

***Standing In the Arena of Judgment***  
***Date: 6/19/16***

**Read Together**

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Acts 21-26

I think we would all agree that we live in a fallen and broken world. This matter is complicated even more by a world where voices, virtues and views are skewed. There is a great need to speak to all Christians, but to men in particular, about living out their life mission to follow Christ and lead their families. We need men of God to stand firm on the Solid Rock—Jesus Christ. Jarrid Wilson said it this way, “Strength isn’t measured by how much a man can lift but where his faith in Jesus stands amidst a seemingly impossible situation.”

We see this in the life of Paul in chapters 21-26 of Acts. After leaving Ephesus, Paul travels to Jerusalem with the full knowledge that he will be in the midst of many enemies seeking to harm him, discredit him, and trample the name of Jesus. However, we do not see Paul acting as a raging lunatic, running scared, avoiding responsibility, or casting blame. On the contrary, we see a man of honor, respect, and humility. He faces those in authority over him courteously, yet with Christ-like boldness, standing firm and strong in the Lord. Like Paul, as believers *go there* in their every-day lives, our goal must be to stand on our Solid Rock—Jesus Christ our Lord; remembering that our greatest judgment is not from the world, but from the One who died so that through Him the world might be saved.

**Pray Together**

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

**Discuss Together**

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Discuss a time in your life when you had to stand strong in the midst of seemingly impossible adversity.
- How did you respond? In the end was this a positive or negative experience? From where did your strength come?

**Skim Acts 21-26.**

- In these chapters we see Paul “standing” among several different crowds. Briefly give a synopsis of the arenas Paul found himself in. Discuss what this must have been like for Paul.

**Read Acts 26:1-32.**



Warren Baptist Church or Warren Grovetown



WarrenBaptist\_Augusta

- Talk about Paul's defense before Agrippa. Use the following talking points to guide your conversation.
  - Paul's life before Christ (Acts 26: 1-11)
  - Paul's conversion (Acts 26:12-18)
  - Paul's ministry after his conversion and the response of the Jews who were against him (Acts 26:19-23)
  - The response of Agrippa and Festus (Acts 26:24-32)
- Within Paul's testimony we see three truths about God and the fulfillment of these truths in his life and ultimately in the lives of all believers. Discuss each of these truths and the impact they have on believers today. As part of your discussion, encourage group members to go to other portions of Scripture to affirm these truths.
  - God's promise of hope to Paul and for all who would believe (Acts 26:6-8)
  - God's purpose for Paul and for all who would believe (Acts 20:24 & 26:24-29)
  - God's power in Paul and in all who would believe (Acts 26:22)
- Who do you know that needs hope today? Will you share your story of hope with them?
- Just as God used Paul to deliver others from sin and darkness, He wants to use you. Who might God want to use you to deliver?
- When have you seen God manifest His power in your life in times of trouble? What were the results?
- Have you ever stood in the face of rejection and resistance? What did you learn about God in this situation?
- What is worth standing for and giving your life and energy to? Will you choose to stand firm on the Solid Rock –Jesus Christ or will you succumb to the forces of this world?
- Spend time praying for each other in small groups about standing firm in times of difficulty.

## Do Life Together

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader's responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.**

Who do you need to share Christ with this week?  
Will you stand firm on the promise, purpose, and power of Christ as you share your story of redemption with them?



Warren Baptist Church or Warren Grovetown



WarrenBaptist\_Augusta