

Community Group Curriculum
for the week of May 26, 2013
“Paul’s Mission”

BIG PICTURE

In this chapter of *The Story* we begin to see exactly why the Lord chose Paul to be His ambassador to the nations. Not only did Paul possess a brilliant theological mind, but he had an evangelist’s zeal and a pastor’s heart. Paul kept a frantic pace, constantly traveling throughout the Mediterranean world. When he was not preaching or making tents, Paul was writing letters and forming disciples. One central theme that Paul brought up as he proclaimed the gospel is that heaven is our true home and in Christ, our resurrection is sure. How comforting!

LET’S DIG IN!

1. Read Acts 16:11-15. Focus on verse 14. What draws people to Christ? Is it the persuasiveness of a preacher speaking the Word, maybe a one-on-one discussion, solely the supernatural work of God or maybe something else? Explain your thinking with the group.

2. Read Acts 13:1-12; 16:16-34. As Paul preached the message of Jesus, he faced spiritual attack.
 - a) What form did these spiritual battles take?

 - b) What spiritual battles are faced today as we seek to bring the message and hope of Jesus to our world? How do we resist and overcome?

3. Read Acts 18:1-17. This passage sees Paul in the city of Corinth.
 - a) What did God promise Paul (verses 9-10)? How did Paul respond to that promise (v. 11)?

 - b) How did God keep His promise (verses 12-17)? What do the events in this passage tell you about God?

 - c) Does God still use secular officials to further the gospel as He did in this passage (verses 2, 14-16)? If so, how?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-11. As Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth, he addressed the problem of division in the church. What was the issue there and how can the church guard against similar assaults by Satan today?

5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Which of "the fruit of the Spirit" that Paul listed do you desire to see grow in your life? Which fruit of the Spirit has been evident in your life recently? Share with the group.

6. Read Romans 8:14-17. One of the great blessings of receiving Jesus is that we become children of God. What does it mean to say "I am a child of God?" How does your relationship with God grow and change when you learn to see yourself in this way?

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

- Pray for the fruit of the Holy Spirit to grow in your life.
- Ask for strength to resist the spiritual attacks that come at those who stand up for Jesus in this world.
- Thank God for giving us a loving church family at RiverLakes Community Church.

AND NOW FOR SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

As we read chapter 29 of *The Story*, things are becoming clear. God is connecting the dots. His plan to bring us back to Himself has been realized in Jesus' death and resurrection. Now the message of hope was being spread all over the world, particularly through the apostle Paul, who had a focused commitment to communicate this wonderful message of Jesus. The question is: can we connect the dots today? Do we see that Paul's mission is really the mission of Jesus for every generation? When we do, we learn that it is our mission and we are right where God has placed us today.