



## PAUL'S JOURNEY – PART 1: SINGLE-MINDED

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### WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **I Believe** (*Phil Wickham*)
- **Faithful And True** (*New Life Worship*)
- **I've Witnessed It** (*Passion*)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Acts 22:3
- Acts 26:5, 9-11, 12-16
- Acts 9:19-20, 22
- Philippians 3:5-6
- 1 Timothy 1:13

### OPENING QUESTION

Share about a time when you were passionate about something, only to realize later you might have been misguided. What did you learn from that experience?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Paul was zealous for God but initially worked against Him due to misunderstanding.
2. We must be careful to separate our love for God from our human traditions.
3. Jesus redefines who we are and who we live for.
4. Our identity in Christ supersedes all other identities and labels.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How can someone be zealous for God yet still work against His purposes? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?
2. The sermon mentions that Paul couldn't "clearly recognize God in the flesh." What are some ways we might miss seeing God at work in our lives today?
3. Discuss the statement: "We have to be careful to separate our love for God from our human traditions." What are some traditions in your life or church that you hold dear? How can you ensure these don't overshadow your relationship with God?
4. How has your encounter with Jesus redefined your identity? Share personal experiences.
5. The sermon states, "Whatever I used to be in this world is suddenly and ultimately secondary in the light of his greatness." How does this challenge or encourage you?
6. Reflect on Paul's manifesto in Philippians 3:8-11. What stands out to you most in this passage?

## **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

1. This week, take time to examine your own "pedigree" or background. Are there any aspects of your identity that you've allowed to become more important than your identity in Christ?
2. Practice introducing yourself to others (even if just in your mind) by leading with your identity in Christ rather than other labels or achievements.
3. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal any areas where you might be zealous but misguided, like Paul was before his encounter with Jesus.
4. Choose one way you can "follow His voice today" and share your story of God's goodness with someone this week.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, like Paul, we want to consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing You. Help us to find our true identity in You, to follow Your voice daily, and to share the story of Your goodness with others. Redefine our lives according to Your purposes. Amen.