



HAVERIM

CCS LADIES BIBLE STUDY





ACTS:

The Gospel's Spirit-Empowered Journey

Haverim | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

-Matthew 5:14-16

Paul on Trial

Acts 25 & 26

Today's Outline

- 1. Overview of Acts 25 + 26**
- 2. Takeaways, Bottom Line, & Challenge**
- 3. Share Your Story Worksheet**

HELLO

WHAT'S GOING ON

Acts Recap

- **Acts 24: Accusations & Imprisonment**

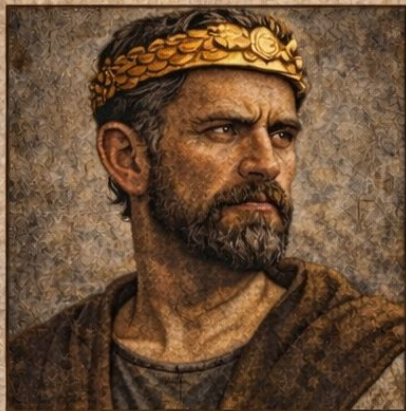
- Paul was arrested in Jerusalem after Jewish leaders falsely accused him of profaning the temple and stirring up riots (Acts 21:28–29; 24:5–6)
- Roman governor, Felix, imprisoned Paul for two years
 - *Why?* He hoped for a bribe and was trying to keep political peace with the Jewish leaders (Acts 24:26–27)

- **Acts 25: Change in Leadership**

- Porcius Festus replaced Felix as the Roman governor of Judea

Key People

FELIX



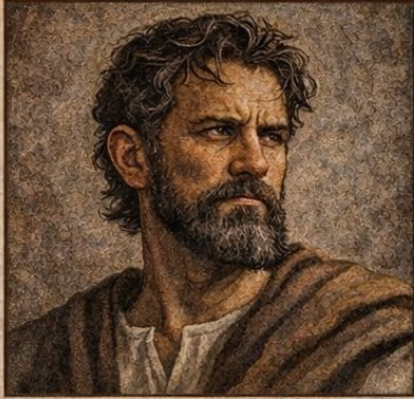
- ◆ Former Roman governor of Judea
- ◆ Held Paul prisoner for two years

FESTUS



- ◆ Roman governor who succeeded Felix
- ◆ Reopened Paul's case
- ◆ Declared Paul had done nothing deserving death

PAUL



- ◆ Apostle of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Appealed to Caesar as a Roman citizen
- ◆ Defended the gospel before rulers and kings

CAESAR



- ◆ Roman emperor
- ◆ Highest authority in Paul's appeal
- ◆ Paul's case sent to him for final judgment
- ◆ Nero

KING AGRIPPA II



- ◆ Ruler of the region of northern Israel
- ◆ Bernice was his sister
- ◆ Familiar with Jewish customs & controversy

BERNICE



- ◆ Sister and close companion of King Agrippa II
- ◆ In the audience as Paul made his defense.
- ◆ Familiar with Jewish beliefs and traditions

