



1. Consider Acts 23:2, v10, v12-13. How do these things seem to be working against Paul's desire to preach the gospel?

2. Imagine Paul's circumstances, alone and unsure of his fate, while being held in the barracks of Jerusalem. How do you think Paul would have felt at that moment?



3. Are there circumstances in our lives right now, or in the recent past, similar to Paul, that make us feel trapped and cause us to be anxious or hopeless about the future? Share with one another where our current worries are found.



4. How did Jesus encourage Paul in the moment of distress?

5. In Acts 23:11 Jesus promises that Paul will proclaim the gospel in Rome.

Consider how God used all the parties in this passage to fulfil his promise to bring Paul closer to Rome:

- the Jews
- the Roman tribune
- Paul's nephew



6. Think about the various circumstances in our lives that we shared earlier. How have we coped with our anxiety or hopelessness?



## 7. Meditation & Prayer (30 mins)

Play and meditate on the hymn "How Firm a Foundation." Listen to the words that are said from "Jesus' perspective" to us and take 15 minutes to individually reflect on the following questions:

- What about Jesus' character strikes you in this hymn?
- In your current circumstances and struggles, what might it look like for you to run to the person of Jesus that is described in this hymn?
- How might God be speaking to you today?

Take some time to share with one another these personal encouragements and uphold each other in prayer.

### [How Firm a Foundation | Reawaken Hymns](#)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flames will not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"