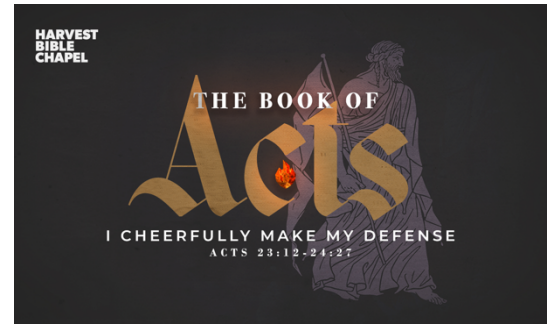

Life Group Questions / January 4, 2026

The Book of Acts
63 – I Cheerfully Made My Defense
Acts 23:12-24:27



1. Have you faced opposition from people because of your faith in Christ? Share these stories with one another.
2. Talk about this statement: "It is one thing to trust God when you still have things you can do to alter your situation. It is quite another thing to trust him when circumstances are beyond your control." How have you seen this play out in your own life?
3. We heard about the importance of understanding our context, the times we're in. What are you noticing in terms of people's resistance or openness to the gospel in the last year or so?
4. Build a list of things you have in common with various kinds of unbelievers. How can you use these points of agreement to engage in gospel conversations?
5. Why is embodying the truth, living out the gospel, so critical to our witness?
6. How do you see the gospel applying to every area of your life?
7. What's the hardest part of giving God the room to work?

Series: The Book of Acts

Message: 63 – I Cheerfully Made My Defense

Text: Acts 23:12-24:27

Todd Dugard

Harvest Bible Chapel

January 4, 2026

Do not expect, my friend, that the whole world will rejoice if you become a Christian.

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Assurance of Our Salvation*

I will effectively defend the gospel when I...

1. Expect opposition (23:12-15)

Matthew 5:11

If you are going to walk with Jesus Christ, you are going to be opposed.... In our days, to be a true Christian is really to become a scandal.

- George Whitefield

2. Trust Christ (23:16-35)

3. Show understanding (24:1-13)

What we need to understand:

- (1) Big cultural moments will prompt deeper questions about influence and faith.
- (2) Many are quietly practicing their faith alone—and missing opportunities to grow.
- (3) People are opening their Bibles more often, but they're still wrestling with what they believe about it.
- (4) Family stability remains a central concern.
- (5) Belief in Jesus is increasing, particularly among younger generations.

4. Find common ground (24:14-15)

5. Embody the truth (24:16-20)

6. Centre on the gospel (24:21)

The resurrection makes Christianity the most irritating religion on the face of the earth.

- Timothy Keller

1 Corinthians 2:2

7. Give God room to work (24:22-27)

Long waiting does not cancel God's purpose. Suffering is not random. It is not wasted. It is not meaningless. It is governed by God for eternal purposes.

- Aneel Sohail

Additional Resources:

Barna's Top Trends of 2025, Part 1

<https://www.barna.com/research/barna-trends-2025-pt-1/>

Barna's Top Trends of 2025, Part 2

<https://www.barna.com/research/barnas-top-trends-of-2025-part-2/>

The Resurrection Makes Christianity the Most Irritating Religion on Earth

<https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2019/march/resurrection-makes-christianity-most-irritating-religion-on.html>

Jesus Vindicated — Tim Keller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofwzpwE9lZQ>

The Life – Episode 2, Aneel Sohail

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rea1_sEBpv4&t=16se in the midst of hardship \(23:6-11\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rea1_sEBpv4&t=16se%20in%20the%20midst%20of%20hardship%20(23:6-11))