



YOUR POWERFUL CIRCUMSTANCES

ACTS 23—25

God can use our circumstances to reveal Himself _____.

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WHEN YOU STRUGGLE WITH YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES, REMEMBER ...

God is not the author of evil.

God is not an apathetic spectator.

Paul's circumstances were full of _____ . (23:12-13)

When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. vv. 12-13

Paul's circumstances were full of _____ . (24:22-27)

When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison. v. 27

Paul's circumstances were full of _____ . (25:23)

So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. v. 23

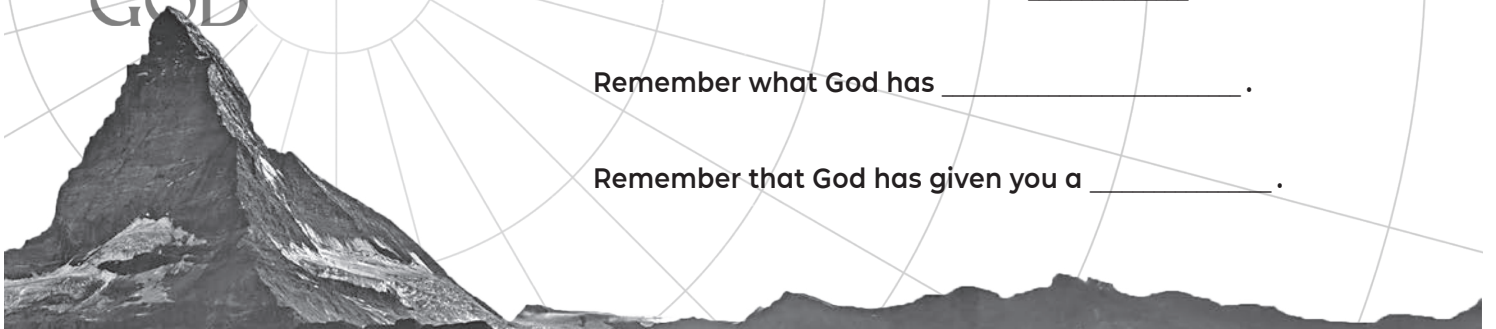
The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "TAKE COURAGE, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." ACTS 23:11

Remember that the Lord stands _____ .

Remember what God has _____ .

Remember that God has given you a _____ .

REVEALING
THE UNKNOWN
GOD



REVEALING THE UNKNOWN GOD

PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 23–25. What types of circumstances does Paul face in these three chapters?

“When you cannot rejoice in feelings, circumstances or conditions, rejoice in the Lord.”

A. B. SIMPSON

“So long as we are occupied with any other object than God Himself, there will be neither rest for the heart nor peace for the mind. But when we receive all that enters our lives as from His hand, then, no matter what may be our circumstances or surroundings—whether in a hovel or prison dungeon, or at a martyr’s stake—we shall be enabled to say, ‘The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places’ (Ps 16:6). But that is the language of faith, not of sight nor of sense.”

A. W. PINK

2. In what tangible ways did God show His support and comfort to Paul during those circumstances?

3. What evidence do you see in these chapters that God is sovereign and in control, despite how things may have looked to Paul at the time?

4. What circumstances are you facing where you need to be reminded of God’s control of all things? How does remembering His actions in past circumstances help you face today’s situation?

5. What setting is coming up in the next weeks where you’ll need to stand up for the truth? How will you prepare yourself for that? How will you know you’ve trusted God for the outcome?

6. Ask the Lord for courage to face your present circumstances. Then ask Him to reveal more about His character as He uses this time to grow your faith and change you to be more like His Son.

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn’t based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God’s love for us. Here’s how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
- “Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”*

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

MAKE PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WITH CHRIST CHAPEL We are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas Eve service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! On Sunday, Dec. 24 we’ll be hosting both contemporary and traditional services across all three campuses. Come be a part in person or through our online broadcast, and bring your friends, family and neighbors, too! We will be having Kids Care for all ages under four. When you leave the service today, make sure to get a few inviter cards at the Christmas station and find your Reservation Reminders at www.ccbcfamily.org/christmaseve. We can’t wait to celebrate with you!

21 DAYS OF REACH Thank you to the 728 of you who have journeyed with us this far! If you haven’t started yet, there’s still time! Receive daily texts with fun, simple ways to reach out to more of the 800,000 this holiday season. From devotionals and playlists, to coloring pages and unique Christmas Eve invites, be a part by texting REACH to 24253.

EMBARK We’re here to help you find a place for your community, gifts and faith to deepen! Embark, formerly Connecting Point, is where we begin to walk with you as you journey here at Christ Chapel. Classes will begin this January, and we can’t wait for you to be a part. Sign up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/embark.

SIGN UP FOR BAND OF BROTHERS AND WOMEN IN THE WORD Looking for a place to connect at Christ Chapel while learning more about Scripture? Join us for our men’s and women’s Bible studies! Band of Brothers will be taking this spring to step into a study of Hebrews. Ladies, come to Women in the Word and study Romans. Learn more and sign up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

RE|ENGAGE YOUR MARRIAGE re|engage offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Whether you would rate your marriage as a two or ten, there is hope for your marriage to be renewed and strengthened in Christ. Classes begin this January! Register today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage.

THE 5 P.M. IS COMING BACK It’s evident that God is moving in our communities as more people begin attending our church, and as God moves hearts to hear the gospel, we want to create more space for that opportunity to happen. So, we are opening a third service! This won’t begin without your help. Will you pray about moving your service time to 5 p.m.? Text PIONEER to 24253!



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.