

Disciple Series Week 6 Readings

Day 1

This week our daily devotions are taken from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: Paul Tells of His Past Life (Acts 22:1-5)

Paul said, "Brothers and fathers, listen to what I have to say to you." When they heard him speak to them in their own language, they stopped making noise. Then he said, "I am a Jew. I was born in the city of Tarsus in the country of Cilicia. When I was a young man, I lived here in Jerusalem. I went to Gamaliel's school and learned all about the Law of our early fathers. I worked hard for God as you all do today. "I worked hard and killed men and women who believed as I believe today. I put them in chains and sent them to prison. The head religious leader and the leaders of the people can tell you this is true. I got letters from them to take to our Jewish brothers in the city of Damascus. I was going there to put the Christians in chains and bring them to Jerusalem where they would be beaten.

Reflect: What was Paul like before he met Jesus?

Do: Think of what you were like before you met Jesus. How do you identify with Paul before he met Jesus?

Pray: Spend time thanking God for moving towards you even though you did not deserve it.

Day 2

Here is today's devotion from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: The Change in Paul's Life on the Damascus Road (Acts 22:6-16)

"I was near Damascus. All at once, about noon, I saw a bright light from heaven shining around me. I fell to the ground. A voice said to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you work so hard against Me?' I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, the One you are working against.' Those who were with me saw the light. But they did not hear Him speaking to me. I asked, 'Lord, what should I do?' The Lord said to me, 'Get up! Go to Damascus. You will be told what to do there.' "I could not see because of the bright light. Those who were with me had to lead me by the hand until we came to Damascus. Ananias lived there. He obeyed the Law and was respected by all the Jews. He came and stood near me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' At once I was able to see him. Then Ananias said, 'The God of our fathers chose you to know what He wants done. He chose you to see Jesus Christ, the One Right with God, and to hear His voice. You are to tell all men what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up! Be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on His name.'

Reflect: How do you think Paul's encounter with Jesus impacted his life?

Do: Think of, or write down, three things that happened when you became a follower of Jesus and three things that have changed in your life since then.

Pray: Thank God for what he has done in your life.

Day 3

Here is the next devotion from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: Paul Is Called to Work with the People Who Are Not Jews (Acts 22:17-23)

"I came back to Jerusalem. When I was praying in the house of God, I had a dream. I saw Him as He said to me, 'Get out of Jerusalem! They will not listen to you when you tell them about Me!' I said, 'Lord, they know I took Christians out of every Jewish place of worship. I had them beaten and put in prison. Also when Stephen was killed, I stood there and watched them throw stones at him. Those who threw the stones had me watch their coats.' The Lord said to me, 'Go! I will send you far away to the people who are not Jews.' " They listened to him until he said that. Then they all cried out with loud voices, "Kill him! Take such a man from the earth! He should not live!" They kept on calling out. Then they pulled off their coats and threw dust in the air.

Reflect: What did God call Paul to do once he became a follower of Jesus?

Do: Think of someone in your class at school that God is calling you to reach and Take the RISK:

(1) **Relationships** - build a real relationship with them.

(2) **Invest for impact** – you can do this through our words, works or wonders.

(3) **Share the Gospel** – Find a natural way to share the GOSPEL with them: **God** created us to be with him.

Our sins separate us from God. **Sins** cannot be removed by good deeds. **Paying** the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. **Everyone** who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. **Life** with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

(4) **Walk** with them – help them understand who God is and what they can become through Jesus.

Pray: Ask God to give you wisdom to identify and reach your Just One for Jesus.

Day 4

Here is the next devotion from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: Paul Tells His Story (Acts 26:9-18)

Before Paul Met Jesus:

9-11 "I used to think I should work hard against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. I did that in Jerusalem. I put many of the followers in prison. The head religious leaders gave me the right and the power to do it. Then when the followers were killed, I said it was all right. I beat them and tried to make them speak against God in all the Jewish places of worship. In my fight against them, I kept going after them even into cities in other countries.

