

The Apostle Paul

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 September 8, 2024
“Missionary Journeys”



OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you called Paul and his friend Barnabas to launch out to brand new areas - places where there weren't any Christians at all. In whatever ways you call us to “new territory” in our lives, help us to listen and respond. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Romans 1:1, 6-7a (NIV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God -

⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails.

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INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul believed he was “called” by God to his ministry, and over and over again he tells Jesus followers that they have a calling as well. So have you been “called?” Do you know what your calling is? What can we learn from the Apostle Paul’s calling for our faith journey?

When we look at the life and missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul we learn a few things about God’s calling in our life. Our primary calling is to follow Jesus, but we are also called to be an encourager for others, to live a life that’s pleasing to God in your body and in your secret thoughts, and, finally, to practice agape love toward other people. And if you do that, you will find that your calling fills you with joy and life.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you like the best about the season of fall/autumn?
2. Are the good things you do an effort to impress God and earn salvation, or a response to God’s grace and forgiveness changing your life?
3. Do you ever struggle to accept believers in Jesus from a different ethnic or denominational background?
4. How good are you at going to unknown territory (physical or mental) if that’s what it takes to carry out God’s mission?
5. How can learning about faiths and cultures other than your own allow you to create conversation rather than condemnation?

FINAL APPLICATION

How can you practice *agape* love toward others this week?