

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful discussion.

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

**Talking About the** conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group. **Message Start Sharing & NOTE: Pastor Ed may not cover all points in all services.**

**Open:** God took Saul, a madman, who wanted to imprison and kill Christians, to Paul, who He made an apostle and evangelist. He went from Saul the persecutor to Paul the preacher. **1Tim 1:12-13 Key Point:** No one is beyond the reach of God. After Paul's time in Athens, where his success in ministry seemed to be limited, he needed encouragement. Now he is in Corinth, a depraved and anti-Christian culture.

1. How might our view of success differ from God's? **A.** We view and measure success based on what we see. God measures success by our faithfulness. **1Cor 4:2 and 1Cor 3:6-7**
2. What does Pastor Ed want/desire for the people at Calvary Church? **A.** He wants us to care for other people and be willing to be used by God.
3. What two opposite things can people be in our lives? **A.** They can be both problems and blessings; a source of discouragement or a source of an encouragement. Do you see this in your own lives?
4. What two things is it ok to ask God for with regards to encouragement? **A.** It is ok to ask for encouragement and to ask God to make us encouragers to others who need encouragement.
5. In **v5**, what did the Holy Spirit do to Paul? **A.** He "compelled" (devoted himself fully) Paul to testify to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. This is an example of an "open door" compared to the "closed doors" in Chapter 16.
6. What was the response of the Jews to Paul's message? **A.** They opposed him. What is the application for us? **Application.** As we are used by God, the devil will be in opposition to our efforts. He will do anything to stop us. **2Cor 2:11 & Eph 6:10-11** Don't falter in the face of opposition. **Josh 1:9**
7. How do we know that Paul needed encouragement? **A. 9-11** Because the Lord encourages him. **Point:** The enemy wants to wear us down, but God will not allow it. Jesus is our strength. We have the power of the Holy Spirit in us. What should be our response to the devil's efforts? **A. Gal 6:9-10**

#### **Four Ways God Can Encourage You:**

1. By reminding us of His purpose for our lives. (**v9**) **1Cor 2:9**
2. By His presence. God is ALWAYS with us. (**v10**) **Hebrews 13:5-6**
3. By His protection. (**v10**) God can deliver us from trials or He may choose to take us through trials. **Psalm 23**
4. By His people. (**v10**) We are never alone.

**A Word Picture for consideration:** Think of us as being the center or the bullseye of a target. If the devil can't "hit" us, he will aim for the outer rings, which represents people around us.

**Final Point:** When fighting the opposition, don't use the worlds methods, but use God's methods – put on the full armor of God. **Eph 6:11-18**

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 1

discussion | study 24475

Four Way God Can Encourage You Acts 18:1-18 Pastor Ed Taylor