



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

God's plan
for Paul's
life

Called to
serve

Paul: A
living
sacrifice

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2017

September

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Session 1: God's plan for Paul's life

1. In what ways did God prepare Paul for his future mission as an apostle of Christ?

2. As you look back on your life, do you see God preparing you? Is there an example in particular that stands out that you can share?

3. How could this idea of preparation for future purposes change your thoughts on difficult and trying circumstances?

4. Are there any skills you've learned that you thought you'd never have the opportunity to use? Can you think of any ways you could employ those skills to further the work of God?

5. *Paul was already a disciple of God before his conversion.* What do you make of this statement? Can Paul really have been a disciple of God even as he persecuted Christians?

6. God has a plan for each one of us. What does this tell you about Him?

7. How can you discover what your purpose is in God's plan?

8. Why must we be aware of and respect that God is also preparing others in their journey?

Bible References

Acts 22:3, 25

Philippians 3:4-6

Acts 18:1-3

Session 2: Called to serve

1. When have you been able to see something from a new perspective? What led to that change?

2. How was Paul transformed through his encounter with Jesus?

3. Paul's encounter with Jesus was the starting point of his transformation and conversion. How have your encounters with Jesus transformed you?

4. Why does God not expect us to be perfect in order to fulfill His will?

5. Ananias knew that Paul persecuted Christians, but served him anyways. How can we demonstrate a Christian spirit as Ananias did towards Paul?

6. Have you ever felt like you have nothing to offer God and His work? How were you able to work past that feeling? If you haven't, how does Paul's story encourage you?

7. Just as Paul was called to share the true gospel, so are we. What are some ways for you to grow in your knowledge of the true gospel and assure it is on the tip of your tongue when encountering those who are in need of His help?

8. Do you see that coming close to Christ is not merely a one-time decision, but a lifelong journey? How can you continually learn and seek His will and surrender yourself to Him?

Bible References

Acts 9

Galatians 1:12

Session 3: Paul: A living sacrifice

1. How was Paul a living sacrifice to God? What did his sacrifices demonstrate to those around him? What do they demonstrate to us?

2. *Paul surrendered his life to the gospel of Christ.* Do you feel you have surrendered your life to the teachings of the gospel? Is surrendering your life to Jesus the same as following Him?

3. How is it possible to stand up to the influences of our time, and what society deems as acceptable, and remain a faithful follower of Jesus?

4. Have you ever acted out of guilt? How did it make you feel? Why should our sacrifices to God be made out of thanksgiving, not guilt?

5. What old traditions have you found it hard to let go of in exchange for the newness that the Holy Spirit leads us to?

6. *Paul's goals, his measurement of success, his self-worth, his happiness, and his fulfillment were not impacted by earthly influences.* What does this quote from the video mean to you? How could you apply it to your life?

7. What are some of the things a person might have to sacrifice in order to follow and be a witness of Jesus Christ? What have you sacrificed as part of your following? How can you help others understand why, as disciples of Christ, we have to be willing to sacrifice those things that separate us from the will of God?

8. Paul drew confidence from the saving power of God. Where do you find conviction for your faith? Is there a specific Bible verse you turn to? (If you don't have one, perhaps take time in the next week to search for one.)

Bible References

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| Romans 12:1-2 NRSV | John 16:33 |
| Romans 1:16 NIV | 2 Timothy 4:7 |