

DISCUSSION GUIDE

PAUL
Colossians — Week 1

ICEBREAKER: Do you remember jokes very well? What's the best joke you've heard recently?

OVERVIEW: We need examples of the fully devoted Christian life. It is not enough just to know what to believe and how to live. We need to see how other people before us have carried out the teachings of Christianity in real life. There is no better example than the apostle Paul, the author of Colossians. This week we are looking at Paul's life for instruction and inspiration to better serve our Lord.

1. Read Colossians 1:1-2. What insight, principle, or observation from this week-end's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is the apostle Paul's background – his life before Christ? How did Paul become a Christian? What was Paul's life like after his conversion?
3. What can we learn about God's power to save from the life of Paul?
4. Colossians 1:1 identifies Paul as an apostle of Jesus Christ? What is an apostle? How are all Christians "apostles"?
5. Colossians 1:1 identifies Paul as an apostle by God's will. Read Romans 12:1-2. What are the characteristics of God's will? How can we know God's will? What is God's will for you?

6. Colossians 1:1 identifies Timothy as "our brother," a reference to the familial relationship shared by all Christians. How are Christians brothers and sisters? What are the benefits of our adoption in Christ? What are the responsibilities of our adoption in Christ?
7. Paul experienced tremendous hardship after his conversion to Christianity. What can we learn about facing adversity from Paul's life?
8. Read Acts 9:20. What can we learn about serving God from Paul's example?
9. Read Acts 20:24. What was Paul's purpose in life? How does Paul's attitude inspire you?
10. Paul set a great example of Christian devotion? What kind of example are you setting for the people who are watching you?

The Last Word: "Even though Paul was in jail, he still found ways to serve the Lord — like writing the letter of Colossians. Instead of letting adversity sideline you from ministry, ask God to give you the strength to keep serving no matter what."