

## LG 10: Paul's story and our story Acts 21:37- 22:21

**Objectives:** We want to have each person contemplate his or her own journey with God and take steps to write out his or her own story. We want each person to share his or her story with one person this week.

### Launch

Last week we looked at the conversion of Saul. This week we want to look at how he used his story to communicate his faith to others. Since every person is on a spiritual journey we will learn where we each are on our journey and learn how to better communicate our reality with others.

### Explore

Paul shares his story of meeting Christ several times in the Bible. He shares it with churches that he planted (Galatians 1:13- 2:21; Philippians 3:2-11), to an angry crowd of Jews (Acts 21:37-22:21) and to kings (Acts 26).

**Why do you think he shares his story so much?**

**Why would we want to learn to share our story with others?** (it is one way we can fulfill Acts 1:8)

**Tonight we are going to look at how Paul shared his story with an angry, chaotic crowd that was seeking to kill him. Read Acts 21:37-22:21.**

**Paul's story follows a very basic structure that could apply to our story:**

Acts 22:1-5 He described what he thought and did **before** he became a follower of Jesus.

Acts 22:6-16 Paul explains **how** he became a follower of Jesus.

Acts 22:17-21 Paul explains how following Jesus has changed his life.

In essence he includes life before Christ, how he came to Christ, and life after he came to Christ.

The rest of our time, we are going to work on our own story. Every one of us is on a journey to God. If you are not a follower of Christ, your story will be loaded heavily on the "before" section. If you have been a follower since you were young, you will have a stronger emphasis on the "after" part.

Break into pairs for the rest of the time. We will help each other write our stories.

Give each person a story worksheet. Allow them a few minutes to think on their own, then give them each a few minutes to answer each question with their partner. The leader will want to keep people moving to the next question after 6 or 7 minutes.

### OPTIONAL

*For action groups where people have a "basic" testimony prepared.*

- *Modify your testimony by preparing it for a specific target audience (options include: a church non believer, a classroom setting, a person who knows nothing of Christianity, a person that has been burned by Christians, an atheist, etc...)*

If you have time, you can allow a person or two to share their story.

Try to diffuse any pressure people feel to make their stories "perfect" or eloquent. Life is messy, so are our stories. These are just a first pass so that they are able to share in the future. They don't have to be "REAL LIFE"-ready!

### Apply

- Allow a minute of silent prayer for each person to ask God who they should share their story with this week.
- Pray that God would open a door so they can share their story this week.
- Figure out how you can encourage each other to share your story this week.

### Announcements (5 minutes)

