can you see evidence of God's sovereignly directed "detour" in Paul's life? Why might He have taken Paul through these experiences? What good could have resulted from this "detour" (*Genesis 45:4 50:20; Romans 8:28*)?

3. Notice that even Festus is not sure why Paul is standing trial (*Acts 25:17-19, 26-27*). How does the absurdity of this trial highlight the fact that God's plans often trump our own (*Proverbs 16:9*)? Do you think Paul viewed his time of his life as a waste (*Acts 26:2*)?

4. Why did Paul share about his early years in Judaism (*Acts 26:4-11; Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:5-6*)? How did his sharing add credence to his story/defense? Has God ever used your past to minister effectively to others for the gospel?

5. Notice the most important “detour” of Paul’s life in *Acts 26:13-14*. For what specific purpose did God insert this detour into Paul’s life (*Acts 26:16-18; 9:15-16; Galatians 1:15-16*)? What do you think would have happened if Paul had refused to take this detour (cf. *Esther 4:13-14* perhaps)?

6. Thankfully, Paul took the detour that God had ordained for him to take (*Acts 26:19*). How do his life and ministry serve as an example to us (*Acts 26:20, 22*)? What is the crux of the message that Paul proclaims (*Acts 26:23; cf. 10:43; Isaiah 42:6*)? Can you proclaim this same message with similar confidence?

7. Think about the first question regarding “detours” in your life, but do so from the perspective of sharing the gospel. How has He take you on a detour in order to share His truth with someone? Are you willing to embark upon similar detours in the future? How can you “prepare” for these detours (*1 Peter 3:15-16*)?

Memory Verse:

“But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen — (23) that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

(Acts 26:22-23, NIV)