



LORDSHIP GENEROSITY

LEARNER GUIDE | SESSION 5

Stewarding Our Story



SESSION IN A SENTENCE If we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we have a story to share.

BIBLE BACKGROUND Some could conclude that Paul was one of the greatest missionaries of all time. He did not, however, start out as a faithful follower of Jesus. Instead, he actively and consistently persecuted those who followed Jesus. His life radically changed when he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saved by Jesus, the Apostle Paul's life was radically changed which led him to no longer persecute Christians, but instead he proclaimed the message of salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TODAY We all tend to tell stories. We remember when we were little children and had a special vacation or family holiday. Sometimes we find someone who has not heard our story, and we share it with fondness. If someone is a follower of Jesus, then that person has a story to share as well. Our story may not center around a summer trip to the beach, but it will focus on our journey with Christ and others. Paul, who wrote a large portion of the New Testament, had a story to share about he became a follower of Jesus. His story is much like our stories in that our faith stories describe our lives before coming to faith in Jesus, when and how we came to know Jesus, and how our lives have been changed since we became Christ followers. Today's study will focus on Paul's story so that we can better steward opportunities to share our own story with others.

Acts 26:4-23

⁴ “All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. ⁵ They have known me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now I stand on trial because of the hope in what God promised to our ancestors, ⁷ the promise our twelve tribes hope to reach as they earnestly serve him night and day. King Agrippa, I am being accused by the Jews because of this hope. ⁸ Why do any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? ⁹ In fact, I myself was convinced that it was necessary to do many things in opposition to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ I actually did this in Jerusalem, and I locked up many of the saints in prison, since I had received authority for that from the chief priests. When they were put to death, I was in agreement against them. ¹¹ In all the synagogues I often punished them and tried to make them blaspheme. Since I was terribly enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

¹² “I was traveling to Damascus under these circumstances with authority and a commission from the chief priests. ¹³ King Agrippa, while on the road at midday, I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun, shining around me and those traveling with me. ¹⁴ We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice speaking to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

¹⁵ “I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“And the Lord replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹ “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. ²⁰ Instead, I preached to those in Damascus first, and to those in Jerusalem and in all the region of Judea, and to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works worthy of repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and were trying to kill me. ²² To this very day, I have had help from God, and I stand and testify to both small and great, saying nothing other than what the prophets and Moses said would take place — ²³ that the Messiah would suffer, and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light to our people and to the Gentiles.”

POINT 1: A LIFE

CHRIST

(vv. 4-11)

POINT 3: A LIFE

CHRIST

(vv. 19-23)

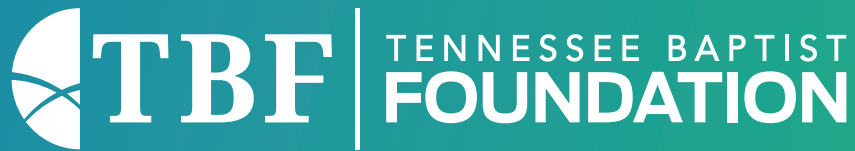
POINT 2: AN

WITH CHRIST

(vv. 12-18)

MY NEXT STEPS

- 1. Start your story** – Before we can steward our story of a changed life, we need to be like Paul and start our story of a journey with Christ. If you do not have a story to steward, is it because you have not reached the point of acknowledging Jesus as Lord and Savior? Do not worry, you are in good company. Paul was the same way. If this is you and you want to start a story, then call out to Jesus and ask Him to save you. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins and be the Lord of your life.
- 2. Ask God to place someone in your path** – Maybe you identify with Paul later in his story in which he shared the gospel message with people he encountered. If this is you, take time this week to ask God to place someone in your path with whom you can share your story. Tell God that you want to steward your story well; call out to Him to help you with this.
- 3. Thank God for your story** – God does not need us, but He does allow us to represent Him. One way that we can represent Him is by stewarding the stories that He has given us. Take time this week to thank Him for giving you a story to steward. Ask Him for the faith needed to steward your story well.



TODAY'S PLANS.
TOMORROW'S IMPACT.

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