

# FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of Septembers 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Acts 26; "Permission to Speak"

## **For Small-Group Leaders**

Dear Leaders,

Sometimes I have wondered what drove the Apostle Paul to such an extent. This week's passage raises that question once again. In Acts 26 Paul stands before a powerful King who had the power to either free him or end his life. Unabated, Paul decides to use this encounter not for himself, but for the Gospel. If you can believe it, he actually seeks to convert the King! Wow.

When I think about what drove Paul, I come back to his commissioning by Christ. We find that commissioning in Acts 26:15-18. This was certainly a driving force in his life. The question for us is, what drives us?

May we allow Paul's faith in Christ to challenge us to follow our Lord ever more closely.

Blessings,  
Scott

These small-group materials are available at the Info Table each Sunday and at [www.fbcdavis.org](http://www.fbcdavis.org).

### **Discussion Starters:**

- **Driven:** We call someone "driven" when they passionately pursue a goal at all costs. Who do you know that you would call driven?
- **The Driven Apostle:** One of the most driven personalities in the New Testament is Paul the Apostle. In your opinion, what was it that drove the Apostle Paul?

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Acts 26:1-3. If you were Paul's legal counsel, how might you counsel him to handle himself in front of King Agrippa? What would you advise him to say and not to say?
2. Read Acts 26:4-11. Why does Paul go into his past as a Pharisee and his persecution of Christians?
3. Read Acts 26:12-18. This is Paul's account of his conversion. Do you think Paul should have included this? Why or why not?
4. Perhaps the driving force in Paul's life stemmed from his commission from Jesus in verses 15-18. What stands out to you about Jesus' words of commissioning?
5. In these verses we get a clear sense of what Christ hopes to rescue us from and lead us into. What does Christ hope to rescue us from? What kind of life does he desire to lead us into?
6. When the light of Christ invades our life, what changes take place?
7. Do you think Paul's commission from Christ should be ours as well? Why or why not?
8. Please read Acts 26: 28-29. Agrippa was from a long line of rulers (the family of Herods) who were known for being worldly, ambitious, and morally corrupt. They were known for their opposition to truth and righteousness. This section contains a shocker: Paul expresses his hope for Agrippa's conversion. What kind of person takes the bold step of seeking to convert a king like Agrippa?

### **Making it Personal:**

- Look again at the difference that Christ makes in people's lives (verses 17 and 18). In what area(s) of your life are you in need of the light, power, and forgiveness of Christ? (Leader's Hint: This question may be best answered in pairs or groups of three).

### **Putting it into Practice:**

- Pray together, asking the Lord to invade your lives with his light, power and forgiveness. Ask him to fill you with the same boldness he filled Paul.