CHIEF PRIESTS AND PRINCIPAL MEN

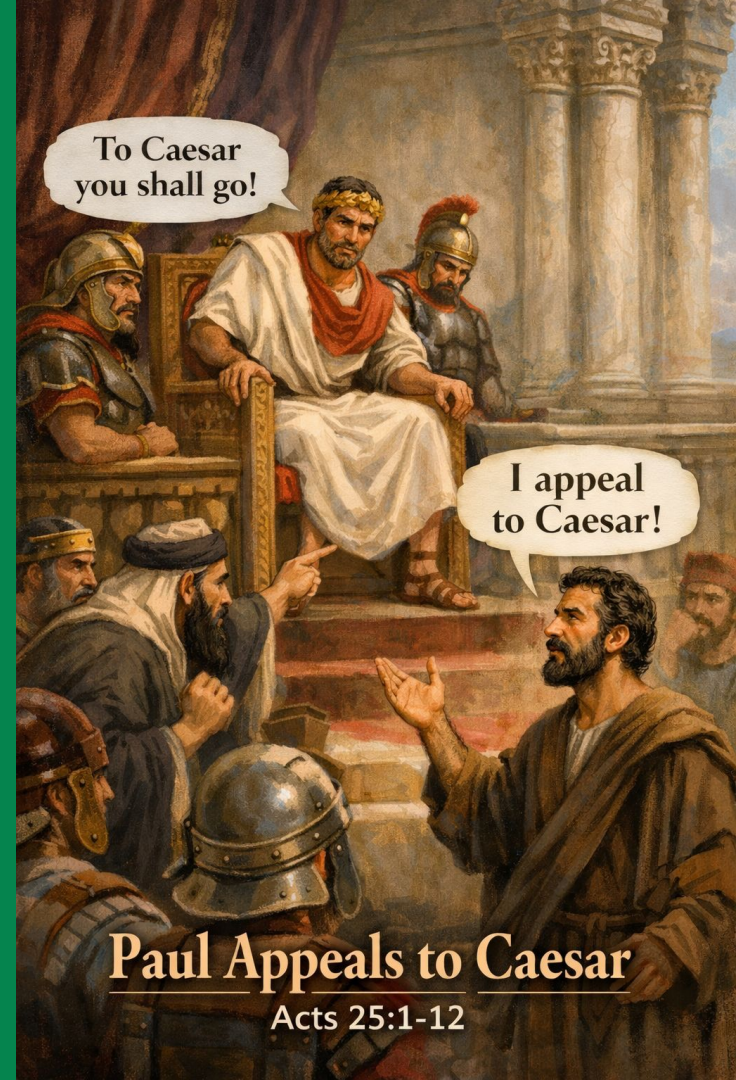


- ◆ Likely members of the Sanhedrin
- ◆ Determined to see Paul condemned

Acts 25

Acts 25: Paul Appeals to Caesar

- Jewish leaders plot an ambush
- Charges can't be proven
- Paul defends himself calmly
- Paul appeals to Caesar



Paul Appeals to Caesar

Acts 25:1-12

Acts 25: Paul Before Agrippa and Bernice

- Agrippa was an expert in Jewish law and customs
- Festus admits no real crime
- Issue is theological, not criminal
- Festus needed something to write to send with Paul to the emperor



Paul Before King Agrippa and Bernice

Acts 25:13-27

Acts 26

Acts 26 Outline

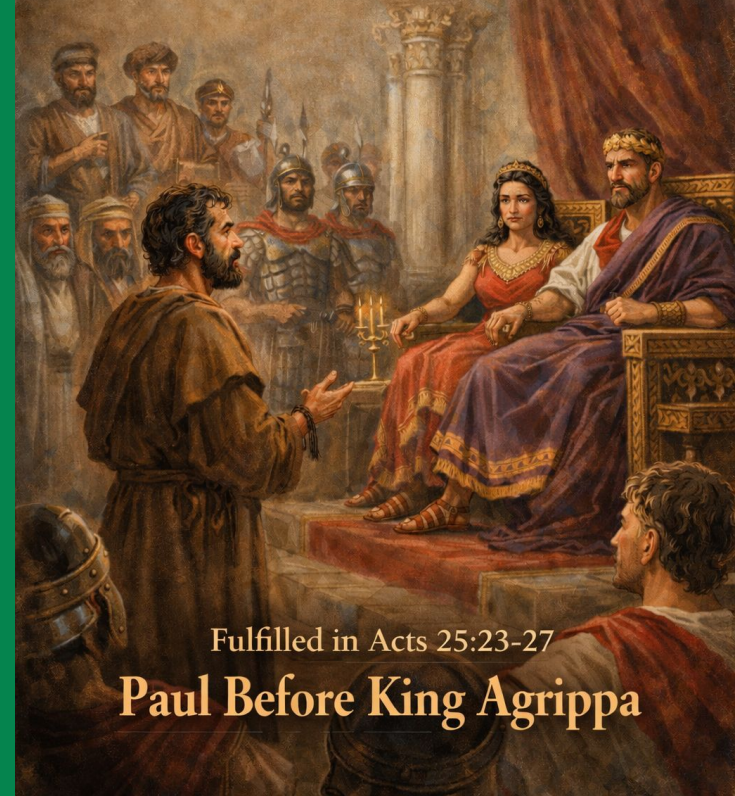
- 1. Opening remarks**
- 2. Paul's testimony**
- 3. Paul's defense**
- 4. Responses**

Acts 26: Opening & Context

- Not a legal trial
- Festus needed something to write to send with Paul to the emperor
- Fulfillment of Acts 9:15

“Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.”

