



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 1:**  
**"Let Me Introduce You to Paul"**  
**Community Group Study Questions**

**Acts 22:3-5, 27-28; 23:6; Galatians 1:14 (Acts 5:34); Acts 26:4-5, 9-11**

1. Paul was born into a life of privilege not only as a Roman citizen (Acts 22:27-28), but more specifically as a young Jewish man. As you think about some of the benefits that he enjoyed (Philippians 3:3-6), why is it difficult for people who experience worldly success and privilege to be used by God for the purposes of advancing His Kingdom?
  
2. Now imagine Paul's upbringing as a devout Jewish boy (Acts 23:6). How might his life experience been different from others because of his elite Jewish upbringing? What circumstances in your life have made you feel different or alienated from your peers?
  
3. Noting Acts 5:34ff, what was the significance of Paul's being educated by Gamaliel (cf. Acts 22:3)? Do you think it's harder for highly educated people to believe in Christ? Why or why not? Do you know any highly intelligent people who have become Christians in college or later in life?
  
4. Considering Galatians 1:14, who are the most passionate people that you know (non-Christians or Christians)? Do you admire them? Why is it often difficult for non-Christians of passionate conviction to come to Christ? Do you know any passionate people who have become Christians later in life? If so, describe some of their story.

5. Just as Paul had great "confidence in the flesh" (*Philippians 3:4*) when he thought of his past, how are you finding confidence, significance, or identity in the things of your past that have brought you significant success? How might this be hindering you from being fully used by God in the present?
  
6. What experiences have you undergone in your life that, even as you look back, seem to have absolutely no meaning or value? What does *Romans 8:28* tell us about our experiences if we are believers? The life of Paul tells us that "no experience is too \_\_\_\_\_ for God to use."
  
7. Read *1 Timothy 1:12-16*. Based on God's abundant grace, what was Paul's perspective on his present in light of his past? Why do you think he still considered himself to be the "foremost" of sinners (*1 Timothy 1:15*)? Do you recognize your own sinfulness? Have you accepted God's abundant grace that gives you a significant purpose in the present and an incredible hope in the future?

**Memory Verse:**

***"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."  
(Romans 8:28, NIV)***