



JOURNEY WITH PAUL: CALLED TO FOLLOW

Study Guide

September 18, 2022

Opening Prayer

Holy God,
we come together
this day eager to
make connections
between the life and
message of the
Apostle Paul and our
own life of faith.

Guide us as together
we seek answers to
how Paul's story
speaks to our own
story, that we may
better understand
how and to what
God is calling us. In
the name of Jesus
Christ, whom Paul
first persecuted and
later sought to fol-
low.
Amen.

Connect.....(about 5 minutes)

What have you heard about the Apostle Paul?

Video Teaching

Read Acts 7:54-8:3; 9:1-9, 20-22.

Why did Saul act so differently from the man "Paul" we know more about? What does it tell you that Saul was so passionate about and driven by what he believed? Why did Saul's background make it very hard for him to embrace Christianity? Did your back-ground make it easy or difficult to accept Christ? How well do you understand and relate to people with backgrounds different from your own? Jesus had to confront Paul before he believed. What influenced you to share Paul's faith?

Read Acts 22:1-21

Years later, Paul's travels preaching Christ all over the Roman Empire had made him some very obsessive enemies. Seeing him in the Temple in Jerusalem, they stirred up a mob scene so violent that Roman soldiers had to rescue Paul (cf. Acts 21:27-36). But, far from intimidated, Paul saw this as a chance to tell the mob of his life-long passionate loyalty to God, and the meeting with Jesus that changed his life.

- A common rabbinic prayer, one Paul himself had undoubtedly prayed during his early life, said, "Lord, I thank you that I was not born a Gentile." The mob in Jerusalem was angry because Paul had spent years preaching to Gentiles, a mission he said God gave him. Who are the people you're thankful you aren't? How can you apply the principle of Paul's mission and play a part in helping God to reach those people?
- Paul told of a Christian named Ananias who conveyed God's call to him. Acts 9:10-18 also told the story, but more from Ananias' point of view, showing the courage and faith it took for him to go to a man who had come to town to imprison and maybe kill him. Has God ever called you to do something good that nevertheless scared you and called for some courage? If God called you to an "Ananias" mission today, how do you believe you'd respond?

Read Philippians 3:5-9

Paul "wrote off" his significant credentials as a Jew in favor of his complete trust in the grace of Jesus Christ. What human status symbols or accomplishments do you take the most pride in? How easy or hard is it for you to "write them off," and to find your ultimate identity and confidence in your status as a child of God? Does this kind of change in us come from our own determined efforts, or is it more from a change coming from the

Identity Markers

- Paul was from the city of Tarsus.
- Paul was educated in Jerusalem by the great rabbi Gamaliel.
- Paul was a tentmaker/tradesman.
- Paul was a Roman citizen.
- Paul was a zealous Pharisee.

What are your identity markers?
How does God use each of those for his purposes?

Paul's Journey

Find Tarsus, Jerusalem, and Syrian Antioch on the map



Closing Prayer Time

Share joys and concerns.