



PAUL: HAVING A HEART FOR OTHERS

KEY VERSE

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."¹ 1 Thessalonians 2:8

BIBLICAL BASIS

Matthew 18:20;
Luke 10:30-37;
Acts 4:36; 14:21,22;
1 Corinthians 13:4,8;
Galatians 2:1; 6:2;
Philippians 1:1-4;
1 Thessalonians 2:8,12;
1 Timothy 1:16;
Hebrews 10:24,25

THE BIG IDEA

The life of Paul was marked by his caring, sharing and encouragement of others. God is calling each of us to have that same servant's heart for others.

AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session, you will guide students to:

- Examine the life of Paul and his concern for others;
- Discover the hallmarks of a ministry of caring for others;
- Implement a lifestyle of caring, sharing and encouraging those around them.

WARM UP

Who Do You Listen To?—

A discussion and rating of those who have the most influence on students' lives.

TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE ADVENTURES OF MR. GOOD GUY AND MR. HAPPY TRAVELER—

Students perform a melodrama loosely based on the story of the Good Samaritan.

TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD—

Students develop case studies for a discussion about real-life situations.

IN THE WORD

VITAL SIGNS: HAVING A HEARTBEAT FOR OTHERS—

A Bible study examining Paul's concern for the spiritual and personal needs of others.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about caring for, sharing with and encouraging others.

PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss how to develop a servant's heart for the needs of others.

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LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

"Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also" (Galatians 2:1).

Barnabas was a partner with Paul. Titus was a disciple of Paul's. Both men spent much time with Paul as they worked together to further the gospel of Christ. A striking aspect of Paul's ministry is not only his preaching of love to others "Love is patient, love is kind,...love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4,8), but also the proof of his love. Paul's commitment to Christ compelled him to be compassionate. Both his words and his ways revealed his heart for others. If you want to know a person's heart, don't just listen, watch.

Youth ministry, as modeled by the ministry of Paul, is a business of "going with" and "taking along also." Barnabas was the man whom Paul was "going with." Barnabas was a land baron who valued God's work more than his own worth (see Acts 4:36). He donated his money, his time and his heart to God's work in partnership with Paul. Who is your Barnabas? Who is your peer with whom you share your vision, your needs, your pain, your joys? My personal experience shows the finest relationships I have developed in nearly twenty years of ministry came from the people with whom I shared ministry. Paul had a heart for others and Barnabas was blessed by Paul's heart.

Youth ministry is a task of "taking along also." Titus was a younger disciple of Paul's, a man Paul refers to with these kindhearted words: "Titus, my true son, in our common faith" (Titus 1:4). Like a father to his son, Paul revealed his heart to Titus as they ministered together. Titus is later left behind by Paul in Crete to lead a ministry. There is no greater encouragement to a minister than to see your heart for Christ duplicated in your own disciples. Who is your Titus? With whom can you not only share the words of a teaching curriculum, but your very heart?

Next time you are going to minister somewhere, ask yourself, "Who can go with me as a partner?" or "Who can I also take with me as a disciple?" You may find a ministry more powerful, enjoyable and rewarding than you ever imagined. Remember: when two or three are gathered in His name, the King is in their midst (see Matthew 18:20). (Written by Doug Webster)

"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it's the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him with his friendship."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



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THE BIG IDEA

The life of Paul was marked by his caring, sharing and encouragement of others. God is calling each of us to have that same servant's heart for others.

WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

WHO DO YOU LISTEN TO?

- Divide the students into groups of three or four.
 - Give each student a copy of "Who Do You Listen To?" on page 31 and a pen or pencil.
 - Have students share their answers with the other members of their small groups.
- Rate the following people in your life according to their influence and impact on you on a scale from 1 to 6 (1 = the most influence or impact and 6 = the least influence or impact on you).

Teachers	_____
Friend	_____
Parents	_____
Pastor	_____
Youth Leader	_____
Other:	_____

1. Who has influenced you the most or has impacted your life the most?
2. What have they done to impact your life?
3. Why have they had such a big impact on your life?
4. Who has had the least influence or impact? Why?

Fold

Part of encouragement is seeing others as God sees them. God sees incredible potential in everyone. The job of encouragers is to help those around them see what God sees in them and live out that potential in their lives.