Acts 9:15



Fulfilled in Acts 25:23-27

Paul Before King Agrippa

Acts 26: Paul's Testimony

- Life before meeting Christ
- Conversion Experience
- Life after meeting Christ

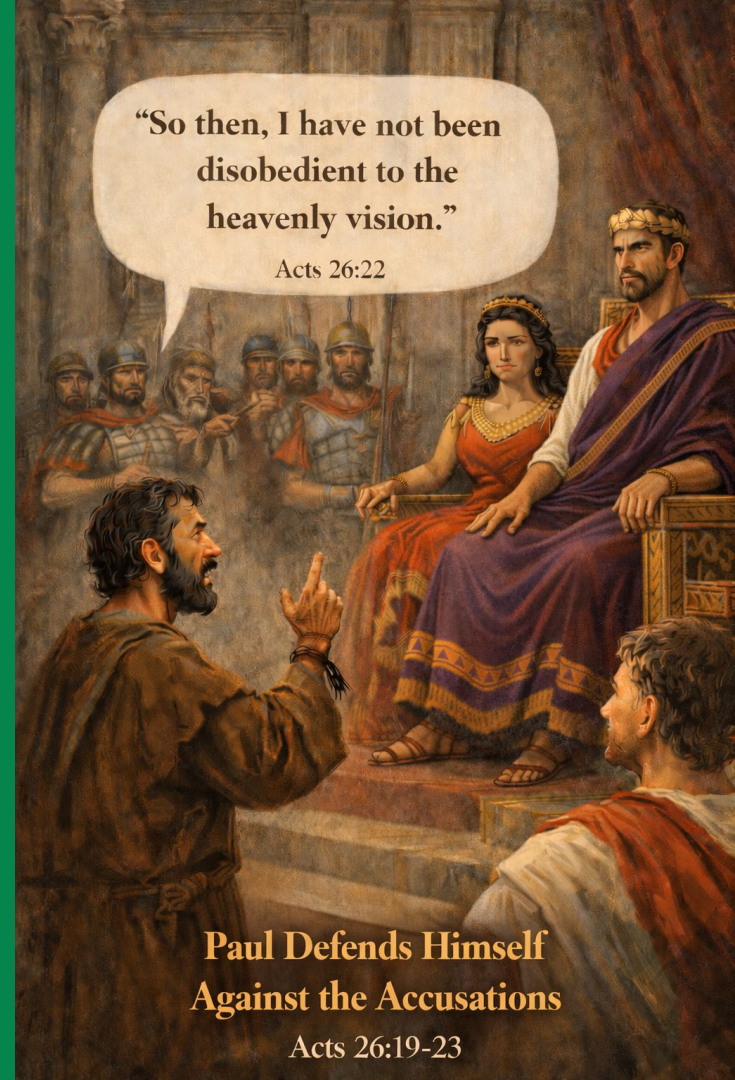


Paul Tells of His Conversion

Acts 26:1-18

Acts 26: Paul's Defense

- Accused by the Jews because he preached repentance and salvation even to the Gentiles
- Paul defends his teaching and stated its alignment with Moses and the prophets (Acts 26:19-23)

