

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Acts 22:30; 23:6-17, 22-24

Session Summary

Paul was arrested and beaten without due process, but when the Roman authorities became aware of Paul's citizenship, they sought more evidence before coming to a verdict. Since he had been accused by the Jews, the tribune gathered the Jewish leaders and Paul to determine precisely what Paul was being accused of. Paul used the opportunity to testify to Jesus' resurrection.

When you live for God's mission, there is bound to be opposition. From Abel to Joseph, from David to Jeremiah, and from Jesus to the apostles, this pattern is clear throughout the Scriptures. Peter even said that Christians should not be surprised by these trials (1 Pet. 4:12). As frightening as that may be, we have a steady anchor to cling to—the Savior who suffered for us stands with us as we suffer for Him. Our hope is not in good circumstances or that God will keep us from hardships, but that God will be with us through them all. In our most desperate moments, He is there with grace and strength, comfort and peace. When we feel as though we have little control, we can rest in His providence.

- What are some trials or difficulties we have been through individually or as a family?
- How has God used those to help us grow?
- How have we seen God's providence in our lives?
- How does believing that God is in control help us persevere through challenging seasons?

When we are going through a difficult situation, God's presence gives us peace and comfort. But His presence is often felt through His people, the church. God can use your family as an extension of His loving presence in someone's life who is enduring a trial. Challenge each person to write an encouraging note to someone they know is going through a hard time. Feel free to add a small gift and be creative. Share why you chose that person and how you hope God uses the note in their life.