



## PRAYER

*God, I trust you with my decisions and plans this year.  
Help me lean on you with all my heart instead of relying on my own understanding.  
Give me the confidence and wisdom to follow you as you guide me towards the right path.  
Even when I make decisions that aren't the best, would you continue to work for my good and your glory. Remind me that your ways are higher than my ways and that you always know the best way to go.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Mission Australia - Prayer for Future Decisions

## OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Name someone in your life that had a hard job to do with obstacles in their way, but got it done. How did this affect you as you saw them finish it?



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## WORD

*For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—  
2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to  
me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already  
written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into  
the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to people in other generations  
as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6  
This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel,  
members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

*14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven  
and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may  
strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ  
may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and  
established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to  
grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know  
this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the  
fullness of God.*

*20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,  
according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

[Ephesians 3:1-6; 3:14-21](#)

"If you had asked Saul of Tarsus, before the meeting on the road to Damascus, where Israel's story and God's story came together, the two natural answers would have been Temple (the place at the heart of the promised land where God had promised to live) and Torah (the word of God spoken into, and determinative of, Israel's national life).

The Temple indicated that Israel's God desired to live in the midst of his people; the Torah, that he would address his people with his life-transforming word. Saul now came to see that both these answers pointed beyond themselves to Jesus and of course to the spirit. In this new world (this too became axiomatic for Paul's mature thought and thematic for his public career) it mattered that Israel's God was indeed the One God of the whole world.

A tight-knit orthodox Jewish community in the midst of a bustling, philosophically minded pagan city must have been a fascinating place to start thinking all this through. At first glance, Israel's scriptures might seem to demand that Israel stay separate from the nations, the goyim. The pagans, like the Moabite women sent to seduce the Israelites in the desert, would lead them astray. They should stay separate. But look again, and you will see, not least in the Psalms, not least in the royal predictions of Psalms and prophets alike, that when Israel's true king arrives, he will be the king not only of Israel, but also of the whole world. Saul, in Tarsus, must have reflected on what it would mean for Psalm 2 to come true, where the One God says to the true king:"

[N.T. Wright, Paul: A Biography](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate the way you are living out your life mission? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. How might you know that you are walking in God's will and plan for your life?
3. Paul recognises the importance of taking the Gospel to people who had not yet been exposed to it, especially as a Jew who was called to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (those outside of the Jewish heritage). Why do you think this was important to Paul? Why might this be important to us today?
4. Do you believe that God can do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"? If no, why not? If yes, what might this look like in your own life?
5. Does Jesus dwell in your heart through faith? Why have you answered this way?
6. Do you want to trust Jesus as the Ruler and sole source of fulfilment of your life by accepting His call for you to enter into relationship with Him? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

**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 be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.**