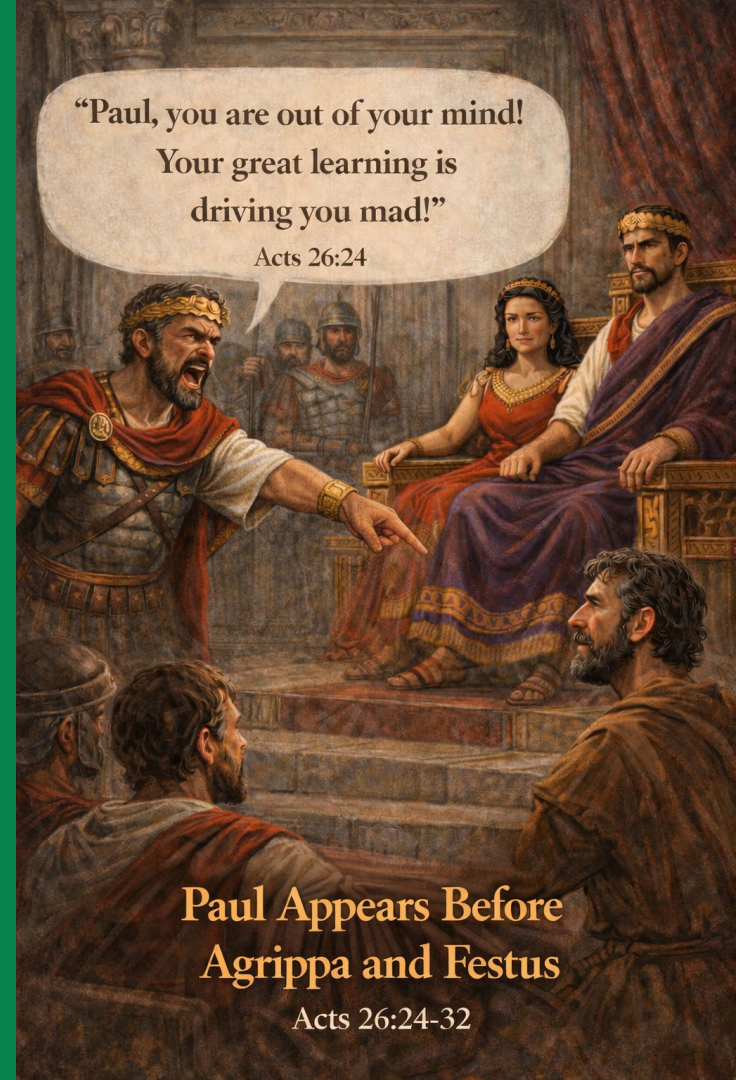


**Paul Defends Himself
Against the Accusations**

Acts 26:19-23

Acts 26: Festus & King Agrippa's Responses

- Festus accuses Paul of madness
- King Agrippa resisted Gospel message and acknowledges Paul was innocent



Takeaways

3 Takeaways

1. The Gospel advances even under persecution.
2. Paul modeled Christlike character under pressure.
3. Paul's testimony shows us how to share our faith.

Bottom Line

Like Paul, we can use
our testimony or faith
story to share the
