

## *Gamaliel Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Gamaliel appears to be a minority voice for moderation in dealing with Jesus' followers. Have you ever been part of a group in which yours was a minority view?*

*The Sanhedrin did some things with which Gamaliel must have disagreed. How do you think he justified his participation as a member of the group?*

*Is it difficult to discuss disagreements in a group? Why?*

*How does this incident provide a model for a rational but sensitive disagreement?*

*Is it always possible to disagree gently?*

*What if the view discussed is actually a core value of your or someone else's faith?*

*Why is it hard to accept new ideas?*

*Why is it especially difficult to say, "I was wrong"?*

*Do people actually reject things they see because of their philosophical presuppositions?*

*Do you know anyone who, for instance, would be unable to recognize a miracle because they believe that miracles do not exist?*

*What is your attitude towards such a person?*

*What should your attitude be towards such a person?*

*What are some of the factors that might be leaning Gamaliel towards believing the messages the apostles are preaching?*

*When a person has a life-changing religious experience, is it logical to simply dismiss them as a fanatic?*

*Is it possible that Gamaliel later became a believer?*

*If so, what differentiates him from the other Sanhedrin members?*

*Might some of them have been offended by his stand?*

*Is causing offence a serious problem?*

*Is it possible to stand for truth and not offend?*