

Bible Study Guide: Galatians 1:15-16

Theme: Called by God, Not Man

Scripture

"But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles..." (Galatians 1:15-16)

Background

Paul is defending the divine origin of his apostleship and message. Before encountering Christ on the road to Damascus, Paul persecuted the church. Yet God had a plan for his life long before he was born. Paul emphasizes that his calling and ministry came directly from God, not from human authority or achievement.

Key Truths

1. God Has a Purpose for Every Life

Paul declares that God had set him apart before he was born. This reveals God's sovereignty and intentional design for our lives.

Key Thought: God knows you and has a purpose for you even before you recognize it.

2. God's Calling Is Based on Grace

Paul's past did not disqualify him from God's service. Despite his history of persecuting Christians, God called him by grace.

Key Thought: God's calling is not earned; it is a gift of His grace.

3. Jesus Must Be Revealed to Us

Paul's life changed when God revealed His Son to him. Christianity is more than religion or knowledge—it is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Key Thought: A genuine encounter with Christ transforms our lives and direction.

4. Our Calling Points Others to Christ

God revealed Jesus to Paul so that he would preach Christ to the Gentiles. The purpose of our calling is ultimately to glorify Christ and make Him known.

Key Thought: We are called not just to know Jesus, but to share Him with others.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to you that God knew and set you apart before you were born?

2. How have you experienced God's grace in your life?
3. In what ways has your understanding of Jesus grown over time?
4. How can you use your gifts and experiences to point others to Christ?
5. Is there anything from your past that you believe disqualifies you from serving God? What does this passage teach about that?

Application

Take time this week to reflect on God's purpose for your life. Thank Him for His grace and ask Him to reveal more of Christ to you. Consider one practical way you can share the love and truth of Jesus with someone around you.

Prayer

Father, thank You for knowing me and calling me according to Your purpose. Thank You that Your grace is greater than my failures and shortcomings. Reveal more of Your Son to me each day and help me live in a way that points others to Jesus. Use my life for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.