

Galatians 1:11-24

Launch:

Have your group participate in a contest of storytelling. The object of the game is simple: tell the best story. Give a random, ridiculous topic to each person who wants to participate. Topics can be anything you would like, but here are a few ideas:

- the time I wrestled a bear
- flying helicopters is harder than you might think
- Bananas: the ultimate weapon

Topics are crazy and ridiculous. The only rule for this story is keep it appropriate. Just have fun and have the class vote on the best story.

As humans, we are drawn to the power of stories. Whether it's a goofy story about a trip with friends, a fictional story that engages the mind, or thought-provoking story that makes us engage with truth, we love stories of all kinds. As Christians, one of the most powerful ways we can share the gospel with others is to tell our salvation story. In this passage, Paul shares the story of God's incredible work in his life so that others might come to Christ as well.

Highlight: Which verse spoke to you this week?

Explain:

In this passage, Paul continues speak the truth of the gospel. He reiterates his established theme that there is no other gospel besides the gospel of Jesus Christ. In verse 11, he makes that statement that he is not preaching man's gospel because it was not given to him by a man. He reflects on his former life as a persecutor of Christians as well as his miraculous conversion on the road to Damascus (This story can be found in Acts 9). Verse 15 talks about Paul's calling both to salvation and to ministry. The important word in the verse is grace. It is only because of the grace of God that we can have salvation. We do not deserve His grace, yet He loves us so much that He gives it to us anyway. Not only does He give grace, but He takes great pleasure in revealing His Son to those He has set apart before birth as described in verses 15-16. So what is

the point of what Paul is saying in the context of this letter? He is talking about the power of his testimony and subsequently the power of the one true gospel. When we look at the life of Paul, we can see a dramatic shift in every aspect of his life. He went from persecuting Christians to leading them. He went from being comfortable to being persecuted. When the gospel was revealed to Him, there was no looking back. This is the power of the gospel. If you have experienced the gospel, then this should describe you as well. This story of life change is incredibly powerful. Just as Paul used his story to encourage the Galatian church and share Christ with others, we should utilize the power of our story to further the Kingdom of God.

Apply:

1. Have you ever been very passionate about something and then realized you are completely wrong? What was your reaction to this situation? How did you correct yourself?
2. Paul uses his story in this passage to help explain God's story. How can you use your story to do this same thing?
3. How can you become more invested in getting to know God and his Word better so you will be better equipped to share His gospel?
4. How does God glorify Himself in your life? What steps can you take in the way you live your life so He is glorified more?