מעשי השליחים Ma'asei HaShlichim

[ACTS OF THE APOSTLES]

Acts 23:1-24:27 "Paul Causes an Uproar"

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What did Paul mean by the declaration in Acts 23:1? How should it be understood in a Jewish context? Why didn't Paul recognize the high priest?
- 2. Why did Paul identify himself as a Pharisee? Did he commit perjury? What does this imply about Paul's level of Torah observance?
- 3. Summarize the differences between Pharisees and Sadducees. Why was it possible to be a Messianic Pharisee but not possible to be a Messianic Sadducee? How does the resurrection of the Master play into the debate between the two sects? Why did the Pharisees defend Paul?
- 4. Who were the forty men who formed a conspiracy to assassinate Paul? Why would the politically-minded Zealots want Paul dead? Who may have been behind the plot?
- 5. Discuss the kind of person Claudius Lysias must have been, given that he wasn't without honor or a respect for the rule of law. What can we learn from the irony of a civil-law-respecting Roman protecting the life of Paul from the supposed keepers of The Law?

