

Life Notes

MISSION JH | April 28/29

Day 1 - Paul's Start...



READ: Acts 8:1-3 & Acts 9:1-2. Paul's life at this time was not in a place where you would expect him to wind up a hero. He was a bad dude... but our God is an amazing God with plans beyond what we can imagine.

LOOK: Know that no matter where you are in your life, God can use you to impact people around you in an amazing way.

JOURNAL: The early church faced a lot of persecution. Did you know that there are Christians today who are persecuted. What do you think that is like?

Day 2 - A "New Creation"

READ: Acts 9:1-19 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Saul - who became Paul - had his world rocked by God. It would be easy to look at Paul as a lost cause, destined to torment Christians forever, but God miraculously shifted his life direction. Paul says that in Christ we are a 'New Creation'. He was speaking from experience!

LOOK: While your Jesus moment likely didn't include blindness, you are also a "new creation". Look for ways that your life looks different today than it did before God.

JOURNAL: How do you think your life would look today if you didn't have a relationship with God? Do you feel like a 'new creation'? Why or why not..

Day 3 - Defined by God

READ: Galatians 1:13-16 No matter what you have done or where your life was - God can use you! Your sin and your past do not have to define who you are - but God can use them to define who HE is!

LOOK: How can your life be used to glorify God? Look for 'Paul's in your life... people who are using the story of their tough past to point others to God...

JOURNAL: Who are the people that you thought of who are using their story for God? Why do they stand out to you?

Day 4 - Near to God

READ: Ephesians 1:15-23 and 2:13. God brought Paul to a place where his life changed - and Paul entered into a relationship with Jesus. He spent time with him. He prayed. He thanked Him for blessings. He asked Him for help. He loved Jesus with his whole heart.

LOOK: Find chances throughout your day to say prayers of thanksgiving or guidance or asking.

JOURNAL: Imagine what Paul's life would have looked like if the moment on the road to Damascus was his only encounter with God. If that moment was the only time he spoke to God or prayed or asked for guidance. Describe that life...

Day 5 - Don't Give Up On Anyone!

READ: Paul started as an enemy of the church. A vicious persecutor. What does Jesus say to do for our enemies? Read Matthew 5:43-48. Every person, no matter how terrible they may seem, is in God's hands. God may be planning on using their story some day to bring others near to Him.

LOOK: Can you think of someone in your life who seems so far 'gone' that they are beyond any help? Pray for them - remembering that no-one is beyond God's help.

JOURNAL: Jesus doesn't just ask us to pray for our enemies, but to love them. How different is your prayer for someone you love compared to someone you don't love? How do you think Ananias felt when Paul showed up on his doorstep?

Talk about it...

Questions & topics for conversation with your leaders, family & friends...

- Discuss Christian persecution in today's world. Pray together about this.
- Discuss being a 'New Creation'. How different is your life than what it would be without this heart change.
- What is it like to pray for your enemies? What things would you ask God for them?
- What does it mean to you to be near to God - what do you do - or need to do - to be close to God?
- Was there a time recently that you needed God but felt like He didn't show up for you?
- Was there a time recently that God really showed up for you and you felt His presence or guidance?

Contact Information

If you have questions or would like someone to talk to this week, email Josh at joshb@mission68.org. We would also love to hear your story - what are you learning and how are you growing closer to God and your MISSION family? Let us know by sharing with your leaders or emailing Josh.

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