Gospel with others.



Weekly Challenge:

Prayerfully fill
out the ***Share
Your Story***
worksheet.

Sharing Your Story

Sharing Your Story Overview

- Section 1: Describe Your Conversion Experience
- Section 2: Describe How God Has Shaped Your Faith Over Time



Share Your Story

Section 1: Describe Your Conversion Experience

What was your life like before Christ?

How did you come to trust Christ? Describe your conversion experience.

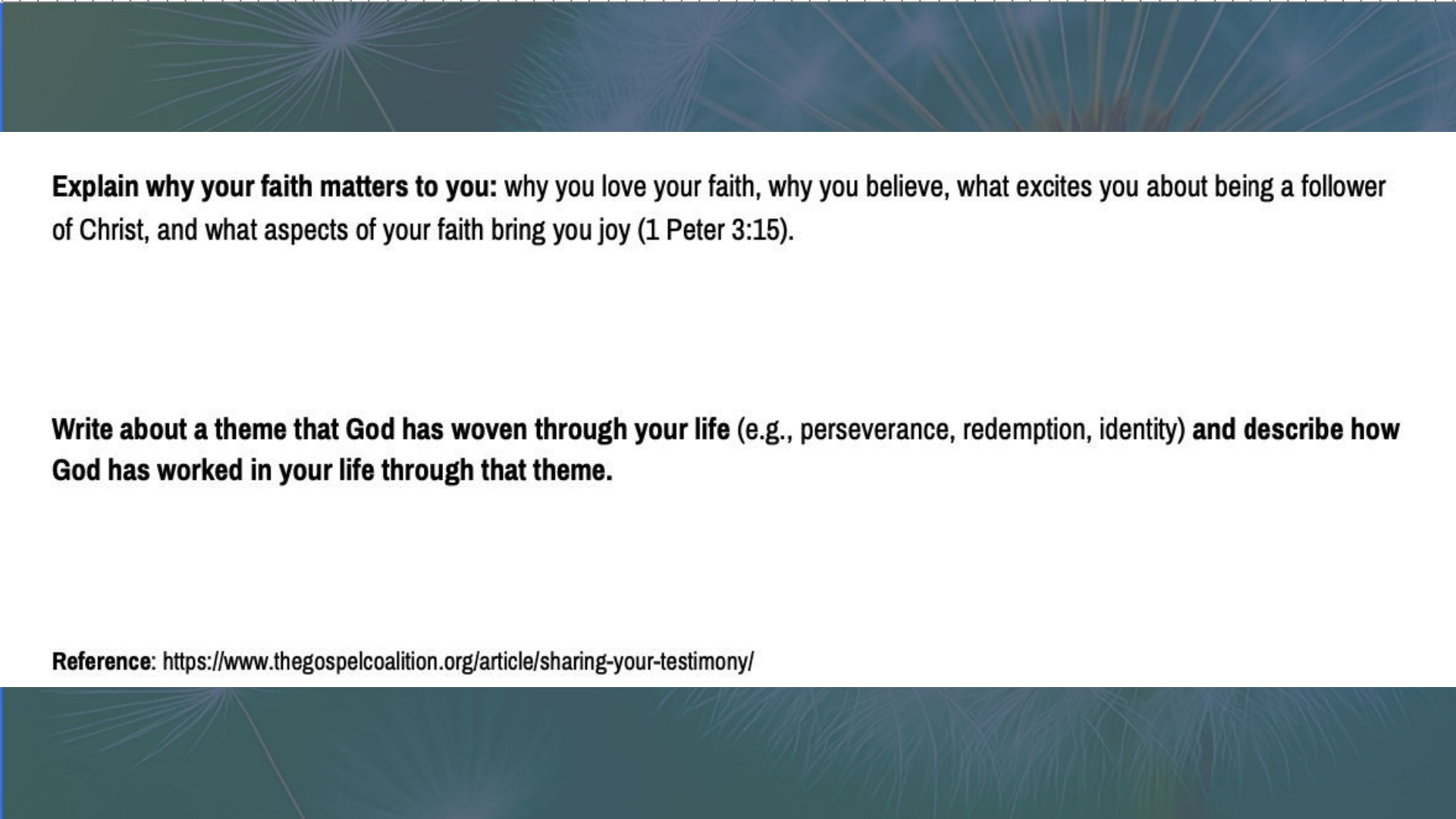
How has your life changed after becoming a Christian?

