

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program
Acts of the Apostle #9:
Paul's Trial at Caesarea**

ICSB: Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
NJBC: New Jerome Biblical Commentary
SBDC: Studium Biblicum Devotional
Commentary
SBCB: Studium Biblicum Chinese Bible
CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church
JR: J. Ratzinger: Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith

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| A | <u>Introduction of Related Scripture Passages</u> | Acts 24-26 |
| B | <p><u>Paul Before Felix at Caesarea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul bravely and concisely defends himself against the accusations of the high priest, that these accusations are unfounded. Felix is “frightened”, just as Pontius Pilate in the trial of Jesus has been, for he has found himself between a rock and a hard place. He respects Paul and begins to fear him because the Holy Spirit has shown His power in defending Paul. The Spirit instills fear in the world’s rulers and judges. As Jesus has promised, when we witness our faith, the Spirit will grant us wisdom and put words into our mouth. • “I worship the God of our ancestors, believing everything laid down according to the law or written in the prophets. I have a hope in God – a hope that they themselves also accept” – Paul affirms that not only the Jews and Christians come from the same root (Rm 11:17-24), but they also hold one hope. • Resurrection revisited: according to the traditions of the Pharisees, based on Dn 12:2, is Jesus’ teachings (Jn 5:25-29), is an infallible teaching (CCC 1038). • Felix is guilty in his heart. When the Holy Spirit reveals our sinfulness to us, we can choose to repent or hide the sins. Felix chooses the latter. | <p>Acts 24</p> <p>Acts 24: 1-27 SBDC p 232 Eph 6:10-20 Lk 12:11-12</p> <p>Acts 24: 14-15</p> <p>Acts 24: 15, BSP #7D, ICSB</p> <p>Acts 24:24-25, SBDC p 233 ICSB</p> |
| C | <p><u>Paul and Festus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lord has told Paul that he would testify in Rome, and this has been fulfilled here. • Paul remains faithful and calm during the trial, witnessing for the Lord and leaving everything in God’s hands. He is willing to bear with sufferings for the sake of the Gospel as he understands God’s compassion and the joy of uniting with God. He has the hope that everyone may share in this joy. Under the prompting of Jesus’ love, he willingly suffers for the Good News of Jesus. | <p>Acts 25</p> <p>Acts 25:12, 23:11 Acts 25: 13- 26:32 SBDC p 240-241 1Tim 1:11-12 2Cor 5:14</p> |
| D | <p><u>Paul before Agrippa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of King Agrippa • Paul emphasizes his proper Jewish background (a Pharisee) before King Agrippa and proclaims the faith and hope of the Israelite ancestors and prophets (the suffering of the Messiah, his resurrection, and proclaiming the light to the Gentiles). King Agrippa is almost convinced by Paul. • Paul, in obedience to the teaching, spreads the Good News first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. • “proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles” – refers to Is 49:6 • Do you know that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The promise of resurrection and eternal life? • You have already received the guarantee of eternal life? | <p>Acts 26</p> <p>ICSB Acts 25:13, BSP #5 D2 Acts 26:1-23, ICSB</p> <p>Acts 26:20</p> <p>Acts 26: 23</p> <p>SBDC, p 45</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this moment, right here, right now, you can experience Jesus' resurrected life? • You will receive all the necessary power and strength if you walk with the Holy Spirit? • Paul knows them all! He has vanquished all obstacles and responded to God's call with faith. <p>• In OT, resurrection and the revival of the Israelites are often connected. Why is that?</p> <p>• Though Agrippa is moved by Paul, he chooses not to believe at the end because "...neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" → this shows that catechists must remain humble and pray constantly as everyone has freedom of choice.</p> | <p>Acts 26:7, ICSB, Ezek 37: 1-14, Hosea 6:1-2</p> <p>SBDC p 248 1Cor 3:6</p> |
| <p>E</p> | <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>In this session, you have learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under persecution, Christians should learn from Paul's model, "put on the breastplate or righteousness, ... take the shield of faith, ... and the sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:14-16), so that the enemies may respect them and filled with fear. • Jews and Christians are from the same root and share the same hope: the resurrection of the Messiah and light to all nations. • The Pharisees' belief in resurrections is based on the prophecy in Dn 12:2, this belief is also shared by Christians as infallible. • The Holy Spirit often reveals our sinfulness to us, we must repent, unlike Felix who chooses to hide his sins. • If one truly knows the love of Christ, one should feel the urgency of this great love as Paul has felt. He vanquishes all obstacles to spread the Good News. • The OT foretells the revival of Israel and at the end of time, this will be fulfilled through the Messiah and the Church. The other vision of end of time is resurrection. | <p>B1</p> <p>B2, D2</p> <p>B3</p> <p>B4</p> <p>C2, D5</p> |