



Week 7 Lesson Plan: Paul - The Apostle to the Gentiles - A Leader of Authenticity, Conviction, and Self-Denial

- Understand Paul's transformation from persecutor to apostle.
- Characteristics of Paul's leadership: authenticity, conviction, and self-denial.
- Reflect on how Paul's example can apply to our lives.
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Paul's Dramatic Transformation

- **Who was Paul (Saul)**
 - Setting the scene: the Early Church and Saul
 - Discuss Paul (formerly Saul) as a significant figure in this period.
- **Saul's Persecution**
 - Read Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-2.
 - Discuss Saul's initial role as a persecutor of Christians.
 - What does this tell us about Saul's character before his conversion?
- **The Road to Damascus**
 - Read Acts 9:3-19.
 - Discuss the dramatic encounter with Jesus and its impact on Saul.
- **Reflection**
 - What does this story teach us about the power of transformation?
 - Reflect on times you have witnessed or experienced significant life changes in others.

Paul's Authenticity

- **Introduction**
 - Discuss Paul's authenticity as a Pharisee - Paul refers to himself as Pharisee, a son of Pharisees Acts 23:6.
 - Review Paul's conversion and his new role as an apostle.
- **Paul's Letters**
 - Discuss selected passages from Paul's letters (e.g., Galatians 1:11-12 || Corinthians 11:23-29).
 - What do Paul's letters reveal about his personal experiences and struggles?
 - What does Paul's willingness to share his weaknesses reveal about his character?
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Paul's Conviction

- **Introduction**
 - Examine Paul's role as an apostle to the Gentiles.
 - What is conviction?
- **Paul's Missionary Journeys**
 - Briefly trace Paul's missionary journeys (Acts 13:1-28).
 - Talk about some challenges he faced: persecution, imprisonment, shipwrecks.
 - Read Acts 16:22-25 (Paul and Silas in prison).
 - What motivated Paul to continue despite these hardships?

Paul's Self-Denial

- **Introduction**
 - Review Paul's commitment to spreading the Gospel.
 - What is self-denial?
- **Paul's Teachings on Self-Denial**
 - Read Philippians 3:7-8, 2 Corinthians 12:10, and Galatians 2:20.
 - Talk about Paul's willingness to give up his desires for the sake of Christ.
 - What does Paul mean when he says, "I have been crucified with Christ"?
- **Discussion**
 - What does it mean to practice self-denial?
 - How did Paul exemplify self-denial?
 - How can we practice self-denial in our own lives?

Applying Paul's Example

- **Reflection and Action**
 - Consider writing a personal reflection on one aspect of Paul's life that resonated with you, how can you apply Paul's example in your own life?