1. Who has encouraged you lately and in what way have you been encouraged?
.....
2. How does encouragement affect...
.....
- Someone's view of him- or herself?
.....
- His or her view of God?
.....
- His or her spiritual growth?
.....
3. What keeps us from encouraging others more often?
.....
4. What are some practical ways that you can encourage others in their relationships with God?
.....

SO WHAT?

1. Who in your life needs to feel cared for? What can you do about it?
Person:
2. What has God been doing in your life?
Who needs to hear about it?
3. Who in your life needs to hear about the gospel of God? What action can you take?
Person:
- Action:

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 39 after or as a part of "In the Word."
- 1. Why is it difficult to care for some people?
- 2. How would you define the word "encouragement"?
- 3. How does encouragement help people see what God sees in them?
- 4. Which of the three areas—caring, sharing or encouragement—do you need to work on the most?

PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

THE ADVENTURES OF MR. GOOD GUY AND MR. HAPPY TRAVELER

- Prepare the props beforehand and have them available.
- Select 10 people to be a part of this melodrama. Be sure to select people who feel comfortable doing some pretty outrageous things in front of the group.
- After you have selected the students and assigned the characters, have them stand "offstage" until they are "read" into the scene. Be sure to remind them that the more creative and outgoing they are, the better the melodrama will be. The key to a good melodrama is pausing and emphasizing when you need to, so take a few minutes to read over the melodrama before you read it to the group. You may also want to personalize it a little, by adding or adapting jokes to your group (include any "inside jokes" your group may have).

A melodrama loosely based on Luke 10:30-37.

CHARACTERS:

- 1 Mr. Happy Traveler
- 1 tree
- 3 thugs
- 1 pastor
- 1 church leader from the First Church of Jericho
- 1 Mr. Good Guy
- 1 Buck, the donkey
- 1 Harry, the innkeeper

PROPS:

- 1 "Jerusalem—5 miles or so" sign
- 1 "Jericho—down 3 miles to the left" sign
- 2 tree branches for the person who plays the tree
- 1 "Tree" sign for the tree
- 1 glass of water
- 1 "Harry's Roadside Hotel—1 mile" sign and someone in the audience to throw it on stage
- 1 welcome mat

(On stage is the lone tree, holding two branches and a sign that says "tree", and two signs, one pointing toward Jerusalem and the other pointing toward Jericho.)

After the melodrama, have your group turn to Luke 10:30-37 for the real story of what happened. Let them know that during your time together, you're going to explore what it means to have a heart for others by looking at the life of Paul.

TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each group a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Assign one person in each group as the group's secretary.
- Tell the groups that they have about five minutes to come up with a "real-life" situation or case study dealing with some problem, issue or crisis. Have them end the case study with "What would you do?" Each group's secretary should write down a brief description of the situation.
- Have the groups exchange case studies and give them 10 minutes to read and respond to the case study. Encourage them to add any Scriptures that might help in dealing with the person, situation or problem. After the allotted time, have the group members share their answers to the following questions:

1. What was the case study you were given?
What would you do if you were in that situation?
2. What are some Scriptures that would help you in dealing with that situation?

3. What are some characteristics of someone who has a heart for others?
4. What are some roadblocks that keep you from caring more for the needs of others?

IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

VITAL SIGNS: HAVING A HEARTBEAT FOR OTHERS

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
 - Give each student a copy of "Vital Signs: Having a Heartbeat for Others" on pages 35-38 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy on an overhead projector.
 - Have students complete the Bible study.
- Paul's life was marked by an incredible heart for helping and encouraging others. From Jerusalem, to Syria, to Asia, to Macedonia and all the way to Rome, Paul took care of the needs of others. His passion was to see people changed by the incredible love of God. God is calling us to that same mission of caring for, sharing with and encouraging others.

CARING FOR OTHERS

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

1. What motivated Paul to share his life with others?
2. What are some characteristics of someone with a caring heart?
3. How have you felt God's care for you?
4. What are some practical ways to care for those around us?

SHARING WITH OTHERS

"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who believe on him and receive eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:16).

1. What are two things that Paul shared with others?
2. Why is it difficult to share the gospel of God with others?

Why is it difficult to share our lives with others?

3. How does sharing the gospel and sharing our lives go hand-in-hand?

4. What are some practical ways you can share what God has been doing in your life?

5. What are some practical ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?

ENCOURAGING OTHERS

"Encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory" (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

"Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith" (Acts 14:22).



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WARM UP

Who Do You Listen To?

