

# THE STORY OF YOU

## Week 6 - Your Future (Part 2)

### THE MAIN POINT

The past five weeks we have dug deep into who we have been, who we are, and who we want to become. This final week we want to show you what we believe is the best and most fulfilling future possible. We want to share with you what gives us the love, joy, and community we need to truly live life to its fullest.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Rules to Newly Friend Game
- Small dry erase boards or multiple pieces of paper and markers
- Snacks

### GETTING STARTED

Begin by welcoming everyone to your small group. Go around and have everyone say their highs for the week and share their ultimate dream vacation.

Were you all able to think of a friend who you believe would help you be a better person? Who was it?

Make sure that everyone has at least met one another and learned each other's names. Share the

rules for small group and ask if everyone can agree to them. Same as previous weeks, challenge the students to recall the rules.

### **RULES FOR SMALL GROUP:**

**Commitment** - Commit to being at every group meeting (make it a priority!)

**Confidentiality** - What is shared here stays here.

**Be honest or be silent** - don't make up an answer just to have one. Sometimes the most honest answer is no answer, so if you need to, just say pass.

**Respect** - for one another, their thoughts/ideas/opinions (no put downs).

Today we are talking about the greatest future that we can imagine.

## ACTIVITY

### **The Newly Friend Game: (questions on attached paper)**

- Everyone partner up.
- Give everyone multiple pieces of paper and a marker or a dry erase board.
- Ask one partner from each pairing a question about their other partner. Example: What is your partner's favorite restaurant?
- Both partners answer, and you get a point for every time the answer the same.

## GOING DEEPER

### Paul's Story

So I have a confession to make. Over these last few weeks, we've been talking about a guy named Paul. What we didn't tell you is that Paul's story comes right from the Bible.

Read Acts 9:1-19, 26-31 NLT

As you can see, the people that Paul (also called Saul) was going after were followers of Jesus. The “freak accident” that made him go blind was actually Jesus trying to get his attention. He saw Jesus alive and in the flesh on that road and his life was never the same!

This is the beginning of Paul’s story that we talked about. However, this is not how it ends. There are so many more details of Paul’s life that we don’t have time to cover, but if you are interested, keep reading and learn how impactful he was. Paul not only became a follower of Jesus, he helped thousands upon thousands more people know Jesus. He went on to write most of the books in the New Testament in the Bible!

*(The following questions have the intention to help you share the Gospel with the students. Hopefully they set you up to share the Gospel with them. Make sure to clearly articulate the Gospel throughout the following questions.)*

1. What are parts of this story stuck out to you?
2. What changed Paul? *The correct answer here is not Barnabas. Jesus changed Paul, and Barnabas encouraged Paul in his walk with Jesus.*
3. Why was Paul changed by this encounter?

*Use this question to share the Gospel. Below are the high points of the Gospel. Share this in your own words, but make sure these elements are included.*

*The High Points of the Gospel:*

*God loves you and created you to have a personal relationship with him! (Psalm 139:13-14)*

*Even though God wants a relationship, we naturally resist him. Sin is our attitude of ignoring or resisting God. (Romans 3:23) Paul resisted God in many ways including attacking His followers. Only through Jesus, because of his death and resurrection, can our relationship with God be restored. (1 Peter 3:18) God offers us the opportunity for our sins to be forgiven and be given a whole new life just like Paul got a new life!*

*We personally choose to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. (John 1:12) It’s our decision. What will you decide?*

*A decision to follow Jesus beings a life-long journey. (Colossians 2:6)*

4. Read Acts 9:18 again. After we have an encounter with Jesus, how do the scales fall off of our eyes?
5. God showed up and blinded Paul in a miraculous way, which doesn’t always happen so

drastically. However, we believe that God is always there waiting for us. In your life, what are some ways you have noticed God showing up in your life?

6. After Paul encountered Jesus it was not easy for him and he wasn't accepted immediately. Are there any areas in your life that you would like to change for the better, but you are afraid that people still wouldn't accept you?

## TAKE AWAY

Throughout the last six weeks you have been learning more and more about your students. Take this last moment to share with each of them truth and strengths that you see in them. Make each one unique to the student. We want each student to leave feeling known and encouraged.

Today we want every student to leave knowing the Gospel and feeling known by the leader. We want them to have been able to process the Gospel and respond to it.

Maybe today you'd like to make a decision to follow Jesus just like Paul did. Maybe you'd like to experience His grace and forgiveness. If that's you, please join me in praying.

LEADERS:

This is not when the small group ends. Try to continue to meet with them and continue to process the Gospel and walk with them in whatever decision they made.