

# Mentor/Student Discussion Guide

## Saul/Paul: The Relentless Evangelist

### April/May 2023

\*Your goals in your time together today are check in with one another and to discuss the ministry and theology of Paul.

\*Remember that kids this age are at various levels in their ability to grasp abstract concepts and that you are not expected to have all the answers.

\*Today you will need a pencil, paper, and a Connect Bible.

\*It is just as important for youth to get to know mentors as it is for mentors to get to know youth. Both mentor and student should answer the questions for one another.

\*Neither person should be made to feel that they should share more than they are comfortable sharing.

\*You do not need to make sure you have answered every question listed below. They are provided merely as a way to guide your discussion. Neither should you feel limited to these questions.

\*You will not be reporting answers to anyone. If it is helpful to write answers or take notes, feel free to do so knowing that it is not necessary.

\*Please take a moment to pray together at the beginning of your time together. You may pray your own prayer or use the following (spoken by one person or both together).

*Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*(Prayer of the Day, Reformation Sunday)*

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

#### Check in

\*Check in about any events that have happened since the last time you met and what you are each looking forward to in the weeks ahead and throughout the summer.

\*Each person share a high and a low (something good and something no-so-good that happened) from the previous week.

#### VIDEO

\*What surprised you about the video? Was the story of Paul and his letters familiar to you?

\*What is your impression of Paul?

#### BIBLE

\*Read page 1294 in the Connect Bible to learn about the letter to the Romans.

\*Read Romans 1:7-15.

-Why did Paul write this letter?

-What do you think Paul meant by referring to himself as a “debtor”?

-Where have you found inspiration for your faith outside of the church or the Bible?

\*Read Romans 1:16-17.

-What do you think Paul is saying in these verses?

-What do you think Paul means by righteousness? Is he talking about our righteousness (right standing before God) or God’s righteousness?

\*Read Romans 3:21-26.

-What do you think Paul is saying in these verses? Why is this message important?

-Complete the activity “Fall” on page 1298 in the Connect Bible.

\*Read Romans 8:31-39.

-What do you think Paul means in verse 31 when he says that God is “for” us? Who else in your life is “for” you? Who are you “for”?

-This passage is commonly read at Christian funerals? Why do you think that is the case?

-Brainstorm together about what other things Paul could have included in verses 38-39 that cannot separate us from God’s love.

\*Read 1 Corinthians 13.

-What can we learn from this passage about what it means to live as a Christian in the world?

-Why do you think Paul says that among “faith, hope and love” that love is the greatest?

\*Read Galatians 3:26-29.

-Complete the activity “Spread of the Gospel” on page 1350 in the Connect Bible.

\*Read Philippians 2:1-11.

-What does this passage tell us about Paul’s understanding of Jesus?

-What does this passage tell us about Paul’s understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?

### LOOKING AHEAD

\*How might the two of you keep in touch over the summer months? Make a plan.