



LESSON 1: BE INTENTIONAL

(K to 2nd) Small Group or SS Discussion

Discussion Questions:

1. What religion did Paul's family follow when he was growing up?
 - A. Judaism (He was Jewish)
2. What important job did Paul's father have?
 - A. Pharisee
3. Did Paul always follow Jesus and help Christians?
 - A. No (He approved the stoning of Stephen)
4. Where was Paul when he saw a flash of light and heard the voice of the Lord?
 - A. Damascus
5. Who did God call Paul to preach to?
 - A. The Gentiles

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to be INTENTIONAL like Paul.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving us people like Paul in the Bible to look up to. We pray that we can be intentional with our actions, Lord, and help others to know and love you. Guide us in our daily lives so that we are doing what you have called us to do. In Jesus name, Amen.



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Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.'"

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that wasn't what God had called him to do. Paul was **INTENTIONAL** about the people he preached to and what he preached about.

What does **INTENTIONAL** mean? (allow for answers) **INTENTIONAL** means something you do on purpose. You can be intentional about saying kind words to your siblings. You can be intentional about cleaning up after yourself. Or you can be intentional about reading your Bible every day. Well, Paul was **INTENTIONAL** with all of his actions.

Paul was new to the Christian lifestyle, but he knew that God had called him to preach to the Gentiles and bring them to the Lord. He knew that God wanted all people to know and love Jesus. But some of the apostles that lived at the time—some who even served with Jesus—treated the Gentiles differently than the Jewish Christians. Paul could have just kept quiet and let them be treated differently, but he knew God didn't want that.

Paul knew his purpose and he wasn't going to let anyone get in the way of that. He was **INTENTIONAL** about treating the Gentiles with respect, and even confronted Peter about it in Galatians 2:11-16, saying, “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law...”

Paul went on to do many amazing things and we look to him as an influential person. He was **INTENTIONAL** about his actions, and he didn't let anyone get in the way of his God-given purpose. This week, remember that you are a child of God. Be **INTENTIONAL** with your actions and you just might become a real “influencer.”

Memory Verse: “But the Lord said to Ananias, ‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.’”

Acts 9:15



Large Group Lesson

**After the skit*

So, what are your thoughts about Paul? Do you think he was an influencer? (allow for answers). What makes you think he influenced other people? (allow for answers) There were many reasons that Paul was influential. Let's look at some of those ideas.

First of all, he came from a very religious family. They were devout Jews. They took their religion very seriously. Paul's father was an important leader in the Jewish world, called a Pharisee. He was almost like a judge. So, when Paul and his family spoke, people listened.

In 2 TIMOTHY 1:3, Paul writes to his beloved friend Timothy about how much his heritage means to him. Even though he eventually became a Christian, he still had a connection to his ancestors.

Before he became a Christian, Paul used his influence for evil, approving of the stoning of Stephen, who was a follower of Christ. In ACTS 7:57-58 we see that those who were stoning Stephen laid their coats at the feet of Paul (Saul) He didn't do anything to stop this crime from happening. Why do you think the people laid their coats at Paul's feet? I think it's because they knew he was an important person. It's sort of like they were asking for his approval. And because he did nothing, they continued to stone him.

But, Paul soon found himself on the road to Damascus where his life would change drastically. In Acts 9, we see that Paul was on his way to gather up some of these unrighteous Jews who were preaching about Jesus, but as he traveled, he had an encounter with the Lord. He saw a flash of light from Heaven and fell the ground. The voice asked why he was persecuting him? Paul was scared and asked who was speaking. The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting...Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." It was there that a man named Ananias (who was called by the Lord) healed him. Paul was changed by this experience and became baptized.

It was long before Paul became a well-known teacher and preacher of the Gospel. While Paul had his amazing experiences to share with people, he was specifically called to preach to the Gentiles. This meant the people who were not born Jewish. Being a Jewish man himself, he could have easily stuck with the people he knew, but



Memory Verse Activity: Hand Motions

But the Lord said to Ananias,

Make an “L” with thumb and forefinger and bring it from shoulder to hip. Then make the sign for “a” in sign language (here’s what it looks like)

‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument

Use your thumb to point behind you. Then pretend to play a trumpet.

To proclaim my name

Hold both hands on the side of your face, like you’re shouting.

To the Gentiles and their kings

Spread your hands out and then pretend to place a crown on your head.

And to the people of Israel.’

Place your hand at different levels to mime different heights.

Acts

Make the sign for the letter “a”

[here’s what it looks like](https://www.signingtime.com/dictionary/aa/) - <https://www.signingtime.com/dictionary/aa/>

9:15

Make each number with your fingers (ie. Nine fingers, one, five)