Section 2: Describe How God Has Shaped Your Faith Over Time

Write about a moment when the Gospel became real to you or when you understood it more deeply.

Describe a struggle that God has been shaping you through (e.g., overcoming anger, learning to forgive others, growing in the fruits of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23).

Write about how you've seen God's faithfulness in different seasons of your life (e.g., how He answered a prayer, provided encouragement, or brought about comfort in a difficult situation).



Explain why your faith matters to you: why you love your faith, why you believe, what excites you about being a follower of Christ, and what aspects of your faith bring you joy (1 Peter 3:15).

Write about a theme that God has woven through your life (e.g., perseverance, redemption, identity) **and describe how God has worked in your life through that theme.**

Reference: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/sharing-your-testimony/>

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Acts 25: Key People

- **Felix:** The former 4th Roman governor (A.D. 52–59); detained Paul unjustly
- **Festus:** The new 5th Roman governor (A.D. 59–62); inherited Paul's unresolved case
- **Paul:** an apostle of Jesus, imprisoned for charges he did not commit

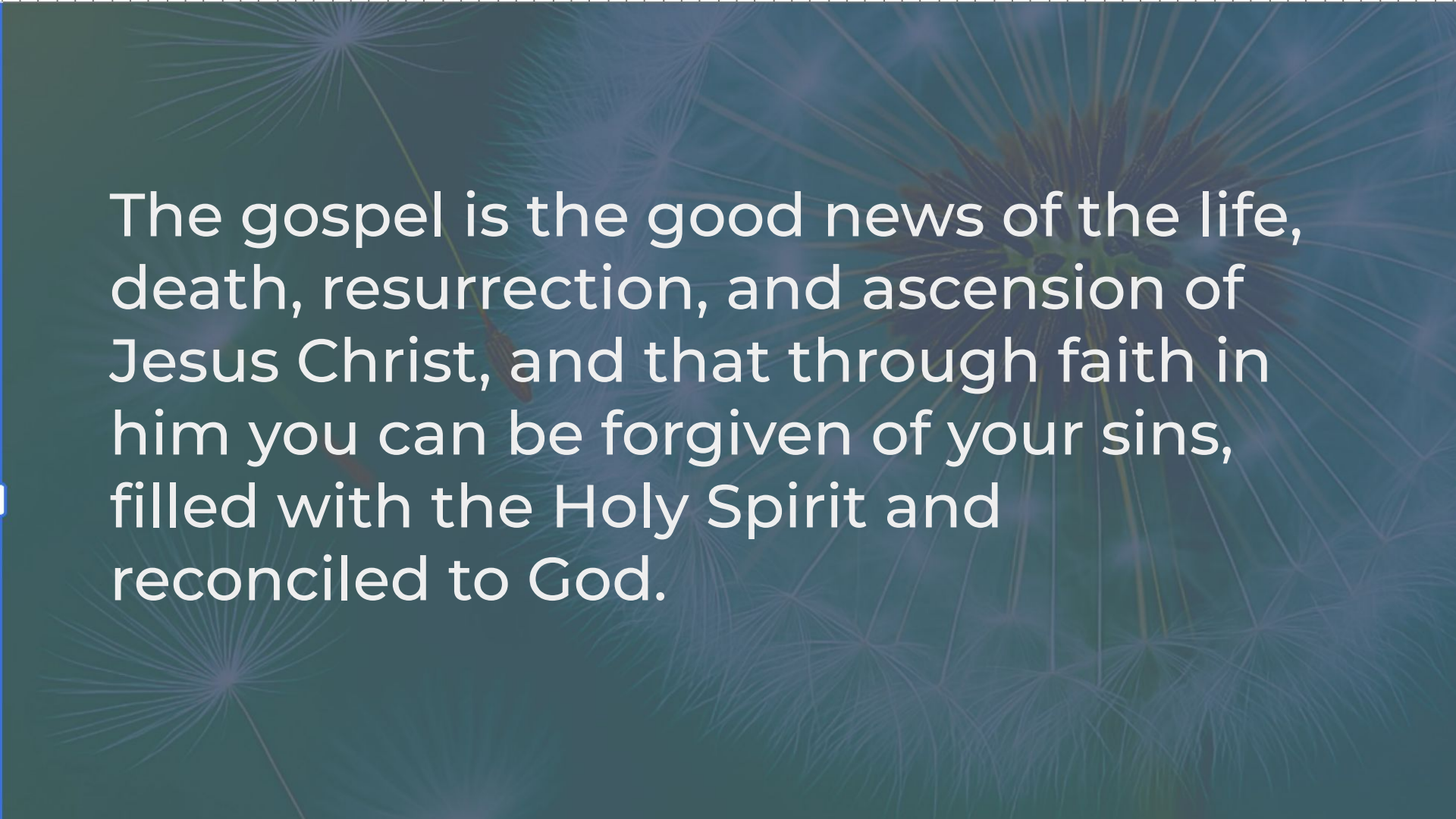
Acts 25: Key People

- **Caesar:** the Roman emperor at this time was Nero (A.D. 54-68)
- **King Agrippa II:** a Jewish king; well-versed in Jewish law and customs

