

# ENGAGE THE FAMILY

## DEVOTION GUIDELINES

1. Keep it short and interactive.
2. Read the Scripture passage together.
3. Discuss how you and your family members will apply the lesson.
4. Pray for each other and ask for God's help to apply what you have learned.

## READ TOGETHER ACTS 23

**Acts 23:1-11** 1 Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day." 2 The high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?" 4 But the bystanders said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" 5 And Paul said, "I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

6 But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!" 7 As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. 9 And there occurred a great uproar; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and began to argue heatedly, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" 10 And as a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force, and bring him into the barracks.

11 But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

## TALK TOGETHER.

1. How did Paul begin his defense at the council? What does it tell us about his character? (v. 1-5)
2. How did Paul divide his enemies? Why did the Pharisees side with him? (v.6-10)
3. How did God encourage Paul? (v. 11) How do you think this help prepare Paul for the trials he was yet to face?
4. What are some of God's promises that gives you courage in times of difficulties?

## CONVICTION

I will rest in God to give me courage for He is faithful and is always in control.

## APPLICATION

How would you respond to trials in light of God's character and promises?

## PRAY TOGETHER.

Dear Lord, thank You for Your presence, promises, and protection. Enable us to trust You and depend on You for wisdom and courage in times when we need them most. Amen.

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