



Week 11 | November 25 Sermon

Community:

If you haven't finalized your GROUP plans for Advent, take some time to do that. Remember, there will not be a discussion guide provided during that season, which begins on Sunday, December 2, so this is the last guide until after Christmas. Of course, sermons will still be preached so you could continue your discussion of them. Other options include, but are not limited to:

Do an Advent specific study/devotional

There will be some new options for this in the GROUPS resource library in room 100 in the next week!

Another recommendation would be to choose a daily online reading plan as a group to discuss when you are together. Examples of these can be found on the YouVersion or She Reads Truth/He Reads Truth apps.

Serve together

Gather socially and for the purpose of celebration

Take a break if needed/desired

Any combination of these!

Share about your Thanksgiving experiences together. Celebrate the good, empathize with the bad and encourage one another always.

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

GROUPS

Sermon Title: Meet Paul, The Greatest Missionary of all Time | Text: Acts 9

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Share some stories of missionary and/or missions trip memories.

In what ways did Saul's early years unknowingly prepare him for God's specific call? (Acts 9:15)

Can you think of ways that God unknowingly prepared you for a future ministry?

In the sanctuary, we talked about the two most powerful words in the English language, "Yes, Lord!" How do we see this theme play out in Acts 9 – both from Saul's perspective, and from Annanias' perspective?

Contemplative question: Am I living a "Yes, Lord" lifestyle??

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Coming into today's message, what existing thoughts or feelings did you have about Paul based on what you've read in his letters or what you've been previously learned about him?

Tom observed that the "ministry" of the gospel was becoming more and more "decentralized." Can you think of some examples of this from what we've already read and studied in Acts?

Are you, or have you ever known, a person who went from an antagonist of Christ to an advocate of Christ like Paul did? Feel free to share.

Read Matthew 5:43-48. What part does Jesus' instruction play in our personal ministry to others? Who would you list as "enemies" you personally know who are antagonistic towards you and/or Jesus? Are you willing to pray for that person daily?

Tom made the point that Paul's personality was uniquely suited for the ministry to which he was called. What kinds of "ministry" would you say your own personality is best suited for? If you're not sure, would you be willing to let others in your group who know you give you their thoughts and ideas?

