Message Outline
Paul: Facing Your Accusers
Acts 23

Intro: 10th sermon on Paul…
• Real life and real faith topics…
• Last week, change in Paul's script…not freely traveling but chained traveling.
    *Gospel still moving even in chains!!!

Read: Acts 23
22:30—A hearing to understand the rioting…
v.1-5—Opening statements, slaps, and Scriptures…
v.6-10—Once again Paul's reading the room…
• Pharisee and Sadducee divide…reveals religious divide.
v.11—The needed support!
• The Lord provides encouragement and the next step…Rome!
• Visions in Paul's experience (Acts 9, 16, 22:17-21, 23:11)…
v.12-15—Irony: a plot to uphold the law by breaking the law?!!
v.16—The plot and Paul's nephew…
v.17-35—The escape and further trials await (cf. Acts 24-26)…

1) _____
• Types of accusation…
• What to do when charged with something untrue? (cf. 1 Pet. 3:13ff.)
    a) _____ (v.11, Is.40:4ff.)
    b) _____ (v.1, 6)
    c) _____ (v.3, 6)
    d) _____ (v.6-7, 16ff.)
2) _____
• Lots of common ground between Judaism and Christianity…
• Key distinction: Is Jesus Messiah or menace?
• Jewish/Christian relations changes lots in Acts…

Small Group Reflection Questions
(Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week's small group session.)

Read: Ephesians 5-6
From this passage, what do you notice about how Christians are to live?

What spoke to you this past Sunday (ie. what made you laugh, learn, look deeper at life etc.)?

Have you ever been to court? What was that experience like? What do you think was on Paul's mind as he awaited his hearings?

There are many subplots in Acts plotline of Paul. Pick a supporting cast character to reflect on (ie. the tribune, Paul's nephew, the high priest, the Jewish Council, other prisoners, etc.). What do you think they notice about Paul thru their perspective of all this?

How was Paul able to divide his enemies in Acts 23:6ff? Can you think of a time when you diffused a tense situation or saw one diffused?

In this weeks text, there was some overlap and points of difference between Jewish and Christian beliefs. What's one quesiton you have about other religions and how it compares/contrasts to Christianity?