Rate the following people in your life according to their influence and impact on you on a scale from 1 to 6 (1 = the most influence or impact, and 6 = the least influence or impact on you).

- _____ Teachers
- _____ Pastor
- _____ Youth Leader
- _____ Friend _____
- _____ Parents
- _____ Other: _____

1. Who has influenced you the most or has impacted your life the most?

2. What have they done to impact your life?

3. Why have they had such a big impact on your life?

4. Who has had the least influence or impact? Why?

3. What are some characteristics of someone who has a heart for others?

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THE ADVENTURES OF MR. GOOD GUY AND MR. HAPPY TRAVELER

A melodrama loosely based on Luke 10:30-37.

Characters:

- 1 Mr. Happy Traveler
- 1 tree
- 3 thugs
- 1 pastor
- 1 church leader from the First Church of Jericho
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 - 1 glass of water
 - 1 "Harry's Roadside Hotel—1 mile" sign and someone in audience to throw it on stage
 - 1 welcome mat
- (On stage is the lone tree, holding two branches and a sign that says "tree", and two signs, one pointing toward Jerusalem and the other pointing toward Jericho)

One very fine day, a man was traveling along the roadside, minding his own business, singing a happy tune. He was a very fine singer. The audience applauded. Mr. Happy Traveler took a bow.

Since it was early in the morning, Mr. Happy Traveler was stretching and doing deep knee bends while he continued to sing.

All of a sudden, peering from behind the tree were three of the meanest, toughest, most ruthless thugs in all the land. As they sneered and flexed from behind the tree, each one looking more mean and nasty than the other, the thugs had a disagreement and began to fight amongst themselves.

Mr. Happy Traveler heard the noise. He stopped his singing and deep knee bends and said, "Harketh, who goeth thereth?" Just then the thugs froze with peculiar smiles on their faces. Mr. Happy Traveler began singing a happy tune again.

Quietly, the thugs crept up on Mr. Happy Traveler and jumped him, beating him senseless (well, almost senseless). After the thugs had done their deed, they stood up, leaving Mr. Happy Traveler in a heap on the floor, just smiling now instead of singing. They looked around in amazement as the voice of the narrator said, "Now that you've beaten Mr. Happy Traveler, what are you going to do next?"



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"We're gonna go to Disneyland!" they proclaimed as they exited, leaping and skipping from the stage.

As Mr. Happy Traveler lay groaning on the floor (let Mr. Happy Traveler groan for a while), along came the pastor from the local church whistling a praise song. The pastor was so oblivious to Mr. Happy Traveler that he tripped over him. The pastor apologized. Mr. Happy Traveler groaned, "That's okay."

The pastor knelt down near Mr. Happy Traveler to see if he was still alive. He checked his pulse. The pastor jumped to his feet and proclaimed, "He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!!!" Bending over, the pastor asked Mr. Happy Traveler, "Pardon me, do you know how I can get to the First Church of Jerusalem? I'm late, I'm late for a very important date!" The audience groaned because it was a dumb joke. Mr. Happy Traveler groaned and pointed to the sign. The pastor thanked him and left for Jerusalem, whistling another praise song.

As Mr. Happy Traveler lay groaning again only this time louder (let Mr. Happy Traveler groan for a longer time), along came a leader of the First Church of Jericho, hurrying along and mumbling to himself. Without knowing it, the church leader tripped over Mr. Happy Traveler. Scrambling to his feet, the church leader apologized. Mr. Happy Traveler groaned, "That's okay."

The church leader, noticing that Mr. Happy Traveler needed some help, began to quote verses from the Bible to comfort Mr. Happy Traveler (let the church leader go for a little while). After exhausting all the verses he knew and looking around for some help, the church leader began to sing "Kum-ba-ya." The audience joined in. The church leader, feeling proud for a job well done, patted himself on the back. The audience stopped singing the annoying song. The church leader bent over Mr. Happy Traveler and said, "Yea verily, verily I beseech thee. (pause) Couldst thou tell me where I might find the Jerusalem 7-11? With all this singing, I'm dying for a Big Gulp!" The audience in unison pointed toward Jerusalem. The church leader thanked the audience and exited toward Jerusalem saying, "Oh, thank heaven for 7-11!!!"

