

MAKE YOUR CASE

Acts 21:40- 22:10; 1 Peter 3: 15-17

Introduction: Questions that may help discussion

1. What is the Boy Scout motto?
2. What is the purpose of having this motto?
3. Have you ever tried to share your faith and had difficulty doing it? What made it hard to do? (lack of preparation, fear)
4. What is the central message Christians share?
5. What can help us to be more effective in telling others what Jesus has done for us? (Scripture, our encounter with Jesus, 2 Timothy 2: 24-26)
6. The early Christians did not have Bibles, many could not read, and yet they turned the world upside down for Christ. Why? Revelation 12:11
7. Do you remember when the Gospel was shared with you when you first believed? What was it that hit home? (person sharing, setting, circumstances, message, heart condition)

Today's lesson will hopefully motivate us to share with others what Jesus has done for us, so others may find what we have found.

BE PREPARED: Read 1 Peter 3: 15-17

1. What does "setting something apart" mean to you?
2. How does a Christian "set Jesus apart in our heart"?
3. Have you shared your hope in Jesus? How did you do it? What was the result? (may have a class member briefly do this)
4. What are three things Peter mentions that help when witnessing? (gentleness, respect, clear conscience)
5. According to Peter, what is it that helps a Christian deal with accusations? (clear conscience, doing good)

You may want to define apologetics from the lesson (digging deeper). Highlight that "All Christians should be apologists".

KNOW TO WHOM YOU ARE TALKING: Read Acts 21: 40- 22:3

1. How do we become aware of "who" our "audience" is? (listen, observe, question)
2. Have you ever seen where God used your life experiences to touch someone else? Can we prepare for "divine appointments"? How?
3. What helped Paul's "audience" listen to him? (Hebrew language, his background, common desires and zeal for God, he complimented them, he showed them respect.)
4. Do we miss open doors even when we've been "given permission" to speak? Vs 40
5. How do we get the boldness to "give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Acts 4 (prayer)

SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW: Read Acts 22: 4-10

1. What makes for a good simple outline to share your testimony? (what it was like, how things changed, what it is like today)
2. Does a testimony have to be dramatic to be effective?
3. What is the ultimate focus of your testimony? (what God has done for you!)
4. How do we handle it if people will not receive what we have to say? (shake the dust, let God give the increase, obey regardless of results, realize Jesus suffered the ultimate rejection.....).
5. The lesson stated, "A changed life is a strong defense of our faith." How have you seen this in your life and others lives?

CONCLUSION: You may want to go over lesson summaries.

Timothy and Peter's exhortations are practical and helpful to read and follow:

2 Timothy 2: 24 - 26; 1 Peter 3: 15, 16

The Great Commission still stands and as we are obedient God builds His kingdom. We have the blessing and opportunity to be a part of what God is doing with eternal significance and eternal rewards.

A country preacher I know once said, "you may find a better preacher but you'll never find a better message."

Close in prayer.