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# Application Guide: Acts 25

## 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

**Choose one:**

- a. Has anyone ever held you down against your will—even for just two or three minutes? How did it make you feel?

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- b. Have you ever been accidentally trapped someplace? What happened?

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- c. What's the worst story you've ever heard about people being trapped somewhere? How would you feel in their situation?

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## 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

**Background:** If you've grown up an Adventist, you've heard people talk about what will happen just before Jesus returns to take us to heaven. We have a huge emphasis on end-time events because we want Him to come back soon! We have been told that many will be arrested for their faith in Jesus, just like Paul was in Acts 25. What do you think of the way Paul handled his situation—being falsely accused, hauled around from place to place, locked up, then allowed visitors, then being brought out in front of the king? All this went on for several years! How do you think you would feel in this type of situation? What kind of prison do you think Paul was in?

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Do an Internet search for “Nelson Mandela” and read about how he was imprisoned for years in South Africa for peacefully standing up for what he believed was right. Google “Christians imprisoned for their faith” and read through some of the websites listed there. Try to count how many places have persecuted Christians over the last 2,000 years. Can you find out approximately how many countries still imprison people for claiming Christianity? Are you surprised at your findings, or did you expect it? Why?

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Why do you think people try to persecute those that believe differently than they do, rather than just ignoring them? How do you treat people that believe differently than you do?

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**3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

**Choose one or both:**

- a. Write down in detail the things that are most important to you—especially regarding your faith. Ask someone you know to do the same, then sit down and compare notes. How do you feel about your similarities? How do you feel about your differences?
- b. Contact someone with whom you've had a recent disagreement and try to work things out. Make a list of steps you think it would take to bring the situation to a peaceful resolution (Example: Apologize for having gotten upset, ask the other person to tell their side of the story while you listen without interrupting, then tell your side). Do an online search on conflict resolution if you feel you need help in this area.

**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Pray for world peace, peace and safety in your country, state and the city where you live. Pray for peace at your church, school and especially in your own home and in the homes of your friends and even in the homes of those who you know don't like you. Then pray for Jesus to bring peace into your heart every day.

**5. Outreach Idea**

Prepare a five-minute mission story to share with your church. Use the information from the stories you found when you did research on Christians imprisoned for their faith. Maybe two or three from your group could all share at the same time, aiming to bring more awareness of the plight of Christians around the world.