When Paul Met Jesus:

12-15 "When I was going to Damascus to do this, I had the right and the power from the head religious leaders to make it hard for the followers. I was on the road at noon. King Agrippa, I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun. It was shining around me and the men with me. We all fell to the ground. Then I heard a voice speaking to me in the Jewish language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you working so hard against Me? You hurt yourself by trying to hurt Me.' I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, the One you are working against.

After Paul Met Jesus:

16-18 Get up. Stand on your feet. I have chosen you to work for Me. You will tell what you have seen and you will say what I want you to say. This is the reason I have allowed you to see Me. I will keep you safe from the Jews and from the people who are not Jews. I am sending you to these people. You are to open their eyes. You are to turn them from darkness to light. You are to turn them from the power of Satan to the power of God. In this way, they may have their sins forgiven. They may have what is given to them, along with all those who are set apart for God by having faith in Me.'

Reflect: What did God call Paul to do once he became a follower of Jesus?

Do: Write out your personal testimony using the outline that Paul used for his testimony:

- (1) Briefly describe your life before you met Jesus.
- (2) Explain how you come to give your life to Jesus.
- (3) Describe the change that Jesus has made in your life.

Pray: Ask God to give you courage to share your testimony with your Just One at school tomorrow.

Day 5

Here is the next devotion from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: Paul and Barnabas Preach in Iconium (Acts 14:1-5)

In the city of Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish place of worship. They preached with power and many people became Christians. These people were Jews and Greeks. But the Jews who did not want to believe worked against those who were not Jews. They made them turn against the Christians. Paul and Barnabas stayed there a long time preaching with the strength the Lord gave. God helped them to do powerful works when they preached which showed He was with them. The people of the city were divided. Some were on the side of the Jews. Some were on the side of the missionaries. All the people and the leaders tried to hurt them and throw stones at them.

Reflect: What happened when Paul preached the gospel?

Do: What responses have you had from people when you have told them you are a Christian or you have shared the gospel with them? How did you respond to each response?

Pray: Ask God to give you the ability to handle both positive and negative responses when you share the gospel with your friends.

Day 6

Here is the next devotion from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: Paul and Barnabas on a Mission Trip (Acts 14:20-28)

As the Christians gathered around Paul, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he went with Barnabas to Derbe. In that city they preached the Good News and taught many people. Then they returned to the cities of Lystra and Iconium and Antioch. In each city they helped the Christians to be strong and true to the faith. They told them, "We must suffer many hard things to get into the holy nation of God." In every church they chose leaders for them. They went without food during that time so they could pray better. Paul and Barnabas prayed for the leaders, giving them over to the Lord in Whom they believed. When they had gone through the city of Pisidia, they came to the city of Pamphylia. Then they preached the Good News in the city of Perga. After this they went down to the city of Attalia. From there they went by ship to Antioch where they had been given to the Lord for His work. The work of this trip was done. When they got there, they called the church together. They told them everything God had done for them. They told how God had opened the door for the people who were not Jews to have faith. They stayed there with the followers a long time.

Reflect: What were some of the highlights of the mission trip that Paul went on?

Do: Think about the pledge you made on Sunday to do a Ten Days Youth Mission before you graduate from high school. Make a conscious decision to do a mission during your high school years and look for an opportunity in the coming years.

Pray: Ask God to help you fulfil your pledge to go on mission trips during your high school years.

Day 7

Here is the final devotion from the life of Paul. Read the passage, reflect, do the exercise and end your time of devotions in prayer.

Read: Paul Is Called to Macedonia in a Dream (Acts 16:6-10)

They went through the countries of Phrygia and Galatia. The Holy Spirit kept them from preaching the Word of God in the countries of Asia. When they came to the city of Mysia, they tried to go on to the city of Bithynia but the Holy Spirit would not let them go. From Mysia they went down to the city of Troas. That night Paul had a dream. A man was standing in front of him crying out, "Come over to the country of Macedonia and help us!" After he had seen this, we agreed that God told us to go to Macedonia to tell them the Good News.

Reflect: How did Paul decide where to go on his next mission trip?

Do: Spend time in prayer asking God to give you a "Macedonian-call" – and give you a burden for a specific place our country to visit on a mission trip.

Pray: Ask God to help you visit that specific place on a Mission trip.