

Everyday Everywhere Lessons From Paul



Big Idea:

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Opening Question:

How did you decide on your current career or job? Or, what was your first job, and why did you decide to do that job

In this series we hope to reclaim the word “missionary” and help followers of Jesus to see their calling as living out the mission of Jesus; making disciples in their everyday community.

Series verse: *Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”* John 20:21

The resurrected Christ stood among his disciples and said that he was sending them. Sending them to continue his mission of making disciples. That same call lives on through all who follow Jesus.

1. Do you believe you are called to the mission of making disciples, why or why not? If so, share when this idea first become real to you?
2. What is your primary feeling about this calling:
 - a. Burdened
 - b. Overwhelmed
 - c. Hopeful
 - d. Excited
 - e. Unqualified
 - f. Other _____

READ Acts 9:1-22

3. What surprises you about Saul’s (Paul’s) conversion story?
4. Have you ever seen someone so radically changed after encountering Jesus?

In the remainder of the book of Acts we read about Paul’s missionary work. Some scholars credit Paul with planting, or assisting in planting 14 or more Churches. As we read about all of Paul experiences in planting these churches, we can find 3 lessons for our own missionary life.

Praying and Fasting are the practices that help us hear from God

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “*Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.*” Acts 13:2

5. What has been your experience with hearing from God in praying in fasting?
6. How can our work as missionaries be informed by these practices?

Missionary life is long obedience in the same direction

Paul’s work required obedience over time often in the face of suffering and hardship. Most of us give up when we face difficulty, however Paul persevered in the face of extreme hardship.

READ 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

7. What do you think kept Paul going even though his suffering was so great?

Sending and multiplying are often part of God’s redemptive plan

As our small group grows, we eventually need to multiply in order create more space for more people to be connected to a discipleship environment.

READ Acts 15:36-41

Although Barnabas and Paul parted ways over a disagreement, we don’t have to have a disagreement to multiply our small group. 😊

8. What plans do we have in place to multiply our group so even more people can find a place of discipleship?

MICRO GROUP

Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

9. Which one of the 3 lessons from Paul is most challenging to you as you embrace your calling as a missionary?

Pray for each other and ask God to clarify our missionary calling.

H2O – Habits to Outcome

Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, community, journaling, serving, sabbath, silence and solitude, etc.) help us to encounter Jesus. Every encounter with Jesus has the potential for **Character Transformation*** and **Calling Activation***. This series will focus on the spiritual habit of **Prayer**.

Challenge:

Pray for God to give you specific direction and wisdom in your calling as a missionary

***Character Transformation** means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

***Calling Activation** means that you are living out your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)