

## Small Group Questions | Week of August 7, 2016

1. From last week's message, what do you think is the difference between "playing religion" and faithfully following God?
2. Would you take the time to try to tell difficult or even hostile people about your faith in God?
3. What are some ways you can find common ground and build bridges with people, in considering sharing your faith in God at some point?
4. Read 1 Cor. 9:19-23. What are some examples how these verses would apply in your life today?
5. Paul tells the story about how his encounter with Christ changed his life.
  - a. How might a personal testimony be effective in ways that a sermon would not?
  - b. How has your faith in Jesus redirected your life?
  - c. What is one of the hardest things you have had to experience because of your faith?
6. How is it easier to avoid embarrassment and risk being uncomfortable, by not talking about what we believe and about our faith in Jesus Christ?
7. The violent crowd and potential Roman flogging made for a very stressful situation, yet Paul used this time to give his testimony. What does Paul tell us to do to be prepared for this opportunity? Read 2 Timothy 4:1-2.
8. Have you ever thought about your personal testimony?
  - a. What would you say (in three minutes or less) to someone who asked why you were a Christian?
9. Paul's citizenship became an asset in his efforts to share the Gospel with the Gentiles. What traits or experiences do you have which might help you share the Gospel with a particular group of people?

## Next Steps:

- I will be willing to surrender "my rights" for the sake of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.
- I understand the importance of finding common ground and earning the right to speak about Christ.
- After earning the right to speak, I will lovingly say what needs to be said and not stop short of telling others about Jesus.