

**Forty-fifth Street Baptist Church Life-Groups**  
**Chapter 29 Part I**



Paul's Mission

**Introduction:** A little boy was asked by his Sunday School teacher why is it important for us to be quiet in church. The little guy answered, “Because people are sleeping.” We are pursuing The Story and we don’t want to lose anyone to sleep. God used Israel in the Old Testament to win people back to himself, even though Israel failed in many ways. In the Gospels we read of God sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to win us back by dying on the cross for us, solving the big problem called sin. In the Book of Acts and the New Testament epistles (or letters), we see God using the church—us—to find his lost children and to bring them home. We are the church—the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:27*).

- I. The church is the body of Christ in the world. *1 Corinthians 12*
  - A. Assembled together the church is Jesus, and we are to think like Jesus, act like Jesus and love others like Jesus loves them.
  - B. The church is commissioned to go into all the world as witnesses to Jesus. *Acts 1:8*  
[consult the map in the back of The Story to see the regions]
  - C. God wants all people in the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. *Romans 1:16*
- II. God raised up a point leader to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth: Paul.
  - A. Saul of Tarsus was an unlikely candidate to become the world’s first and most renown missionary. *Acts 9*
    1. Saul, the terrorist of his day, hated Jesus and the church and hunted down and voted to kill Christians.
    2. Even Saul who became Paul was amazed that Jesus chose him as a missionary to the ends of the earth. *1 Corinthians 15:9* [consult map to see Paul’s three missionary journeys]

**Optional:** You may want to have chart or handout available that presents the New Testament books in chronological order. Explain and discuss the difference between the topical arrangement of New Testament books in the typical Bible and the chronological arrangement of books in The Story. You may choose to correlate the writing of the books with the expansion of the church.

3. Paul planted 10 churches and wrote 13 of the 27 New Testament books.

**Discussion Questions and Points**

- Discuss Paul’s passion and mission in life after he found the Lord
- What is our mission as Christians? How is it different from Paul’s mission to spread the Good News?
- When in a new city, why did Paul invariably begin his outreach at the Jewish synagogue?
- Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us; what sacrifices have we made to follow Him?