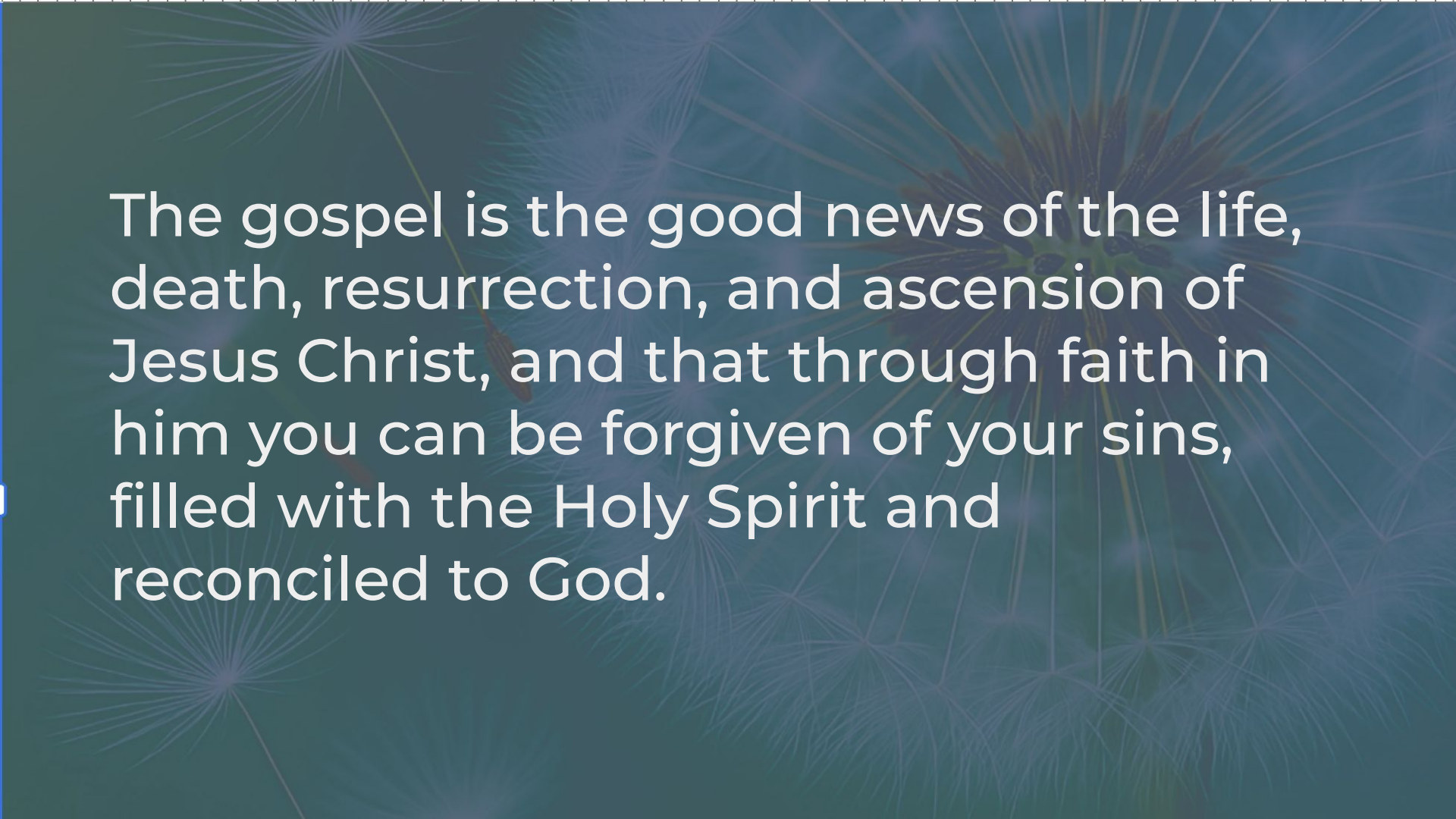
Acts 25: Key People

- **Bernice:** King Agrippa's half-sister
- **Chief priests and leading men:** likely members of the Sanhedrin, still determined to see Paul condemned

