

Paul takes the message of salvation to the “ends of the earth”

Paul’s three missionary journeys

Paul’s obedience to bring the gospel to all people

Our obedience to continue the journey

Discussion Questions:

1. One message that Paul brought as he proclaimed the gospel is that heaven is our true home and, in Christ, our resurrection is sure. How does a daily awareness that heaven awaits all those who have faith in Jesus bring hope, encouragement, and confidence to live for God today?
2. As Paul preached the message of Jesus, he faced spiritual attack (Acts 13:1-12, 16:16-34). What form did these battles take? What spiritual battles might we face as we seek to bring the message and hope of Jesus to our world? How can we resist and overcome?
3. As the early church connected the dots and began spreading the life-saving message of Jesus, the truth of the gospel was declared again and again. What is the heartbeat of the gospel in each of these presentations:
 - As Paul preached to the people in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:13-39)
 - As Paul wrote to the church at Rome (Romans 1:1`6-17, Romans 3-6)If a close friend or family member came to you and said, “I have watched your life and listened to your words and I want what you have. What must I believe and do to be saved?” what would you share with them?
4. Paul and his companions not only face spiritual attack but also resistance from the religious and business communities (Acts 19:8-10, 23-41). How did they face both while they ministered in Ephesus? What are some ways we might face the same sort of resistance as we follow Jesus today?
5. As Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth, he addressed the problem of division in the church (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:1-11). What was the issue there and how can the church today guard against similar assaults by Satan?
6. The church is a body, and every member is a specific part with a specific function (1 Corinthians 12). What is one spiritual gift God has given you and how are you developing it and using it for his glory?
7. Which of the “fruit of the Spirit” that Paul listed (Galatians 5:22-23) do you desire to see grow in your life?
8. One of the great blessings of receiving Jesus is that we become children of God (Romans 8:14-17). 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?

Homework: In this chapter of The Story we are called to avoid being shaped into the image of the world and its patterns. Identify one way you are letting the world squeeze you into its mold and commit to break free. You might even want to contact a friend this week and ask them to pray for you and keep you accountable in this area.

For next week, read Chapter 30 of The Story (Acts 20-23, 27-28; Ephesians 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4).