



THE LIFE OF  
**PAUL**

FAMILY DEVOS

# Before Governors & Kings

**Scripture:** Acts 25:13-26:32 (Matthew 10:16-20)

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 10:19

“But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak.”

## For My Family:

The rest of Acts 25 records a meeting between Festus and Agrippa. Festus needed to give a report to Caesar about the accusations brought against Paul, and so far he didn't have any real evidence that Paul did anything wrong (because he didn't). You don't just send someone to stand on trial before the most powerful man in the world for no reason, so Festus recruited the help of King Agrippa, who was more familiar with the Jews and their customs. This is King Herod Agrippa II. His great-grandfather was the Herod who spoke to the wise men and tried to get rid of Jesus after He was born, his grandfather had John the Baptist beheaded, and his father was responsible for the death of the apostle James. The Herod family was no stranger to the recent history of the Jews concerning Jesus and His followers, and it was before King Agrippa that Paul was brought to tell his story (Acts 26).

Try to picture the scene in your mind. There sat King Agrippa, in “great pomp.” This means he was richly dressed and stood out as someone who is very important and powerful. He was sitting in a large room surrounded by other important and powerful people, when the door suddenly opened, and there appeared someone in the doorway not looking very important or powerful at all, but things aren't always what they seem. God is not impressed with the outward appearance, but with our hearts. The talking stopped and the room fell silent as all eyes turned to see the apostle Paul being led through the door by Roman guards. The only sound in the room was the rattle of Paul's chains as he walks. Agrippa then invited Paul to speak, and Paul began to give his testimony.

Isn't that amazing? Paul was a prisoner, but his imprisonment presented him with the opportunity to share the Gospel with these men that he may have never met as a free man. It was all a part of God's perfect plan, not just for Paul, but for Agrippa and everyone else in the room that day. As we faithfully follow and live for Jesus, He will give us opportunities to share the Gospel with all kinds of people. Some may be wealthy. Others may be poor. Some may have already heard about Jesus (like Agrippa), while others may not know anything about Him. Some may think you we crazy (like Festus did Paul), while others may hear what we have to say. God does have a plan for you, but it's important to remember that you are also a part of His plan for someone else. He planned for you to be in your family. Out of all the places in the world you could have grown up, He chose right here. Out of all the times in history, He chose you to be alive right now! His plan is perfect! Wherever you are, He put you there to share the Gospel with those around you. Pray for an opportunity to do that today!

## Questions for Young Children:

Why was Paul a prisoner?

Who did Festus invite to hear the apostle Paul?

What did King Agrippa do after he heard Paul's story?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Have you ever shared the Gospel with someone? How might you do that?  
(Imagine that someone comes up to you and asks you, "Why do I need Jesus?")

You might give the testimony of what God has done in your own life. What is your testimony?

Why don't we have to worry about what we will say if we stand before governors and kings for the following Jesus? (Answer in Matthew 10)