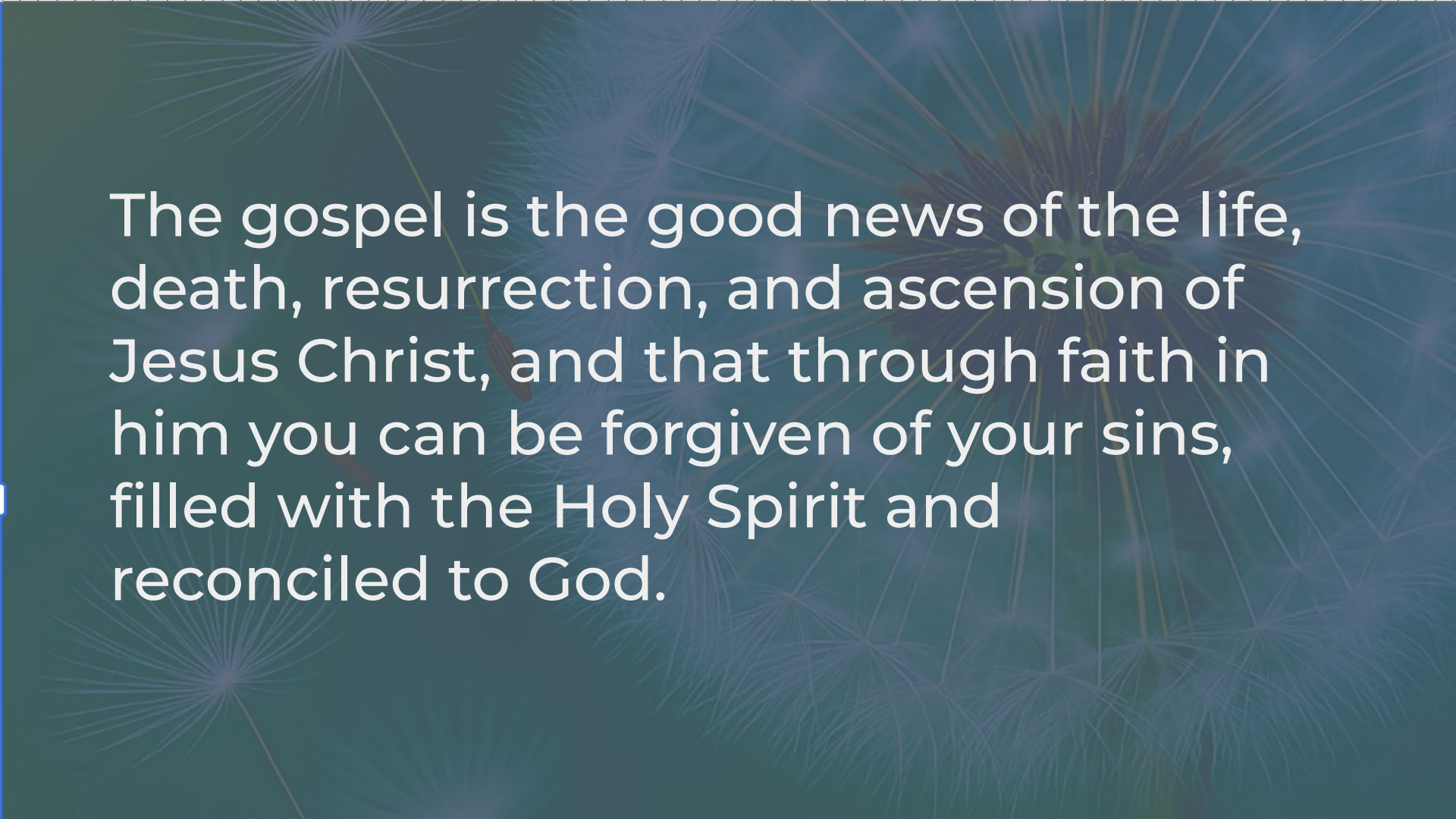
Conclusion

The background of the slide features several dandelion seed heads in various stages of dispersal, set against a dark blue, textured background. The seed heads are light-colored, possibly white or pale yellow, and their fine, feathery seeds are visible. One seed head is prominently in the upper right, while others are scattered in the lower left and center. The overall effect is a soft, naturalistic aesthetic.

The gospel is the good news of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and that through faith in him you can be forgiven of your sins, filled with the Holy Spirit and reconciled to God.

The background of the slide features a close-up, artistic photograph of several dandelion seed heads. The seeds are fine and radiate from central points, creating a starburst effect. The overall color palette is a muted, dark teal or slate blue, which provides a soft contrast for the white text.

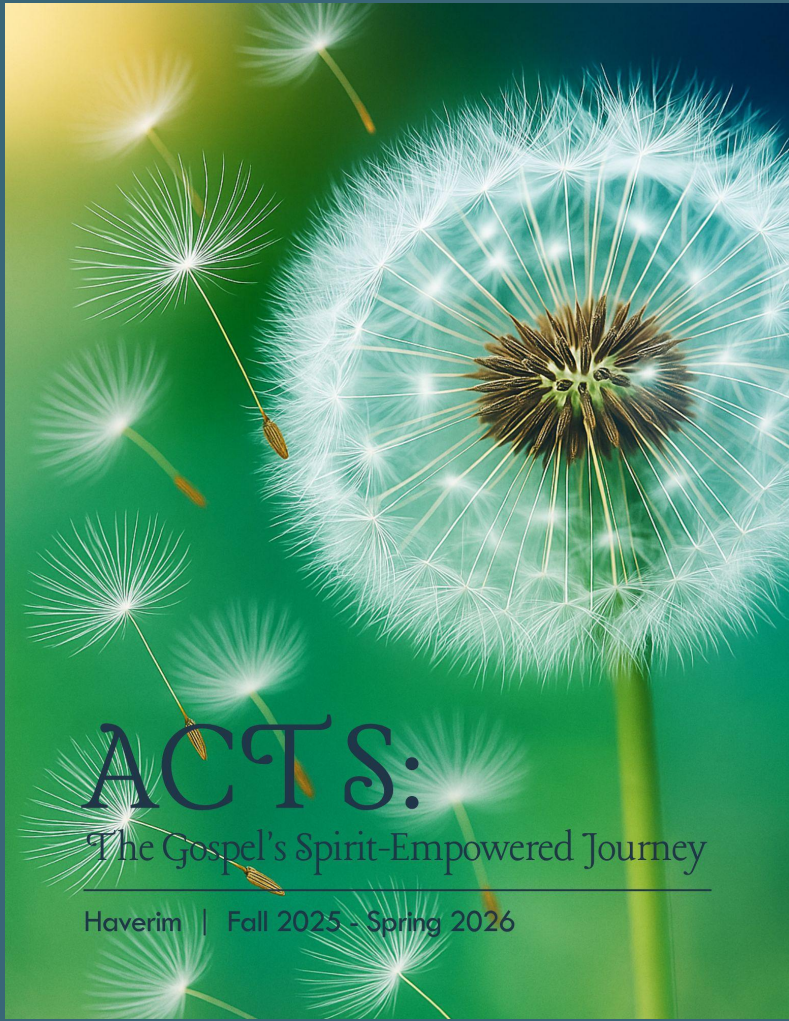
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ACTS



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--Alex Kennedy, Kenny Kline

