

## Reading Tracks

### TRACK ONE

*Follow along with basics of the story in a short selection of readings this week..*

Monday: Acts 9: 1-31

Tuesday: Acts 13

Wednesday: Acts 15:36-16:40

Thursday: Acts 17:16-34

Friday: Acts 18:18-19:41

Saturday: Acts 27:27-Acts 28:16

### TRACK TWO

*Get a little bigger perspective by reading assigned sections from The Story © 2011 by Zondervan.*

Read pages 399-401, 407-423, 437, and 439-458 this week.

### TRACK THREE

*Get the whole story by reading through most of the Bible in longer sections.*

In your Bible, read Acts 16-28 this week.

## This Week's Scripture Memory Verse

"We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors, he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus" Acts 13: 32-33a NIV

## Next Week in Worship

**Next Week's Message:** *The Mission*

**Next Week's Readings:** Matthew 28: 18-20

Today we celebrate what God is doing all around the world, and disciples are made of all nations. Particularly today, we celebrate the work God is doing with our mission partner, Mission of Hope in Haiti.



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# Group Discussion

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## Connect

Paul was a Roman citizen by birth, Jewish by ethnicity, Christian by faith. Each of these identities helped him to know different groups of people and speak to them of Jesus. What different circles of identity make up who you are? Share them with the group.

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## Learn

**Read Acts 9: 1-9.** The opposite of hate is not love, but indifference. Paul became as passionate a follower of Jesus, as he had been against him.

- What are you passionate about? How can God use that passion to bless the world?
- In places where the church is under persecution, visions of Jesus still account for a large number of conversions today. Why might God work this way more in some places?

**Read 1 Timothy 1:14-16.** Knowing that he had once truly hurt the church of Jesus, it must have been hard for Paul to forgive himself. If Jesus can forgive Paul for physically oppressing his people, and use his life to bless the church many times more than he hurt it originally, what does this say about what God can do in our lives?

Paul's missionary works didn't happen with just him alone.

- Ananias: **Acts 9: 10-19.** What did Ananias risk in helping Paul? If Ananias had not been obedient to God, how would this story have gone differently?
- Barnabas: **Acts 9: 26-31.** What did Barnabas risk in helping Paul? If he had not done this, how might the story have gone differently?
- Peter: **Galatians 2:8-9.** In recognizing that Paul had been given a different calling, how did Peter help encourage the growth of the church? What did he risk in doing this?

In your own life, have you functioned for another person like an Ananias—taking a risk to help someone you might not have trusted simply to honor the Lord?

- Have you been a Barnabas—an encourager—to help someone fit in?
  - Have you been a Peter—to recognize gifts that are unlike yours that can bless the church?
  - Have you been Paul—sharing the passion of your faith?
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## Apply

In 1 Corinthians 9: 21-23 Paul says that he became all things to all people, to be able to speak to them the truth of Christ in a way they could hear it.

In the calling of the great commission Jesus gave us to make disciples of all nations, each of us are sent on our own missionary journeys to those around us. How can God use you to bless those around you today using what you know of your own culture's needs to show the love of Jesus?

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## Pray

At one time Paul was very much wrapped up in people like himself, but when he learned that Jesus came to be Lord of all nations, his imagination grew!

Pray today for the new churches and growing churches of people in:

Guinea, West Africa, Leveque, Haiti, China, India, Sudan, the Spanish Speaking Church which has been meeting in our building through Holy week, the new mission start in Hugo, Minnesota.