As Mr. Happy Traveler lay groaning for a third time, this time even louder, along came Mr. Good Guy and his sidekick, Buck the donkey. The audience applauded loudly. Now Mr. Good Guy was watching where he was walking and did not trip over Mr. Happy Traveler. Mr. Happy Traveler thanked Mr. Good Guy. "You're welcome," replied Mr. Good Guy.

Mr. Good Guy bent down over Mr. Happy Traveler. He had pity and compassion on him, saying, "Poor Mr. Happy Traveler." The audience mimicked, "Poor Mr. Happy Traveler." He took Traveler's pulse and poured water on him. Then picking up Mr. Happy Traveler with a grunt, Mr. Good Guy placed Mr. Happy Traveler ever so gently on his trusted donkey, Buck. Buck groaned (pause) and said, "I hate this job." Buck and Mr. Good Guy then ventured high and low in search of the local inn. "I know what we need," cried Mr. Good Guy. "A sign." ("Harry's Roadside Hotel—1 mile" sign is thrown from the audience onto the stage.) The audience groaned because it was yet another dumb joke.

Going further, they met Harry the Innkeeper, who was holding out the welcome mat (Harry holds the welcome mat). Harry said, "Hello, Mr. Good Guy. Hello, Buck. Who's the guy with the smile on his face?"

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"This is Mr. Happy Traveler," said Mr. Good Guy, waving Mr. Happy Traveler's hand. "Could you look after him for me and if he needs anything, put it on my American Express Card; I never leave home without it." Mr. Good Guy placed Mr. Happy Traveler ever so gently on the doorstep of Harry's Roadside Hotel and with his best Arnold Schwarzenegger impersonation said, "I'll be back!"

As Mr. Good Guy and Buck turned to take off into the sunset, Harry the Innkeeper exclaimed, "What a good guy!" The audience joined in, "What a good guy!" And all the people said, "The end!"

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IN THE WORD

VITAL SIGNS: HAVING A HEARTBEAT FOR OTHERS

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Caring for Others

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

1. What motivated Paul to share his life with others?

2. What are some characteristics of someone with a caring heart?

3. How have you felt God's care for you?

4. What are some practical ways to care for those around us?

Sharing with Others

"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who believe on him and receive eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:16).

1. What are two things that Paul shared with others?

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2. Why is it difficult to share the gospel of God with others?

Why is it difficult to share our lives with others?

3. How does sharing the gospel and sharing our lives go hand-in-hand?

4. What are some practical ways you can share what God has been doing in your life?

5. What are some practical ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Encouraging Others

“Encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

“Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith” (Acts 14:21-22).

Part of encouragement is seeing others as God sees them. God sees incredible potential in everyone. The job of encouragers is to help those around them see what God sees in them and live out that potential in their lives.

1. Who has encouraged you lately and in what way have you been encouraged?



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2. How does encouragement affect...

Someone's view of him- or herself?

His or her view of God?

His or her spiritual growth?

3. What keeps us from encouraging others more often?

4. What are some practical ways that you can encourage others in their relationships with God?

So What?

1. Who in your life needs to feel cared for? What can you do about it?

Person: _____

Action: _____

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2. What has God been doing in your life?

Who needs to hear about it?

3. Who in your life needs to hear about the gospel of God? What action will you take?

Person: _____

Action: _____



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THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Why is it difficult to care for some people?

2. How would you define the word "encouragement"?

3. How does encouragement help people see what God sees in them?

4. Which of the three areas—caring, sharing or encouragement—do you need to work on the most?

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PARENT PAGE

STATE OF THE HEART

The life of Paul is one that is marked by a deep concern for others. God is calling us to "look not only to [our] own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). In a real sense, we are the hands, feet and voice of Jesus in this world. When we reach out to others with a heart of deep concern, lives are changed.

Complete the following statements.

1. The most others-centered person I know is _____, because...

2. The time that I felt the most encouraged by someone was when...

3. The time I felt that God used me in another person's life the most was when...

4. One time when I got to share my life and faith with someone was...

5. When I reach out and help others, I feel...

6. One person I know who needs to be encouraged is _____, because..



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7. One person I know who needs to be shared with is _____, because...

8. Check out the following verses. What do they say about having a heart for others?

Galatians 6:2

Philippians 2:1-4

1 Thessalonians 2:8,12

Hebrews 10:24,25

9. What will you do this week to have more of a servant's heart for those outside your family?

10. What will you do this week to be more of a servant to those inside your family?



Session 2: "Paul: Having a Heart for Others" Date _____