

Galatians *Freedom in Christ*

2. Faith Journeys *Galatians 1:11-2:14.*

To start with:

Aim: To explore Paul's account of his journey of faith and to share our stories with one another.

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Who has particularly inspired you, and why?

Engaging with the text:

1. Take a piece of paper each and as someone reads **Galatians 1:11-2:14** in sections (don't read too fast). Get everyone to write down the key features of Paul's life story in that section.
2. In small groups discuss the following questions:
 - a. What do you notice about Paul's story?
 - b. Why do you think Paul writes his story here?
 (It may help to read **Galatians 1:1, 6-7** and **1:11-12** again)

Together discuss:

3. Christians are often encouraged to 'tell their story' or 'testimony'. Why do you think that is the case? (**Rev 12.11** may help)
4. Now take 5-10 minutes to get everyone to draw out or write down some key features of their own journey of faith that you can share with the group. Where can you use two of Paul's phrases?:

"For you have heard of my previous way of life"... (v13)

"But when God"... (v15)

[Note to cell leader: Paul was an adult convert. If cell members were converted as children they may struggle with Paul's phrasing as they remember little of 'their previous way of life'. They can still use this phrasing to talk about the changes throughout their life that God has brought about in them.]

Now take some time to allow people to share the key things from their stories which they wrote down.

(You may need to break down into smaller groups if you have a large number of people and give people five minutes each to make sure everyone gets to share.)

Finally:

5. Often when those who are not Christians ask "Why are you a Christian?" people answer by telling them *how* they became a Christian. In pairs think about how you would answer the question, "Why are you a Christian?" or "Why are you *still* a Christian?" if you were asked tomorrow.

Worship & Pray

Read **Psalm 40** and spend time praying together thanking God for his wondrous works in our lives and the lives of each other.

