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PRAYER

Father, I pray that like Paul, I will boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ to all with whom I come in contact, knowing that only in you there is life and light, hope and love. We know that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe in him - Jesus died and rose from the dead - to God be all praise and glory, world without end, Amen.

- Knowing Jesus Prayer



What is a piece of creation (e.g. a song, an album, a work of art, a play, a movie, a TV show) that most people think is terrible, but you actually secretly enjoy?

NOTES			



¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you...

¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

ROMANS 1:1-17

Paul, a former persecutor of Christians, who was radically transformed after hearing the good news about Jesus' resurrection, has now become the most prominent apostle, teacher, and church planter across the Mediterranean region. When it comes to encouraging the church that exists in Rome, Paul decides to posture himself in humility, stating that he writes and leads to SERVE as a SERVANT who has been set apart for the gospel of God.

■ GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. Do you like being in new environments, meeting new people? Why or why not?

- 2. Paul writes from the position of an apostle (one who has been sent on a mission) with the posture of a servant of Christ Jesus. How might you personally use your position (financial, occupational, family, etc.) to serve?
- 3. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how do you rate your ability to build relationships with people who hold views that don't agree with you? Why might you have rated yourself this way?
- 4. When is the last time you thanked God for the gift of your family and friends?
- 5. If you are a follower of Christ, are you confident in sharing the gospel (good news of Jesus) with those who don't know Jesus? If you are, pray and ask God for one person this week that you are believing God would send you to share the gospel with. If you lack confidence, ask God for the confidence to share your faith, and pray for whom he might lead you to.
- 6. If you do not yet have a relationship with the God who saves us, would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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